

# Annual Report

National Peace Council  
Of Sri Lanka

2010  
2010  
2010  
2010  
2010

# About NPC

*The National Peace Council (NPC) was established as an independent and nonpartisan national non-governmental organisation on 2 February 1995. The formation of NPC was the culmination of a process that began with a campaign against election violence in July 1994, launched by an inter-religious group of individuals and organisations. The strategic interventions made by this group during the 1994 Presidential Election campaign specifically, and for a peaceful and permanent resolution to the protracted conflict generally, led to the organisation of the first National Peace Conference the same year. The vision and mandate of a National Peace Council were formulated at this conference, leading to the establishment of NPC the following year.*

*In an effort to strengthen public support for a negotiated political settlement, NPC has formulated its mandate to support its activities of advocacy, research, training, mobilisation and dialogue, which are aimed at mobilising the people towards peace and conflict transformation.*

*Although the war has ended, the road to peace has been difficult. There are many obstacles that have hampered the progress of the post-war reconciliation process and plunged it into crisis. The lack of a bi-partisan approach among political parties, the inadequate representation of civil society in the recovery process, and the mal-distribution of economic benefits have been the main reasons for the stagnant situation. In the wake of the recent developments in the political arena, NPC has identified the need to redefine its strategy, in order to meet the needs of the changing political and social environment in Sri Lanka.*



## Vision

A Peaceful Prosperous Sri Lanka in which the Freedom, human rights and democratic rights of all the communities are respected.

## Mission

To work in partnership with different target groups to educate, mobilize and advocate to build a society of rights conscious citizens and a political solution to the ethnic conflict and equal opportunities for all.

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# The Governing Council



**Joe William**  
Hony. Chairman of  
the Board



**Tony Senewiratne**  
Hony. Treasurer  
Executive Director  
Habitat for Humanity



**Javid Yusuf**  
Attorney at Law  
former Ambassador to  
The Kingdom of Saudi  
Arabia



**Dr. Thangamuthu  
Jayasingam**  
Senior Lecturer  
Eastern University  
Environment Advisor -  
UNDP



**Dr. Anita Nesiiah**  
Consultant



**R.M.B. Senanayake**  
Retired Civil  
Servant,  
Director of  
Combined Services



**Ven. Buddhiyagama  
Chandraratne Thero**  
President, Vanni  
Cultural Foundation  
Puttalam



**Prof. H.S. Hasbullah**  
Hony. Asst. General  
Secretary Senior  
Lecturer - Geography  
University of  
Peradeniya



**G.V.D. Thilakasiri**  
Hony. Secretary  
Secretary - Free Trade  
Union  
Development Centre



**Dr. Jehan Perera**  
Executive Director  
NPC



**John Thambar**  
Former Deputy Director  
Social Service Department  
Former Addl. Director  
Sri Lanka Institute of  
Development  
Administration



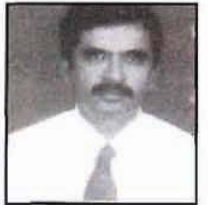
**Sr. Mary Barbara**  
Provincial Councillor  
Apostolic Carmel



**Elmo Alles**  
Naturalist



**Ms. Saroja  
Sivachandran**  
Director - Center for  
Women and  
Development



**Prof. M.S. Mookiah**  
Professor of  
Geography  
Peradeniya  
University  
Former Vice  
Chancellor Eastern  
University



**Ms. Visakha Dharmadasa**  
Chairperson  
Ass: of War Affectec  
Women Parents of  
Servicemen missing  
action



**M.H.M. Niyas**  
Chairman Media Link,  
Steering Committee  
Member of Muslim  
Council, Director  
Lanka Salt Limited



**Rev. Dr. Arasa  
Iyadurai**  
(J.P All Island)  
Ex-Director -  
Educational  
Service (S.L.B.C)



## Our Dedicated Staff



# Messages

## Chairman: Joe William

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my pleasure to present the annual report and financial statements of the National Peace Council (NPC) for the year ended 31 March 2011. It gives me added pleasure to reach you through this Annual Report in view of my continued association going back to February 1995.

Our vision of a peaceful and prosperous Sri Lanka in which freedom, human rights and democratic rights of all communities are respected has been consistent. I am pleased to state that despite testing conditions, this year proved to be another progressive and eventful one for NPC.

The Annual Report highlights our contribution to building a strong foundation among our target groups towards a non violent attitudinal and behavioural transformation for a just and sustainable peace in Sri Lanka. This was made possible through activities carried out by our Mobilization, Rights and Reforms, Peace Education, Media and Special Events teams ably assisted by our Management and Finance units. Many success stories recorded in the report highlight the catalytic outcomes on which peaceful communities can be built in the future.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the continued confidence and encouragement of our many donors; the trust and loyalty of our partners' island wide; and the commitment and professionalism of our Executive Director, Management and Staff and the continuing check and balance, guidance and support of the Governing Council and the Board of Directors.

## General Secretary: G. V. D. Tilakasiri

The end of the war in mid 2009 created a new situation in our society. This situation has been changing because of the need of the Sri Lankan people for a peaceful society. Due to the greatly improved security situation, large numbers of people in the country could travel North to South and South to North without any trouble. The exposure visits undertaken by NPC have made it clear that the people in the South are saddened when they see the suffering of the Northern war victims in the camps and places of resettlement. This is why so many people in the South collected goods and sent to the camps with harmony in their hearts and minds.

NPC believes that a negotiated solution to the ethnic conflict must evolve from within society. Therefore we help to strength the public discussion of such a political settlement through our programmes of awareness creation and advocacy. NPC has further work to do to strengthen the social forces that stand for a negotiated political solution the ethnic problem. The process of changing attitudes in society and the authorities will be created by the people's movement, which can be lead to a huge step forward in getting a mutual understanding of each other as nationalities.

I thank the Members of NPC, Directors of the Board, Governing Council members, all staff, District Committee members, and our foreign friends and donors who give funds for fulfill our tasks. Post war Sri Lanka presents a great opportunity to protect Human Rights and democracy, in which civil society and the government join hands to create a united nation in which justice and reconciliation prevails and which will leap into economic development and become the miracle of Asia.

