The High Commissioner of New Zealand to Sri Lanka meets with the Chair of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus in Parliament & Secretary-General of Parliament

Date : 02-06-2023

H.E. Michael Appelton, High Commissioner of New Zealand to Sri Lanka, accompanied by Mr. Andrew Traveller, Deputy High Commissioner, met with the Chair of the Women Parliamentarians' Caucus in Parliament, Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle, MP, and Secretary-General of Parliament, Mrs. Kushani Rohanadeera, recently (May 31).

During the meeting, the Ambassador emphasized that gender equality in politics is vital for the achievement of peaceful societies, the realization of full human potential, and sustainable development. He also stated that they have taken several initiatives to ensure equal women's participation in the New Zealand Parliament.

Hon. (Dr.) (Mrs.) Fernandopulle, MP, shared her concerns regarding the lack of gender sensitivity in Sri Lankan politics. She drew attention to the urgent need for a more inclusive political framework that ensures equal representation and participation for women.

The Secretary-General of Parliament affirmed that Parliament has taken actions to increase youth and women's representation in committees and is currently working on improving disability access to Parliament.

They engaged in a productive discussion aimed at addressing the pressing issue of gender equality in Sri Lankan politics and exploring strategies to foster a more gender-sensitive political environment in the country.