

**Proposal on Annual Research Symposium 2022**  
**Election Commission of Sri Lanka**

Theme: - Striving for a nation that safeguards universal franchise.

**Introduction**

Sri Lanka was blessed with the Universal Franchise in 1931 under Donoghmore Constitutional reforms during British Colonial period. Through this right, the citizens were able to elect their representatives through free and fair elections.

Sri Lanka's legacy as one of the initial countries to reap the fruits of universal franchise, was further enlightened along with the establishment of the Department of Elections. In November 2015, An Independent Election Commission was established under 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Constitution.

Thus, today the Election Commission plays a significant role in ensuring the voting rights of Sri Lankan citizens with the vision of establishing a nation that safeguards universal franchise.

Merely recognizing the right to vote through a legislative framework will not suffice for the ensuring of democracy in the country. It is essential to have the required awareness and knowledge about the electoral process and the parameters of universal franchise.

Therefore it is required to raise critical consciousness among all stakeholders, ensuring the people's rights, sovereignty and democratic principles.

**Justification**

Sri Lanka as a country having a long history in the path of democracy needs a platform for knowledge sharing on universal franchise and electoral process. Therefore the requirement of a scientific method and a logical way to obtain the views of academics and public regarding their ideas on election process and democracy is deeply felt.

Also the Election Commission believes that having a research symposium will pave the way for a better brainstorming and discussion on democracy which will enlighten the future of universal franchise in Sri Lanka.

This symposium will be beneficial not only for the academics, researchers and students but also for the officials of Election Management Bodies and public at large.

The ideas and findings arisen from the researchers can be used for the purpose of mitigating the shortcomings currently faced in the electoral process. Public forum created through this symposium will be helpful for enhancing the political awareness and citizen participation which will lead for a stable and democratic Sri Lanka.

### **Objectives**

- To enhance the knowledge among public about democracy, political participation and elections.
- To reduce and mitigate the gaps and shortcomings of the electoral process.
- To build a closer linkage with the public and election management bodies.
- To create a platform for knowledge sharing on election and democracy related matters.

### **Methodology and Time Frame**

#### **Submission of Abstracts**

- Abstracts will be collected under the theme of “Striving for a nation that safeguards universal franchise”.
- Abstracts can be submitted in English/ Sinhala/ Tamil language.
- One applicant can submit only one abstract. Co-authoring is allowed. Abstracts should be prepared according to the given format in Annexure 1.
- Word limit – Maximum 300 words  
5 key words in alphabetical order  
Font size – 12,  
1.5 spacing, 1 inch margin from left  
Font style – Times New Roman/ FM Abaya/ Kalaham  
Reference style – American Psychological Association (APA 6th Edition)
- Abstracts should be forwarded to the e-mail address [arsecsl@elections.gov.lk](mailto:arsecsl@elections.gov.lk) or before 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 along with the duly filled declaration form in Annexure 2.

#### **Submission of Research papers**

- Word limit 2500 – 3000 words
- 1.5 spacing with page margins
- Font size – 12, Topics – font size 14 (Bold)  
Font style – Times New Roman / FM Abaya/ Kalaham  
Reference style – American Psychological Association (APA 6th Edition)
- Author’s name in Italic – 11.5 font size (below the title)

**Content of the Research Paper**

- Title
- Introduction / Background
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Findings and Conclusion
- References

**Review Panel**

A five member review panel will be appointed to select the competent abstracts. The review panel will be comprised of academics and experts of election related matters.

**Time Frame**

Deadline for submission of abstracts – 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2022

Notification of acceptance of abstracts

Deadline for receiving the research papers

Deadline for registration for research symposium



Will be notify in future

**Annexure 1**

**Format of the Abstract**

<p>Title</p> <p>Author's name (Qualification if applicable)</p> <p>Institute</p> <p>e-mail address or contact details</p> <p>Abstract (300 words)</p> <p>Key words _____</p> <p>(Maximum 5 according to the alphabetical order in italics)</p>
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**Annexure 2**

**Format of the Declaration form**

<p>I hereby declare that this research abstract is entirely my own work and has not been submitted as an exercise for assessment at this or any other University / Institute</p> <p>Signature :-</p> <p>Name of the applicant :-</p> <p>Date :-</p>
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