

EVENT REPORT OF THE YOUTH-LED VIRTUAL CAMPAIGN TO  
CELEBRATE THE WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK

2021

**INTERFAITH**

**CAFE**

**A VOYAGE OF YOUTH HEALERS**

**SRI LANKAN YOUTH INITIATIVE**

## **Project Title**

### **Interfaith Café - A voyage of Youth Healers –**

Interfaith Café: Interfaith Café which is a virtual dialogue space where youth can bring a drink, make friends and have a dialogue, is a novel concept we introduced to bring youth together and unleash their potential through an inclusive and Interactive participation

## **Background**

The voices of young people are very often not heard in society, which becomes an obstacle for them to unleash their potential & engage in the decision-making process. Therefore, young people turn to be inactive and deviant in their communities. They lack skills and knowledge on how to solve problems and create change, as well as have limited access to affordable, solid, holistic, and skills development training programs.

Sri Lankan Youth Initiative Is a Youth-Led Youth Empowerment Organization Which Is Founded Upon the Ideology of Peer to Peer Youth Empowerment. Peer-to-Peer Seeks to Streamline the Youth Empowerment System of a Country by Include Them as Stakeholders in Decision Making and By Sustainable Partnerships Amongst the State and Non-State Stakeholders of The System. Through This Ideology the Organization Seeks to Challenge and Restructure the Conventional Approach to The Concept of Youth Empowerment in Sri Lanka.

## **Theme**

### **Constructing a Self-sustained and Ecological Youth Community through Interfaith Harmony**

## **Objectives**

Sri Lanka's present is haunted by memories of the island's decades-long civil war, ethnic riots and terrorist attacks. While the scars left by these memories haven't healed yet, they are getting transferred to the vulnerable youth community through hate speeches and misinformation which will affect not only their prosperous future but also the future development of this country. If such a situation is to change then we are in need to enable a safe, inclusive and exciting space for interfaith understanding and cooperation with the intention of fostering meaningful people-people, community and institutional relations by creating opportunities for interactions across divides.

The universal objectives of this event are

- **To enable an online safe space for youth to meet, discuss and act on their behalf for Interfaith Harmony.**
- **To promote youth towards Harmonizing with Nature which we believe as a universal message this Pandemic brought to us.**
- **To engage youth in meaningful peer discussion and prevent them from victimizing to violent extremism, Hate Speech and Disinformation.**
- **To empower youth as protagonists of Interfaith Harmony who can inspire the youth community with assertive and sustainable actions for Social Change.**

### **Brief Project Description**

With the Universal theme of Constructing a Self-sustained and Ecological Youth Community through Interfaith Harmony, we had 5 days of interactive sessions from **06<sup>th</sup> of February 2021 to 10<sup>th</sup> of February 2021** on "**Practices for Empathy and Harmony; In diverse faith-based viewpoints**"

These Interfaith Café sessions were facilitated and moderated by the youth from all around the island who are practicing diverse faiths and beliefs. They come together as a community and discussed on Teachings, Practices, and Rituals for Empathizing and Harmonizing with Nature and Human, based on their diverse religious and beliefs perspective.

To make the interfaith café in a more interactive and inclusive way, we moderate the café in Local languages of Sri Lanka along with the Language interpretations. Also, we handle some interactive technics such as Presentations, religious Chanting, Historical Videos and Q&A session to bring more impact stories.

The reflective, talk, and dialogue phase of the Interfaith Café ended up with the final community gathering day to seed actions on the theme of "**Youth Hands for seeding Empathy and Harmony**". Along with the co-facilitation of our moderators, the youth came up with feasible and sustainable actions to promote and inspire the youth community of Sri Lanka towards Interfaith Harmony in a broader way.

### **Project Reach**

With the limited resources and prior experience, we could able to inspire approximately 3000 youth with the message of World Interfaith Harmony Week through organic Social Media Reach

### **Expected Outcomes of the Project Preferably Measurable/ Quantifiable**

Increasing Awareness on the need to promote Interfaith Harmony between the youth community of Sri Lanka for a prosperous betterment of the country.

Capacity Building through the improvement of knowledge-based religious understanding for Youth Community who are more vulnerable to Violent Extremism, Hate speeches, and Disinformation.

