

C H R I  
A N N U A L

Report

2004-05

Commonwealth  
Human Rights  
Initiative

working for the  
*practical* realisation  
of human rights in the  
countries  
of the Commonwealth



# Our Mission

The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) is an independent, non-partisan, international non-governmental organisation, mandated to ensure the *practical* realisation of human rights across the Commonwealth. It was founded in 1987 by several Commonwealth associations as they felt that while member countries had both a common set of values and legal principles from which to work, and a forum within which to promote human rights, there was relatively little focus on human rights issues.

CHRI's objectives are to promote awareness of and adherence to the Harare Commonwealth Declaration, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and other internationally recognised human rights instruments, as well as in-country laws and policies that support human rights in member states.

Through its periodic reports to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, fact-finding missions, advocacy and research activities, CHRI strives to draw attention to progress and setbacks in 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.

# Sponsoring Organisations

CHRI was established by a group of Commonwealth professional associations and these - our sponsoring organisations - have been a strategic part of CHRI's evolution and growth. These organisations highlight issues, bring in expertise and insights into local situations, help to nuance responses and, acting collaboratively, effectively catalyse public policy changes in favour of human rights. From time to time, CHRI collaborates with these sponsoring organisations on our mutual areas of focus by contributing to each other's events and developing joint publications and activities. The pan-Commonwealth nature of these organisations ensures both an international and national presence.

The sponsoring organisations are:

- ◆ Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA)
- ◆ Commonwealth Legal Education Association (CLEA)
- ◆ Commonwealth Journalists Association (CJA)
- ◆ Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
- ◆ Commonwealth Press Union (CPU)
- ◆ Commonwealth Broadcasting Association (CBA)

*The Commonwealth Trade Union Council was also one of our sponsoring organisation until its dissolution in January 2005.*

# International Advisory Commission

The International Advisory Commission (AC) is CHRI's primary agenda setting body and is composed of eminent Commonwealth citizens. It expresses the position of the organisation in press releases, open letters and research reports. Its annual meetings provide broad directions, assess previous performances, highlight emerging issues and provide ongoing networking and support for policy level interventions.

The current chair of the AC, Mr. Sam Okudzeto was appointed in April 2004. He is a member of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association. He is a member of the Legal Aid Committee, treasurer of the Ghana Bar Association, member of the Prisoners Service Council and a former Chair of the Public Accounts Committee and Judicial Sub-Committee. Mr. Okudzeto has been a member of the AC since June 2000 and is also the Chair of the Africa Office Executive Committee.

## Members of the International Advisory Commission

Sam Okudzeto (CLA) – Chair  
B.G. Verghese (Chair - Executive Committee, India)  
Dr. Nihal Jayawickrama (Chair - Trustee Committee)  
Maja Daruwala (Secretary)  
Alfred Mudenda (CTUC)  
Eunice Brookman-Amissah (CMA)  
Jean Corston (CPA)  
Murray Burt (CJA)  
Alice Jacob (CLEA)  
Zohra Yusuf (co-opted)  
Alison Duxbury (co-opted, as of December 2004)

## International Advisory Commission Reports:

Every two years, immediately prior to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), the International Advisory Commission releases a report that highlights an area of human rights concern and includes recommendations to the Commonwealth leaders. The next report is due in late 2005 and will highlight issues on policing and accountability across the

Commonwealth, identifying good practices as well as the areas of concern. The report will be presented to CHOGM in November at Malta.

The report on Police Accountability has three key objectives:

- ◆ To provide knowledge, information and education about police accountability in general, and in the Commonwealth countries in particular.
- ◆ To provide a basis for advocacy in countries with Commonwealth structures on the subject of police accountability.
- ◆ To build capacity and profile of CHRI on policing issues; to provide a basis for expanded work on policing in future.

CHRI's 2003 report to CHOGM, "Open Sesame: Looking for the Right to Information in the Commonwealth", was used as a springboard for the Right to Information Programme to consolidate and expand its Commonwealth-wide activities. The report was widely distributed to government policy-makers and NGOs and used as an entry-point to initiate policy discussions around the value of the right to information as well as how the right can be promoted and implemented in practice. The response to the report has been very positive. Government officials, MPs, academics and NGOs from throughout the Commonwealth have requested copies and commented on the usefulness of the report. In 2003, the report was cited in the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression's annual report and in a World Bank publication on right to information.

