



Bringing Untold Stories to the Fore: Everystory Sri Lanka Launches Their Flagship Work – “Stories of Sri Lankan Women”

Press Release

15th November

Colombo Sri Lanka

Everystory Sri Lanka in a virtual event on the 27th of October, launched the first thirty stories to be developed from their flagship work – Stories of Sri Lankan Women. This momentous work aims to bring to the forefront the stories of these girls and women from the 20th and 21st centuries and explore their life histories. ESSL looks to draw synergies across places and contexts, spotlighting catalytic moments and highlighting where and how alternative feminist histories can be told. Through this project the team hopes to understand the life cycle of these stories; rather than concentrate on a single moment, they are interested in understanding the journey and life trajectory of the women featured.

“I have to (come on this and) say congratulations, not about the stories that you have collected, more about how you young women have got together and achieved this, your presentation was beautiful I am so happy to hear how you worked together and you to show the world that we women can do it, there is nothing that we cannot do if our intentions are right “ - Mrs. Ferial Ashraff

Everystory Sri Lanka is a feminist collective founded in 2018 by Sharanya Sekaram and Widya Kumarasinghe. Their work primarily centers on storytelling and knowledge creation and sharing, done in a myriad of ways. The collection, development, publishing, and launching of these stories have all been made possible by the generous support of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The women featured in this first phase are diverse, and each has their own compelling journey to share. This includes Mrs. Ferial Ashraff, Professor Savithri Gunasekara, Kasthuri Chellaraja Wilson, Dr Radhika Coomaraswamy, and



Jayanthi Kuru-Utampala. The team noted that for these first stories they focused on women who are currently with us in body and have lived and worked in Sri Lanka for the more significant part of their lives.

Conceived during the first lockdown due to COVID-19 in May 2020, Stories of Sri Lanka Women was developed as a response to the lack of information available – particularly for children and young adults – on the many women whose lives, work, and experience have shaped and have been shaped by the social, political, and cultural contexts of Sri Lanka.

“This is incredibly beautiful - the vision, process and evolving outcomes. Much love and appreciation for the Everystory team!” - Niluka Gunawardena

The work is also built on the tenet of democratizing knowledge to make sure the material that is collected, archived, and recorded is free and publicly available. In the feminist spirit of democratizing knowledge, their long-term vision for this work is to have the final format of the stories that are collected and their sources (as far as possible) accessible through an open archive for others to learn from, add to, and celebrate, as well as recorded in a book for children (inspired by the international Rebel Girls 1 series) one day.

“For us "Stories of Sri Lankan Women" is about documenting the legacy of generations past and laying the foundation for the legacy that future generations will create. We hope it will inspire people to view the world through someone else's eyes, open our minds, and explore a world of possibilities" - Everystory Sri Lanka Team

The Stories are currently being released on ESSL's social media platforms and can also be accessed via their newsletter. Those interested can email storiesofslwomen@everystorysl.org to sign up or follow the organization on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Medium.



Contact and social media

Email: storiesofslwomen@everystorysl.org / Info@everystorysl.org /
b.m.wickramage@gmail.com

Instagram: [@everystory.sl](https://www.instagram.com/everystory.sl)

Facebook: [@Everystory.SL](https://www.facebook.com/Everystory.SL)

LinkedIn: [Everystory Sri Lanka](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Everystory-Sri-Lanka)