



Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an independent, non-partisan, international non-governmental organisation, mandated to ensure the *practical* realisation of human rights in the countries of the Commonwealth. In 1987, several Commonwealth professional associations founded CHRI. They believed that while the Commonwealth provided member countries a shared set of values and legal principles from which to work and provided a forum within which to promote human rights, there was little focus on the issues of human rights within the Commonwealth.

The objectives of CHRI are to promote awareness of and adherence to the Commonwealth Harare Principles, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other internationally recognised human rights instruments, as well as domestic instruments supporting human rights in Commonwealth member states.

Through its reports and periodic investigations, CHRI continually draws attention to progress and setbacks to human rights in Commonwealth countries. In advocating for approaches and measures to prevent human rights abuses, CHRI addresses the Commonwealth Secretariat, member governments and civil society associations. Through its public education programmes, policy dialogues, comparative research, advocacy and networking, CHRI's approach throughout is to act as a catalyst around its priority issues.

The nature of CHRI's sponsoring organisations allows for a national presence and an international network.* These professionals can also steer public policy by incorporating human rights norms into their own work and act as a conduit to disseminate human rights information, standards and practices. These groups also bring local knowledge, can access policy makers, highlight issues, and act in concert to promote human rights.

CHRI is based in New Delhi, India, and has offices in London, UK, and Accra, Ghana.

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* Commonwealth Journalists Association, Commonwealth Lawyers Association, Commonwealth Legal Education Association, Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Commonwealth Press Union and Commonwealth Broadcasting Association.



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PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS: 2011-12

Strategic Initiatives (formerly human rights advocacy programme)

2011 being a CHOGM year, with the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in October in Perth, CHRI engaged in some focussed Commonwealth advocacy and played a crucial role in facilitating human rights-oriented civil society input.

In the build up to CHOGM, CHRI took the lead in coordinating civil society voices urging the Commonwealth to not confirm Sri Lanka as the host of CHOGM 2013, without a clear commitment to an independent investigation into the allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity during the last stages of the war to liberate the North East of the country from the LTTE. In September 2011, CHRI coordinated and produced a joint civil society letter to Commonwealth Foreign Ministers, co-signed by 11 civil society leaders from prominent international and Sri Lankan civil society groups, and another in October addressed to Commonwealth Heads of Government, co-signed by 14 prominent civil society leaders. CHRI organised a pre-CHOGM advocacy meeting on the issue; participants included two prominent human rights defenders from Sri Lanka and several prominent international human rights actors who work on Sri Lanka. CHRI also met with several Commonwealth missions in London prior to CHOGM. Although the CHOGM meeting did go on to confirm Sri Lanka as the venue for 2013 without any conditions whatsoever, the voices raised managed to create a level of discomfort in various quarters and the murmurs continue. With the pressure kept up post-CHOGM and hectic efforts of several actors, the scenario had changed significantly enough by the time of the March session of the HRC in Geneva. CHRI contributed to these efforts in every way it could, the op-ed articles published in India before and after the vote were appreciated by many, and we continue to follow-up and engage with the issue. Recently, when a Parliamentary delegation from India went to Sri Lanka, we brought their attention to recent developments of concern, particularly the spate of abductions, and pointers to a degree of State complicity. CHRI will continue to pursue the issue of justice and accountability at various strategic moments in the next year as we approach CHOGM 2013.

CHRI has engaged with the Commonwealth reform process, making submissions to appropriate forums, emphasising the need for value focus for the Commonwealth to stay relevant to the times and pushing for greater engagement and consultation with civil society. Several of our recommendations find resonance in the report of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) set up to develop options for reform to reinvigorate the Commonwealth. The EPG report also commends CHRI as a good model for Commonwealth civil society to emulate for successfully shifting base from London to the South. As a side event around CHOGM 2011, CHRI in association with the University of Western Australia organised “Commonwealth Reform Package: A Human Rights Preview”, a public lecture by The Hon. Michael Kirby, who was a member of the EPG. The lecture was a big success with over 300 people in attendance. CHRI helped design the human rights segment of the Commonwealth Peoples Forum, and participated and resourced it. CHRI was quoted several times in international and Australian media and was interviewed as an expert source on Sky News Australia.

In February 2012, CHRI made its critiques and submissions on the Commonwealth Charter that is being currently drafted. Before that CHRI also contributed to a Commonwealth Associations' submission on the reform of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG).

CHRI's report to CHOOGM 2011 on civil society engagement with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) was well received and brought CHRI valuable contacts. Taking on board CHRI's recommendations in its 2011 CHOOGM report, Commonwealth Forum of NHRIs (CFNHRI) has improved its website and opened up its meetings for civil society participation. In recognition of its work, in November 2011 CHRI was invited to attend the 11th Informal Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Seminar on "Regional and National Human Rights Mechanisms" in Prague, Czech Republic. CHRI drew on the findings of its report and made several valuable interventions at this meeting. CHRI also had the opportunity to network with influential participants from NHRIs and civil society.

