



Since 1941

E - NEWSLETTER

SRI LANKA FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (SLFUW)

August 2026

President's Message: Eng. Lakmini Nonis

Connecting, Modernizing and Growing Together in Our 85th Year

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of pride that I welcome you to the inaugural edition of our SLFUW E-Newsletter, launched as a landmark event of our historic 85th-anniversary celebrations. As we honor nearly eighty-five years of empowering female graduates, this digital platform will serve as a vibrant bridge connecting our cherished alumnae across generations. To guide our efforts through the 2025/2026 term, our Council is firmly committed to three key missions designed to modernize our Federation while protecting its legacy:

- **Membership Enhancement & Database Modernization:** We are actively expanding our sisterhood with new graduates while transitioning our existing member records into a digitized, updated database—a crucial step as we prepare our network for our upcoming 85th-year milestones.
- **Strengthening Networks and Partnerships:** To bring SLFUW back to the global stage and open new avenues for international advocacy and collaboration,
- **Infrastructure & Facility Upgrades:** Our physical assets form the foundation of our daily operations and community service. A core priority this term is upgrading the infrastructure facilities and refurbishing the hostel.

This newsletter reflects our shared journey. My heartfelt thanks go to the 2025/2026 Council, our committee chairpersons, and each of you for keeping the spirit of the SLFUW alive. I invite you to read through, update your database details, and join us hand-in-hand as we march toward our historic 85th Anniversary Milestones.

Thank you, and happy reading!

Executive Council 2025/2026



1st Row: Mrs. Dharshani Perera (Treasurer), Mrs. Indra Puvimanasinghe, Dr. Nirmali de Silva (Vice President), Col. Dr. Udula Krishnaratne (Immediate Past President), Eng. Mrs. Lakmini Nonis (President), Dr. Lilangani de Silva (Secretary), Ms. Savithri Jayasuriya and Mrs. Rukmani Samaranayake.

2nd Row: Mrs. Devika Panagoda, Mrs. Nilupika Wijethunga (Asst. Secretary), Mrs. Anjali Gamage (Vice President), Ms. Gnanakanthi Makalanda, Mrs. Nelia Fernando, and Dr. Shervanthi Fernando.

Absentees: Mrs. Indira Samarasinghe and Prof. Mahesha Kapurubandara

Committees – 2025/ 2026

1. Hostel and Garden Maintenance

Chairperson: Mrs. Indra Puvimanasinghe

Members: Mrs. Dharshani Perera
Mrs. Nelia Fernando

2. Scholarship

Chairperson: Ms. Savithri Jayasuriya

Members: Mrs. Dharshani Perera

3. Membership

Chairperson: Ms. Gnanakanthi Makalanda

Members: Ms. Nelia Fernando

4. Constitution/ Rules Amendment

Chairperson: Mrs. Indira Samarasinghe

5. Web Maintenance and Development

Chairperson: Mrs. Anjali Gamage

6. Social and Welfare

Chairperson: Mrs. Devika Panagoda

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY 2026

SLFUW marked International Women's Day on March 7th with an inspiring celebration held at the SLFUW Auditorium.

The event was graced by **Prof. Chandrika Wijeratne**, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Colombo and Vice-Chancellor of SLTC Research University. In her address, *Prof. Wijeratne, highlighted that vulnerable women need protection, justice, and empowerment as a continuous process.*

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Lilangani de Silva, Consultant Radiologist and the Hon. Secretary of SLFUW presented the history of the International Women's Day (IWD) movement and spoke on the topic, ***Do you regret being born a woman? Apparently not!***

Dr. Krishanthi Anandawansa, Senior Lecturer in English, Department of Languages at Kothalawala Defense University

Provided an insightful perspective on the evolving role of women in specialized sectors.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of three financial scholarships to university undergraduates who were severely affected by Cyclone Ditwa, reinforcing the SLFUW's ongoing commitment to uplifting female students during times of hardship.

Marie Curie – Physicist

“Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.”



AVURUDU CELEBRATIONS IN APRIL 2026

On April 26th, the SLFUW family gathered for a vibrant Sinhala and Tamil New Year celebration full of laughter, tradition, and high spirits!

It was wonderful to see our senior members taking center stage and joining in the festive fun—participating enthusiastically in classic Avurudu games like අලියාට ඇස තැබීම, කණා මුට්ටි, and දෙනි ගෙඩිය හැන්ද මත තබාගෙන යාම. Their wonderful energy brought smiles to everyone present and perfectly captured the joy of the season.



VESAK PILGRIMAGE AND CHARITY PROGRAMME IN MAY 2026

SLFUW Vesak Program was a day filled with spiritual devotion and heartfelt giving!

We commenced our journey in the morning with a peaceful pilgrimage to *Kande Viharaya* in Aluthgama. On our return route, we stopped for lunch at the *Saffron Beach Hotel* in Wadduwa. The highlight of our afternoon was visiting the *Balika Niwasaya* in Morawinna, Panadura, where we conducted a charity drive to support the children - bringing smiles, care, and the true blessings of Vesak to the home.



Emma Watson – Actor & Activist

“I think women are scared of feeling powerful and strong and brave sometimes. There’s nothing wrong with being afraid. It’s not the absence of fear, it’s overcoming it and sometimes you just have to blast through and have faith”.