**Some of the previous reports include:**

- ◆ CHOGM 2001: Human Rights and Poverty Eradication - A Talisman for the Commonwealth
- ◆ CHOGM 1999: Over a Barrel: Light Weapons and Human Rights in the Commonwealth
- ◆ CHOGM 1997: The Right to a Culture of Tolerance
- ◆ CHOGM 1995: Rights Do Matter
- ◆ CHOGM 1993: Act Right Now
- ◆ CHOGM 1991: Put Our World to Rights

# Headquarters

Originally based in the United Kingdom, CHRI moved its headquarters to New Delhi, India in the year 1993. While South Asia alone accounts for the majority of the population of the Commonwealth, few international organisations have a presence and influence in this largely developing region. CHRI's location in India provides it with opportunities and challenges, as both positive and negative developments in this large country tend to expand or contract human rights evolution elsewhere in the region.

The New Delhi office is responsible for the overall implementation of CHRI's programmes. CHRI has steadily acquired new premises, strengthened documentation, infrastructure and communications, gained new programme staff and found support for its programme of work from diverse sources. It has a core staff of project coordinators, researchers, consultants, interns and administrative personnel.

## Executive Committee

While the International Advisory Commission sets the policy guidelines for the organisation, there is also an Executive Committee in India that is responsible for translating these into specific programmes and projects. The Executive Committee oversees the day-to-day functioning of the Headquarters and is comprised of representatives from the sponsoring organisations, as well as co-opted professionals.

The current Chair of the Executive Committee is Mr. B.G. Verghese. A member of the Commonwealth Journalists Association, Mr. Verghese is a former Media Advisor to the Prime Minister of India and former Editor of the Hindustan Times. He has been a member of many boards and is a Senior Fellow of the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi.

### **Members of the Executive Committee in India are:**

- B.G. Verghese (Chairperson)
- P.H. Parekh (Treasurer, co-opted)
- N.R. Madhava Menon (Representative CLEA)
- Anu Aga (co-opted)
- T. Ananthachari (co-opted)
- K.S. Dhillon (co-opted)
- P.P. Rao (co-opted)
- R.V. Pillai (co-opted)

# Trustee Committee Office

Despite the diversity of the Commonwealth and the fact that 90% of its population lives in developing countries, its institutional hub continues to be London. This informs the decision to maintain a crucial presence in London through a small Trustee Committee Office. The Trustee Committee Office liaises with key official and unofficial Commonwealth entities, lends expertise on Commonwealth concerns, and helps retain and strengthen networks built over many years by organising a number of seminars and events on human rights issues in the Commonwealth.

## Trustee Committee

The Trustee Committee complements the work of the Headquarters from its London base. Dr. Nihal Jayawickrama, Chair of CHRI's Trustee Committee, is currently the Co-ordinator of the UN Judicial Integrity Group. He was formerly Executive Director of Transparency International, Associate Professor of Law in Hong Kong and Sallows Professor of Human Rights in Canada. He is the author of "The Judicial Application of Human Rights Law". In Sri Lanka, he served as Attorney General and then Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Justice. He was appointed as Chair of the Trustee Committee in the year 2004 replacing Ms. Annie Watson, who was the Director of the Commonwealth Trade Unions Council, a member of the CHRI's Trustee Committee since 1997 and its Chair since October 2003.

### Members of the Trustee Committee are:

Nihal Jayawickrama (Chair)  
Siraj Sait (Treasurer, Co-opted)  
Peter Slinn (CLEA)  
Elizabeth Smith (CBA)  
Paul Hunt (Co-opted)  
Colin Nicholls (CLA)  
John Hatchard (CLEA)  
Meenakshi Dhar (CPA)  
Derek Ingram (CJA)  
Lindsay Ross (CPU)  
Neville Linton (Co-opted)  
Aditi Sharma (Co-opted)

# Africa Office

Working under CHRI's common mandate, the office in Africa helps to expand present programmes and create human rights interventions. Over the past two years the Africa Office located in Accra, Ghana has developed strong networks of civil society groups, government officials, media persons and human rights commissions.

The Africa Office has primarily worked to expand public knowledge of the right to information and is further extending its work in police reforms and broader access to justice issues.

## Executive Committee

The Executive Committee in Ghana oversees the functioning of the Africa Office ensuring that the projects and programmes of the office fit into the agenda set by the International Advisory Committee. To ensure cohesion across the family of offices and to provide guidance for the youngest of the offices, the Executive Committee includes the Chairs of CHRI's other governing bodies.