CHRI has been active at the March 2012 session of the UNHRC and has made a written submission to the Council on decriminalisation of same sex conduct. It also joined international campaign networks in this area and participated in international civil society initiatives calling for action on LGBTI rights. CHRI has also followed the resolution on Sri Lanka closely and published an Op Ed on this in a prominent Indian newspaper. In addition to this as a member of the Working Group on Human Rights in India and the UN (WGHR), CHRI has been working closely on WGHR initiatives at the UNHRC on India's human rights record and the facilitation of the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to India. CHRI has also advised WGHR on its interventions on the Sri Lanka resolution being debated at the UNHRC. CHRI also made submissions to the Commonwealth Secretariat on the speech by the Commonwealth Secretary-General at the opening High Level Segment of the current UNHRC session. Many of CHRI's concerns and areas of work were reflected in the Secretary-General's speech. In February, CHRI presented at an international conference on "Sharing Experiences and Reviewing the Review: Universal Periodic Review in Perspective" in Tbilisi, Georgia; CHRI travelled to Bangkok in mid-August to participate in a meeting organised by FORUM-ASIA on the UPR. The meeting brought together human rights defenders from South, South-East and North-East Asia to discuss preparations for the second cycle of the UPR and initiated the development of a tool to measure the compliance of States with UPR recommendations made to them during the first cycle. In June 2011 CHRI made an oral statement at the UN Human Rights Council, commenting on Rwanda's human rights record after the adoption of the final report of the Rwanda's first Universal Periodic Review.

CHRI was invited by the Commonwealth Secretariat to resource its final batch of trainings for Commonwealth governments, NHRIs and civil society on the UPR. As a part of this in late February, CHRI resourced the Secretariat's Caribbean regional training in Grenada and Africa regional training in Namibia. The Asia-Pacific training is yet to be held. CHRI's resourcing of these trainings was widely appreciated by participating governments, NHRIs and civil society groups. CHRI also gained valuable contacts through these trainings.

In the last few months, CHRI managed to build its profile and run a successful media campaign in Malawi where the human rights situation has increasingly deteriorated. CHRI also wrote to the Commonwealth Secretary General about the situation in the

country. Malawian civil society and media appreciated CHRI's interventions, and the Malawian government has also taken note. In informal interactions, CHRI was also told that the Commonwealth Secretariat has noted our concerns and is monitoring the situation. CHRI's statement to the CFNHRI annual meeting in March also drew attention to the situation in Malawi, which was reflected in their statement on Malawi.

In November, CHRI wrote on LGBTI rights in Nigeria, which was published by the Nigerian Media. In March, CHRI also worked on the prevention of torture Bill that is pending in Uganda and wrote to Ugandan MPs asking them to pass the Bill in the current session. Following this CHRI also published its views in the Ugandan media.

CHRI has also been exploring the potential of working on emerging Southern powers in the Commonwealth. In this regard CHRI has been watching the growth of India, South Africa, Nigeria and Ghana and intends to monitor their human rights policies in international forums. CHRI intends to begin this work with an exploratory conference on the India Brazil South Africa grouping (IBSA) and their policies on human rights. This will bring the experience of civil society working on the human rights policies of Brazil and South Africa to India, and attempt to catalyse increased civil society interest in the governance and human rights angles of India's policies at international forums.

Access to Justice – Police Reforms

In India, CHRI continued to implement and develop its work on strengthening Police Complaints Authorities, initiated many interventions which included: engaging with accountability bodies and members of civil society in various states, launching and disseminating publications, and initiating litigation in the face of police misconduct. The biggest achievement has been the fact that CHRI's Model Rules for the Authorities is seen by all the Authorities as an excellent working template that can be easily adapted and adopted to the needs of each Authority. Another major achievement however at an intangible level has been the understanding within the police that there is little threat and much to be gained from working together with the Authorities. The modeling for this has been CHRI's ability to get Model rules going, initiate a discussion around the Rules and bring several stakeholders together to assess and better the functioning of the Authority.

CHRI has an established reputation for engaging government agencies as well as working cooperatively with civil society to build platforms and the capacity of both. Illustratively, the Kerala Police requested CHRI to draft a Citizen's Charter, which would spell out the police's responsibilities and services to be provided to citizens. The drafting was done in collaboration with the Kerala Police. This was possible despite intervening in a case of a custodial death involving complicity of senior officers in Kerala, where CHRI got the High Court investigation transferred from the state police to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and is following developments. 3 police forces (Uttarakhand – Police Headquarters, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh – Police Training Academies) out of the 12 states to which it goes, have now voluntarily taken on the distribution of its monthly Hindi broadsheet Lok Police which is especially targeted at educating the constabulary about law. Our most popular publication "101 Things You Wanted to Know About the Police but were Afraid to Ask (2009)" has been translated/adapted into 8 languages so far, including a Dhivehi Bangla and Urdu version with partners for the Maldives, Bangladesh and Pakistan respectively. It continues to be in demand and has been taken up for serialisation in 6 newspapers in different states,

and is expected to be serialised in another 4 newspapers, and copies have been printed and distributed by state chapters of the Confederation of Indian Industry.

In South Asia, CHRI initiated and coordinated 'Network for Improved Policing in South Asia' (NIPSA) is coming together and its website is gaining popularity as a resource and platform for the region. The highlights of our work this year includes deepening of working relationship with local partners in the Maldives, Bangladesh and Pakistan, enabling a sustained engagement on the theme of democratic policing in the region. This is reflected through the various workshops, material, articles and publications produced in collaboration with partners in the year. Illustratively, we have had workshops with civil society partners: e.g. Pakistan (Roundtable on policing in conflict – Islamabad, November), Bangladesh (workshop – Khulna, July); published reports (Report on *Implementation of the Maldives Police Strategic Plan 2007-2011: An Assessment*); critiqued laws, organised the third South Asia visiting programme for practitioners from the region.

In East Africa, the focus of the work has been on the following areas: advocacy and public education regarding the new policing system in Kenya; beginning a new 101 on policing publication for Tanzania; working on Standard Operating Procedures for the East African Community; publication of general advocacy opinion pieces in the local media; and establishing and building on relationships with local partners and funding bodies. CHRI is part of the legislative reform sub-group in The Usalama Reforms Forum (TURF) in Kenya. Submissions on behalf of CHRI were made to the Parliament of Kenya on the *National Police Service Bill 2011*, *Independent Policing Oversight Authority Bill 2011* and *The Kenya National Human Rights Commission Bill 2011*. These were also used by TURF to make critical arguments to the relevant Parliamentary working group prior to passage of the Bills. TURF informs us that they secured critical amendments to the Bills that were based on the recommendations of CHRI. This is a key achievement.

