

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN EMPOWERING WOMEN IN POLITICS (CCEWP) (Tamil Medium) – 2018

Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and University of Peradeniya

Inauguration ceremony & Registration of candidates

19th May 2018

Inaugural Session

Cultural and traditional values promoting gender inequality seem to remain a major obstacle to the election of women in more traditional societies. Female representation in legislative politics is likely to be discouraged by elite opinion leaders and the public, both of whom want to maintain a male-oriented status quo. Women, constitute more than 50% of the population and live virtually everywhere. If the interests of half the population are underrepresented in the legislature, the policies of the state are less likely to represent the interests of women, and result in less legislation that meets their needs. More broadly, the state is less democratically consolidated. Therefore, there is a crucial requirement of women representation in policy making and decision making regarding development activities. In Sri Lanka, this context is an urgent need. Government and university communities must lead and provide guidance in order to address this issue and to brighten the future of the country. With that motivation, the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and University of Peradeniya collaborated to conduct a “Certificate Course in Empowering Women in Politics”.



This course improves leadership qualities of women and provides the knowledge and skills required for participation of women in politics.

The Inauguration ceremony of CCEWP (Tamil medium) was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs and University of Peradeniya and held on 19th May 2018 at the Faculty Board Room, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya. The chief dignitary of the day was the Vice Chancellor of University of Peradeniya, Dr. Upul B. Dissanayake. The other guests presented were Dr. Wijaya Jayathilaka (Head, Department of Agricultural Extension, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya and Coordinator of Gender Education and Women Initiative Unit), Prof. Kamala Liyanage (Conceptual creator of CCEWP), Ms. Shobana Rajendran (Academic Coordinator of the course) and the resource persons of CCEWP (Tamil medium). The session commenced with the ceremonious lighting of oil-lamp by a group of dignitaries, coordinators of the programme and student representatives.



Ms. Shobana Rajendran formally welcomed all the dignitaries present on the day and 61 participants who registered for the course from various parts of the country. She mentioned about the significance of CCEWP and its aims about providing a knowledge foundation to women from all over the country in order to uplift the status of women in politics.

This was then followed by the Vice Chancellor addressing the student body, with a brief introduction on present status of women in politics and the importance of women participation in policy making in this country. He emphasized that this in the present context, women's participation in decision making is vital to our country.

In her address, Prof. Kamala Liyanage described the importance of this course and she motivated everyone to actively participate in the course and workshops to get benefited. The next event was an introductory video on University of Peradeniya. It visualized the beauty of the University and all other facilities.

In the end, Dr. Wijaya Jayathilaka offered a vote of thanks to all including Dr. Upul B. Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor of University of Peradeniya. He thanked all the invited guests and participants for gracing the occasion by their solemn presence. He also thanked the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs for providing funds to conduct these courses and workshops in the University. The inaugural ceremony then concluded with the National Anthem.

Registration of candidates and Self-introductory Session