The Chair of the Executive Committee is Sam Okudzeto.

### Members of the Executive Committee are:

Sam Okudzeto (Chair, Executive Committee, Africa)

Maja Daruwala (Member)

Anna Bossman (Member)

*Note: Chair, Executive Committee, India and Chair, Trustee Committee are in the process of being formally inducted into the Africa Executive Committee.*

# Programmes

## Our Work

CHRI believes that the promotion and protection of human rights is the responsibility of governments but that the active participation of civil society acting in concert is vital in ensuring the rule of law and the realisation of human rights. Human rights education and advocacy are at the core of all CHRI activities.

While countries across the Commonwealth have repeatedly committed themselves to the principles of democracy and development, good governance and human rights, delivering on these has been harder to do. Most countries in the Commonwealth are developing nations, too many are agonisingly poor and are plagued by bad governance and endemic violation of human rights. Despite the appearance of democracy, state actors and national elites remain largely unaccountable. Holding these powerful interests to account is difficult for most people because they lack knowledge about their rights, spaces in which to exercise these rights and opportunities to participate in their own governance and development. The Commonwealth, as an association based on consensus, gives far more weight to the sensitivities of sovereign states than it does to the aspirations of their populations and often reacts too slowly and weakly to hold nation states to the rhetoric of its many fine declarations and communiqués.

Over the years, CHRI has focused on ensuring greater accountability and transparency of governments and greater participation of people in decision making as a means of redressing some of the power imbalances that perpetuate the violation of human rights. CHRI places particular emphasis on the democratic principles of accountability and participation and has developed a strong focus on Access to Justice and Access to Information.

CHRI's efforts are focused on systemic reform and human rights education. In addition to its programme activities, CHRI's approach includes acting as a catalyst for action around its priority concerns. Advocacy includes highlighting good and bad practices, educating strategic constituencies about the value of human rights, networking and supporting like-minded groups.

Our family of offices implements CHRI's programmes: the Headquarters in India; Africa Office in Ghana; and Trustee Committee Office in the UK.

# Commonwealth Advocacy

As part of the “unofficial” or “people’s” Commonwealth, CHRI grasps all opportunities to engage with Commonwealth governments and official agencies to ensure that human rights concerns remain at the center of Commonwealth functioning.

CHRI makes regular submissions to the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG), which looks into serious or ongoing violations of the Harare Principles. We have made submissions to all CMAG meetings, focusing on Zimbabwe, Pakistan and the Maldives. We have also facilitated submissions and meetings between Commonwealth officials and activists from Swaziland and the Maldives. Submissions have also highlighted thematic concerns such as the importance of economic and social rights, promotion of the Millennium Development Goals and the shrinkage of civil society space.

Since 2003, CHRI has been the Secretariat of the Commonwealth Human Rights Network, a new collaborative civil society initiative aimed at enhancing the human rights work of the Commonwealth. The CHRN continues to expand and now has more than 260 members in about 35 countries. CHRN has been networking closely with the British Council’s Commonwealth-wide programme to build capacity of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI’s) being run out of their Delhi office. The Council invited CHRI to resource one of a series of workshops held in Sri Lanka. CHRI presented on its own experiences of working with Human Rights Commissions and made suggestions on how these institutions could best collaborate with civil society groups. The British Council is now supporting two human rights commissioners to attend CHRI’s Commonwealth Human Rights Forum (CHRF) slated to be held at CHOGM in November. Meanwhile CHRI continues to advocate with the National Human Rights Commission of India for the development of formal guidelines for the protection of human rights defenders.

Other opportunities for intervention have included participation in the civil society consultation organised by the Commonwealth Foundation in preparation for the Commonwealth Finance Minister’s

Meeting, sending our submission to the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting, and being an observer at the Meetings of Commonwealth Senior Law Officials and Commonwealth Law Ministers from Small Jurisdictions.

CHRI London office has presented papers on CHRI and its role in the Commonwealth at various platforms such as at Commonwealth Day functions. We have also advocated for implementation of civil rights across the commonwealth by participating in meets such as in 2004 Roundtable Seminar on Civil Rights in Malaysia.

