

# CEPA Open Forum: 'Ensuring Safe and Secure Employment for Women'

## Agenda

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In the capitalist machinery women's labour plays a significant role. The Free Trade Zone and the tea plantations extensively employ women's labour, and the workers in the domestic labour force and the informal sector are predominantly women. CEPA is organising this Open Forum to generate a tri-lingual public discussion on the exploitation, precariousness and violence associated with women's work, and the political and economic relations that cause them. The current policies and legislation that govern labour and their impact on worker welfare are of particular interest to the discussion.

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Time: 4.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

Venue: **Sri Lanka Foundation (SLF) – Hall 03**

(Please note that due to unavoidable circumstances this event has been shifted from Lakshman Kadirgamar Institute for International Relations and Strategic Studies to Sri Lanka Foundation-SLF)

***The overall programme will be moderated by Dr. Sepali Kottegoda***

### **Session 1:**

The three presentations will highlight the issues of precariousness, exploitation, and violence associated with women workers in the plantation sector, domestic labour, and informal sector. The presentations will emphasise the policies and legislation that must be adopted and implemented to ensure safe and secure work for women.

#### ***Speakers:***

Menaha Kandasamy – On plantation and domestic workers

Padmini Weerasooriya – On FTZ/EPZ workers

Prashanthi Jayasekera (CEPA) – On informal sector workers

### **Session 2:**

Two discussants will comment on the foregoing presentations and further elaborate upon the necessary changes in the policy and legal systems to ensure secure work for women.

#### ***Discussants:***

Mrs. Swarna Sumanasekara – Chairperson National Committee on Women

Mr. P. Mahadeva- Commissioner of Labour (Women & Children), Department of Labour

### **Session 3:**

**Question and Answer session – discussing the policy and legislative issues and the way forward to ensure safe and secure work for women**

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Time	Description
4.00-4.30PM	Registration
4.30-4.35PM	Welcome and housekeeping announcements
4.35-4.40PM	Introductory remarks by the moderator- Dr. Sepali Kottegoda
4.40-4.55PM	Presentation by Ms. Menaha Kandasamy – On plantation and domestic workers
4.55-5.10PM	Presentation by Ms. Padmini Weerasooriya – On FTZ/EPZ workers
5.10-5.25PM	Presentation on -Informal sector workers by Prashanthi Jayasekera
5.25-5.40PM	Commentary on presentations by Mr. P. Mahadeva
5.40-5.55PM	Commentary on presentations by Mrs. Swarna Sumanasekara
5.55PM onwards	Q & A Session