

# SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE



The following suggestions were proposed by citizens from many Districts across Sri Lanka, during awareness sessions conducted by the  
**CICC**

So far, the CICC has conducted awareness sessions in Mullativu, Kilinochchi, Vavuniya, Jaffna, Mannar, Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa, Dambulla, Matara, Galle, Ampara, Batticaloa, Tangalle, Kandy, NuwaraEliya, Kurunegala, Colombo, Matale, and Ratnapura.



- Political parties established under racial, ethnic, or religious basis should be prohibited. Any political party must work for the interests of Sri Lankans.
- The Tamil population must not be identified as 'Jaffna Tamil' 'Up Country Tamil', or 'Indian Tamil', but must be all regarded as 'Tamil' in general.
- The Up Country Tamils must no longer be regarded as 'Tamils of recent Indian Origin' but must be identified as 'Sri Lankans'.
- The remuneration of Estate workers must be increased. A certain quota of the Estate workers Union fund must be included into their salaries.
- Compensation and welfare provided to families with differently abled members must be provided accordingly.
- Schools must not be established based on ethnicity.



- It has been repeatedly stressed that Estate workers welfare must be taken into serious consideration in the new Constitution. Many suggested that their salaries must be increased, safeguards must be in place to avoid fraudulent activities with regards to their Provident funds, and that roads established in the property of the Estates must be given over to Provincial Councils.
- Increase employment opportunities for youth.
- The distribution of State resources across the country should be done in an equal and fair manner.
- Greater funding must be allocated to Environmental Protection, Coastal Conservation, Animal Welfare, and the protection of natural resources. The conduct of these departments must be done in a transparent and structured manner.



- A program must be set in place in order to protect and conserve indigenous seeds and plants.
- Steps must be taken to prohibit drug trafficking by multi-national companies.
- Allocating land for citizens must be done in a strategic and structured manner.
- A broad consensus prevailed for the need to propagate a different political culture in Sri Lanka, devoid of corruption.

The consensus from citizens from the North and East Provinces was that the North and East Provinces should be amalgamated

Vavuniya

அனைத்து மக்கள் உடனடி அரசியல் மாற்றத்திற்கான பிரஜைகளின் முயற்சி

People's Initiative for Constitutional Change

People's Initiative for Constitutional Change





# Anuradhapura Ranaviru Gammuna







# Tangalle

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Citizens' Initiative for Constitutional Change