CHRI also started to further extend networks in the Pacific region. By attending a Pacific Human Rights Consultation in Fiji in June 2004, CHRI met key human rights activists in the region, in civil society, government and intergovernmental agencies. CHRI gave a presentation on the framework developed for the CHRN and ways that a Pacific Network and CHRN could work together in the future.

CHRI also strives to participate in international meetings to further the work mandate of the organisation. Such an opportunity arose in October 2004 when CHRI was invited to present at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Human Rights Colloquium, organised by Conectas, an international south-based human rights NGO in Brazil.

Work on the human rights advocacy curriculum is continuing and will be completed in early 2005. Sections of the curriculum related to advocacy in the United Nations system were tested in November 2004 in the workshop organised by CHRI on the UN mechanisms and Right to Information.

As part of the Human Rights Advocacy Programme CHRI has a new Media Unit, which services all programme areas and aims to raise the profile of human rights concerns in a variety of media. As well as regular publications such as the quarterly newsletter and the new initiative of the policing e-mag 'Commonwealth Police Watch', another publication highlight this year was 'Human Rights Commission: A Citizen's Handbook'.

# Access to Justice

Across the Commonwealth, the justice system – including law enforcement, judiciary, prosecution services and prisons – is too often arbitrary, confusing, distant, slow and expensive. Victimised people are frequently unable to access the courts and where they can, they fail to procure justice because of lack of knowledge of the law and its processes. The system nurtures and reinforces inefficiencies in investigation, prosecution and adjudication. Impunity is the biggest winner as victims, often at the mercy of unscrupulous state authorities or criminal elites, run from pillar to post, seeking an elusive concept - justice.

CHRI believes that it is the prime responsibility of the state to assure its citizens access to justice. CHRI's Access to Justice programme particularly focuses on: police reform; prison reform and judicial education.

## Police Reforms

In too many Commonwealth countries the police act as oppressive instruments of the state rather than serving the public. For the police to protect citizens' rights, reform is urgently needed, as summed up by our programme slogan: "*Police Reform: too important to neglect, too urgent to delay.*"

The police reform programme in India began in 1994. CHRI has a general programme that reacts to developments in states and promotes awareness of the debates around police reform. Its long-term interventions in two Indian states of Chhattisgarh and Gujarat are a case in point. The Chhattisgarh project focuses mainly on community policing whereas the Gujarat programme works on access to justice including para-legal training. The regional project in East Africa will be completed in 2005 with the three country reports of Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya due out in the early part of the year.

Over the past year, CHRI has organised over two-dozen local and regional conferences, seminars and workshops to inform police, bureaucrats, politicians, media and civil society about the possibilities and mechanisms of reform. Creating a series of platforms for specialists, lay people and influential groups to discuss police reform has invigorated policy level debate about the urgency of reform and increased awareness of possible change.

The major activity undertaken during the year has been developing a Pan Commonwealth report on policing and human rights, focusing on police accountability. It is intended that the report will be completed to enable advocacy prior to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Malta in November 2005. This report will be launched at CHOGM and is designed as both an advocacy document and a resource material for civil society, government and other stakeholders.

Efforts to engage the government and the police to work with civil society to develop mechanisms that support better policing continue. The quiet advocacy to protect the reforms in the state of Kerala, India after the change of the guard in the government there, was successfully undertaken with the Chief of Police and other policy makers. CHRI also organised a seminar in association with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the Government of Maharashtra and the Public Concern for Governance Trust, on "Police-Public Interface: Making it Happen".

As part of a drive to educate citizens about their rights, CHRI has agreed to provide 300,000 fliers on 'citizens' rights and the police' to People's Watch Tamil Nadu for dissemination in the state.

CHRI undertook a small fact-finding mission to Nagpur to examine the lynching of an individual, focusing on the failures of the criminal justice system that led seemingly average and respectable women to take action. Articles have appeared in the press as a result of the mission. A report will be published on the anniversary of the event in August 2005, examining actions that the police have taken towards apprehending the accused and punishing those within their ranks who permitted it.

CHRI's expertise in the area of policing and criminal justice has been sought internationally. In October, CHRI was contracted by Australia's government aid agency to participate in evaluating a law and justice sector project in Fiji.

CHRI has launched an e-magazine on policing called the *Commonwealth Police Watch*, which disseminates information on policing in a readable manner. The first edition of the e-mag was sent out in December 2004, largely to senior police officers, high commissions, civil society groups as well as government departments across the Commonwealth. The e-mag will be produced quarterly with the aim of developing CHRI's networks and positioning us a resource on policing.