OUR PROGRESS AND YOUR ASSISTANCE

1. Membership Enhancement and Database Modernization

i. Membership Drive - 2026

Building Our Community

In February 2026, we officially launched our Membership Drive 2026, issuing an open invitation letter to women graduates across Sri Lanka. To make the onboarding process seamless, we introduced an online Google Application Form alongside with an upgraded our traditional manual application form, ensuring accessibility for applicants at every career stage—from recent graduates to established leaders.

Every new member brings a unique perspective and voice to our community. we look forward to welcoming a dynamic new cohort to the Federation!

Your Assistance

Spread the word and encourage your graduate friends and colleagues to join SLFUW.

Apply Online

forms.gle

<https://forms.gle/F5Wp2SKTYDjpkcaa6>

Apply Manually

Message us on: +94774047887

ii. Database Modernization

Postal Outreach - We have posted 776 letters to our members requesting their updated details, and responses are still streaming in.

Digital Communities - Our member WhatsApp group has already surpassed 90 participants and is growing daily. The official email group is also currently being prepared.

Membership Card - At the upcoming Members Day, you will receive your brand-new official Membership ID Card.

Your Assistance

Help us expand this network. If you know of any Life Members who are not yet in this group, please inform us. We kindly ask you to spend a minute to check the fellow members currently in "SLFUW Connect" and let us know about any missing members so we can include

2. Improving Infrastructure and Building Facilities

i. Hostel Building

Repaired electrical wiring and replaced trip switch
Fixed Roof leaks by replacing perished timber purlins and damaged asbestos roof sheets.
Installed fire extinguishers as per building fire regulations.

ii. Planned Capital Improvements to: Hostel and Premises

At our request the Chairman SEC has made arrangements through the SEC consultancy division to prepare a Preliminary estimate of Approx. Rs 6.0 Million for refurbishment of hostel and access roads.

iii. SLFUW Headquarters Building

Damage eave roof corners and ceilings together with valance board, barge board and roof plumbing to be attended.

Toilet and Washroom refurbishment is the next priority project.

Michelle Obama – Lawyer & Author

“There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.”

“Everything is within your power, and your power is within you.”

JANICE TRACHTMAN

SLFUW VENUES

Auditorium and Conferences Room

- Where Elegance Meets Purpose -

Looking for the perfect venue to host your next professional event? The Sri Lanka Federation of University Women (SLFUW) offers premium, versatile spaces designed to elevate your gatherings while making a meaningful impact.

Designed for Your Success

Our modern spaces provide an inspiring atmosphere tailored seamlessly for:

- **Corporate Excellence:** High-impact Corporate Meetings & Strategic Planning.
- **Professional Growth:** Interactive Corporate Trainings, Seminars, & Workshops.
- **Networking & Celebrations:** Prestigious Conferences & Corporate Functions.



Hosting with a Mission

Every Booking Empowers a community

All income derived from our venue rentals is directly utilized to fund community welfare initiatives, with a heartfelt focus on supporting underprivileged sectors of society. *Host your event where professional success meets social responsibility.*

Facilities Available

Seminar Room:



- Seating Capacity: Maximum 25 individuals
- Suitable for smaller meetings & focus groups

Auditorium:



- Seating Capacity: 60 - 80 individuals
- A/C or Non-A/C options available
- Multi-Media Projector with White Screen
- Sound System available for hire
- Head Table & Podium
- Beautiful Garden for outdoor functions
- Catering Arrangements upon request
- Parking Facilities

General Conditions

- **Operating Hours:** 8.30 a.m. to 10. P.m.
- **Restrictions:** Premises cannot be used for political or trade union activity.
Use of alcoholic beverages is not permitted.
- **Damages:** The applicant is liable for any damage caused to the facilities.
- **Payment:** Full amount to be paid in advance to the office on weekdays during office hours.

● For bookings, call us on:

1. Eng. Mrs. Lakmini Nonis – (+61468418263) 2 Arch. Mrs. Dharshini Perera – (077 5097596)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SLFUW Members' Day 2026

Reconnect, Engage & Celebrate Together!

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2026

Highlight: Meet & Greet | SLFUW Connect Launch

We are excited to welcome all our members to a special day of fellowship, networking, and dynamic discussions. Warm memories, inspiring conversations, and fresh updates await!

All are warmly welcome!

Come along, connect with old friends, and meet new ones. Don't forget to spread the word among fellow university women!

THE SUCCESS OF
VERY WOMAN
SHOULD BE THE
INSPIRATION TO
ANOTHER. WE
SHOULD RAISE
EACH OTHER UP

Serena Williams

AGM 2026/2027

Call for Articles: 85th Anniversary Souvenir

As we prepare to celebrate a historic milestone - our 85th Anniversary - we are publishing a special Commemorative Souvenir for the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

We warmly invite members, young and old, to contribute articles, reflections, and insights to this landmark publication. This souvenir will honor our rich legacy while setting a vision for the future of university women in Sri Lanka

Suggested Themes & Topics:

- **Reflections & Memories:** Cherished experiences and history within the SLFUW community.
- **Empowering Women in Higher Education & Beyond:** Career journeys, mentorship, and overcoming barriers.
- **The Next Era:** The role of young graduate women in shaping society, technology, and governance.



Word Count: 500 – 1,000 words



Deadline: 20th of September 2026



Submit to:

presidentslfuw2526@gmail.com

(Please include a brief bio and high-resolution photograph)

Share your voice and be part of this historical edition!