

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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இலங்கை தேசிய சமாதானப் பேரவை
National Peace Council of Sri Lanka

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National Peace Council of Sri Lanka



VISION

A peaceful and just country in which freedom, human and democratic rights of all people are assured.



MISSION

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

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National Peace Council of Sri Lanka

About NPC

The National Peace Council was established in 1995 by an inter religious group of civil society leaders during the height of Sri Lanka's internal war to promote a peaceful end to the conflict.

The mission of the organisation was, and remains, to engage in public education and advocacy so that solutions that are fair and just by all ethnic and religious communities may be found with people's participation.

Today NPC works in partnership with different groups including religious clergy, community leaders, government officials, women and youth and students to educate, mobilise and advocate for a peaceful and just political culture in which there will be equal opportunities for all.



Board of Directors

Dr. Joseph Vethamanickam William	(Chairperson)
Mr. Gintota Vidanalage Daya Tilakasiri	(General Secretary)
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Programme Advisor

Ms. Sumadhu Weerawarne Perera

Staff Members

Dr. Jehan Perera	Executive Director
Ms. Chithrupa Vidanapathirana	Manager Administration
Mr. Robinson Thevasagayam	Manager Finance
Ms. Venuri De Silva	Project Manager
Ms. Nirosha Anthony	Project Manager
Mr. Nagaratnam Vijayakanthan	Associate Project Manager
Mr. Uwais Mohamed	Assistant Project Manager
Mr. Perinpanayagan Benignus	Associate Project Manager (from May)
Mr. Prasanna Anthony	Associate Project Manager (from Jan to Dec 2024)
Ms. Nilakshi Thavarajah	Monitoring & Evaluation Coordinator (from March)
Mr. A. N. Madushanka	Project Coordinator
Mr. Samsudeen Safi Nayaj	Project Co-coordinator (until February 2024)
Ms. Ayesha Jayawardhana	Project Co-coordinator
Ms. Nadeesha Liyanage	Assistant Accountant (from January)
Mr. Shantha D. Pathirana	Senior Project Officer
Ms. S. V. P. Sepalika	Senior Project Officer
Ms. Nethmi T. Liyanage	Senior Project Officer
Mr. Sampath Randunna	Senior Project Officer
Mr. Tharindu K. Nanayakkarawasam	Senior Project Officer
Mr. Arafaath Rahby	Senior Project Officer
Mr. Nagaratnam Krishnakumar	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (until September)
Ms. J. Jashaniya Jayarathna	Project Officer
Ms. Indushika Udani Pathirana	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer
Mr. T. Logidash	Project Officer (until September)
Ms. H.M.G.P.K. Herath	Administration Officer (until April)
Ms. Sihara Chandrasiri	Administration Officer
Ms. Sundaralingam Ramya	Finance Officer (until April)
Mr. Maduranga Dias	Finance Officer (until November)
Mr. Malindu B. Weerakkody	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (until August)
Ms. Subramaniyam Sangary	Project Officer
Ms. Chamini Lashika	Project Officer
Ms. Fathima Shazna	Project Officer
Ms. Janani Nagarajah	Finance Officer
Ms. Nishanthi Gunawardhana	Project Officer
Mr. Nisal Dhammika	Project Officer (from January)
Ms. Kaushini Keshika	Project Officer (from July)
Mr. Chathura Tharanga	Monitoring & Evaluation Officer (from January)
Mr. Bilaal Marikar	Project Officer (from January to May)
Ms. Hirunya Chandrarathna	Finance Officer (from May)
Mr. Marsook Munifurrahman	Project Officer (from October)
Mr. Arun Vijay	Project Officer (from October)
Mr. Harshana S. Niroshan	Project Officer (from September to November)
Mr. Sumudu Jayasooriya	Administration Associate
Mr. S. Meril Karunajeewa	Administration Associate
Mr. Sarath Karunarathne	Administration Associate
Ms. Asenika Madurangani	Office Aid

Chairperson's Message

Reflecting on Resilience, Renewing our Commitment to a Peaceful Sri Lanka

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 December 31, 2024. This report highlights the work done by NPC's project teams and changes that have occurred in individuals and communities as they grappled with issues that have long divided the people of Sri Lanka.