There have been opportunities for using our experience in one region to enrich the work in another region. Illustratively, recently in Nairobi, CHRI presented its Indian experience at a UNODC organised workshop on the challenges and opportunities to establishing Independent Policing Oversight in Kenya.

Access to Justice – Prison Reforms

The programme has largely focussed on pre-trial detention and oversight mechanisms in the states of Rajasthan and West Bengal. It has made extensive use of Right to Information in its studies

A significant effort and achievement during this period has been securing the release of 339 Bangladeshi nationals in West Bengal (India) prisons who had overstayed their sentence. We are in Court over glitches in the repatriation arrangements between the two countries that result in untenable denial of liberty to such persons. The multiple levels of systemic failure on both sides was highlighted in the much publicised case of a five year old Indian boy, Ariful, who was released from a Bangladeshi jail with his grandparents through CHRI's efforts along with partners BLAST on the Bangladesh side and MASUM from West Bengal.

In West Bengal, on the legal aid front, the legal aid clinics with the National University for Juridical Sciences (NUJS), acts as a bridge between those in need of legal assistance

and the legal services authority, most of the cases referred to the SLSA by the clinic have been taken on by legal aid lawyers. CHRI has also taken some cases to court and got relief for prisoners in these specific cases. CHRI has taken up the issue of mentally ill prisoners who are in jail when they should be in a treatment facility, and a huge number of juveniles in adult prisons. We sent a letter petition to the Kolkata High Court which took up the matter of juveniles in adult correctional homes and has ordered the release of 50 juveniles on 4 May 2012.

A new focus has emerged on retainer lawyers as per the National Legal Services Authority (Free and Competent Legal Services) Regulations, 2010, and on duty counsels. CHRI has suggested the setting up of a Committee for Legal Aid for Prisoners for better oversight.

In Rajasthan, CHRI's persistent efforts have resulted in the appointment of 150 Non-Official Visitors to prisons in the state. We conducted a quick study to see how aware the new appointees were of what they were expected to do as visitors, we found that none of them really knew their role, rights and duties; several appointees, but most were keen to learn. CHRI then organised a training programme on the basis of the findings.

CHRI brought out a study on the functioning of another crucial oversight mechanism the 'Periodic Review Committees', especially meant to check overstays of undertrial detainees. The study points to serious gaps in its actual functioning, which makes it impossible for it to fulfil its mandate, leaving the undertrial extremely vulnerable to systemic infirmities.

During this period, CHRI used RTI to do a micro-study on Police Escorts & Court Production in District Prison, Alwar, Rajasthan. With 70% of the 304 cases of non-production attributed to the shortage of police escorts, this becomes a significant point of future intervention.

Capacity building workshops were held for key actors in the system such as district court lawyers, warders, life-sentence prisoners, which brought out both the dire need and the potential for change that needs to be tapped into in a concerted effort.

CHRI's Evaluation of Period of Detention – for under-trial prisoners' (EPoD) software is a tool for detection of overstays, that helps identify when a prisoner becomes eligible for bail under the liberalised bail procedures of the Criminal Procedure Code. The software has been incorporated into the PMS of Tihar prison in Delhi since December 2011.

Access to Information

The highlight of this year is CHRI's launch of an **interactive map** on the status of RTI laws in the Commonwealth to commemorate the Right to Know Day on 28 September 2011. The team's Coordinator was part of a world-wide effort to develop a method of **rating RTI laws**. The Centre for Law and Democracy, Canada and a coalition of RTI advocates around the world including CHRI collaborated in this effort. The team has been associated with the efforts to develop a **model RTI law for Africa**, and did an in-depth analysis of the draft model law developed by the FOI coalition in Africa and submitted recommendations for improvement. CHRI was invited to resource important workshops on the subject, for e.g. at the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association meeting for MPs from Commonwealth countries, our Programme Coordinator besides

showcasing the role of Parliament prior to and after the adoption of the RTI Act, appealed to all the MPs gathered to push for the adoption for RTI laws in their own countries.

We are happy to report that our letter urging the Secretary General to establish an information disclosure policy had its intended effect as we received a positive reply from them. The Secretary General's office had in-fact, expressed interest to receive a delegation from CHRI for a discussion on how the issue can be best taken forward.

In India, CHRI has taken up a number of strategic cases with the Central Information Commission in order to expand the regime of transparency by having crucial information relating to accountability in governance disclosed in the public domain. Illustratively, CHRI has been working to expose the lack of transparency in Public Private Partnerships, disclosure of all information on cases reserved for judgement by the Supreme Court after the completion of all pleadings, classification of sensitive documents, right to know the reasons for the rejection of the mercy petition for death row prisoners under the RTI Act etc.). It has worked in tandem with other civil society organizations to vigorously defend the RTI Act from rollback – CHRI's well researched e-mail alerts have been widely appreciated in this context (e.g. Nuclear Safety Regulatory Authority Bill seeks to add a new exemption to Section 8(1) of the RTI Act about nuclear safety matters. An email alert was circulated and carried by important websites; the National Human Rights Commission of India took note of CHRI's emails and asked for a report in a case involving murder of an RTI Activist). CHRI has been trying to use RTI to open up the tightly closed criminal justice system. With its partners in Gujarat, CHRI has developed a preliminary template for proactive disclosure of crucial information concerning citizens' rights and the obligations of the police under the Central RTI Act. State-level training of trainer workshops in Jammu & Kashmir on the J & K RTI Act have been among our highly successful efforts for the year where local partners have made good use of the knowledge and skills acquired at the workshop.