## Prison Reforms

Places of incarceration are largely invisible to the outside world and as such are largely unaccountable. Often they are overcrowded, unsanitary and violent pools of human rights violation.

Building on its 1998 study, CHRI's prison programme has focused narrowly to increase transparency and scrutiny by reviving the statutory system of prison visitors. A Board of Visitors to monitor conditions related to food, medical facilities, discipline and staff behaviour has great potential to bring change. However these Boards are largely non-existent. The original study on the functioning of the lay visiting system mandated by the Prison Acts undertaken in Madhya Pradesh has now been replicated in Rajasthan, and CHRI is highly collaborating with the State Human Rights Commission in Chhattisgarh with a similar study.

In Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, CHRI examined custodial institutions at the invitation of the National Commission for Women. CHRI has obtained approval for a detailed study in Chhattisgarh from the Government of Chhattisgarh. We also conducted a two-day workshop for Non Official Visitors (NOVs) appraising them about the system of Prison visitors in the state of Chhattisgarh.

The prison reform programme has also extended its work in Andhra Pradesh and its network by working with key collaborators such as Praja.

## Judicial Education

CHRI works in collaboration with INTERIGHTS to facilitate a series of judicial exchanges focusing on access to justice for the most vulnerable. Participating judges get a rare opportunity to step back from busy court schedules to hear from activists and experts, focus on pressing issues specific to their region and familiarise themselves with recent legal and procedural, as well as social and scientific, developments relevant to their judicial work.

The latest in the series was a Judicial Exchange held in November in Chennai under the aegis of the Madras High Court. The agenda contained core issues of access to justice for the poor and marginalised, issues of discrimination manifested in judicial decision making and problems related to the right to a fair trial. The workshop in Chennai marks the third in the series, which over the past three years has covered Supreme Court judges in South Asia, the Mumbai High Court, and the Chennai District Courts.

## Other

A research paper on the subject of Anti-Terrorism has been prepared by CHRI. This paper measures the relevant provisions of the model anti-terror law drafted by the Commonwealth Secretariat against certain basic human rights standards. The paper also looks at the provisions of anti-terror laws passed by three Commonwealth countries - Australia, Canada and UK - and shows how the model law as well as the laws of three countries fall short of internationally accepted human rights norms.

CHRI also took part in a 5-day Training of Trainers Programme on Combating Torture, organised by People's Watch Tamil Nadu in association with Asian Human Rights Commission (Hong Kong), Human Rights Law Network (New Delhi) and World Organisation Against Torture (Geneva).

# Access to Information

CHRI promotes people right to access information as a key measure underpinning robust democracy, participatory development and the effective realisation of human rights. Without information, people will struggle to effectively exercise and protect their human rights. CHRI's Access to Information programme comprises two sub-programmes – (i) right to information (RTI) and (ii) constitutional education.

## Right to Information

CHRI's RTI programme works to support governments, civil society and other stakeholders in the Commonwealth to campaign for, develop and implement legislation that entrenches the right to information. CHRI provides support to local partners running RTI campaigns, technical legal inputs based on international best practice drafting principles, and assistance with implementation of laws.

In 2004/05, CHRI's international right to information programme consolidated and grew. Globally, CHRI was active in expanding and strengthening our network of partners. Most notably in this regard, one of CHRI's two RTI Coordinators was elected in 2004 to the Steering Committee of the International Freedom of Information Advocates Network, for a period of two years. CHRI's website has also been continuously improved to serve as a more effective resource for our partners and is increasingly a well-recognised hub of international RTI resources.

Following concerted advocacy from CHRI, the Commonwealth Secretariat has agreed to develop a disclosure policy. A disclosure policy was one of the recommendations of CHRI's 2003 report to CHOGM, "Open Sesame: Looking for the Right to Information in the Commonwealth", and has been an advocacy point raised in a number of meetings and submissions with the Secretariat.

In July, the Director was invited as to be a resource person at a Commonwealth Study Group of MPs on Access to Information, convened by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)

in Ghana. One of CHRI's RTI coordinators was also one of the two Discussion Leaders at the session on RTI at the CPA's Annual Meeting in Toronto. CHRI was also invited to form part of the civil society advocacy team that visited the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in October 2004 and January 2005 to urge improvements to the ADB's revised information disclosure policy.