The past year has been a testament to the enduring spirit of dialogue and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. Amidst a complex socio-political landscape, NPC has remained steadfast in its mission, implementing initiatives that have directly engaged tens of thousands of our fellow citizens. From the districts of the North and East to the communities in the Hill Country and the South, our work in strengthening inter-religious committees, empowering women and youth leaders, and fostering collaboration between civil society and the state has continued to build vital bridges of trust and cooperation and consolidating grassroots foundations, and advocating for inclusive governance.

The premature conclusion of certain projects, a reminder of the volatile environment in which we operate, has not deterred us. Instead, it has reinforced the critical importance of our foundational principles. Landmark achievements, such as the presentation of the Religious Freedom Charter to national political leaders and the Executive Director's advocacy at the United Nations, have positioned NPC as a credible and influential voice for pluralism both domestically and internationally.

Crucially, our long-term project work is amplified by our agile and consistent engagement with the public sphere. Through a steady stream of press releases, political commentaries, and analytical columns, we ensure that the principles of pluralism, justice, and democratic governance are injected into the national conversation as events unfold. These regular interventions allow us to contextualise immediate developments within our broader peacebuilding framework, educate the public, and advocate for reasoned policy in real-time. This function is a vital artery connecting our on-the-ground work to the heart of public discourse.

The journey towards lasting peace is arduous, but the foundations laid by NPC are strong. We are fortified by the trust of the communities we serve, the dedication of our staff and partners, and the unwavering belief in a unified Sri Lanka. However, we recognise that in an evolving global funding context, we need to strategically adapt our approach by deepening the integration of our core peacebuilding mission by creating synergies between conflict transformation and development outcomes.

We express our profound gratitude to our international donors, and partners, who have placed their trust in our work. We are also grateful for our local partner organisations and their support, which helps us to carry our messages to many parts of Sri Lanka. We are grateful for the support given to us by our Executive Director, Program Advisor, Management, Finance and Program Staff, Board of Directors, and Governing Council members. The achievements highlighted in this report are a testament to their unstinted support and cooperation, which is the bedrock upon which we will continue to build a future defined by peace, dignity, and shared prosperity for all. NPC remains dedicated to being the catalyst and the companion on this essential journey.

Joe William, PhD
Chairperson

General Secretary's Message

Sri Lanka continues to experience the long-term social, political, and economic consequences of the crisis that emerged in 2022. The economic collapse led to one of the most significant public mobilisations in our post-independence history. This people's uprising marked a historic moment, where for the first time, a sitting President and Government were removed from power through the collective will of the people.

Sri Lanka was the first country in South Asia to adopt neo-liberal economic policies and also the first to declare bankruptcy in the region. Decades of privatisation, the erosion of public welfare systems, and the weakening of labour and social protections widened inequalities and intensified social frustrations. These dynamics contributed to prolonged armed conflict in the North, youth uprisings in the South, and a history of state responses that relied heavily on militarisation and majoritarian constitutional power.

The new government has taken commendable steps, including anti-corruption measures, efforts to dismantle organised crime and drug networks. In its latest budget, it has granted salary and pension increases for public, private, and plantation sector workers. Taxation policies have been adjusted to ease the burden on middle income professionals, while revenue reforms and public expenditure control measures have been introduced to stabilise the economy. Social welfare allocations have also been expanded in key areas.

However, significant challenges remain. The government is constrained by the IMF agreement signed by the previous government, and progress has been slow regarding constitutional reform and meaningful power-sharing to address the long-standing national question. As an institution dedicated to peacebuilding, human rights, and reconciliation, the National Peace Council has a critical responsibility to encourage constructive dialogue, advocate for democratic deepening, and support a durable solution to ensure ethnic harmony. It is essential that Provincial Council elections are held without delay, as they are central to restoring democratic participation and devolved governance.

The NPC continues its mission despite reduced donor funding and financial constraints which have required adjustments in our operations. Yet our commitment remains firm- to work towards a united Sri Lankan nation free from discrimination, inequality, and peace.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Board of Directors, the General Council members, our dedicated staff who continue to serve with purpose, and our donors and partners who stand with us in advancing peace and social justice.

G. V. D. Tilakasiri

General Secretary

From the office of the Treasurer

Dear Board of Directors,

The annual audit for 2024, conducted by Ernst & Young, resulted in an unqualified opinion, confirming that the financial statements present a true and fair view of the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (Guarantee) Limited as at 31 December 2024. This outcome reflects our continued commitment to sound financial governance and transparency.