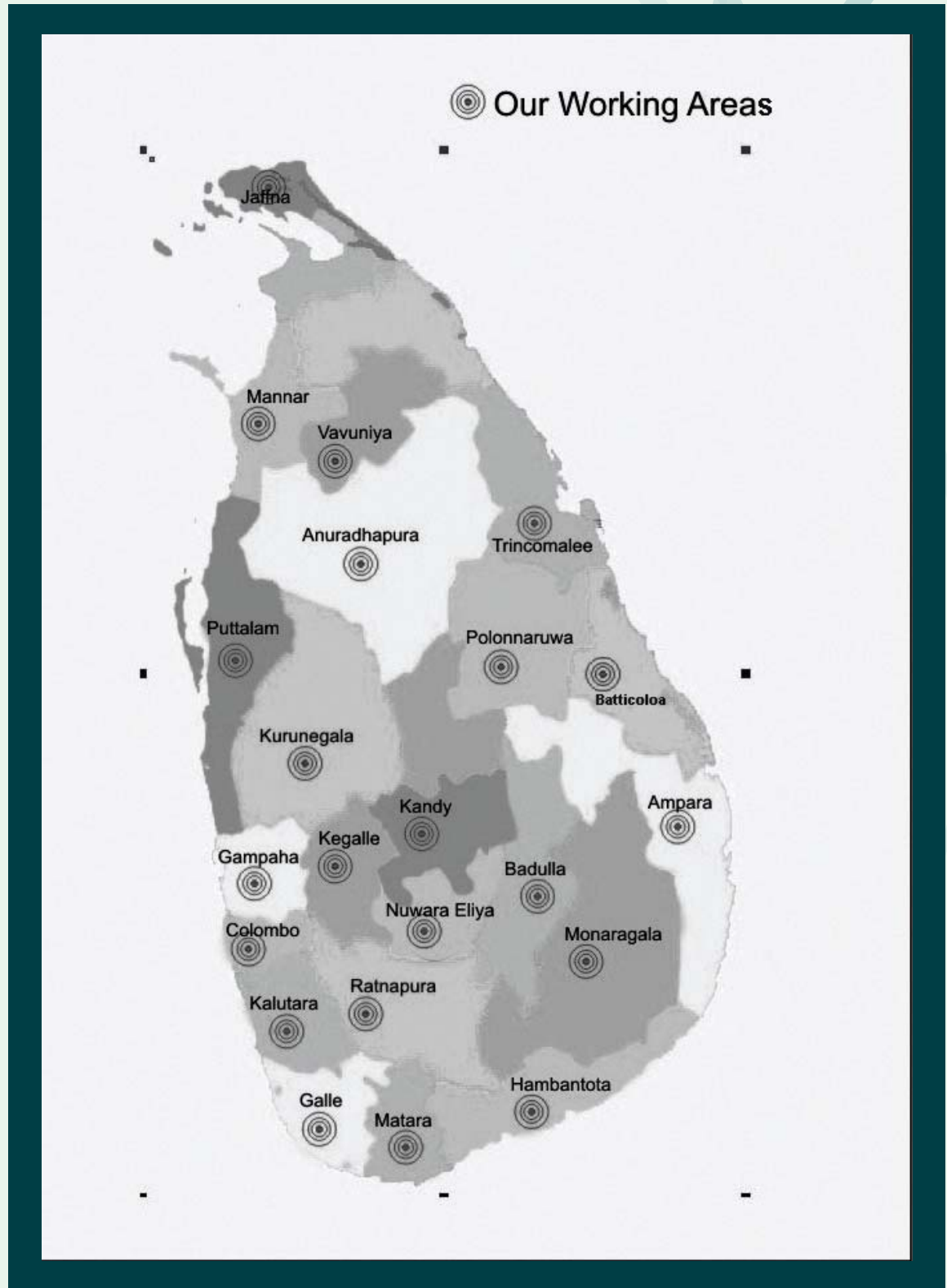
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## Executive Director's Message: Dr Jehan Perera

The end of the war in mid 2009 created a complex situation for civil society and in particular for peace organisations that had campaigned for a negotiated solution. On the one hand, public opinion fostered by the government did not favour the questioning of the negative peace that had arisen in the aftermath of the war. There was a dominant feeling that peace had dawned and there was no need to talk about any resolution of the grievances of the Tamil people. Peace was assumed to exist. The issue of justice for the minorities was looked upon as redundant, even as created by the NGOs. However, open expressions of triumphalism and victory alienated the ethnic minority population even further after the way in which the war was concluded. The polarisation between the ethnic communities is continuing and was borne out by the results of several elections in the post war period. The strengthening of democracy to the entire country and civilian administration to the north would be the main priority for civil society. The opening of the main highways to the north and east facilitated NPC's access to civil society groups in the former war zones. This enabled exchange visits between groups formed by NPC to visit the different parts of the country and gain new insights. NPC also issued statements on the shortcomings of the resettlement and recovery processes, and the need to expedite the return to normalcy as a means to create more public awareness about the ground situation as it affected the victims of war. Reconciliation can have meaning only if the people in the north and east are free individuals with the power to choose freely and to choose reconciliation.

In the year under review, NPC also gave priority to empowering and strengthening its district network of committees, especially its inter-religious committees, and partner organisations to carry out peace building work themselves. This entailed providing them with skills development through training and empowering them with resources. The strengthening of our partners requires NPC's own strengthening and continued support by our members, partners and donors. Post war Sri Lanka presents a great opportunity for Sri Lanka to make a leap forward in all aspects of its development.



## Strategizing NPC's Efforts : 2008-2010

To ensure a meaningful provision of core NPC services to its intended target groups, five strategies for organisational development were prioritised that are expected to enhance the effectiveness of the organisation in the years 2008 - 2010. These include the following:

1. Diversify tools to reach mass audiences through its Track II partners<sup>1</sup>.
2. Reconfirm promising new intermediary (*Track II*) target groups and develop capacity to target them with practical peace building projects in strategic alliance with selected national peace agents.
3. Enhance the quality of peace building efforts with community leaders and Community Based Organisations (*CBOs*), in particular by establishing working relations that are:
  - o *Long lasting*
  - o *Diverse and interactive*
  - o *Tailor made*
  - o *Target selected influential members from communities*
  - o *Inclusive of interpersonal and conflict sensitivity efforts.*
4. Improve insight in the extent to which intended short term results (*changed understanding and awareness*) and long term impact (*changed pro-peace behaviour*) is achieved.
5. Enhance visibility / international profile of NPC through intensifying working relationships with like-minded organisations outside Sri Lanka.

<sup>1</sup>Track 2 represents intermediary players like governmental officials. Community leaders, trade unions, and journalist.



# Achievements & Activities

# Humanitarian Solutions through Multi-Religious Cooperation:

## EU-NPC Collaboration

With the help of the European Union (EU), NPC implemented, a project to promote cooperation among multi-religious communities in Sri Lanka, focusing on groups who have been divided by the conflict. Accordingly in each target area, a District level Inter-Religious Council (DIRC) was established and strengthened in close cooperation with the District Action Committees (DACs). DIRCs, which are active in 12 districts, have direct access to grassroots communities, enabling them to understand and voice their concerns. The committee members have contacts with higher level religious leaders and those with political command, and are in a position to inform and influence them. By having a structure so closely tied to a grassroots organising structure, we have been able to empower local CBO leaders and maintain a bottom up approach in finding solutions to humanitarian needs through a multi-religious perspective.

DIRCs have two roles:

1. Offer local religious communities opportunities to undertake multi-religious actions and advocacy for peace. They function to mediate between conflicting groups at the grassroots level, and ease the inter-ethnic tension and suspicion that is residual from the war.
2. Help local communities create a strong internal solidarity regardless of ethnic or religious divisions and stimulate a community responsiveness that will be employed towards providing access to various humanitarian solutions.