As a result of our frequent cautioning of civil society and the media about the encroachments made on people's right to privacy and access to information by various government authorities we have been invited to a specialist committee on the right to privacy set up by the Indian Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Justice A P Shah. Our paper and recommendations for RTI have been included in the draft report of the civil society initiative seeking to provide inputs to the approach paper for the 12th Five Year Plan to be drafted by the Planning Commission of India.

In South Asia, CHRI is developing a South Asian Community of Practice (CoP) for Access to Information, under a project supported by the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability - South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) that began in January this year. This initiative will strengthen SARTIAN (South Asia Right to Information Advocates Network) and develop a dedicated website for it.

CHRI organised the fifth annual learning programme on RTI for civil society representatives from South Asian countries. Besides providing technical expertise on request to partners in Commonwealth South Asia, CHRI has also extended this kind of assistance to groups in Nepal and Afghanistan as CHRI's recognition as a regional resource has grown significantly; these countries were also represented in the learning programme this year. In Bangladesh, with a view to mainstream RTI in the work of large-

networked NGOs, CHRI has worked to interest and enthuse large sized CSOs such as BRAC and conducted trainings on RTI for lawyers with BLAST.

An important contribution of CHRI to further access to information in South Asia is through its publications. We published in collaboration with Transparency International-Bangladesh, *"Tottho Odhikar Ain Bastobayon - prayogik nirdeshika"* a Bangla language translation of our publication– *"Implementing Access to Information: A Practical Guide for Operationalising Freedom of Information Laws"*, designed to understand the steps required for the effective implementation of Bangladesh's RTI Act. In collaboration with Transparency International Sri Lanka, we published a set of three booklets adapted from our flagship publication - Open Sesame: Looking for the Right to Information in Commonwealth, 2003. Though Sri Lanka does not have a law guaranteeing right to information, this publication will contribute to local efforts for an effective access to information legislation in Sri Lanka. On the occasion of International Right to Know Day, in September 2011, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability- South Asia Region (ANSA-SAR) and the World Bank Institute's (WBI) Access to Information Programme released a publication " The Power of Using the Right to Information Act in Bangladesh: Experiences from the Ground". This publication documents fifteen narratives of citizens and communities that have used RTI to hold government to account and improve their living conditions.

An article in Protifolon (a policy brief series by D,Net, Bangladesh, that seeks to promote informed policy discourse in South Asia) encapsulating the implementation of RTI Act in India has won us new partners in Bangladesh and new audiences in the region.

In Africa, CHRI's Accra office continues to be the secretariat for the Right to information coalition. Besides promoting awareness of right to information beyond the capital Accra, in the regions, CHRI has also been promoting the use of information access provisions in existing legislation, pending a strong right to information law. Nigeria is the latest member of the Commonwealth to adopt an RTI law; CHRI has been providing assistance to civil society representatives in Nigeria for implementation of this law; a delegation from Nigeria visited CHRI recently under the aegis of a training programme organised by Human Rights Law Network.

At the request of the World Bank, Zambia office, we drafted a guidance note for CSOs and policymakers on the value of Freedom of Information. The note has been approved and will be circulated in Zambia. Earlier our Coordinator participated in a day long consultation with CSOs and academics in Zambia through video-conferencing - the emphasis on linking RTI to economic and social rights reflected in the absence of access to basic services for the impoverished attracted the attention of CSOs.

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CHRI STAFF PROFILE – 2012

HEADQUARTERS, INDIA

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES PROGRAMME

Mr. R. Iniyan Ilango: *Programme Coordinator*, has an LL.M degree from the National Law School of India University, Bangalore. Iniyan developed CHRI's research and advocacy work related to UN Human Rights Council and has taken the lead on the Organisation's Commonwealth and international advocacy. He has held leading positions in the Commonwealth Peoples Forum process and from time to time acts as an expert on UPR and the UNHRC at both Commonwealth Secretariat training programmes and NGO events.

Mr. Zachary Abugov: *Programme Officer*, primarily monitors and analyses the performance of Commonwealth countries at the UN Human Rights Council. He has BA (Hons) in Political Science from Acadia University in Canada and an MSc in Comparative Politics (Conflict Studies) from the London School of Economics. Zachary previously did internships in CHRI's Accra and Delhi offices, and rejoined the organisation in 2010 after completing his studies.

Ms. Jennifer Kishan: *Programme Officer*, works on National Human Rights Institutions in Commonwealth countries and their compliance with the Paris Principles. She has a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from St. Stephen's college, Delhi University, a Master's degree in Political Science from Jawaharlal Nehru University and a second Master's in Forced Migration Studies from the University of Oxford. Prior to this she has worked with Jamshedji Tata Centre for Disaster Management, TISS Mumbai, as a research officer and as a short term documentation consultant with Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust, at the Trust's programme on financial inclusion and women empowerment in Rai Bareilly and Sultanpur districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Ms. Sanyu Awori: *Programme Officer*, has a LL.M in Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham and completed her undergraduate law degree at the same university. Before joining CHRI, Sanyu completed a graduate internship scheme working with women asylum seekers and refugees in Nottingham. In the Strategic Initiatives Programme she is responsible for researching, monitoring and advocating for human rights in Commonwealth Africa.