Total expenditure for 2024, including shared projects with partner organisations, amounted to Rs. 421 million, up from Rs. 278 million in 2023. This significant increase mirrors our expanded programme reach and strengthened delivery capacity. Despite economic difficulties in the country at large, we sustained operations, supported our dedicated staff, and ensured the effective implementation of our peacebuilding initiatives.

We express our deep gratitude to our donors and partners for their trust and continued support, which enabled us to operate at enhanced capacity and advance our mission across the country. During the year, we also secured funding from the European Union further strengthening our financial sustainability and reaffirming confidence in NPC's accountability and effectiveness.

However, the sudden shift in U.S. Government aid policy in January 2025 has led to the termination of two of our largest projects, resulting in a sharp reduction in income amounting to approximately Rs 450 million provided till mid-2026. We also lost several of our senior and dedicated staff members who had been working on those projects. Yet, adversity often spurs innovation. NPC is actively seeking new partnerships and opportunities to sustain its work, strengthened by the resolve of our staff and the solidarity of our supporters.

We remain steadfast in our commitment to prudent financial management, transparency, and accountability, as we continue to serve our mission of promoting peace and reconciliation in Sri Lanka, even amidst financial storms.

Dr. Thangamuthu Jayasingam

Hon. Treasurer

Executive Directors' Report

The year under review was one of both accomplishment and adversity for the National Peace Council. The work carried out in 2024 reflected the steady growth of the organisation and its commitment to advancing reconciliation, peace, justice, and pluralism in Sri Lanka. The present year, however, has brought severe external shocks that test us as an institution. These challenges come against the backdrop of global and national changes that have reshaped the context in which we work.

A major political transition in 2024 saw an entirely new government with new leaders at the helm come to power, taking control of parliament, the Presidency and Local Government Authorities. The president has pledged to treat all citizens equally and without discrimination. However, Tamil and Muslim representation in national structures and committees has been limited, reinforcing the need for sustained community-level work that builds pluralism from below. The internal political shifts in 2024 coincided with an equally significant transformation in the international funding environment which has had catastrophic consequences for civil society worldwide.

In early 2025, the United States Government introduced radical changes to its foreign assistance policy. Sri Lanka, its civil society sector, and NPC all came within the ambit of these changes. NPC lost more than 60 percent of its funding after May 2025. The impact has been severe. Competition for remaining funds has grown sharply, and access to new sources has become more difficult. We are pleased to say the Annual Report for 2024 stands as a record of substantial achievements across the country. It shows what the NPC can achieve when it is adequately resourced and supported, and also how its local and institutional foundations have enabled it to continue its mission despite the shocks of 2025 and reductions in budgets and staffing.

During 2024, the NPC's district and local inter-religious committees demonstrated their continuing value in sustaining harmony and preventing the escalation of conflict. These platforms recorded 52 practical outcomes in 16 districts which continue to the present day. Among the more recent of them has been the registration of mosques that had faced local administrative barriers, the amendment of public transport seating practices in specific areas to reflect all faiths, and the introduction of trilingual signage at Adam's Peak. These experiences reveal the strength of local inter-religious platforms as mechanisms that can localise pluralism and nurture peace from the ground up.

Women's and youth leadership were also strengthened over the past year which brought rewards in the present. Out of 180 women from NPC networks who contested the local government elections this May, 65 were elected, significantly broadening the scope of women's representation at local level. Parallel to this, NPC carried out dialogues for 750 youth on voter logic and inclusive democracy, encouraging reflection on representation and civic responsibility. A documentary produced during the year brought together the narratives of the Malaiyaha community and supported direct dialogue between their representatives and policymakers. These efforts have begun to reshape local political culture and open space for a new generation of inclusive leadership.

The NPC also continued to promote pluralism within the state machinery itself. During 2024, 175 District and Divisional Secretaries received training in pluralism-sensitive administration, building a stronger awareness of inclusion as a governance norm. A university-accredited certificate programme was developed and implemented in collaboration with the Universities of Jaffna, Ruhuna, Sabaragamuwa and Eastern. About 140 government officers completed this programme, gaining both academic

credentials and practical skills in inclusive administration. Through documentation clinics and support for plantation and Telugu communities to secure formal postal addresses and access to basic services, NPC demonstrated how local trust and institutional cooperation can transform the relationship between citizens and the state.