### **Addressing unacceptable practices at Nallur Kovil**

*"The Sinhalese pilgrims from the South who come to Nallur Kovil in Jaffna are not aware of the Hindu practices followed inside the Kovil. Jaffna DIRC members were unhappy about this and we were able to openly discuss how this at one of the meetings. Muslim DIRC convener and Jaffna Municipal Council member, Moulavi Sufiyan took the leadership to erect instruction boards in Sinhala and Tamil inside the Kovil along with Kovil officials appointed to instruct the pilgrims."*

**Mr. J. Tharumarajah,**  
Jaffna DIRC Coordinator

## Peace through Power Sharing: CAFOD-NPC Collaboration

Since 2007, NPC has collaborated with Catholic Agency For Organisation Development (CAFOD) to educate Sri Lankans about power sharing initiatives in a project entitled “Building a People’s Movement for Power Sharing.” Through the first phase of the project, NPC assembled DAC member resource persons to advocate for power sharing with the grassroots communities and different stakeholders. These resource persons were trained in Sri Lanka, and also went on an exposure visit to India to learn about its federalist system. They were able to educate over 1500 people on this issue. This year, NPC progressed with the project in three ways: through an exposure visit to the North, through utilising resource persons in community advocacy meetings on power sharing around the country and through the continuation of the Thulawa publication (discussed in Peace Messages). NPC plans to start the third phase of the project with the support of resource persons and likeminded organisations to strengthen the Provincial Council (PC) system with an emphasis on the people’s participation in local governance

The Community Advocacy Meetings were established to increase support for national power sharing policies as a political solution to Sri Lanka’s conflict. These meetings brought over 700 participants together to discuss nonviolent advocacy for power sharing and to develop enhanced skills in media work. The meetings increased awareness about, and support for, the benefits of power sharing among the general public and helped establish civil society networks to collaboratively advocate for power sharing. The success of these meetings points towards the emerging leadership in NPC’s network, especially among the few women members, and their potential to bring forth progressive political changes.



# Face to Face:

## Positive dialogue between aggrieved parties in the conflict

True human interaction is a very powerful way to change the ways people view those they have come to see as “the other.” NPC, recognizing the ways in which programmes of inter-ethnic and inter-cultural interaction can transform society, focused specifically on three areas of engagement: A North-South Linkage Project, Youth Exchange, and Dialogue between Northern Women.

### North-South Linkage Project

With partner, Federation of Social Development Organization (FOSDOO), NPC established the North-South Linkage Project to increase inter-ethnic understanding and empathy between civil society in the North and South of the country with special attention to the newly established “welfare villages” or detention camps in the North. Through this project, they were able to improve the quality of life of war affected, internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the North, especially children.

This project was a comprehensive effort to improve livelihood and inter-ethnic understanding. The project took a two tiered approach , focusing on providing relief and support (predominantly psychosocial) to aid the physical and mental recovery of children in the IDP camps. The project's many elements included work documenting and raising national awareness about the experiences of Tamil IDPs in the North, fostering inter-ethnic understanding, improving the psychological and physical health of Northern IDP children, and addressing the sense of alienation of Tamil IDPs by developing mutual awareness of the concerns of the different ethnic groups. Second, the project targeted the southern community leaders who play a vital role in leading social opinions and advocating a political solution to the ethnic conflict. Members of the South came and saw the under reported problems faced by IDPs in order to personally convey their findings to their local constituencies in a manner that will hopefully encourage the South to be more willing to address the issues of the displaced.

#### *In Numbers*

*school kits to start or continue their studies.*

*received powdered milk packets*

*support per day*

*referred to District Mental Health Unit of Vavuniya General Hospital for further treatment.*

*and referred to MSF Holland*

*attending school, started attending regularly*

*returned to continue their studies.*

#### **South Exposure**

*in the exposure and education project*

*and one from the north*

*councilors and disability support staff*

*in child recovery*

# Youth Exchange

## District-Level Youth Forums

In May, NPC and Lanka Youth Network (LYON) organized a youth forum to strengthen a consortium of young leaders and help them improve their knowledge in the areas of democracy and democratic leadership, pluralism and power sharing, principles of good governance, and human and gender rights. A group of young people from Polonnaruwa requested that NPC conduct a Tamil language class to help them communicate with their Tamil friends. LYON also organized a similar forum in Matara to create a consortium for youth in both districts to interact. Due to these programmes, the relationship between NPC and LYON was strengthened and paved way to organize inter-religious group meetings with young people in Polonnaruwa district under the project funded by EU.

### Youth Exchange Visit: South to North

In response to requests made by young people who gathered in Galle at an NPC Fellowship youth camp in December 2009, NPC organized an exchange and fact finding programme for Northern and Southern youth to learn about local issues and to help IDPs with their resettlement work. The young people were all accommodated in the Jaffna young peoples' homes and were treated with immense hospitality. During the work camp, the young people cleaned and cleared land for the resettling population in Kilinochchi. This programme strengthened the bonds between the participants and provided many of the southern youth the opportunity to see firsthand the issues faced in the north. As a result of the success of the programme, the young people requested to have a follow-up programme in Gampaha.

*"We are overwhelmed by the hospitality returned to us by giving eight bicycles with contributions from the DAC youth groups in Hambantota, Matara, Galle, Ratnapura, Kurunegala, Kegalle. This will help us with day to day activities to travel and even drop our sisters and brothers to the school".*

**-Ms. Rekka Paramanathan, Jaffna and Ms. Cristiyana Rasathurai, Jaffna University student.**

*"I think these kinds of activities are very important and necessary to reconcile communities who are distant from each other in our society. Everyone is reluctant to part from each other and hope to strengthen the relationships we built from this activity through future interactions".*

**-Mr. Sarathchandra, a young person from DAC in Gampaha**

### Youth Exchange: North to South

As requested by the Northern youth at the work camp in Jaffna, a youth group of the DAC in Gampaha organized another exchange programme with NPC. Youth from the North stayed with families from Gampaha for four days to understand their views, concerns, and feelings and improve future interactions, while experiencing their kindness and hospitality. During this exchange programme, youth from the South independently took the initiative to collect bicycles in addition to bicycles from World Vision Lanka to donate to the youth in the North. The programme also provided participants to meet with business groups like Brandix Intimates Pvt. Ltd. and Coutaulds Lanka Pvt. Ltd. who demonstrated an interest in contributing toward humanitarian aid and employment in the North East. During the programme, relationships were also built with World Vision Lanka and Don Bosco Vocational Center, who offered to give vocational training opportunities to selected Jaffna youths.

## Celebration of International Peace Day in Jaffna

In September, NPC celebrated International Peace Day 2010 in Kilinochchi, one of the most severely war affected areas in the country, with the participation of young people from different districts of the country. The programme, engaging 150 young people, included activities such as peace prayer and meditations, a Shramadana, sports, cultural events, peace and reconciliation messages, distribution and wearing of badges with peace messages made by northern youth. The objective was to enable them to understand the necessity of peace and that the way to peace is not war but reconciliation within the society. This programme helped to promote intergroup tolerance and create a more peaceful environment conducive to promoting peace among the future leaders of the country.