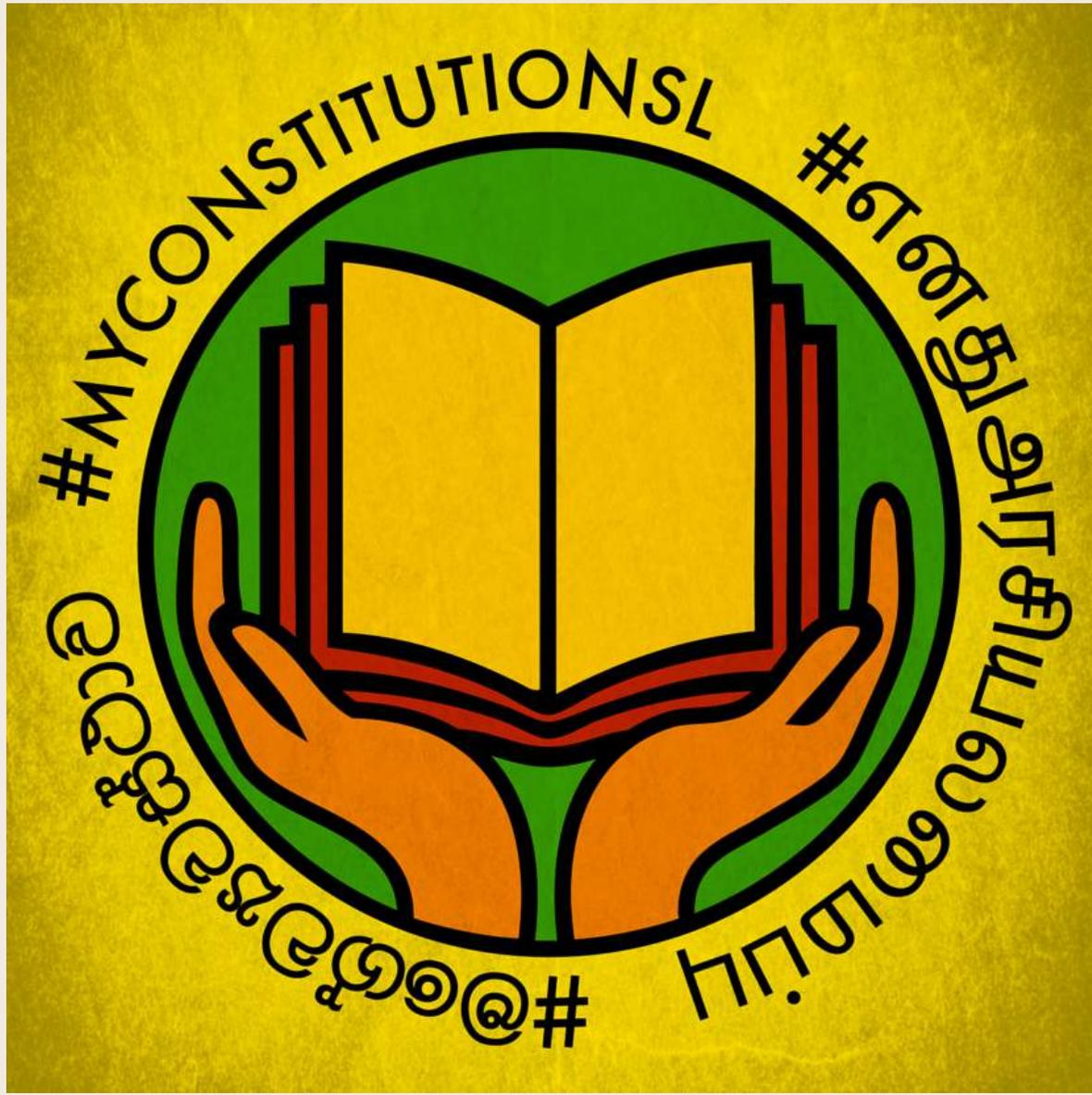
# Mullaitivu



# Mannar



# MY CONSTITUTION





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## A YOUTH INITIATIVE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

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The conversation regarding architecting a new Sri Lankan constitution is an extremely important one and it is imperative that the youth have a seat in that decision table. My Constitution is an initiative by the Center for Policy Alternatives to engage Sri Lanka's youth in the process of making a new constitution for the country. It falls under the larger CPA Sri Lanka Programme on Public Participation in Constitution-Making which hopes to generate a set of proposals for constitutional reform through an inclusive, bottom-up process

# RECOMMENDATIONS

- **An Independent Commission on Youth** - . Such a commission should comprise of young people as well as older people who can work together on strengthening youth engagement and steering youth empowerment initiatives in Sri Lanka.
- **Equality for all Sri Lankans as a crosscutting theme** - It is proposed that the new constitution includes sexual orientation and gender identity as grounds for nondiscrimination. We believe that all Sri Lankans, young and old should be able to love who they want to love and be comfortable with their bodies and express their gender in the way they feel most comfortable

- **The Right to Life** - The death penalty should be abolished through the constitution itself. However, the recognition of the right to life shouldn't be used to bar women who wish to terminate their pregnancies for various reasons. Many of us are aware that illegal abortions take place on a daily basis in this country and the conditions of many of these clinics are appalling and extremely harmful for the life and health of the women and girls who access these services.
- **Technology** - the constitution should recognize the responsibility of the state to ensure that all people are able to access technology and the internet in particular.
- **Climate Change** - It is important for the constitution to make addressing climate change a constitutional obligation of the state.
- **Education** - In the context of meaning power-sharing between the state and the provinces, it is proposed that all schools be brought under the control of the provincial councils, as this display of favoritism to a select few schools is extremely unfair.