CHRI consolidated our partnerships in South Asia, analysing RTI bills in Sri Lanka and Pakistan at the request of our partners, and presenting on RTI at a workshop in Bangladesh. In India, CHRI was extremely active in the campaign to encourage the new national Government to pass a more effective national RTI law. CHRI was one of the key drafters of recommendations made by the National Campaign on the People's Right to Information (NCPRI). The recommendations formed the basis for the amendments which the National Advisory Council sent to the Government for action, most of which were included in the Bill finally tabled in Parliament in December 2004. CHRI has also made additional submissions to the Government to improve the Bill, and was invited to present these recommendations to the Parliamentary Standing Committee reviewing the Bill.

In India, CHRI also assisted in organising the Second National Convention on the Right to Information in October 2004, through our membership of the NCPRI. Immediately prior to the National Convention, CHRI organised a national RTI Workshop for the Media, with a view to encouraging more effective media dissemination of RTI stories. CHRI also conducted a number of workshops throughout India, designed to raise awareness and build civil society capacity. In particular, CHRI is working to build RTI "hubs" of expertise in the States of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. CHRI has also produced a number of useful publications on RTI in India, including User's Guides and pamphlets. CHRI also collaborated on the development of an RTI Training CD, commissioned by the UNDP and Indian Department of Personnel and Training.

In Africa, CHRI has also extended our RTI activities, via both our Indian and Ghana offices. The Ghana office undertook a national survey on access to information as part of an international monitoring survey being funded by the Open Society Justice Initiative. The monitoring survey is the first of its kind to be carried out in Ghana to test the level of transparency in government institutions. The Ghana office has also run initiatives to revitalise the National RTI Coalition, with a view to encouraging the Government to take forward the dormant Freedom of Information Bill. The office has also made RTI presentations in South Africa and Mauritius.

At the request of partners, CHRI analysed both a Private Members RTI Bill and a Government RTI Bill developed in Uganda and a Government RTI Bill in Kenya. We also continue to work closely with partners in Southern Africa, in particular, the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) including advising on some of the regional campaign's strategic documents.

In the Pacific, CHRI made great strides in 2004/05 in expanding our work in the region. CHRI target counties under an RTI grant from NZAID in the Pacific are Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Solomon Islands. In Fiji, CHRI provide legal inputs to the Citizen's Constitutional Forum's draft FOI Bill and gave a presentation at the launch of the Bill in Suva in October 2004. CHRI also provided the written materials for the Fiji Ombudsman to make a presentation on RTI to the Annual Asia-Pacific Ombudsmen Conference in February 2005. In PNG and Solomon Islands, CHRI has also been working hard to encourage partners such as Transparency International, Ombudsmen and donors/consultants to take up RTI as a key development and governance issue. CHRI has also been actively promoting RTI to the UNDP Regional Pacific Centre and the Forum Secretariat, including by making a submission on RTI to the Forum Leaders Meeting in August 2004.

## Constitutionalism

The Constitutionalism programme endeavours to promote the core democratic principles of public participation and widespread consultation in the process of lawmaking and constitutional reform across the Commonwealth. In India we have worked towards public education and awareness raising about constitutional values and promoting debate on the need for reform. As a member of the National Campaign for Electoral Reforms set up by concerned citizens and NGOs we have advocated for electoral reforms in the country. We have since continued our work on transparency and accountability issues in elections. In April-May we collaborated with citizens' election watch groups in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to educate voters about their rights and responsibilities and informed them about the antecedents of all contesting candidates based on their sworn affidavits submitted while filing nominations. Pamphlets, street-theatre, radio spots and press releases were used to educate voters before polling day. In addition to this we provided assistance to the Orissa Election Watch group for printing and dissemination of literature on voter's rights. We have also contributed research to create a national database on candidates contesting elections in India.

CHRI Africa implemented a project on constitutionalism that focused primarily on research, a publication and the convening of a Forum. Academics from Commonwealth West Africa, Ghana, Nigeria and Sierra Leone were commissioned to write papers on constitutionalism. A West African regional Forum was organised in the Gambia with participants from the five West African Commonwealth countries to discuss constitutionalism in West Africa. The focus of the workshop was on constitutional reform, as well as strengthening and sustaining African democratic cultures.