Contributing towards creating a more empathetic generation of youth, who are in touch with nature and who understand the interdependent quality of all life on earth.

### **Methodology for Sustainability of the Project**

To maintain the sustainability of the campaign we came-up with some actions to inspire and Engage more Marginalized Youth towards Interfaith Harmony in Sri Lanka

#### **Aesthetic YouTube Channel for Youth Impact Stories**

Youth are frustrated because of the uncertainty of the future post Covid-19. The pandemic has forced the world to go digital, a trend that will continue in the future. And it has brought to attention the lack of preparedness of countries like Sri Lanka to adapt to such situations. Most importantly it has highlighted the high level of inequality in terms of access to knowledge and resources to live in the digital age. Many youths who were expecting their lives to go back to 'normal' are struggling with the possibility that it may not and that they are ill equipped to survive in this new age.

To tackle this situation, Youth planned to utilize the digital medias to share the impact stories of Youth who overcame this struggle and those who work out with self-sustained Young Entrepreneurship Ideas.

#### **National and Regional level Youth Cohorts (SAARC/BIMSTEC)**

To bring more Youth hands to bring Peace in the Land through Interfaith Harmony, we are inspired to design the guidelines and toolkits to connect youth beyond geographical borders and Marginalization.

#### **Mobilization of School and University students**

We are working on methodologies to mobilize School and University students toward Interfaith harmony through holistic and accessible training, networking events, cultural exchange programs and mentorship of youth-led projects in grassroot School and University Levels.



## Mass Media and Social Media Coverage for Project

Our Interfaith Café was Taken place in Zoom café space along with Facebook Live in our Sri Lankan Youth Initiative Facebook Page.

We used the logo of World Interfaith Harmony Week logo along with our Initiative logo in our all the social media promotion materials including posters, guidelines and Invitations.

## Glimpse of Interfaith Café

The youth-led campaign to celebrate the world interfaith harmony week




**Interfaith Café**  
-A Voyage of Youth Healers-

Exploring ways and means in  
"Constructing a self-sustained and ecological youth community through interfaith Harmony"

Venue:  
**Zoom Interfaith Café Space**

From **06.02.2021 to 11.02.2021** **LIVE** Facebook Live: Sri Lankan Youth Initiative / Sanyog  
Time **6.30pm - 8.30pm**

Facilitated by:  Together with:  Supported by:   

Day 01




**Interfaith Café**  
- A VOYAGE OF YOUTH HEALERS -

Via Zoom Interfaith Café Space  
Topic:  
**Practices for Empathy and Harmony;  
The Hinduism Perspective**

Facilitators

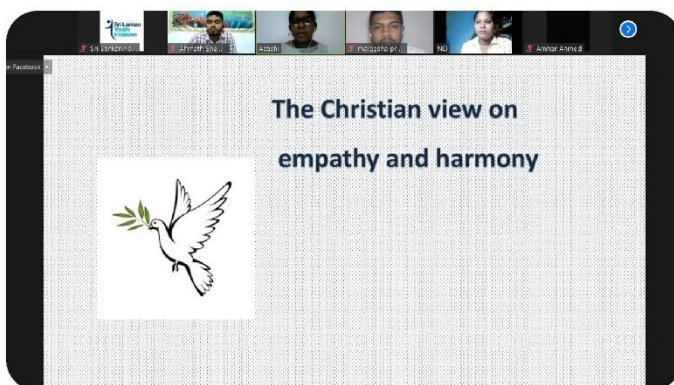




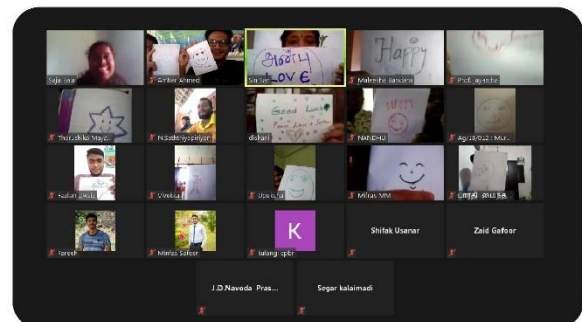
Sinhuja Shanmuganathan Sajani Balasingam Jibran Jawath  
Host

06.02.2021 **LIVE** Facebook Live: Sri Lankan Youth Initiative / Sanyog  
6.30-8.00pm

Deposited by:   Together with:   Facilitated by: 



The Christian view on empathy and harmony



Grid of participants and hand-drawn cards with messages like 'Stoically LOVE', 'Happy', 'Green Love', 'Smile', 'K', 'Shikha Usman', 'Zaid Gaffar', 'Sagar kalaimasi', 'J.D.Naveed Pras...', 'NARICHU', 'Agri'.