Ms. Ritika Nair: *Stipendiary Intern*, has an M.A. in International Studies and Diplomacy from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, and a B.A. in English (Honours) from Lady Shri Ram College, University of Delhi. Ritika assists the programme with the researching and writing of various reports and articles.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROGRAMME

Mr. Venkatesh Nayak: *Programme Coordinator*, is presently a key public training resource on Right to Information across South Asia, Africa & the Caribbean. He has trained more than 6000 officers of government and more than 600 executives of public sector enterprises for implementing India's new transparency law. Previously a Doctoral Research Fellow in History, he has authored research and public education documents on the right to information, the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, issues of social justice, electoral reforms, efficacy of public audit mechanisms and fact-finding mission reports on human rights violations.

Ms. Suchismita Goswami: *Project Officer*, has a Masters in social work from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS). She previously worked in Dantewada as a Project Leader in a project of UNICEF ensuring child rights and child protection for children in the relief camps. At CHRI, she is also the moderator of SARTIAN.

Mr. Amikar Parwar: *Project Officer*, has a B.A.LL.B (Hons) from Chanakya National Law University (CNLU), Patna. Before joining CHRI, Amikar has interned with Senior Advocates of Supreme Court and High Court as well as at National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi and National Judicial Academy (NJA), Bhopal. During his undergraduate program, Amikar was a member of Editorial Board of CNLU Law Journal and has represented his University in various national and international moot court competitions. At present, Amikar is working on RTI Activities in India which includes analysis of RTI Rules, assisting in conducting RTI training workshops and publication of RTI related documents and booklets.

Mr. Alan Cheuk: *Project Officer*, is a Juris Doctor Candidate at the Harvard Law School. He has a Bachelor's degree in Computing Science and Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from Simon Fraser University in Canada. Given his technical expertise, Alan has taken the lead on developing the SARTIAN website, besides research and writing.

Ms. Nandita Sinha: *Research Assistant*, has bachelor's and master's degree in History from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi. She has an LLB degree from the University of Delhi and cleared the All India Bar Exam in 2011. Before joining CHRI, she was involved in giving legal opinions for the law firm Indus Law Associates, and also taught English at the Chanakya Academy. Her work at CHRI includes researching and writing on various themes for the programme.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROGRAMME

Police Reforms

Ms. Navaz Kotwal: *Programme Coordinator*, holds a Masters in Microbiology. She has been with CHRI since 2000, has developed the Gujarat project after the communal violence in Gujarat, to include, besides legal assistance with cases of victims of the communal violence, paralegal and lawyers trainings, and right to information. She also coordinates the judicial colloquium programme of CHRI. She was honoured with the Nani Palkiwala Civil Liberties award, awarded a fellowship to the Bellagio study centre

and was nominated to the Yale University human rights fellowship in 2008, in recognition of her untiring efforts and work in Gujarat.

Ms. Devika Prasad: *Senior Programme Officer*, has a bachelor's degree in political science, a master's in Comparative Legal Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London, and a master's in Human Rights and Criminal Justice from Queen's University Belfast. At CHRI, Devika works primarily on police reform in India, through monitoring, research and advocacy, civil society training and capacity building, and direct engagement with the police. A large emphasis of her work is strengthening police accountability, with a focus on monitoring and capacity building of Police Complaints Authorities in India.

Ms. Devyani Srivastava: *Consultant*, has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science (Hons.) from, Hindu College, University of Delhi and a Master's degree in International Relations from University of Warwick, UK. Following her Master's degree, she worked with the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, a policy analysis think-tank based in New Delhi, as a Research Officer. At IPCS, she worked on issues such as terrorism, counterterrorism, low intensity conflicts and conflict resolution. At CHRI, she works on policing issues in the South Asian region.

Mr. Fahad Ahmed: *Programme Officer*, has a LLM in Public International Law and European Law from University of Amsterdam and LLB from University of Delhi. He has worked with three international criminal tribunals in Europe, Africa and Asia. In Police Reforms Programme he is monitoring and researching on policies in India.

Ms. Aditi Diya Nag: *Research Officer*, has a Juris Doctor from Syracuse University in New York. She did her undergraduate degree in Human Rights and Sociology, from Colombia University. She is a member of the New York Bar. Before joining CHRI, Diya completed a fellowship as a Junior Associate at The Asia Foundation in San Francisco. At CHRI, Diya works on policing issues in India and Bangladesh, and is in-charge of the Network for Improved Policing in South Asia (NIPSA) work.

Ms. Deepa Rathore: *Administrative Assistant*, has a BA from the University of Delhi. She has more than 11 years experience in Back office.

Prison Reforms

Ms. Sana Das: *Programme Coordinator*, has a Masters in Sociology from JNU, New Delhi, a background in Cultural Studies from the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore and is pursuing a PhD in Philosophy and Cinema from IIT, Delhi. She has worked with human rights organisations like Amnesty International, funding organisations like the Heinrich Boell Foundation and educational trusts. Her areas of experience are in human rights education, advocacy, policy and social movements' research, designing and directing educational courses, guiding youth activism, editing publications, outreach and media activities.

Ms. Sugandha Mathur: *Project Officer*, is a law graduate from ILS Law College, Pune, has a B.A. (Hons.) in Political Science from the University of Delhi. She also holds a Diploma in Human Rights and Law. She has also participated in the Feminist Jurisprudence course conducted by the University of New South Wales, Sydney,

Australia. She has previously worked with World Health Organization (WHO), on the project 'Mental Health Law and Human Rights'.

Ms. Tripti Kanungo: *Project Officer*, has a LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Nottingham and BA, LLB from Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar. In the Prison Reforms Programme Ms. Tripti Kanungo has been assisting through research on issues, laws and standards related to prisons, prisoners' rights and human rights with focus on documentation and analysis of credible information on under trial prisoners.

