

Dear colleagues and partners,

Greetings and welcome to our newsletter, a monthly update on what UNV Sri Lanka is doing in promoting volunteerism for peace and development.



FEBRUARY 2022

NEWS - LETTER

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Our Project

The Next YCLI Training is Coming Soon!



The second training of the Youth Community Leadership Initiative (YCLI) programme is scheduled from 9th to 16th March. The YCLI programme provides a space for youth to enhance their competencies in building sustainable, just and peaceful communities through volunteer action.

The YCLI is a 12-month fully-funded leadership programme, which comes under the project titled '**Youth Participation and Engagement for a Healthier, Equitable, Safer and United Sri Lanka**' implemented by **World Health Organization (WHO)**, **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)** in collaboration with the **National Youth Services Council (NYSC)**.

Stories to Inspire

Community Volunteers Building Bridges across Boundaries

World Interfaith Harmony Week

1-7 February



Anushka Pathiraja Weerakody
Community Volunteer Development
Coordinator - Ratnapura

"Sri Lanka is a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic country where harmony among people from different backgrounds should be encouraged. As a UN Volunteer serving the community, I engage communities to understand how each religion can contribute towards social cohesion. Through volunteering, these communities celebrate each other's religious festivities to foster cross-cultural understanding among diverse groups. I am glad that I can be part of these volunteer efforts, contributing to harmony and social integration in these communities."



On World Interfaith Harmony Week (1-7 February), the UN Volunteers based in different locations of the country talked about how and why they are promoting **social integration and cross-regional understanding** among diverse communities. Currently, seven UN Volunteers are serving as Community Volunteer Development Coordinators who will establish Community Volunteer Centres in different regions of Sri Lanka to build a sustainable, just and peaceful society through volunteer action. They are engaged in helping young people embrace diversity to bring more inclusivity to their communities.

World Interfaith Harmony Week

1-7 February



Shehan Koshila Kannangara
Community Volunteer Development
Coordinator - Galle

"As a young person, I have been leading my community through **meaningful volunteer engagement to promote inter-ethnic relationships**. Through this UNV assignment, I am looking forward to working with the civil society, volunteering groups and volunteers, **building partnerships, especially among young people from multi-ethnic, multi-religious communities** who are volunteering to bring positive change. I believe that young people are the future and together with them we will mobilize our communities to achieve sustainable development and peace."



World Interfaith Harmony Week

1-7 February



Sudeepa Gunaratne
Community Volunteer
Development Coordinator
- Colombo

"To ensure the participation of all people is the key to achieving sustainable peace. **By embracing diversity, I believe that we can ensure that we will leave no one behind.** Being a UN Volunteer, I will engage those who are in the furthest, especially young women to participate in inter-religious and inter-ethnic dialogues and activities to enhance their experiences in other cultures. **When young people embrace diversity to transcend socio-cultural boundaries, these collaborative efforts put forth will uplift their communities.**"



World Interfaith Harmony Week

1-7 February



Ahamed Sanoon
Community Volunteer
Development Coordinator
- Batticaloa

"I joined UNV to support communities to engage in volunteer actions to build a sustainable, just and peaceful society. I invite people from all religions and cultures to meaningfully engage in **inter-religious dialogues within the communities to understand differences**. Through these efforts with my community, I am hoping to contribute towards **building lasting national unity in Sri Lanka.**"



Quick Survey on the Newsletter

Share your thought with us

What do you think of our monthly newsletter?

Give us your feedback and help us improve.

estimated time: **2 minutes**

[Start the survey](#)

Keep updated with our latest news!



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