

National Integrity Award 2009

Special Mention

Being rewarded with a Special Mention is Mrs. Iranganie de Silva, President of the Sri Lanka Animal Welfare Trust formed to protect the rights of animals. She has been in the forefront in identifying the loopholes in the legislation and corrupt networks relating to animals and agitating to remedy the deficiencies. Her mission has been to find ways and means of minimizing cruelty to animals and promoting good governance.

Over several decades she has been active in exposing rackets in illegal transport and slaughter of cattle which is happening on a large scale. She has found that powerful political elements, public officials and racketeers are involved in these deals.

She has taken the initiative in getting the archaic animal laws amended and the legal provisions incorporated in fresh legislation have been solely due to her effort. She did not sit back after getting the legislation passed. She created awareness among officials involved in implementing the legislation of the new provisions. She prepared a model for the effective use of the legislation and distributed it among all police stations in the country. She is the only person who has challenge the decision taken by the cabinet in the courts.

She has also challenged the questionable & unaccountable decisions to donate two baby elephants to Sri Dalada Mailgawa. She is the only person who has challenge the decision taken by the cabinet in the courts.

She has realized that it not easy to implement the laws relating to the welfare of animals in Sri Lanka. "Politicians do not show any interest. We struggled for seven years and got a bill drafted on animal welfare. But it has still not seen the light of day. It is stuck in Parliament," she said.