*"I feel that the event provided a space for Southern youth to show their compassion to the war-affected Northern youth and to show them that they are not alone or forgotten. The badges with the peace*

*made by Northern youth was creative and futuristic. The army personnel of Kilinochchi were very cooperative as reflected at the sports event organised with them and it created an environment to remove the fear and hatred among the local people for better relationships."*

**-Mr. Chaminda Dahanayake,  
Matara**

*"I witnessed different cultural activities for the first time in my life. I think the prayer for a sustainable peace at the morning assembly and meditation enabled us to think positively of the future through shadows of our past."*

**-Ms. V. Vijayagawry,  
Kilinochchi**

## Dialogue between Northern Women

### Celebration of International Women's Day in Jaffna

NPC celebrated International Women's Day to foster a space for women to become agents of peace and reconciliation. NPC recognizes the potential women have in terms of building peace in both the private and public sphere despite the suffering and trauma they have undergone during the war. At the programme, a group of war affected women presented their stories and stated the need for further intervention. Three local NGOs collaborated to bring together war affected Tamil and Muslim women in Jaffna to dialogue for peace and reconciliation. A number of area based pre-planning meetings followed by this gathering resulted in a statement titled, "The Voice of War Affected Women of Jaffna" that stated the concerns of the women and the changes they hoped to see happen in the future which they submitted to the Mayor in Jaffna and other policy makers.

*"We strongly stress that all state, non-governmental, private sector, and religious organisations and institutions should cooperate and identify the needs of the suffering people and render help and assistance to alleviate their hardships and facilitate a better life for them."*

*-Excerpt from "The Voice of War Affected Women of Jaffna"*

### Establishing a Rights-Based War Affected Women's Committee in Northern province

With the objective of educating women on the importance of networking and leadership as a means of addressing issues influenced by the war, NPC established a committee among displaced and war affected Tamil and Muslim women to help them network and build capacity. Through the committee, NPC was able to help women develop skills through workshops and programmes. This was the first opportunity for most participants to interact and work with members of different ethnic groups. This established a positive and collaborative interaction in which they were able to use their knowledge on human rights and gender to brainstorm and advocate for solutions from external sources such as the government and NGOs. Due to the war, these two communities were isolated from each other, but now with the help of the Center for Women and Development (CWD) in Jaffna they can collectively identify and address the issues they face.

*"We had been living in this area for over a hundred years but I feel that we have only concentrated on our communities that made us distant. However, after talking with the Tamil women about gender issues and problems they are faced with, I realise how they also have been suffering from the war. By meeting together like this, I could identify the common issues we are faced with. I see this as a good opportunity to be involved in each other's causes even in the future"*

*- Ms. Fazla, from Ottumadam, Jaffna*

The image features a solid teal background. On the left side, there are several overlapping, flowing white and light blue lines that curve upwards and to the right. On the right side, there are several overlapping, flowing teal lines that curve upwards and to the left. The overall composition is abstract and dynamic, suggesting movement and interconnectedness.

# Strengthening Networks

## Civil society's participation in peace-related efforts

In order to constructively reach the various civil society leaders and engage with the grassroots community in the country, NPC has set up a network of local District Action Coordinators (DACs). The DACs currently exist as a network of 360 men, women and youth representing local NGOs, CBOs, civic and community institutions, and the government in 17 districts island-wide. NPC often works through the existing DAC structures, which function as a strong base, to promote people's participation for peace initiatives in a wider perspective.

The DAC tasks are:

- To promote peace
- Implement educational and awareness building programmes
- Launch publicity campaigns through media at local level
- Build coalitions with likeminded organisations
- Create awareness to affected groups on their stake for peace
- Promote civic group participation and organise mass events at local and national level

Working through the DACs is important as it holds potential as a forum for civil society engagement. Its members are a pool of resource persons that will last beyond the lifespan of any funded project. DACs are a dependable mechanism to create access to programmes to ameliorate the conditions of war affected women and children as DAC members have close relationships with the institutions and people in the areas concerned.

In March, NPC put the results of a 2009 survey about a political solution to the conflict into action by holding a discussion with DAC members and other NGO representatives to assess the ways in which peace could be pursued in the country. The resulting report from the meeting was sent to 125 selected parliamentarians, Provincial Councillors, NGO leaders, peace activists, and CBO leaders. In response to the report, several parliamentarians and Provincial Councillors sent letters of appreciation, and social activists gave comments through a questionnaire. In addition, both NPC and the social activists used the findings to help focus their action plans to implement local level peace building activities.



## Capacity Building Workshop on Post War Peace & Reconciliation

In June, a workshop was conducted to educate and help the DAC members from 17 districts evaluate their responsibilities and influence in achieving reconciliation in their local areas. During the workshop, participants discussed specific case studies from their localities and the ways in which they could initiate programmes to address issues of peace. Members were encouraged to find details about their area's reconciliation issues and brainstorm local partners in resolving conflicts. As a result of this workshop, participants were more prepared to engage in reconciliation work and initiated activities focusing reconciliation in their own societies. Following are a few of the case studies that emerged from this workshop.

### Understanding in Kandy

The DAC members in Kandy organized an interactive interethnic activity for local children from the children's homes and estates to foster relationships and encourage future interactions. Prior to this, activities for children and children's associations had been mono-ethnic without opportunities to learn about others and share experiences. Through this workshop which included cultural events and bilingual practice, participants were able to understand the importance of interethnic unity among them as they worked to organise to achieve goals. In order to maintain long lasting ties, a readers' club was established as well as a "till for reconciliation", which will be used to help children to buy gifts for their friends. A third phase of this activity entitled, "Building the Bridge of Reconciliation" comprised an exposure visit from Hanthana to Bahirawakanda.

### Building Reconciliation and Peace through a Co-existence Committee in Matara

*"In Weligama, there had been an incident over two years ago in which a comment from a Muslim boy to a Sinhalese girl created a strong sustained rift between the Sinhalese and Muslim communities. In order to address this problem, I, along with Mr. Welikala from Galle and Mr. Wilson from Hambantota who participated at the June workshop on reconciliation decided to start a committee to help Sinhalese and Muslims in Parakade, Hettividiya, Aluthvidiya, Galbokka Grama Niladari divisions to overcome the tensions between them and reconcile their differences and unite together through activities of mutual understanding. As a result of the committee, the two communities became involved in each other's respective religious celebrations. The Sinhala Buddhists participated in the Ramadan festival and the Muslims decided to organize an alms giving to the Buddhist monks on a Poya day. This has helped build stronger friendships among the communities leading to an emerging evolution from enemies to friends."*

**- Mr. W. Kariyawasam, DAC member in Matara**

## Estate Certificates: Cooperation for Better Access to Public Services for Estate Tamils through a Mobile Service in Kegalle

A mobile service was organised to issue National Identity Cards (NICs) and Birth Certificates for over 300 estate Tamils and to spread awareness about their importance. They were also educated about the importance of exercising their right to vote and other benefits that they are entitled to. The cooperation of the predominantly Sinhalese government officials helped to decrease the distance between the estate Tamils and the officials. As a result, estate people could approach government services, bank services, and provident funds, which helped them strengthen their ability to manoeuvre security checks, vote in elections, and go to government offices with less obstructions. The Divisional Secretary appreciated the initiative and requested to support another mobile service at Kiriporuwa Estate in Bulathkohupitiya DS division.

