



## Senior Superintendent of Police

# Renuka Jayasundara

DIRECTOR, POLICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

## THE PIONEER OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN POLICE SERVICE

“These days, we are surveying the cadre requirement of Sri Lanka Police. According to our findings, Sri Lanka requires around 113,000 police personnel. The present approved cadre is 85,000, but the actual cadre on the service now is 77,000,” said Senior Superintendent of Police Renuka Jayasundara, Director, Police Research and Development Division speaking with us in her office in Slave Island.

Police Research and Development Division was established in 2017, amalgamating the statistics, research & planning, inspection & revision and management & development divisions.

“We call for data from all the police divisions. We analyze data on crimes, drugs, traffic offences and suicide and make recommendations for policy decisions. We share data for requirements like researches and also conduct surveys for day to day requirements.”

Police Research and Development Division is the authority on statistics in the Police Department. As a woman police officer, SSP Renuka Jayasundara is proud of being the lead there.

“In the past, there was no separate women’s cadre. When about 100 males were recruited to police, a few women were also taken. In 2006, the cabinet approved 15% women cadre, but that policy was implemented only on the constable rank. With the war, the requirement of women cadre increased. Therefore, for the first time in 1997, a batch of around 140 Women Sub Inspectors were recruited to police. I am a member of that batch.”

SSP Renuka Jayasundara is a remarkable figure in police service because of her advocacy for equal opportunities for women in the police service.

“In 2007, we passed the Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) limited examination and got the promotions. Through the Department of Police, I found my career grow parallel to my classmates who graduated from universities,” she said, expressing gratitude to the police service for empowering her as a woman professional.

“I faced a lot of challenges and succeeded in life. I am from Menikkadawara village of Dedigama in Kegalle district. I passed the grade 5 scholarship examination and entered Dudley Senanayaka Central College of Tholangamuwa. I spent most of my childhood in the hostel of the school. I became the head prefect of the school. Although I passed G.C.E. Advanced Level examination on agriculture, I could not qualify for the university entrance. Also, I had no money for higher education. However, I had a target to advance my life



Batch of Assistant Superintendents of Police promoted under the Limited Competitive Examination in Year 2008

and wanted a job. I joined police as a Sub Inspector of police and became the best performer of the batch of trainees. I have also adjudged the best parade.”

She is highly satisfied with her job in the police service. She is happy to engage with people’s problems. “When I served in the Fraud Investigation Bureau, I was known as an officer who provided solutions to the clients’ problems. I always thought of what I would do if I faced that problem and tried to provide at least some temporary solace.”

After passing out from the Police Training College, she served in operation areas in Vavuniya for a brief period. She was picked by the Criminal Investigation Department and served in the Interpol unit. She participated in many famous investigations of the time including the recovery of lost paintings of renowned Sri Lankan painter David Paynter. He had donated these paintings to the Aesthetics University, but a third person had kept them and sold out a few of them. The Inspector-General of Police awarded her for this successful investigation. She also mentioned recording the confession of Thamalini, the women’s political wing leader of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). She engaged in all types of duties in the Department of Police abreast with the male officers. She served in the Children and Women’s Bureaus of Kotahena and Dematagoda police stations. Later she served in the head office of Police Children and Women’s Bureau also. She recalled how she worked hard to reintegrate the school dropouts, including street children to schools when she served as the chief of the Children and Women’s Bureau of the Colombo North Division.

“The knowledge and experience I gained from CID were immense. CID laid a solid foundation for my career growth. The present tasks are easy for me due to the experience I have gained from a dedicated service. Police service is a healthy workplace for women.”



Regional Training Course for National Central Bureau officers from Asia and Oceania held in Colombo

Based on her professional service in the Police Department, she read for a master’s degree in public management at the Sri Lanka Institute of Development Administration. Now she reads for a Post Graduate Diploma in International Relations. Her view is that she must improve her qualifications when she promotes in rank. She has followed many foreign training courses during her career.



Police Administrative Development Project conducted by Korean International Corporation Agency (KOICA)



Joint Corporation Course for Royal Malaysia Police and Sri Lanka



Police Administration Improvement (Sri Lanka) in Yolgin, Korea



Police Administrative Development Project conducted by Korean International Corporation Agency (KOICA)

Her husband is also a police professional. He is Chief Inspector Nalaka Gunasekara. They share life with mutual understanding. SSP Renuka is a proud mother of two daughters. “A daughter is a great strength to a family because a woman is an asset to society. Women lead the society on the path of goodness,” she said.

Police is an institute that relates to citizens’ lives from birth to death, and police render a yeoman service to people. SSP Renuka Jayasundara invites women to join the police to serve the public.

An initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Sri Lanka, as a part of the efforts taken in implementing the recommendations of the Gender Study jointly conducted by the National Police Commission in 2019, to highlight and recognize the service rendered by female Police officers to the general public.

