

Sri Lanka :

STATE OF
**HUMAN
RIGHTS**

2018 - 2020



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THE RIGHT TO HEALTH IN SRI LANKA : CHALLENGES, CONTESTATIONS AND CONTRADICTIONS

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1. Introduction

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1948, enshrines the right to health, defined broadly to encompass standards of living sufficient for health and wellbeing, including food, shelter, medical care, social services, and the right to security.¹ Since then, the right to health has made its way into numerous UN treaties, including, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR; 1966), International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD; 1965), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW; 1979), Convention on

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1. UN (1948). Universal Declaration of Human Rights. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>