Day 03



Via Zoom Interfaith Café Space

Topic:

### Practices for Empathy and Harmony; Secular perspectives

Facilitators

Moderator



Dunalee Peiris



Kelum Jayaweera



Fazlan Uwais

08.02.2021  
6.30-8.00pm



Facebook live: Sri Lankan Youth Initiative / SanyOg



Day 04



Via Zoom Interfaith Café Space

Topic:

### Practices for Empathy and Harmony; Islamic perspective

Facilitators

Moderator



Sabry Muhammed



Mohamed Nufail



Ahamed Fareeh

09.02.2021  
6.30-8.00pm



Facebook live: Sri Lankan Youth Initiative / SanyOg



The youth-led campaign to celebrate the world interfaith harmony week

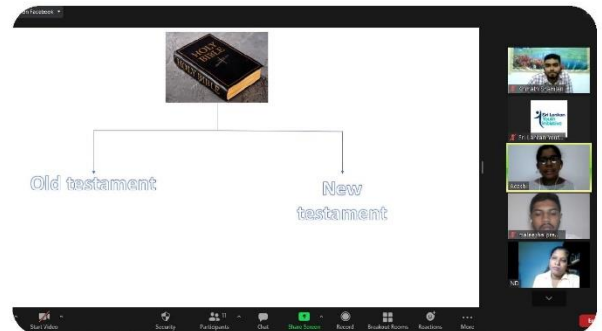


### Youth Community Gathering for Exploring Actions on "Youth Hands for seeding Empathy & Harmony"

Venue:  
Zoom Interfaith Café Space



11.02.2021  
From 6.00pm-8.00pm



WORLD INTERFAITH



HARMONY WEEK



## References & Links

### Posters

#### Event Announcement

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=243336000727580&substory\\_index=0&id=106776757716839](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=243336000727580&substory_index=0&id=106776757716839)

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=243523964042117&substory\\_index=0&id=106776757716839](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=243523964042117&substory_index=0&id=106776757716839)

#### Day 01:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=243930084001505&substory\\_index=0&id=106776757716839](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=243930084001505&substory_index=0&id=106776757716839)

#### Day 02:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=244522087275638&substory\\_index=0&id=106776757716839](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=244522087275638&substory_index=0&id=106776757716839)

#### Day 03:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=245075370553643&id=106776757716839](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=245075370553643&id=106776757716839)

#### Day 04:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=245757077152139&substory\\_index=0&id=106776757716839](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=245757077152139&substory_index=0&id=106776757716839)

#### Day 05:

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=246370930424087&substory\\_index=0&id=106776757716839](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=246370930424087&substory_index=0&id=106776757716839)

### Live Streams

Day 01: <https://www.facebook.com/slyouthinitiative/videos/3170266383200092/>

Day 02: <https://www.facebook.com/slyouthinitiative/videos/878824069328728/>

Day 03: <https://www.facebook.com/slyouthinitiative/videos/443029403552928/>

Day 04: <https://www.facebook.com/slyouthinitiative/videos/418195319296882/>

Day 05: <https://www.facebook.com/slyouthinitiative/videos/705716496810921/>



## Contact Details of Non-Departmental Directors

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## Get In Touch with Sri Lankan Youth Initiative

FACEBOOK: [www.facebook.com/slyouthinitiative](http://www.facebook.com/slyouthinitiative)

INSTAGRAM: [www.instagram.com/youth4srilanka](http://www.instagram.com/youth4srilanka)

TWITTER: [www.twitter.com/youth4srilanka](http://www.twitter.com/youth4srilanka)

LINKEDIN: [www.linkedin.com/company/slyouthinitiative](http://www.linkedin.com/company/slyouthinitiative)

*Love of God &  
Love of the Neighbor*

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HARMONY WEEK