# Publications

Publishing and disseminating reports, books, pamphlets, newsletters and now the policing e-mag are crucial elements of our human rights advocacy strategy. These are a selection of the publications we have produced throughout the year. A complete list is on our website, plus downloads for many of the reports and newsletters. The quarterly newsletter is mailed to thousands across the Commonwealth and provides information on CHRI activities and human rights themes, crises and trends.

## Access to Justice

- ◆ Workshop report on '*Human Rights Sensitisation for Police Personnel*', Chhattisgarh.
- ◆ A Report on '*Training & sensitisation on human rights for the upper subordinate police personnel*', Chhattisgarh.
- ◆ A Report on '*Policing - A Human Rights Perspective*', New Delhi.
- ◆ The Gujarat Reports – Justice Awaits – The Dehlol Story

## Human Rights Commission

- ◆ Human Rights Commissions – A Citizen's Handbook

## CHRI Periodicals

- ◆ Commonwealth Police Watch
- ◆ CHRI Newsletter
- ◆ CHRI Annual Report

# Acknowledgements

CHRI wishes to acknowledge the following organisations for supporting our initiatives:

- ◆ Australian High Commission
- ◆ British Council
- ◆ British High Commission
- ◆ Canadian High Commission
- ◆ Commonwealth of Australia
- ◆ Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
- ◆ Ford Foundation, Delhi
- ◆ Ford Foundation, New York
- ◆ Foreign Commonwealth Office
- ◆ Friedrich Naumann Stiftung, New Delhi
- ◆ INTERIGHTS, United Kingdom
- ◆ Law and Society Trust, Sri Lanka
- ◆ Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
- ◆ National Commission for Women
- ◆ New Zealand Agency for International Development
- ◆ Sir Dorabji Tata Trust
- ◆ Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
- ◆ Trustee Committee, London

# Our Staff

## Director

CHRI's Executive Director, Maja Daruwala, is based at the Headquarters. Ms Daruwala, a barrister has always actively advocated for human rights. She is Chair of the Council for the Minority Rights Group International and a Trustee of the International Records Management Trust. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Open Society Justice Initiative and the International Women's Health Coalition.

## Headquarters

### Programme

Name	Programme	Designation
Clare Doube	Commonwealth Advocacy	Coordinator, Strategic Planning and Programmes
John Mark Magn'ana	Commonwealth Advocacy	Intern
Vaishali Mishra	Media Unit	Media and Communications Officer
Aditi Datta	Media Unit	Sr. Research Assistant
Charmaine Rodrigues	Access to Information	Project Coordinator, International
Venkatesh Nayak	Access to Information	Project Coordinator, India
Sohini Paul	Access to Information	Trainer
Y.G. Muralidharan	Access to Information	External Collaborator
Prateek Pandey	Access to Information	External Collaborator
Rakesh Ranjan	Access to Information	External Collaborator
Peter Slough	Access to Information	Intern
Mandakini Devasher	Access to Information	Intern
Renu Vinod	Access to Information	Intern
Nawel Hamidi	Access to Information	Intern
G.P. Joshi	Access to Justice	Programme Coordinator
Doel Mukherjee	Access to Justice	Project Coordinator
Sophy Thomas	Access to Justice	Coordinator - East Africa Programme
Swati Mehta	Access to Justice	Sr. Programme Assistant
Devika Prasad	Access to Justice	Sr. Research Assistant
Navaz Kotwal	Access to Justice	Senior Project Officer
Evelyn W. Kamau	Access to Justice	Project Officer
Samar F.K. Borges	Access to Justice	Project Assistant
Anshuman Jha	Access to Justice	Project Assistant
R.K. Saxena	Access to Justice	Consultant
Janine Rauch	Access to Justice	Consultant

Name	Programme	Designation
Michelle Kigari	Access to Justice	Consultant
Mandeep Tiwana	Access to Justice	Consultant
Manju Dhall	Access to Justice	Consultant
Andrew Jordan	Access to Justice	Consultant
Shaikh Mohammad Hanif	Access to Justice	Consultant
Noor-E-Tabassum Meer	Access to Justice	Consultant
Karnam Murali	Access to Justice	External Collaborator
Maria Canineu	Access to Justice	Intern
Sonal Thacker	Access to Justice	Intern
Leena Gond	Access to Justice	Intern
Ejoy M.C. Xavier	Access to Justice	Intern