*"For 15 years, I could not use my NIC's because it was illegible. When I went to the D.S. Office to get a new Identity Card, I was advised to go to the D.S. Office at the place of my birth but they asked me to get it from Bulathkohupitiya D.S. Office. When I came here, I could not do anything because I don't know Sinhala. I could not get an opportunity like this before. Today, I could fill my application without any problem. I am very thankful to all for realizing the problems faced by people like us and coming to support us."*

**-R. Thawamain**

## Kovil Pooja: A Shramadana and a Pooja at a Hindu Kovil for Co-Existence in Kalutara

A Shramadana revitalising a dilapidated local Kovil with no water for ceremonies was organized to help bring together the formerly estranged Tamil community and resettled Tsunami affected Sinhalese community. This Kovil, with a newly built statue of the Buddha, served both the estate Tamil population and the local resettled Sinhalese. Both groups came together to clean, repair, and bring water to the premises of the kovil and the adjoining statue of the Buddha before joining for a pooja in which they prayed for the peace and wellbeing of all people. Now the local Sinhalese residents have volunteered to supply water to the Kovil on pooja days. This was done collaboratively by both Tamils and Sinhalese which strengthened their relationships and understanding of cultural values.

## Increasing knowledge on human rights and human rights laws

NPC recognises that knowledge of and access to human rights is essential to forging a peaceful society. In addition to NPC's education on human rights in its workshops (discussed in Beyond the Books) has focused on rights work among students and within the plantation sector. Through these programmes, NPC has helped forge a burgeoning network of rights concerned youth, and has helped document thousands of plantation sector Tamils and in the process of educated them on the rights they are entitled to.

## Human Rights Quiz Competitions in the Eastern Province

In an effort to promote human rights leadership among youth in the Eastern and Northern provinces, NPC conducted human rights quiz competitions in 2009. This programme was designed to improve youth leadership skills and to help them become young advocates of human rights. Every winner is now independently conducting activities in schools, such as organising workshops and lectures, distributing handouts, and providing encouragement and guidance for other students to have human rights focused school projects. Through this programme, students were able increase their knowledge on human rights, and the ability to build strong relationships with government officials, such as Zonal Educational Directors. This year, due to its past success and high demand, NPC was able to triple the size of its programme to almost 3500 students and 45 schools, and expand to schools in Batticaloa and Ampara districts with the full cooperation and approval of the Ministry.

Emerging from the success of the Human Rights quiz competitions, NPC held a three day residential workshop for the Trincomalee human rights quiz winners to strengthen their knowledge on human rights and to establish a human rights club. This club is a platform to apply knowledge, advocacy, and activism to the cause of social betterment. The students, who were initially reluctant to mingle with different ethnic groups, were more friendly and helpful by the end of the programme, especially when they prepared their action plans for their own schools. Since then, NPC has supported the actions of the club members by sponsoring the distribution of leaflets on child rights on International Children's Day, supporting a club organized Human Rights Day celebration, and providing advice on request for their mediation on human rights abuses in their communities

*"Our Sri Lankan society still does not have enough knowledge on human rights. We don't study human rights in schools. If we are not aware of these rights, then we cannot even know when someone is violating them. However, merely with the knowledge of human rights, we are then empowered with the ability to voice our concern about their violation. Once I read the handbook on human rights, I was given a vision of how to respect human beings. From then on, I saw how everyone is a human being. I think it's not only us who are winners of this competition but all those who read the handbook. I don't just want to spread this knowledge in my own school, I want to spread it island wide."*

**-Soranya Prabakaran,  
winner of the Trincomalee human rights quiz**

*"The knowledge and skills gained from this programme are very useful to educate my friends in school by writing articles to the school paper, distributing handbills and performing dramas. I also want to bring up discussions on day to day minor human rights violations in the local communities. At the same time, I see a need for an island wide network of Human Rights Clubs".*

**-J.M. Ihsaan, a student from Trincomalee zonal education area.**

## Estate Sector

### Starting the Plantation People's Forum for Alternatives (PPFA)

The Plantation People's Forum for Alternatives (PPFA) was set up by NPC in Hatton by bringing a group of academics, intellectuals, and activists together to discuss issues pertaining to people in the plantation sector. Deciding that one of the largest issues was an upcoming local election, they set up an independent campaign to publicise the issues and grievances of the community. During the meeting, a sub-committee drafted a memorandum highlighting local issues to be distributed by young people in plantation areas and to contesting politicians. Advertisements were also put in the Tamil newspapers widely read by the plantation sector people. The creation of the PPFA opened a space for all interested and committed people to be involved in a campaign raising local awareness on key issues. Additionally, a foundation for future activities was created with the support of a group of active youth. A follow up session was held to review the activities conducted and discuss further actions after the election which resulted in a three day

### Mobile Papers: Mobile service to issue birth certificates to people in the estate sector in Nuwara-eliya

#### Assisting the Estate Workers to be registered for Elections

As a large portion of the estate workers are not registered to vote, they are often neglected and abandoned by government officials, sometimes being denied access to public benefits such as public education because their names are not listed on voting lists. NPC entered the scene with PPFA in a pilot project in 10 plantations: a mobile service that would register estate workers and educate them on the importance of their participation in elections. The voluntary work of PPFA and estates young people resulted in greater publicity, media coverage and recognition. The members of the PPFA gained experience in social work in the process of handing out 5000 copies of registration and registering 1147 people to vote.

At the Hewaheta Hope Estate, where many workers did not have important documents such as birth certificates, NPC supported the WDC's mobile service to issue birth certificates. Around 400 people with problems related to birth certificates, land, property, and identity cards sought assistance and redress from the officers present at the mobile service. As a result of the programme, three times the amount of people originally expected were helped, and effective links were established with government officials which will help facilitate future activities. The local community also gained awareness about the WDC, the Hanguranketha Child Protection Forum, United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and NPC.



# Thulawa



උතුරේ දෙපළ ජනතාවගේ ප්‍රචාරයට පත් කරනු ලබන සම්බන්ධයෙන් සහ

## දේශපාලන විසඳුම ගෙන ජනපති මහින්ද සමග ඉන්දිය අගමැති සාකච්ඡා අරඹයි

ඉන්දියාවේ "උ හින්දු" පුවත්පත ප්‍රධාන පුවත දෙසින් වාර්තා කරයි



ඉන්දියාවේ පවතින දුප්පතු තත්වය පිළිබඳව දැනුවත් කිරීම සඳහා පවත්වා ගන්නා පාසලක පවතින ළමුන්.

දිවයිනේ දේශපාලන විසඳුමක් සඳහා ඉන්දියා අගමැති ඩ්. ඩි. ඉන්ද්‍රාජ් ජයවර්ධන මහතා සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කිරීමට පටන් ගත් බවට ඉන්දියා ජනපති මහින්ද ජයවර්ධන මහතා පවසා ඇත. ඉන්දියා අගමැති ජයවර්ධන මහතා සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කිරීමට පටන් ගත් බවට ඉන්දියා ජනපති මහින්ද ජයවර්ධන මහතා පවසා ඇත.

### ඉන්දියාවේ සමාජ විප්ලවයක් පිළිබඳව ජනපති මහින්ද සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කිරීමට පටන් ගත් බවට ඉන්දියා ජනපති මහින්ද ජයවර්ධන මහතා පවසා ඇත.

ඉන්දියාවේ සමාජ විප්ලවයක් පිළිබඳව ජනපති මහින්ද සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කිරීමට පටන් ගත් බවට ඉන්දියා ජනපති මහින්ද ජයවර්ධන මහතා පවසා ඇත.