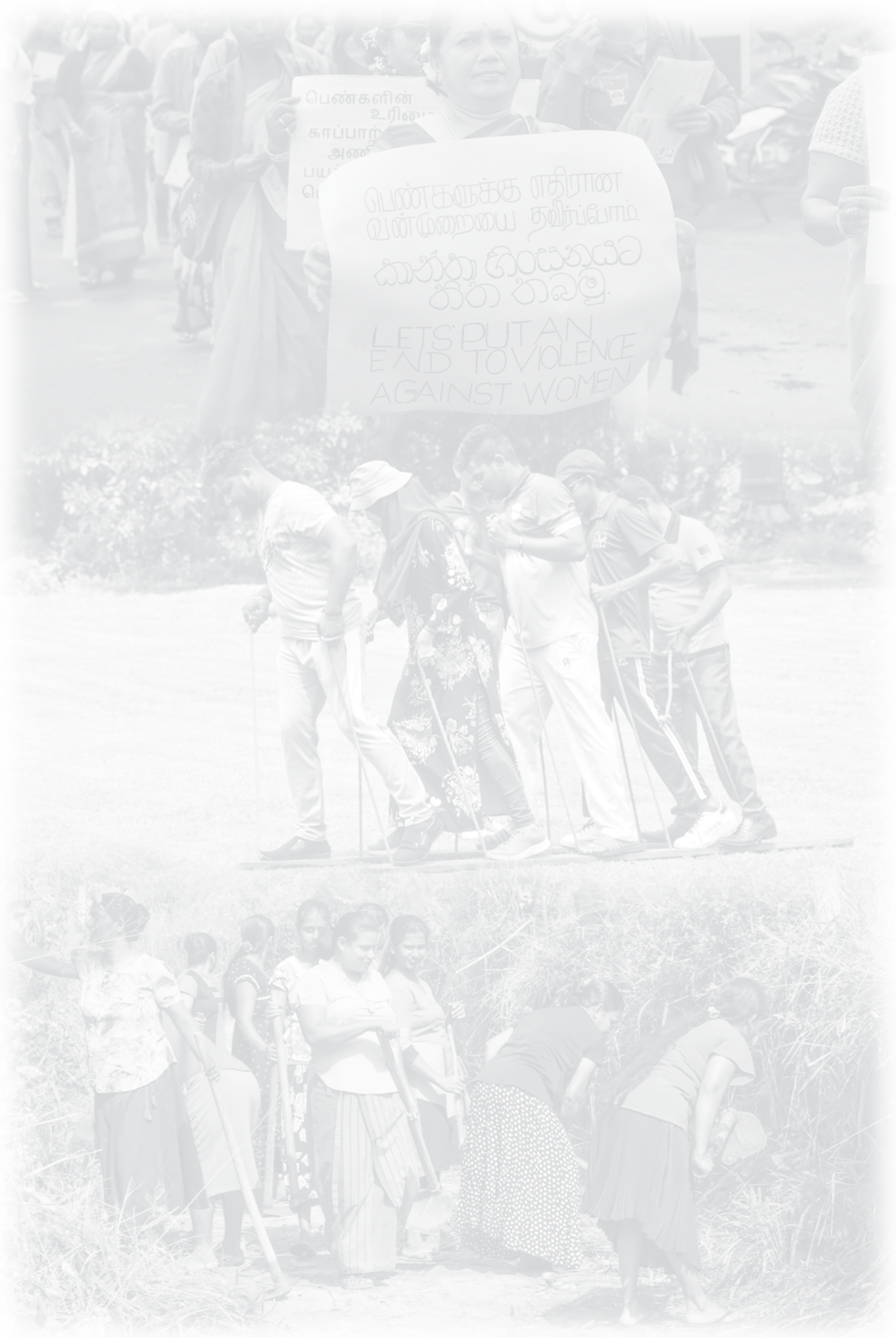
Another significant aspect of NPC's work was the scaling up of collaboration among civil society organisations. In 2024, NPC convened over 400 sub-national CSOs in 14 districts to engage collectively on issues of pluralism, inclusion and human rights. These coalitions worked on practical solutions to local problems and showed that the methods NPC has pioneered can be replicated and sustained independently. The expansion of this civil society network has been crucial in ensuring that pluralism and rights-based governance are seen as common goals across different sectors and regions.

NPC also invested in evidence and learning. Our 65 media commentaries and statements on pressing national issues in all three languages reach a wide readership, both on mainstream and social media, and ensure that the principles of pluralism and coexistence become part of national conversation. Two major research studies were completed during the year, one on religious coexistence and another on voter behaviour with a focus on factors that drive candidate selection. Twelve university research hubs were created in partnership with district administrations in the four state universities where the certificate programme was delivered. These hubs are fostering collaboration between academic researchers, practitioners and local officials to localise solutions to community issues.