## Administration

Name	Designation
Jyoti Bhargava	Executive Assistant to the Director
Prasad P. Nair	Secretary to the Director
Hiresh Nadkarni	Manager (Finance and Administration)
N.P. Ramachandran	Sr. Administrative Officer
K.S. Rautela	Sr. Accounts Officer
Swayam Cheta Mohanty	Network Administrator
Anshu Tejpal	Assistant - Information & Web Management
Subhash Kumar Patra	Office Assistant
P. Ajay Babu	Office Assistant
R. Rajeshwari	Office Help

## Africa Office

Name	Designation
Nana Oye Lithur	Programme Coordinator
Kate Fraser	Intern

## Trustee Committee Office

Name	Designation
Stephanie Aiyagari	London Liaison Officer
Justin Foxworthy	Administrative Assistant



**COMMONWEALTH HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE**

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AS ON MARCH 31, 2005

LIABILITIES				ASSETS			
Previous Year	Particulars	Amount Rs.		Particulars	Amount Rs.		Amount Rs.
17,853,758	<b>General Fund</b>			1,680,852	<b>Fixed Assets</b> (As per Schedule-1)		2,028,635
	Balance as per last year	17,853,758					
	Add: Fixed Assets purchased during the year	443,783					
	Less: Assets Written off	96,000					
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure	3,783,079	21,984,620	2,499,058	<b>Investments</b>		
					HDFC Bank	7,624,178	
6,456,214	<b>Special Project Funds</b>			2,150,882	Vysya Bank	-	
	Balance as per last year	6,456,214		2,251,216	HUDCO	2,448,756	
	Less: Utilised during the year (As per Schedule - 3)	2,406,214		6,583,241	State Bank of India	9,056,689	
	Add: Accumulated during the year	5,000,000	9,050,000	5,610,533	ICICI Bank	5,909,593	25,039,216
					<b>Loans &amp; Advances</b>		
					Sundry debtors receivable - cash or in kind (considered good)		1,529,553.00
				930,290			
	<b>Current Liabilities:</b>				<b>Cash &amp; Bank Balance</b>		
58,519	Sundry creditors for expenses		318,764		In accounts with:		
				1,844,121	State Bank of India	1,746,847	
				10,000	HDFC Bank	303,164	
				554,295	Bank of India	660,360	2,710,370
				45,035	Cash in hand		36,934
				208,968	Foreign currency in hand		8,676
<b>24,368,491</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>31,353,384</b>	<b>24,368,491</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>31,353,384</b>

As per our report of even date

For Awatar & Co  
Chartered Accountants

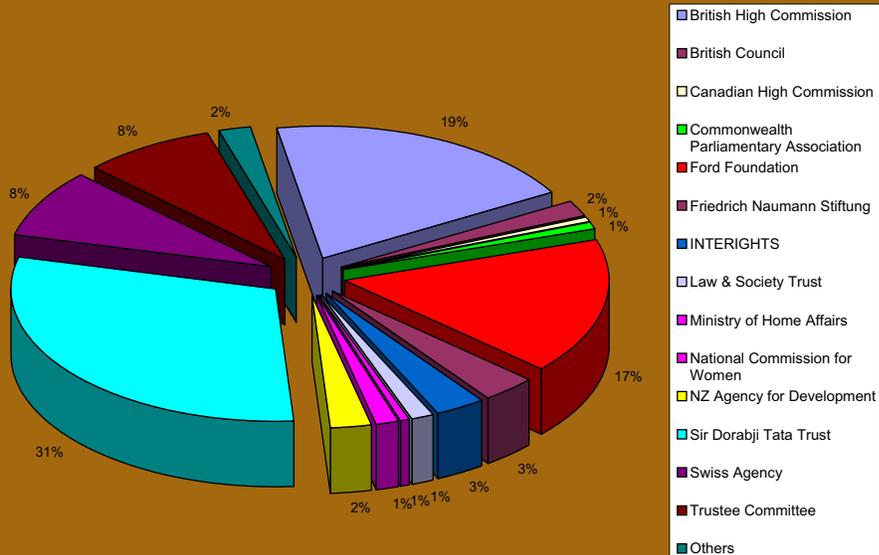
(Sanjay Agrawal)  
Partner

For and on behalf of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Chairperson      Treasurer      Director

Place : New Delhi  
Date : 21.07.2005

**Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative  
Grant wise Expenditure 2004-2005**





**Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative**

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