### උ/ම ක්‍රීඩා ක්‍රීඩකයන් TNA සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කිරීමට පටන් ගත් බවට ඉන්දියා ජනපති මහින්ද ජයවර්ධන මහතා පවසා ඇත.

ඉන්දියාවේ ක්‍රීඩා ක්‍රීඩකයන් TNA සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කිරීමට පටන් ගත් බවට ඉන්දියා ජනපති මහින්ද ජයවර්ධන මහතා පවසා ඇත.



ක්‍රීඩා ක්‍රීඩකයන් TNA සමඟ සාකච්ඡා කිරීමට පටන් ගත් බවට ඉන්දියා ජනපති මහින්ද ජයවර්ධන මහතා පවසා ඇත.

# Messages of Peace:

## Press statements and media campaigns to educate the public

NPC has put a lot of work into educating the public about issues of pluralism and peace through multiple mediums. These have included NPC's own monthly publication, Thulawa, press releases, a regular newspaper column, and recently a comprehensive book of primary sources concerning the country's conflict. During the election period, NPC worked on a "good gover-

consider the types of qualities they were looking for in candidates. Through these different channels, NPC is trying to facilitate continuous conversation and awareness of peace related issues in the context of a quickly changing country.

## Thulawa Monthly Newspaper

NPC continues its monthly newspaper, Thulawa, which was started in 2009, to sensitise the

nance, resettlement, media freedom, pluralism, rule of law, reconciliation, religious coexistence current international trends, and NPC activities. Currently the paper is printed in Sinhala, but NPC plans to start publishing a Tamil version. Since its launch, funded by CAFOD, NPC has doubled the circulation, added color pages, and increased the size of the publication. The newspaper has become the communication channel for power sharing amongst a broad spectrum of society and has enabled the readers to improve their knowledge and awareness on the

ence Thulawa articles and the paper is widely read by politicians.

### At a Glance:

islandwide including national school libraries, religious institutions, university libraries, media institutions' libraries, local NGO libraries and

islandwide including academics, politicians, university students and other opinion makers and opinion leaders

<http://www.peace-srilanka.org/thulawa-paper>

NGO leaders, journalists, politicians, religious leaders, artists, and university students

*"I got a chance to read the Thulawa newspaper at the Induruwa public library. It's more valuable than a newspaper since it contains precious printed material. The paper also discusses in depth about the current political situation of the country. Thulawa will be a valuable asset not only for university students but also for A/L students who can gather a lot of information for educational purposes"*

**William Maha-Amarage, Secretary, Maha-Induruwa Welfare Committee**

*"Thulawa newspaper is a very useful paper and the service it does towards issues such as power sharing and peace stabilisation is commendable. Taking Tamil people's opinions towards the Sinhala people has been one of the key areas covered by Thulawa, and publishing articles that are published in papers such as Thinakural, Veerakesari and Udayan. By publishing such articles Thulawa can bring about a sustainable peace among Sinhalese and Tamil ethnic groups."*

**Ravindu. D. Rathnayaka, A/L Student, Kobeigane.**



## Media Releases and Political Analyses

In an effort to create public awareness on peace, democracy, and good governance, the National Peace Council publishes media releases to the national and international media regarding its stance on current political trends that are of national importance. In, 2010 NPC's publications touched on issues such as IDP rights, media freedom, civil society participation, Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC), All Party Representative Committee (APRC), power sharing, elections, international opinions on Sri Lanka's peace process, and other topics that have been central to the public discussion of the time. These media releases are featured in both the local and the international press and widely disseminated through an email list totaling in more than three thousand readers. Additionally, the Executive Director, Jehan Perera, produces a weekly column in English in the national newspaper, "The Island" where he discusses the political situation and encourages a continued debate on NPC's core values of peace, reconciliation and a political solution to conflict. These articles, which have been referenced during the news segments of television channels, are translated into Sinhala and Tamil for publication in national newspapers, 'Divaina' and 'Thinakkural', respectively.

## Creating a Reference Book

NPC published the book, "The Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" to educate the Sri Lankan populace on the background of the ethnic conflict with an impartial collection of primary documents pertaining to the country's ethnic conflict. The book, presented in Sinhala, is almost 800 pages of constitutional reforms, media statements, agreements, acts, drafts, policy papers, speeches and articles. The book spans from the 1815 Kandyan Convention to the speech given by President Mahinda Rajapakse in 2009 after the military victory of the three decade long armed conflict. The book was distributed to universities, public libraries, NGOs, journalists, and the general public. NPC expects that the book will be used as an impartial resource to help find a sustainable solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. NGOs, journalists, parliamentarians, NPC's programme participants, and interested people. NPC expects that the knowledge, information, and past experiences in the book will be used as an impartial resource to help find a sustainable solution to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka.

## Testimony Before Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission

In October 2010 NPC engaged in to making a submission before the Presidential Commission on Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation. This Commission was appointed in May 2010 to look into the reasons why the ceasefire agreement and peace process failed, to prevent the recurrence of conflicts as had occurred and address issues of compensation to those who were victims. The Commission was appointed in the context of the international call for an independent international commission to investigate the allegations of human rights violations and war crimes committed in the closing stages of the war. NPC was represented at the hearing by its Chairman Joe William, Executive Director Jehan Perera and Governing Council members, John Thambar and Raja Senanayake who made presentations before the Commission and answered their queries.

## Opinion Survey on Good Governance

In the pre-election period it is essential that the Sri Lankan populace recognizes the power of the vote and the characteristics in politicians that they most desire. In order to ensure that Sri Lankans met the elections with this in mind, NPC conducted a survey among 700 people around the country addressing good governance with a focus on the General Election. The survey's questions were based on subjects such as voter's selection criteria for a candidate and desirable qualities of a candidate. The survey encouraged the voters to effectively participate in the election. Pamphlets sharing the survey data were distributed to 50,000 voters in 18 districts, including Northern and Eastern provinces. A general response from the participants indicated that they felt that the survey was very useful and timely because it provided an opportunity for people to understand their rights and responsibilities when choosing a candidate for parliament.

*"This survey is good because it is a positive opportunity to encourage people to select the right person for parliament."*

**-Mr. D.A.Dayawansa,  
Principal and Chairman of Mediation Board,  
Ratnapura**

*"This activity is very good. To get positive results, this survey must be distributed before the elections. The objective of this project does well to support good governance in the country. "*

**- Rev. Dammananda Thero,  
Ratnapura**

## Media Advocacy Campaign on the Presidential Election

During the presidential election campaigning season, NPC enacted its own large scale media campaign for one week to encourage the population to prioritise peace and reconciliation when choosing their candidates. The theme NPC chose was "Samaya saha sanhindiava Wenuwen api ape chandaya bahavithe karamu" or "Let's vote for peace and reconciliation." The campaign, was launched in three mediums: television (Sirasa TV, Shakthi TV, MTV, Swaranawahini TV), radio (Sirasa FM, Shakthi FM, and Yes FM), and print media (Lakbima, Divaina, Virakesari, Thinakkural, The Island and Daily News).