These achievements demonstrate that NPC's strategy, which is rooted in engagement with the state, religious leadership and civil society, is effectively mainstreaming pluralism into governance practice. This is essential for without institutional buy-in, pluralism will remain an "alternative" journey unable to push through social transformation. The common thread has been NPC's conviction that pluralism cannot remain an alternative or parallel effort. It must become part of the way the state functions, the way communities interact and the way citizens engage with one another.

The story of NPC over the past three decades has been one of perseverance and adaptation. The crisis of 2025 calls upon our ability to hold firm, to rethink, and to continue serving the cause of peace with limited means. The context is harder, but the need for what NPC does remains. I thank our many partners in civil society, in the state, in religious communities, in the universities, in donor agencies and among our staff and governing board for their commitment and continued collaboration and trust in us. With their support NPC is well equipped to face the current uncertainties and to transform them into opportunities for deeper, more grounded and more sustainable peace.

Dr. Jehan Perera
Executive Director



PROJECTS

Action for Religious Coexistence

The Action for Religious Coexistence (ARC) project engaged religious leaders, state officials, community policing units, and youth networks to strengthen pluralism and safeguard religious freedom across 14 districts. Building on the earlier CERF initiative that concluded in 2022, ARC expanded its reach to promote interfaith understanding, democracy, and the rule of law. During the reporting period, 199 activities were implemented, including training programs for community police officers, 22 district-level



interventions, 24 sessions on pluralism and governance, 15 youth advocacy events, and 04 inter-district exchange visits. Additional highlights included two Training of Trainers programs, nine media advocacy events, eleven interfaith dialogues, and three national advocacy campaigns, which culminated in the presentation of a Religious Freedom Charter to political leaders. The project's visibility was further enhanced through the Executive Director's participation in the UN Conference on Combatting Intolerance, Hate Crimes, and Islamophobia, and a monitoring visit by the U.S. Department of State's Office of International Religious Freedom, reaffirming ARC's impact and credibility.

Activities & highlights:

- **Community policing training:** NPC collaborated with the Community Policing Directorate of the Sri Lanka Police to conduct a one-day training on the Rule of Law, facilitation skills, and community policing. The inaugural session in Negombo trained 84 police officers (19 females, 65 males) representing multiple divisions.
- **District-level interventions:** A total of 22 district-level interventions were implemented across regions including Mannar, Vavuniya, Kandy, Rakwana, Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Panduwasnuwara, Weligama, Mawanella, Kalutara, Badulla, Gampaha, Ampara, Kurunegala, and Negombo, strengthening local-level collaboration and trust-building.



- Youth engagement: 15 advocacy programs were conducted with Youth Wing members in 11 locations, engaging 809 young people (387 males, 422 females) from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds.
- Youth interfaith placement: An interfaith placement program promoting cross-cultural understanding brought together 28 Youth Wing members (11 females, 17 males) for shared learning experiences.



- National advocacy campaigns: 03 national-level advocacy campaigns were organised by the NGO Network on Religious Freedom, reaching 213 participants (150 males, 63 females) across Batticaloa and Vavuniya. The campaigns fostered dialogue on democracy and religious freedom and culminated in handing over the Religious Freedom Charter to political leaders.

Key participants included Hon. Vino Noharathalingam (TELO), Hon. S.M.M. Muszhaaraff (ACMC), Hon. Alizhahir Moulana (SLMC), and representatives from TNA, EPDP, EPRLF, TMVP, and TULF. A third campaign, in collaboration with PAFFREL, Sarvodaya, and the March 12 Coalition, mobilised nearly 2,000 activists nationwide, including 585 participants from LIRC locations.

- Training of Trainers (ToT): 02 ToT programs on the Rule of Law, hate speech, and facilitation trained 97 LIRC members (60 males, 37 females), including 28 government officers, 67 NGO/CBO members, and 02 religious leaders.
- Media advocacy programs: 09 media advocacy sessions facilitated by DAN TV were conducted in Rakwana, Akurana, Batticaloa, Vavuniya, Mannar, Weligama, Negombo, Beruwala, and Ampara, enhancing public dialogue on pluralism and coexistence.
- Governance and rights training: 24 district-level advocacy sessions on Pluralism, Democracy, Rule of Law, Good Governance, and Conflict Management trained 1,267 participants (662 males, 605 females).
- Mitigation activities: 15 community-based mitigation activities were held in districts such as Panduwasnuwara, Bandarawela, Beruwala, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya, engaging 1,517 participants (668 males, 849 females).



