

## **ABSTRACT**

Children are said to be the future of the world and the life blood of the society. Violence against children in all its manifestation is a reality in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, propagators of these horrendous crimes are not punished and rehabilitated. Hence pedophiles are at large committing crimes against helpless voiceless victims. Such a drawback in the Criminal Justice System had negatively affected the victims of Child Abuse in terms of both physically and mentally. It is apparent that delays in processing Child Abuse cases cannot be extinguished but they can be gradually reduced overtime. This research seeks to examine the legislative, administrative and procedural blocks that blog the smooth functioning of the criminal justice system. It will critically evaluate policies, legislation and international commitments and also compare and contrast the Sri Lankan Procedure with that of United Kingdom, United States and Canada. The methodology will include the critical evaluation of current policy, legislation and practice set out in the legal textbooks, statutes, case-law, academic articles and journals. After the completion of this evaluation it is planned to prepare an outline for Judge's training, awareness programs for lawyers, witnesses and victims and advocacy and lobbying for law reforms by adapting international best practices to the Sri Lankan situation. With the conclusions being set out in this research, it can assist the Sri Lankan judiciary to set up adequate protocols and reforms to ensure that the delay period relating to a Child Abuse cases are reduced.

**Keywords:** Delays, Child Abuse, Sri Lankan Criminal Justice System, International Jurisdictions, International Best Practices.