## Beyond the Books: Stakeholder education and skill development for nonviolence and peace

Dedicated to improving Sri Lankan stakeholders understanding of peace in today's context, NPC has developed a series of education programmes. Many of these programmes have been workshops on peace, nonviolence, and pluralism among a cross section of the Sri Lankan populace. Workshops, which were held all over the country, have ranged from a capacity building and skills development workshop for war affected women in Jaffna, to power sharing workshops for Citizen Based Organisation (CBO) representatives all over the country. In the South, NPC held a series of programmes to educate over a hundred Sunday School teachers on humanitarian principles and the values of all four main religions. The programme created an ideal opportunity for Sunday School teachers and resource persons of different faiths to come together while raising awareness on moral and human values that promote pluralism. After this training, teachers returned to their schools to shape their students' attitudes and value systems.

### Supporting Human Rights Diploma Programme in Puttalam

NPC, helped finance and monitor the six months Human Rights Diploma programme conducted by Vanni Cultural Foundation, a local CBO in Puttalam, and the University of Colombo Faculty of Law with an aim to increase the knowledge of the local CBO leaders, students, teachers, and religious leaders to help them to understand human rights issues. Certificates were awarded at the International Human Rights day celebrations. The 43 diploma holders have created a pressure group to identify Human Rights violations and address the issues by referring them to relevant supportive authorities while continuing with their advocacy for IDP rights by engaging in NPC's exposure visits.

### Tamil Language Day and New Teaching Module

In May 2009, NPC started a series of Tamil as a second language classes to improve intercultural comprehension and communication skills and to promote communication and interaction with Tamil speaking communities. This year, NPC enacted Phase II of the language teaching project, expanding classes to Galle and Kegalle. The classes, which were held in nine districts, were a remarkable success because they each attracted nearly double the number of adult learners initially expected. In the classes, Tamil language teachers demonstrated their improved capacity to incorporate peace messages into their instructional delivery while providing efficient language instruction to the Sinhala adult participants. Taught at local religious places, the classes provided an effective opportunity for people to interact across ethnic and religious lines. Students expressed that they were able to apply their newly acquired language skills to interact constructively with members of other communities.

## Journalist Education Programmes

Recognizing the impact that journalists have on shaping the consciousness of the Sri Lankan people, NPC set up a series of workshops and exposure visits for journalists so that they could see both in the classroom and in the field, the necessity of sensitively covering peace-related issues.

### Training workshops on “Conflict Sensitive Reporting and Photography” for provincial journalists

In order to help provincial journalists and university students of Mass Media, improve their skills on conflict sensitive reporting and photography, NPC held a series of day long workshops in 9 districts out of which one was held specially for university students studying in the mass media special degree programme at the University of Colombo. This series of workshops helped NPC build a better relationship with provincial journalists who, through the workshops, were more knowledgeable about the conflict and had a new perspective in their writing.

*“We did not have any knowledge on “Conflict Sensitive Reporting” before. The other thing was during the 30 year long war, most media organisations used the atrocious images such as dead bodies and blood for their personnel gains. We (journalists) are compelled to work according to the needs of the media organisations. During the workshop we learnt how to do unbiased reporting and how to build that structure”*

**- Thilak Pushpakumara,  
Rakwana Reporter**

## Exposure Visit: South to North

In May, NPC organised a three day exposure visit for Southern editorial and provincial journalists to visit the North to understand the context of the current situation and provide media coverage on their experiences. On this educational field visit, the participants could talk with media organisations, war affected civilians, Muslim IDPs, NGOs, religious leaders, local politicians, and academics. The journalists focused on human rights issues, resettlement, the political situation, and media freedom. While many participants were familiar with the issues in Jaffna, most never had the opportunity to see the situation for themselves, talk with the Jaffna civilians, or have access to direct information without the intervention of the military.

## Exposure Visit: North to South

Two months later, NPC organised an exposure visit for Northern provincial journalists to speak with government officials and journalists in the South to exchange experiences and to dialogue about the issues they face. The journalists addressed current politics and issues of media freedom at the meetings with government officials, NGO leaders, media organisation leaders, university students, and provincial journalists. For some journalists, it was their first time to the South and they saw that even the South has its own issues of transport, war widows, and psychosocial trauma. For all of them, it was their first time to meet a Minister of Media. The success of this visit not only came from the lasting relationships that developed between Northern journalists and their Southern counterparts, but also from the willingness of the Minister to address their problems. These included issues such as lack of media identity cards, employment contracts, and lack of media equipment.

*"This is the first time I travelled to Matara District; this visit will be a memorable one for me. For a person who lives in Jaffna, the perception created by the LTTE and the Tamil Media has left us thinking that the Sinhala people are against the Tamils. During the visit in the South, I saw how hospitable and kind the Sinhala people are and that the people in the South also face very similar issues like us."*

**-Parameshwaram Nadaraja Pillai, Nallur, Jaffna.**

With the information gathered on the exposure visit, the participants were able to write many news articles and features for their respective radio stations, newspapers, and television stations. The relationships built among them and with NPC has created a lasting informal network through which they can share direct and accurate information related to their localities.

## Internal Development: Capacity of staff and partners improved to achieve NPC's objectives

In continuing quest to improve its own capacity and understanding of pluralism and peace NPC has held a few programmes specifically for its own staff.

### Workshop on “Advance Knowledge on Pluralism” for NPC staff in Colombo

A training workshop was held on “Advanced Knowledge on Pluralism” which was designed to help the participants better understand the social structures necessary for the development of a “pluralistic culture” through the exchange of ideas and dialogue. Together they identified the structures as power sharing, education, religion, administration, art and literature, media, culture and language and the potentiality of these structures to enhance the pluralistic values in a society. Programme evaluations indicated that the workshop had exceeded the expectations of its participants. The participants noted that the workshop enhanced their understanding and knowledge on pluralistic values for sustainable peace.

### Training workshops on Non Violent Communication (NVC) for NPC staff

NPC, in collaboration with the Centre for Communication Training, held two stages of workshops in English and Sinhala medium for its staff on Non Violent Communication (NVC) to strengthen staff members' morale and interpersonal communication skills. Specifically, the workshop focused on attitudes, behavior, and communication with others to create a harmonious, friendly, and supportive work environment. According to evaluations, most participants felt that the training deepened their own learning experience, and that NVC was an approach that can be effectively applied at all levels of communication and diverse situations in their daily lives that made the programme evidently a success. Participants still continue to practice NVC as a result of the practice groups formed at the workshop and still express the personal and collective benefits they have gained from time to time.

*“I was able to put theoretical knowledge into practice in two cases: One was at the classes I teach where I could find solutions in a verbally non violent way to resolve conflicts between students and other teachers. The other is at NPC where it has now become a habit for me to relate to NVC theory every time I work with anyone in order to maintain a conflict free relationship with others and within myself”*

– Mr. Shantha Mahindapala

*“We created practice groups at NPC after these workshops where we practice empathy among the group members as well as others. When we practice, we frequently check if we are following the four steps of NVC theory. This practice has made me consider these at every problem and this has also helped in my personal life to live with less conflicts”*

– Ms. Priyadarshini Paulraj

## Individual staff development programmes

As NPC had budgeted in their action plan, the organisation financially supported the endeavours of individual employees to continue their education in order to increase the capacity of the organisation as a whole. The staff was encouraged to take part in activities that would benefit their career and also their work within NPC. Through this programme, NPC supported staff members in attending an English language course, an MSSC programme, and an MBA programme, respectively. NPC is eager to support their staff further as it will benefit the organisation.