- Exchange visits: 04 clustered exchange visits facilitated peer learning between mature and emerging LIRCs from Batticaloa, Vavuniya, and Weligama. These exchanges built inter-district collaboration, exemplified by Weligama LIRC's voluntary support to children in Nochchikulam. A total of 337 members (234 males, 103 females) participated.
- Collaborative advocacy campaigns: 03 collaborative advocacy campaigns led by LIRCs, NGOs, and the police in Bandarawela and Mawanella reached 217 participants (113 males, 104 females), promoting civic awareness and inter-community cooperation.
- Interfaith dialogues: 11 interfaith dialogues were convened across Akurana, Rakwana, Addalachchenai, Vavuniya, Bandarawela, Mawanella, Negombo, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, and Beruwala, engaging 518 participants (256 males, 262 females).
- International recognition: Dr. Jehan Perera, Executive Director of NPC, represented Sri Lanka at the UN Conference on Combatting Intolerance, Hate Crimes, and Islamophobia co-sponsored by the EU, UK, Turkey, and Pakistan and held on 1st October 2024 in Geneva, parallel to the UN Human Rights Sessions. His presentation on Sri Lanka's experience in promoting pluralism positioned NPC as a recognised voice in global peacebuilding and dialogue.



Key highlights for 2025

Institutionalising state commitment to inclusion and religious freedom: As part of a top up awarded by the US State Department, the ARC project successfully carried out a review of the "Inclusive Service Delivery for Sustainable Peace" course with the participation of academics from 04 state universities- Eastern University of Sri Lanka, University of Jaffna, University of Ruhuna, and University of Sabaragamuwa. This was done in order to include elements of religious freedom into the existing curricula developed through a previous grant from Freedom House. This collaborative review session provided a platform for constructive dialogue, enabling academic professionals to share insights, expertise, and recommendations to enhance the module's content and delivery in the second phase supported through the ARC top up

District based closeout meetings: From April to June, the ARC team conducted closeout meetings across all 14 project locations with participation from LIRC members, CSO representatives, state officers, community police, and other stakeholders. These meetings reviewed lessons learned, sustainability measures, and potential follow-up actions to support future replication. Despite the conclusion of external funding, many Local Inter-Religious Committees and partners expressed their intention to continue activities voluntarily, reflecting strong local ownership and the project's lasting impact.

The ARC initiative came to an early conclusion following the election of President Donald Trump and the subsequent shift in U.S. foreign aid priorities. A comprehensive review of all ongoing U.S. funded programs led to the early termination of several initiatives, including ARC, despite its strong progress and community impact.

Stories from the field:

Healing division through dialogue in Periyamadu

Periyamadu, a small multi-religious village along the Mannar-Jaffna Road, had long been known for peaceful coexistence among its Hindu, Muslim, and Christian residents. In April 2024, however, a burial dispute tested these intercommunal bonds and exposed the deep sensitivities surrounding religious conversion in rural Sri Lanka.

The conflict arose after the death of a woman known publicly as Hindu. Soon after, the Christian community claimed she had secretly converted to Christianity and should be buried in their cemetery. The Hindu community rejected this, stating that she had not informed the local Kovil Sabha, as is customary. In reality, she had embraced Christianity privately out of fear of social exclusion. Her death brought the issue to light, leading both sides to assert their right to conduct the final rites.

Tensions escalated until the Muslim Grama Niladhari, trusted by both communities, mediated a temporary solution allowing the Christian burial. Though violence was avoided, mistrust lingered, and rumours of covert conversions spread, straining years of peaceful coexistence.

Recognising the delicacy of the issue, the Mannar District Inter-Religious Committee (DIRC), supported by the ARC initiative, intervened cautiously. Rather than direct mediation, DIRC members organised a community awareness and dialogue session under the theme “Religious Freedom and Mutual Respect.” Representatives of all three faiths, Hindu, Christian, and Muslim- attended, creating a safe space to discuss fears, misunderstandings, and the need for coexistence.

The dialogue marked the first open discussion on the incident. Guided by facilitators, participants agreed on two key principles: firstly, that individuals or families converting to another religion should inform their previous religious institutions to avoid future disputes and secondly, every community must respect each person’s freedom of belief without coercion or discrimination.

