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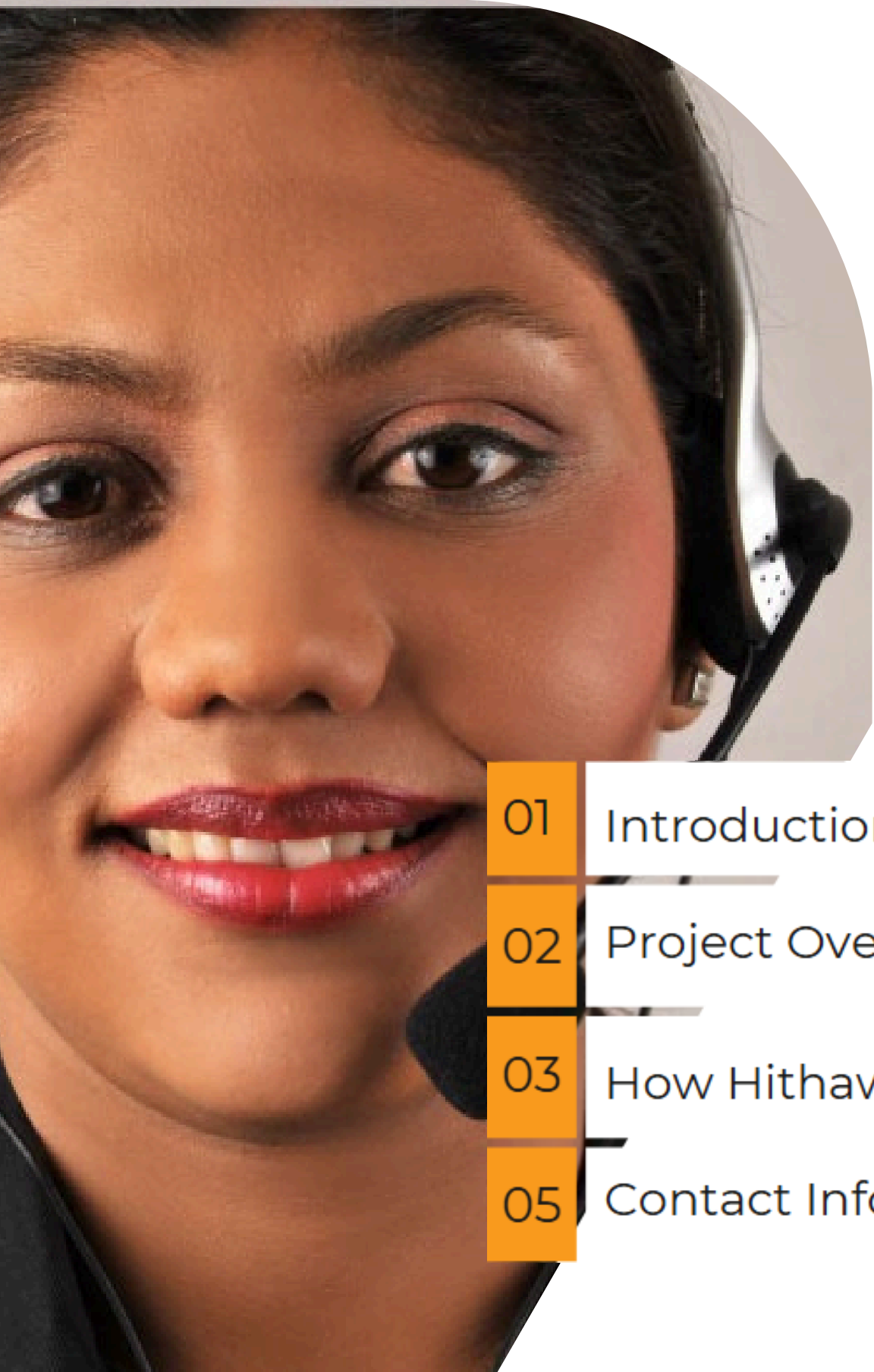
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Hithawathi



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Introduction

Foundation.lk



Foundation.lk is a not-for-profit organization established by LK Domain Registry, Sri Lanka. Our mission is to empower Sri Lankans by digital inclusion. Through our innovative programs and events, we are committed to building a more digitally connected and resilient society, ensuring that all communities have access to the opportunities and tools needed for a brighter, tech-driven future.

Enhancing Cyber safety through Hithawathi is one of the key initiatives of Foundation.lk.

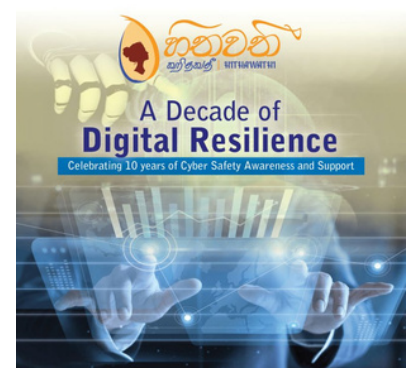
About Hithawathi



Hithawathi (meaning “*female confidante*” in Sinhala) is a social empowerment initiative that addresses the urgent needs of individuals—particularly women and girls—affected by cyber violence. The project provides emotional support, instills hope, prevents extreme actions such as suicide, and delivers essential technical assistance and guidance to help resolve cyber-related issues.

