

## IMPACT OF RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SRI LANKA IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

K. Nesiah

We are heirs to a very ancient educational tradition linked to the religious and cultures of our people. This tradition had already suffered some decline when the Portugese arrived. The Portugese, the Dutch and British in turn established schools on the European pattern. These were later augmented by Government Central Schools modelled largely on the British Public School system. Various institutes of higher Education were also set up in the same tradition and a modern educational system build up. A major contribution of this system of education was its part in the spread of the concept of human rights and the rule of law. The impact of religious and cultural traditions on the development of human rights in Sri Lanka in the field of education and the required future developments are identified.