These commitments were endorsed and communicated through local religious institutions.

Though modest, the intervention restored calm and mutual respect in the short term and promoted awareness of religious rights and accountability in the long term. The Periyamadu experience stands as a proof to how quiet, empathetic facilitation can rebuild trust and strengthen harmony in Sri Lanka’s multi-religious communities.



Plural Action for Conflict Transformation

Funded by Misereor and CAFOD, the Plural Action for Conflict Transformation (PACT) project was implemented by the National Peace Council (NPC) from 2021 to 2024 and concluded during the reporting period. Building on the earlier COMPACT project (2018-2020), PACT represented a strategic scale-up aimed at countering political centralisation and the shrinking space for civic engagement in Sri Lanka. Its core objective was to advance sustainable peace by activating and strengthening multi-stakeholder coalitions that promote pluralism, good governance, and reconciliation.



Implemented across 16 districts, the project empowered a broad spectrum of actors- inter-religious committees, civil society organisations, state officials, women leaders, and youth representatives, equipping them with skills, networks, and platforms to champion inclusive transformation. Over its three-year duration, PACT directly engaged more than 16,230 beneficiaries, reinforcing local mechanisms for dialogue, collaboration, and coexistence. The initiative demonstrated that even in complex political contexts, inclusive, multi-level partnerships can sustain peace and strengthen democratic values.

Activities & highlights:

- National symposium: Religions to Reconcile: Strengthening Inclusive Reconciliation was held on 28 February 2024 at BMICH, with 315 religious and community leaders from across the country. The event showcased PACT's contributions to pluralism and social cohesion and was graced by H.E. President Ranil Wickremesinghe, former Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, and Member of Parliament (Dr.) Nalinda Jayatissa.



- Learning conferences: 03 learning conferences were held in Nuwara Eliya, Jaffna, and Batticaloa, engaging civil society leaders in reflecting on project outcomes and lessons learned.
- Cluster trainings: 04 one-day clustered training programs for subcommittees were conducted in Puttalam, Nuwara Eliya, and Batticaloa, reaching 160 participants.
- Community activation initiatives: 03 community-based programs engaged 425 individuals across diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds.

- Stakeholder consultations: 03 consultations brought together 90 representatives from youth groups, women’s networks, and local government authorities to strengthen collaborative governance.

Stories from the field:

Climbing towards harmony: Peace messages adorn Sri Pada

In a historic first, messages of peace now greet pilgrims on Sri Pada/Adam's Peak, presented in both Sinhala and Tamil. This gesture marks a collective stand for unity and celebrates the shared humanity at this sacred site. The journey to this moment was paved by observed tensions, particularly around the site's name, which revealed underlying friction between communities through conflicting signages.

Rising to this challenge, the National Peace Council (NPC), the District Inter-Religious Youth Group, Nuwara Eliya, and local partner Cultural and Environmental Society, worked together for positive change.

The collaborative action resulted in 40 proposed peace messages, with 10 receiving official approval from the Maskeliya Pradeshiya Sabha. From this, NPC installed 30 permanent peace messages along the path. These signs are more than words; they are enduring symbols of a shared commitment, actively sowing the seeds of harmony for every visitor to see.

Together, this initiative has turned a point of potential conflict into a pathway for peace, reaffirming the NPC's mission to build a more inclusive and harmonious Sri Lanka.



Protecting Civic Space in Sri Lanka

Funded by Legal Action Worldwide (LAW) with support from the U.S. Department of State, the Protecting Civic Space in Sri Lanka project sought to strengthen citizens’ awareness of their civil and political rights, including freedoms of association, assembly, expression, and privacy. Implemented across 12 districts in the following divisional secretariat divisions of Kebethigollawa, Hali-Ela, Batticaloa, Chenkanai, Horana, Theldeniya, Dehiowita, Wariyapola, Matara, Monaragala, Welikanda, and Ratnapura, the project enhanced civic participation and access to justice for vulnerable and marginalised communities. Over its implementation period, 86 activities were completed, reinforcing democratic engagement and inclusive governance at the grassroots level. This project concluded during the reporting period.



