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பெண்கள் மற்றும் ஊடகக் கூட்டமைப்பு  
Women and Media Collective

**RESPONSE TO STATEMENT PUBLISHED ON THE PARLIAMENTARY WEBSITE  
ON 11.10.2021**

By THE PARLIAMENTARY SELECT COMMITTEE (PSC) APPOINTED TO  
IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE REFORMS OF THE ELECTION LAWS AND THE  
ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND TO RECOMMEND NECESSARY AMENDMENTS

It has come to our attention that the above PSC has decided to make the necessary legal amendments to hold the Provincial Council Elections expeditiously. The Parliamentary Website reports that the Provincial Council Elections maybe held under the old electoral system.

The old electoral system had no special provision to increase women's representation. However we believe that any process of amendment needs to remedy the serious under representation of women at the level of Provincial government.

To ensure increased representation of women in Provincial Councils under the old electoral system we propose the following amendment to be incorporated under section 13 (1) of the Provincial Council Elections Act no. 2 of 1988.

*Any recognized political party or any group of persons contesting as independent candidates (hereinafter referred to as an " independent group") may for the purpose of an election of members from an administrative district to a Provincial Council submit one nomination paper setting out the names, of such number of candidates as is equivalent to the number of members to be elected from that administrative district, increased by three. Such nomination paper shall be substantially in form A set out in the First Schedule to this Act*

***provided that, in submitting such lists, each political party or independent group shall ensure that not less than twenty per centum of the total number of candidates to be nominated, shall be women candidates.***

This submission is based on consultative discussions by women's organisations who have been engaging with electoral reform processes for the past 25 years and endorsed by:  
Kumudini Samuel, WOMEN AND MEDIA COLLECTIVE;  
Sumika Perera, WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE, KURUNEGALA DISTRICT;  
Chandra Jayasinghe, WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, BADULLA DISTRICT;  
Ponniyah Logeswary, WOMEN'S SOLIDARITY FRONT, KANDY DISTRICT;  
Sriyani Pathirage, RURAL WOMEN'S FRONT, GALLE DISTRICT AND  
Maithreyi Rajasingham VILUTHU, NORTHERN AND EASTERN DISTRICTS.

56/1, සරසවි මාවත, කාසල් වීදිය, කොළඹ 8, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව  
சரசவி லேன், காசல் வீதி, கொழும்பு 8, இலங்கை.  
Sarasavi Lane, Castle Street, Colombo 8, Sri Lanka

CC :

1. Hon. Min. Dinesh Gunawardena – *Chairman of the Parliamentary Select Committee Appointed to Identify Appropriate Reforms of The Election Laws and The Electoral System and to Recommend Necessary Amendments*
2. Members - *Parliamentary Select Committee Appointed to Identify Appropriate Reforms of The Election Laws and The Electoral System and to Recommend Necessary Amendments*
3. Hon. Min. Janaka Bandara Tennekoon – *Minister of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government*
4. Ms. Gayani Premathilaka - *Legal Officer, Ministry of Public Services, Provincial Councils and Local Government*
5. Party Leaders
6. Party Secretaries