Ms. Madhurima: *Consultant*, External Collaborator, West Bengal, is a law graduate and has a postgraduate degree of LLM in Criminal Justice from the University of Nottingham, UK. She has practised criminal law in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh. She has studied prisons in detail during her post-graduate course, which prompted her to join CHRI and work on prison reforms.

Mr. R.K. Saxena: *Honorary Consultant*, is a retired Inspector General of Prisons. He has been a Director in the All India Committee on Prison Reforms (1980 – 83) and is at present, the Vice President of People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL). He has completed a full study on Prison Conditions and the Prison Visiting System in Rajasthan.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION

Ms. Aditi Datta: *Media & Communications Officer* holds an M.Phil degree in Political Science, and has previously worked as a journalist in India Abroad News Service, Indo-Asian News Service, Katha Publishing House and Centre for Science and Environment. Our bridge to the world of communiqué, her current assignments involve communicating CHRI's advocacy concerns into the mass media across the Commonwealth, and catalyzing journalists to write frequently on issues of human rights concerns on the newswires and list serves.

Mr. Ranjan Kumar: *IT Officer*, has more than 10 yrs of experience in Web/System Administration and Networking. He has a Bachelor's degree and has done Red Hat Certified Engineering course from IACM, Delhi. Ranjan has worked with reputed NGOs like Deepalaya, Centre for Civil Society CCS, MIA etc. He was responsible for maintaining official websites and providing technical support.

PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION & ACCOUNTS

Mr. Mohan Sundaram: *Manager-Administration*, has a Bachelor of Arts qualification and has several years of experience in both government and non-government organizations. He is in-charge of the overall administration of the office.

Mr. K S Rautela: *Manager-Accounts*, has over 10 years experience of keeping accounts in the commercial sector and is responsible for designing and implementing systems for maintaining of accounts keeping in view the statutory/donors and individual project requirements. He oversees the audits and the day-to-day flow of finances into the programmes.

Ms. Vinu Sampath: *Coordinator, Planning*, holds a Doctorate in International Politics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. She has worked for over 14 years in the

development sector. She works closely with the Director on organizational matters, including reporting to and liaising with the Boards; making funding applications, following grant progress etc. She coordinates between Headquarters, and the Ghana and London offices, and provides support where needed.

Mr. P. Prasad: *Senior Accounts Assistant*, has a B.Com degree from Kerala University. Prasad has 13 years experience in accounts.

Mr. Bruce Lee: *Accounts Assistant*, has an M.Com degree from Kerala University. Bruce has 2 years experience in accounts.

Mr. Subhash Kumar Patra: *Office Assistant*, renders his priceless help to all office staff in routine works. He mainly handles the photocopy section of the office.

Ms. P. Ajay Babu: *Office Assistant*, renders his invaluable help to all office staff in all routine works. He mainly handles postage and courier department of the office.

Ms. R. Rajeshwari: *Office Help*, who looks after hygiene and cleanliness of the office and ensures good hospitality to the visitors.

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2012 (CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT)

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
As at 31.03.2011 (Amount Rs.)	Particulars	As at 31.03.2012 (Amount Rs.)		As at 31.03.2011 (Amount Rs.)	Particulars	As at 31.03.2012 (Amount Rs.)	
39,313,721	General Fund As per last accounts	39,313,723		4,991,033	Fixed Assets (As per Schedule-1)		5,630,423
	Add: Fixed Assets purchased during the year	989,795			Current Assets		
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	5,382,642	45,686,160		a) Fixed Deposits		
				7,008,894	- Bank of India	2,669,529	
				2,978,327	- State Bank of India	-	
				-	- Syndicate Bank	16,078,862	
				-	- State Bank of Travancore	5,232,951	
				6,149,478	- HDFC Bank Ltd	-	
				14,214,250	- ICICI Bank Ltd	15,212,006	39,193,348
						-	
	SPECIAL PROJECT FUND (u/s 11(2) of the Income Tax Act, 1961) Accumulated during the year		1,500,000		b) Bank Balances		
					In accounts with :		
				2,260,042	- State Bank of India	180,978	
				101,277	- Bank of India	301,645	
							482,622
	Corpus Fund As per last accounts		280,000				
39,593,721	Total c/f		47,466,160	37,703,301	Total c/f		45,306,394



LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
As at 31.03.2011 (Amount Rs.)	Particulars		As at 31.03.2012 (Amount Rs.)	As at 31.03.2011 (Amount Rs.)	Particulars		As at 31.03.2012 (Amount Rs.)
39,593,721	Total b/f		47,466,160	37,703,301	Total b/f		45,306,394
				66,698	- Bank of India- SDTT	70,698	
				751,917	- HDFC Bank Ltd	359,506	430,203
655,323	Current Liabilities : Sundry creditors for expenses		225,127		c) Cash Balances		
				48,231	- Cash in hand	89,140	
				147,110	- Foreign Currency in hand	141,158	230,298
				390,655	d) Tax Deducted at Source		703,316
				1,141,134	e) Sundry Debtors (Considered good, receivable in cash or in kind)		1,021,075
40,249,044	Total		47,691,287	40,249,044	Total		47,691,287

As per our report of even date



For Awatar & Co
Chartered Accountants

Sanjay Agrawal

(Sanjay Agrawal)
Partner M. N. 087786



For and on behalf of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Chairperson

Chairperson

Treasurer

Treasurer

Director

Director

Place : New Delhi

Date : 02/08/2012

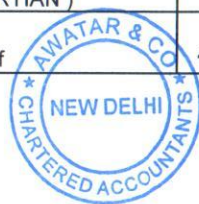
COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

(CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT)

2010-2011 (Amount Rs.)	Expenditure	2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)	2010-2011 (Amount Rs.)	Income	2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)
	Grantwise Expenses - As per Schedule -2			Grant Receipts	
-	Australian High Commission- Publish a monthly tabloid for the Police Constabulary in India	395,540	-	The Australian High Commission- Publish a monthly tabloid for the Police Constabulary in India	450,000
4,231,994	British High Commission-Promoting equality before the law for disadvantaged groups	-	4,881,044	British High Commission-Promoting equality before the law for disadvantaged groups	395,000
-	British High Commission- Strengthening Police Oversight Mechanisms	5,085,031	-	British High Commission- Strengthening Police Oversight Mechanisms	3,579,460
-	British High Commission-Towards Better Policing in Jammu & Kashmir	2,652,958	-	British High Commission-Towards Better Policing in Jammu & Kashmir	883,257
-	Commonwealth Foundation- Human Rights Institutions in the Commonwealth and Pre-CHOGM Advocay	470,925	-	Commonwealth Foundation- Human Rights Institutions in the Commonwealth and Pre-CHOGM Advocay	470,925
47,069	Democracy Coalition Project (DCP) USA- Travel support for Human Rights Council Advocacy Mission	-	61,105	Democracy Coalition Project (DCP) USA- Travel support for Human Rights Council Advocacy Mission	-
2,724,688	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - Promoting RTI and Police Reforms in South Asia	4,083,996	3,276,428	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - Promoting RTI and Police Reforms in South Asia	3,733,993
7,103,611	Ford Foundation- New York - Institutional Grant	7,106,069	11,600,483	Ford Foundation- New York - Institutional Grant	11,101,793
148,285	General Expenses	92,020	1,729,275	Netherland Minister for Development Cooperation-Access to Justice for Marginalised Communities with a Special Focus on Religious Minorities	261,355
-	Institute of Governance Studies (ANSA) - Supporting Peer knowledge on RTI through South Asia Right to Information Advocates Network (SARTIAN)	5,936	-	Open Society Institute - Institutional Grant.	7,758,037
14,255,647	Total c/f	19,892,475	21,548,335	Total c/f	28,633,820



2010-2011 (Amount Rs.)	Expenditure	2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)	2010-2011 (Amount Rs.)	Income	2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)
14,255,647	Total b/f	19,892,475	21,548,335	Total b/f	28,633,820
2,515,154	Netherland Minister for Development Cooperation-Access to Justice for Marginalised Communities with a Special Focus on Religious Minorities	757,975	-	Open Society Institute(SA-RTI)-Promoting effective access to information regimes in the countries of South Asia and Commonwealth Africa	1,719,563
3,222,329	Open Society Institute - Institutional Grant.	6,634,775	2,552,886	Open Society Institute-Bangkok - Capacity building training to Sri Lankan Civil Society	-
-	Open Society Institute(SA-RTI)-Promoting effective access to information regimes in the countries of South Asia and Commonwealth Africa	1,597,999	-	Open Society Institute-RTI 09-Promoting effective access to information regimes in countries of South Asia	1,311,088
2,083,878	Open Society Institute-Bangkok - Capacity building training to Sri Lankan Civil Society	-	1,330,834	Open Society Institute-RTI Act to gather information on under-trial prisoners and the functioning of the legal aid system	2,470,965
876,016	Open Society Institute-RTI 09-Promoting effective access to information regimes in countries of South Asia	361,986	6,100,000	Sir Dorabji Tata Trust - Institutional Grant	-
1,193,069	Open Society Institute-RTI Act to gather information on under-trial prisoners and the functioning of the legal aid system	2,278,344	1,122,438	Open Society Institute-RTI - National Security and Access to Information	568,040
8,614,745	Sir Dorabji Tata Trust - Institutional Grant	-			
138,350	Open Society Institute-RTI - National	46,842			
		31,570,396		Other Receipts :	
(500,000)	Add: Transfer to Special Project Fund (U/S 11 (2) of Income Tax Act. 1961) during the year	1,500,000	33,070,396	Interest on :	
396,994	Fixed Assets transferred to Balance Sheet out of Grants- As per contra (Schedule-1)		989,795	- Fixed Deposits	3,357,253
14,800	Loss on sale of Assets	263,705	470,134	- Saving Bank Accounts	254,873
873,648	Refund of Grant - DCP	14,118	114,989	Dividend From Mutual Funds	-
475,762	Refund of Grant - SDTT	-	488,849	Miscellaneous Receipts	268,967
268,830	Refund of Grant - OSI-Bangkok	-	140,864	Sale of Books	36,087
1,823,187	Loss on redemption of Mutual Fund	-	600,000	General Donations	1,100,000
	Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to General Fund	5,382,642			5,017,180
36,252,409	Total	39,720,656	36,252,409	Total	39,720,656



As per our report of even date
For Awatar & Co
Chartered Accountants
Sanjay Agrawal
(Sanjay Agrawal)
Partner M. N. 087786

Place : New Delhi
Date : 02/08/2012



For and on behalf of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

[Signature]
Chairperson

[Signature]
Treasurer

[Signature]
Director

COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

(CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNT)