*"NPC, funded my MSSC at Kelaniya University in Mass Communication. As a lecturer in Mass Media at Sri Pali University, and as a member of the NPC Media team, I wanted to improve my understanding in the subject, especially in research. The degree was very helpful in improving my understanding of human rights, media theory, and the media's connection to inter-ethnic relations. Now I am working on my research paper on the pre-media movement. Thanks to NPC, this continuation in my studies has been possible."*

**– Thushal Withanage**



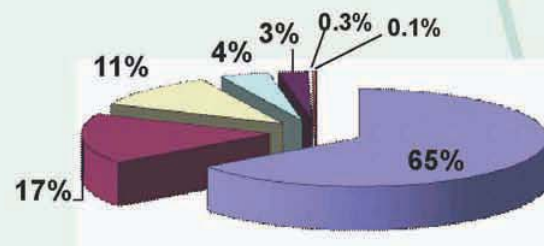
The background is a solid teal color. On the left side, there are several white and light blue abstract lines that curve and cross each other, resembling a stylized flame or a decorative graphic element. On the right side, there are faint, light blue abstract lines that also curve and cross, mirroring the style of the white lines on the left.

Finances

### Our Projects

Project Title	Amount (Mn.Rs)	%
SIDA/RNE funded project	41.72	64.83
Enhancing N/S inter ethnic understanding	10.83	16.83
EU Inter religious coopertions	7.25	11.27
Peop's movement through power sharing - phase 2	2.69	4.19
Media campaign for residential elections	1.64	2.55
MLK - Training programe for university students	0.16	0.25
Building peace through power sharing - phase 3	0.05	0.08
	64.34	100.00

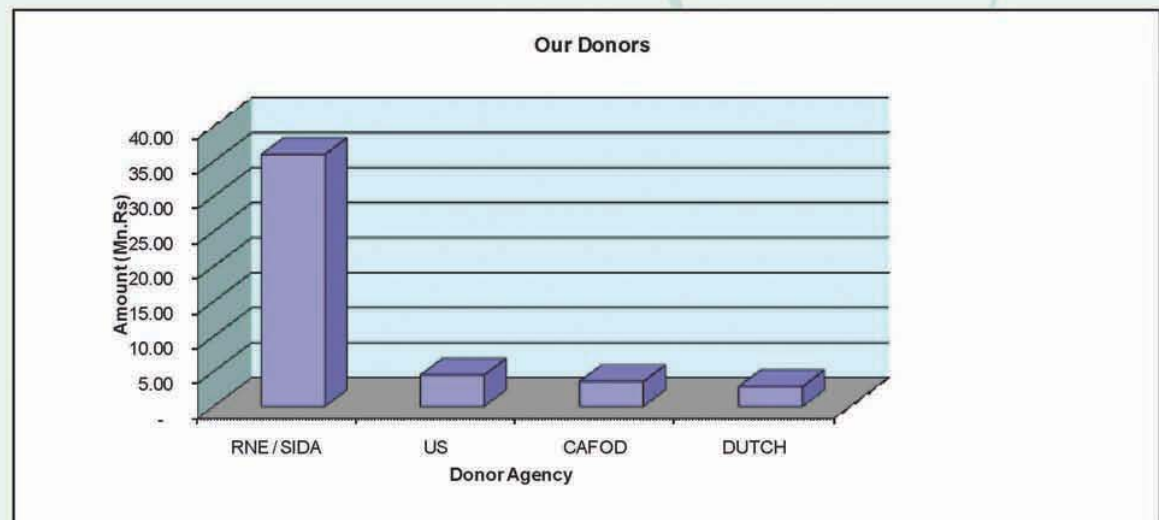
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- SIDA/RNE funded project
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- Media campaign for residential elections
- MLK - Training programe for university students
- Building peace through power sharing - phase 3

## Our Donors

Donor Agency	Amount (Mn.Rs)	%
RNE / SIDA	36.00	76.77
US	4.48	9.56
CAFOD	3.56	7.58
DUTCH	2.85	6.08
	46.89	100.00



## Looking Forward

Although over a year have passed since the end of the war, a peaceful and just country in which freedom, democratic and human rights of all people are assured continues to elude the people of Sri Lanka. The voting pattern at successive elections after the war reveals a polarisation between the ethnic communities. Additionally, the heightened militarisation in the North and East is an increasing cause for concern. At the present time it is important for NPC to keep on pressing the point that the end of war does not mean the fullness of peace, which requires justice and reconciliation. This is a difficult message to convey to the ethnic majority population, as the end of war and its associated terrorism is equated to peace for many.

With militarisation of governance continuing in post-war Sri Lanka, the restoration of democracy and civilian administration to the entire country would be the main priority for civil society. As an organisation that seeks above all to ensure inter-ethnic harmony and justice, NPC has set itself the task to work for a society of rights conscious citizens and a political solution based on the devolution of power along with wider acceptance of devolution for its practical effectiveness. In NPC's view the devolution of power to the Northern and Eastern provinces in particular is necessary to ensure genuine power sharing between the ethnic communities that inhabit the country.

NPC until recently has been working mainly with Track II and III level target groups with experience in working with different target groups such as CBO leaders, youth, religious leaders and provincial journalists. In order to fulfil its mission, NPC will initiate work with new target groups including government departments and ministries, most notably the Ministry of National Languages and Social Integration and the Ministry of Higher Education. NPC also plans to expand its work with youth, especially in terms of working with local university students, in order to educate the new generation of the country on the necessity of a positive and inclusive peace, as well as constructive methods of advocacy. Having identified that it's timely for these different groups to be engaged together for peace-building, NPC will ensure better engagement with these new groups through networking at both national and local level.

With the inauspicious environment of donor funding prevailing in the country, NPC finds that collaborative peace building initiatives with like-minded organisations is essential. Through both financial support and capacity building to arrive at common positions for advocacy work instead of working as an individual organisation will not only make peace building more effective but also promote collaborative peace building initiatives and make it more sustainable.



# Acronyms

AL – Advance Level  
APRC—All Party Representative Committee  
CAFOD—Catholic Overseas Development Agency  
CPA – Center for Policy Alternatives  
CPR – Centre for Peace and Reconciliation  
CWD – Center for Women and Development  
DS – Divisional Secretariat  
EPF—Employees Provident Fund  
FOSDOO  
GN – Grama Niladhari  
IDP—Internally Displaced Person  
LLRC—Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission  
LYON—Lanka Youths Organization Network  
MDDR—Movement for the Defense of Democratic Rights  
NIC—National Identity Card  
NVC—Nonviolent Communication  
PAC—Pluralism Action Committee  
PAFFREL—Peoples Action for Free and Fair Elections  
PNAC—Pluralism National Action Committee



**NPC**

The National  
Peace Council  
of Sri Lanka

12/14, Purana Vihara Rd,  
Colombo 06, Sri Lanka

Website : [www.peace-srilanka.org](http://www.peace-srilanka.org)

Email Address : [info@peace-srilanka.org](mailto:info@peace-srilanka.org)

+94 112 818344, +94 112 845127, +94 112819064