In addition to its direct support services, the Hithawathi project plays a vital role in enhancing cyber safety across Sri Lanka. It does so by raising public awareness, educating communities, and empowering vulnerable groups to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. The initiative also contributes to reducing cybercrimes and online threats through its proactive engagement and outreach efforts.

In 2024, Hithawathi celebrated its 10th anniversary, marking a decade of dedicated service in the field of cyber safety and digital empowerment. Over the years, the initiative has evolved into a trusted resource for individuals in need, while expanding its outreach and strengthening partnerships across sectors. This milestone not only reflects Hithawathi’s sustained impact but also reaffirms its commitment to creating a safer and more inclusive digital space for all.





Project Overview

“Hithawathi” project seeks to achieve the following objectives:

* **Raise Public Awareness of Cyber Risks**

Educate children, parents, educators, and the general public about the dangers of cybercrime and the importance of safe internet practices through awareness campaigns, workshops, and educational resources at the grassroots level.

* **Provide Support for Cyber Victims**

Offer emotional support, technical assistance (particularly through Hithawathi’s whitelisted channels on Meta and TikTok for confidential reporting), and guidance to individuals affected by cybercrimes such as online harassment and fraud. Victims are also referred to appropriate legal avenues, professional counseling services, and cybersecurity experts for specialized support.

* **Enhance Digital Literacy and Cyber Safety**

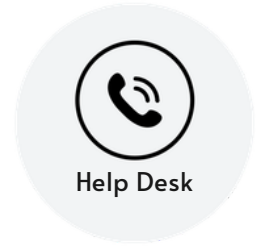
Promote digital literacy and responsible online behavior through accessible, culturally relevant materials and community programs, with a focus on vulnerable groups including women and children.

* **Collaborate with Stakeholders and Strengthen Policies**

Engage with government entities, civil society organizations, and private sector partners to combat cybercrime and advocate for the development and implementation of stronger cyber safety policies and frameworks.

How Hithawathi Works

Help desk support is free and available for individuals who do not feel secure on the internet. Support is offered through multiple channels, including a dedicated hotline, email service, website chat, and messaging platforms like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Viber. All services are available in Sinhala, Tamil, and English, the three main languages spoken in Sri Lanka.



Although there are no gender restrictions on Hithawathi’s services, the hotline is staffed by female officers, who are specially trained to provide better support to female and child callers. The project also emphasizes compassionate and empathetic assistance, recognizing the vulnerable mental state of victims who often feel helpless and desperate. The name Hithawathi (meaning *female confidante*) reflects the project’s commitment to offering a close, trustworthy, and supportive relationship to all users.

Cyber safety content developed to create awareness includes both physical materials—such as leaflets, promo cards, posters and booklets—and digital resources like social media posts, engaging reels, quiz contests and bulletins. These materials are designed by skilled content creators to raise awareness about cyber safety issues and promote Hithawathi’s services in a relatable and interactive way.



All digital content is easily accessible via the Hithawathi website and across various social media platforms, ensuring it reaches a wide and diverse audience.



Awareness sessions on cyber safety are conducted primarily as physical gatherings at venues carefully selected to effectively reach the target audience. A key achievement of the project is receiving authorization from the Ministry of Education to conduct cyber safety awareness sessions in schools across the island and to establish Hithawathi Teens Hubs in selected schools.



These programs benefit a wide range of groups, including students in tertiary education institutions, staff from both private and government sector organizations, and communities in need of awareness. Sessions are delivered both in person and online, ensuring broader access and impact.

Events such as exhibitions, online and physical discussions, and other community programs often call for the presence of Hithawathi, given the widespread use of digital devices and technology across all sectors of society. Hithawathi is respected both nationally and internationally as an expert voice in cyber safety, and is involved in discussions that influence how online safety policies are developed or updated.



Despite working with limited resources, Hithawathi plays an active role in spreading cyber safety awareness and sharing relevant expertise at these gatherings, making a meaningful impact both locally and globally.

Our Supporters

Local

- ~ LK Domain Registry
- ~ Tech CERT
- ~ Sri Lanka CERT
- ~ Sri Lanka Police (CWB, IT divisions, CID)
- ~ Women In Need
- ~ 1926 – Special Mental Health Hotline
- ~ 1938 – Women Helpline
- ~ 1929 – National Child Protection Authority
- ~ Telecommunications Regulatory Commission

- ~ Sri Lanka Sumithrayo
- ~ Hashtag Generation
- ~ GG Movement by DP Education
- ~ Axiata Digital Labs
- ~ Fact Crescendo Sri Lanka
- ~ Yeheli.IK (Dialog)
- ~ Satyn Magazine
- ~ Family Planning Association
- ~ Yeheliya Foundation

International

- ~ Meta
- ~ TikTok
- ~ ChildSafeNet
- ~ Stop.Think.Connect
- ~ The Resiliency Initiative
- ~ StopNCII.org

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