2010-2011 (Amount Rs.)	Receipts	2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)	2010-2011 (Amount Rs.)	Payments	2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)
	Opening Balance :		436,086	Advertisement Expenses	3,072
2,018,991	State Bank of India	2,260,042	400	Audit Expenses	-
910,979	Bank of India	101,277	54,900	Bank Charges	35,697
610,050	HDFC Bank	751,917	1,885,557	Boarding & Lodging Expenses	2,372,107
3,691,781	Bank of India - SDTT	66,698	90,737	Books & Periodicals	67,496
117,668	Cash in hand	48,231	5,123,495	Consultancy Charges	2,984,918
20,498	Foreign Currency in hand	147,110	869,567	Conveyance Expenses	1,198,944
21,725,101	Fixed Deposits	30,350,949	-	Currency conversion charges	1,095
2,996,658	Investment in Mutual Funds	-	516,553	Electricity & Water Charges	505,219
32,091,726		33,726,223	197,484	Equipment Hire Charges	116,456
	Grants Received :		92,855	Fee & Subscription	9,032
-	Australian High Commission- Publish a monthly tabloid for the Police Constabulary in India	450,000	386,100	Honorarium	282,070
4,881,044	British High Commission-Promoting equality before the law for disadvantaged groups	-	208,399	Insurance Expenses-Staff	201,579
-	British High Commission- Strengthening Police Oversight Mechanisms	3,974,460	8,106	Insurance Expenses-Office	8,827
-	British High Commission-Towards Better Policing in Jammu & Kashmir	883,257	320,442	Internet Expenses	348,599
-	Commonwealth Foundation- Human Rights Institutions in the Commonwealth and Pre-CHOGM Advocay	470,925	135,563	Legal & Professional Charges	116,173
61,105	Democracy Coalition Project (DCP) USA- Travel support for Human Rights Council Advocacy Mission	-	46,660	Miscellaneous Expenses	78,928
3,276,428	Friedrich Naumann Stiftung - Promoting RTI and Police Reforms in South Asia	3,733,993	1,143,294	Meeting Expenses	618,230
11,600,483	Ford Foundation -New York -Institutional Grant	11,101,793	600	Membership & Subscription	-
1,729,275	Netherland Minister for Development Cooperation-Access to Justice for Marginalised Communities with a Special Focus on Religious Minorities	261,355	498,253	Office Expenses	381,730
2,552,886	Open Society Institute-Bangkok - Capacity building training to Sri Lankan Civil Society	-	786,340	Postage & Telegrams	691,422
			484,068	Per-diem Expenses	806,460
56,192,947	Total c/f	20,875,783	13,285,459	Total c/f	10,828,054



2010-2011 (Amount Rs.)	Receipts	2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)	2010-2011 (Amount Rs.)	Payments	2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)
56,192,947	Total b/f	20,875,783	13,285,459	Total b/f	10,828,054
1,330,834	Open Society Institute-RTI Act to gather information on under-trial prisoners and the functioning of the legal aid system	2,470,965	3,415,882	Printing & Publications	3,729,863
1,122,438	Open Society Institute-RTI - National Security and Access to Information	568,040	2,227,929	Rent,Rates & Taxes	2,111,986
-	Open Society Institute - Institutional Grant.	7,758,037	50,377	Recruitment Expenses	46,849
-	Open Society Institute-RTI 09-Promoting effective access to information regimes in countries of South Asia	1,311,088	1,070,776	Repair & Maintenance	748,098
6,100,000	Sir Dorabji Tata Trust - Institutional Grant	-	8,321,363	Salary & Benefits	10,076,950
-	Open Society Institute(SA-RTI)-Promoting effective access to information regimes in the countries of South Asia and Commonwealth Africa	1,719,563	-	Short & Excess Recovery A/c	28
64,746,219		34,703,476	15,400	Software Expenses	-
	<u>Other Receipts</u>		101,566	Security Expenses	109,624
	Interest :		7,400	Staff Training Expenses	-
1,783,082	Interest on Fixed Deposits	3,357,252	424,413	Telephone Expenses	370,862
470,134	Interest on Savings Bank Accounts	254,873	3,862,553	Travelling Expenses	3,196,153
488,849	Miscellaneous Receipts	268,967	49,572	Visa Expenses	169,199
140,864	Sale of books	36,087	66,498	Venue Charges	182,730
16,200	Sale of Assets	86,700	-	Air Conditioners	139,575
280,000	Corpus Donations	-	139,175	Computer and Printers	553,180
600,000	Other Donation	1,100,000	121,631	Furniture & Fixture	40,000
114,989	Dividends	-	77,788	Office Equipment	180,540
3,894,118		5,103,879	38,000	UPS , Invertor & Battery	71,700
484,491	Increase/Decrease in Sundry Debtors	5,000	20,400	Software	4,800
			1,349,410	Refund of Grant	14,118
			268,830	Loss on Sale of Mutual Fund	-
69,124,827	Total c/f	73,538,578	34,914,422	Total c/f	32,574,309



2010-2011 (Amount Rs.)	Receipts	2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)	2010-2011 (Amount Rs.)	Payments	2011-2012 (Amount Rs.)
69,124,827	Total b/f	73,538,578	34,914,422	Total b/f	32,574,309
			-	Increase/Decrease - Sundry Debtors	197,602
			484,182	Increase/Decrease - Sundry Creditors	430,196
				Closing Balance :	
			2,260,042	State Bank of India	180,978
			101,277	Bank of India	301,645
			751,917	HDFC Bank	359,506
			66,698	Bank of India-SDTT	70,698
			48,231	Cash in hand	89,140
			147,110	Foreign currency in hand	141,158
			30,350,949	Fixed Deposits	39,193,348
69,124,827	Total	73,538,578	69,124,827	Total	73,538,578

As per our report of even date



For Awatar & Co.,
Sanjay Agrawal
 Chartered Accountants
 (Sanjay Agrawal)
 Partner M. N. 087786



For and on behalf of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

[Signature] Chairperson

[Signature] Treasurer

[Signature] Director

Place : New Delhi
 Date : 02/08/2012