

Youth As Researchers in Sri Lanka and Maldives

Knowledge-sharing session to discuss research findings

Wednesday, 21 September 2022

2:30 PM to 4:30 PM (SLST)

Zoom

Join meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87959720817?pwd=OTYzOFRKNDFIU1I2YllrWnEzNXFpQT09>

In 2022, UNESCO's New Delhi Cluster office in partnership with Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) launched two national 'Youth As Researchers' (YAR) programmes in Sri Lanka and the Maldives to strengthen the access and ability of youth to participate and contribute to participatory action research and evidence-building, particularly related to issues of peace and social cohesion.

The YAR programmes, targeted at young people between 18 and 35, brought around 100+ young people from Sri Lanka and the Maldives to design and carry out research on areas related to the global Youth, Peace, and Security agenda.

Selected YAR researchers went through a six-day training programme spread over almost three months to understand different aspects of conducting community-based participatory research. Subsequently eight youth-led research teams (7 from Sri Lanka and 1 from the Maldives) have been conducting research on topics related to political participation, mental well-being, economic crisis, impact, and social cohesion, among others.

The findings from the research will be presented in two phases: through 1) a knowledge-sharing event (preliminary sharing of findings) on 21 September 2022 and through 2) a policy dialogue (dialogue between young researchers and policymakers representing diverse backgrounds) on 26 September 2022.

The knowledge-sharing session will feature young change-makers and young researchers in dialogue with technical experts from development organizations, academia and civil society organizations.

21 September 2022, 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM (SLST)

2:30 PM – 2:45 PM	Welcome and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Words of welcome:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Deepthi Lamahewa, Director-General, Office for National Unity and Reconciliation, Ministry of Justice, Sri Lanka○ Himali Jinadasa, Country Focal Point, UNESCO• Overview of the YAR programme
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- Abdul Rahman Lamin, Programme Specialist, Youth Team, UNESCO Headquarters

Parallel discussions on research findings

<p>2:45 PM – 3:15 PM</p>	<p>Presentation 1: A comparative study on impactful engagement with regard to peace and security among current and former Youth Parliament Members in Sri Lanka since 2015 (Break-out Room 1)</p> <p>Moderator: Nikita Rakhyani, PRIA</p> <p>Commentator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nimalka Fernando, Attorney-at-law, Women's Rights Activist 	<p>Presentation 2: An analysis of the implication of the socio-political and economic crisis in Sri Lanka (2022) on gender-based violence on youth between the ages 18-35 (Break-out Room 2)</p> <p>Moderator: Maija Lyytinen, UNESCO</p> <p>Commentator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chulani Kodikara, Visiting Lecturer, Faculty of Graduate Studies, University of Colombo 	
<p>3:15 PM – 3:45 PM</p>	<p>Presentation 3: Bridging Youth's Political Participation and Representation in the Sri Lankan Parliament (Break-out Room 3)</p> <p>Moderator: Nikita Rakhyani, PRIA</p> <p>Commentator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hemanthi Goonasekera, Chief Executive Officer - Federation of Sri Lankan Local Government Authorities 	<p>Presentation 4: Higher education access, quality, and challenges faced by university students in Sri Lanka (Break-out Room 4)</p> <p>Moderator: Maija Lyytinen, UNESCO</p> <p>Commentator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Udesh Fernando, Director, Sarvodaya Institute of Higher Learning 	<p>Presentation 5: Challenges faced by the youth in the work environment – An empirical study of the mental health situation in Maldives and Sri Lanka (Break-out Room 5)</p> <p>Moderator: Neha S Chaudhry, PRIA</p> <p>Commentators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anindita Anand, Personal Growth Coach, Therapist and Trainer, Mind Simplified ● Piyanjali de Zoysa, Senior Professor in Clinical Psychology at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo
<p>3:45 PM – 4:15 PM</p>	<p>Presentation 6: What keeps the youth employed during a crisis with an emphasis on the tourism and hospitality</p>	<p>Presentation 7: The impacts of the current socio-economic crisis in Sri Lanka on youth outlook of their</p>	<p>Presentation 8: Understanding the socio-economic challenges which incite migration among youth in the Western Province</p>

	sector in Sri Lanka? (Break-out Room 6)	future employment prospects. (Break-out Room 7)	of Sri Lanka (Break-out Room 8)
	Moderator: Nikita Rakhyani, PRIA	Moderator: Neha S Chaudhry, PRIA	Moderator: Maija Lyytinen, UNESCO
	Commentator:	Commentators:	Commentators:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suranga Tennakoon, Consultant, Motivator, Trainer, Lecturer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarita Jadav, National Project Officer, Health and Wellbeing, UNESCO • Subhashi Dissanayake, Country Director, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thisuri Rojie Ekanayake, Research Assistant - Migration and Urbanization Unit • Anoji Ekanayake - Senior Researcher at the Centre for Migration Research and Development
4:15 PM – 4:30 PM	Closing remarks and next steps		

Meeting Link:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87959720817?pwd=OTYzOFRKNDFlU1I2YlRwNzNlNFpQT09>

Time: Sep 21, 2022, 02:30 PM Sri Lanka / 2:00 PM Maldives

Meeting ID: 879 5972 0817

Passcode: 189562

Zoom Coordination: Vatsala Singh, UNESCO (v.singh@unesco.org) & Linu Rachel Chacko (linu.chacko@pria.org)