

# **A Study of Buddhist Principles Revealed in the Saleyyaka Sutta about the Protection of Human Rights Special Reference to Sri Lanka**

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## **Abstract**

Human rights are inherent to all human beings and every person, regardless of race, gender, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion, or any other status. Despite Sri Lanka's identity as a predominantly Buddhist country, significant human rights violations occur on the island. Therefore, the prime objective of this research is to analyze human rights violations in Sri Lanka. This study identifies severe human rights violations such as killing, torture, ethnic violence, and freedom of expression. This study examines the mechanisms in place to protect human rights in Sri Lanka. It explores the application of the Buddhist scripture Saleyyaka Sutta and related Buddhist teachings as a means of protecting and promoting human rights. Qualitative secondary data including scholarly articles, local news reports, research papers, and books authored by local and international individuals have been collected and analyzed. Relevant case studies are presented with visual aids such as photographs, and illustrative examples of human rights, compelling arguments, and legal frameworks are examined which are collected from local newspapers and online news platforms. This data provides valuable insight into the nature and extent of human rights violations in the country. The findings of this study shed light on the importance of individual behaviors such as physical conduct, verbal conduct, and mental conduct as the primary factors contributing to human rights violations in Sri Lanka. Using principles derived from the Saleyyaka Sutta, this research advocates a framework that emphasizes human rights protection and accountability. This research contributes to a broader understanding of the human rights landscape in Sri Lanka and particularly highlights the potential role of Buddhist teachings in protecting human rights. By investigating the analysis through the examination of specific case studies, this study provides valuable insights to policymakers, advocates, and stakeholders in the pursuit of improved human rights practices in Sri Lanka.

**Keywords:** *Buddhism, Buddhists, Human Rights, Individual Conduct, Saleyyaka Sutta*

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