Activities & highlights:

- Cohesion activities: 15 community engagement programs reached over 1,000 citizens, focusing on freedoms of association and speech.
- Legal clinics: 03 legal clinics in Kebethigollawa, Wariyapola, and Polonnaruwa provided free legal assistance to 300 individuals on land, discrimination, domestic violence, and child rights cases, supported by 20 volunteer lawyers.
- Mobile clinics: Services were extended to Malaiyaha Tamil communities to facilitate the acquisition of vital legal and civic documents such as birth and marriage certificates.
- Art competitions: Conducted across all 12 project districts, engaging 1,200 participants—youth, children, and state officials, and promoting civic values through creative expression.
- Publication: “Brushstrokes of Responsibility: Exploring Citizen Rights through Art” was produced, featuring the winning art entries and participant reflections.
- Information sessions: 17 sessions enhanced the understanding of 425 community members on civic rights, responsibilities, and participation.
- Media campaigns: 12 short animation videos on the freedoms of association, assembly, and expression were disseminated online, one becoming the most-viewed video on NPC’s YouTube channel.



- Awareness materials: Flyers and educational materials on citizen rights and democratic freedoms were printed and widely distributed.
- Leadership trainings: 24 one-day sessions on freedom of expression strengthened the advocacy capacity of community leaders.



Stories from the field:

Empowering communities through legal documentation in Kegalle

The Protecting Civic Space in Sri Lanka (PCS-LAW) Project addressed one of the most pressing issues faced by rural and estate communities in the Kegalle District- inability to access essential legal documents needed to establish their identity and claim basic rights. Responding to a community request and in coordination with the District Secretary of Kegalle, a mobile documentation clinic was organised in the Dehiowita area. This initiative aimed to assist residents to obtain vital civic documents such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, death certificates, and national identity cards.

The response from the community was overwhelming. A total of 209 people participated, and 188 individuals successfully received their essential documents, including 81 birth certificates, 68 NICs, 16 NICs issued specially for the elderly, 12 marriage certificates, and 11 death certificates. These documents are more than just papers- they are the keys that open doors to government assistance, education, employment, and social protection. Many people in the Dehiowita area had previously been excluded from various government and non-governmental subsidy schemes due to the lack of official identification. Following this intervention, the District Secretariat reported that 25 new beneficiaries were added to official assistance lists after obtaining their IDs through this program.

The project also brought relief to 18 individuals who had long struggled to access their Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) entitlements due to missing death certificates of parents. As a result of the support given, 11 persons were able to apply and successfully receive these benefits that had been delayed for years. Reflecting on this initiative, representatives of the Kegalle District Secretariat expressed their deep appreciation for the efforts made under the PCS-LAW project. They acknowledged that such community driven and solution-oriented activities directly improve the lives of vulnerable citizens while strengthening trust between the public and local government institutions.

Sustaining Peace through Pluralism and Inclusive Service Delivery

Awarded by Freedom House (U.S.) with support from the U.S. Department of State this project promotes pluralism and inclusive governance by ensuring non-discriminatory access to public services for all communities in Sri Lanka. Implemented in collaboration with 04 national universities- Jaffna, Ruhuna, Sabaragamuwa, and Eastern, the initiative offers an Advanced Certificate Course on Pluralism and Inclusive Service Delivery for frontline state officers, complemented by field practicums, research, and outreach activities. During the reporting period, 17 activities were completed, including the conclusion of the Advanced Certificate Course, practicum research, community outreach, and documentary-based awareness programs. The project also supported mobile clinics and exposure visits to improve access to documentation and public services for the Malaiyaha Tamil community in estate areas. This project concluded during the reporting period.



Activities & highlights:

- Residential training program: Conducted for 30 facilitators and human rights defenders (14 males, 16 females) from 10 estates in Ratnapura, covering service delivery, legal frameworks, and human rights.
- Progress review meeting: Held in Colombo with 16 academics and state officers, reviewing progress of the Advanced Certificate Course across the 04 partner universities.
- Practicum research project: 10 government officers from the University of Sabaragamuwa completed a five-day field study in 10 estates of Ratnapura, supported by 30 community facilitators.
- Stakeholder consultations: 03 meetings were held to share research findings and recommendations with officials, researchers, and community facilitators.
- Video documentary: A 30-minute film was produced capturing the lived experiences and challenges of the Malaiyaha community in accessing state services.
- Information-sharing sessions: 03 district sessions in Ratnapura engaged 140 government officials (27 senior, 113 ground-level) to discuss service gaps and inclusion barriers.

- Documentary sharing sessions: 08 screenings across Ratnapura, Kegalle, Hatton, Badulla, Deniyaya, Gampola, Walapane, and Matale drew 552 participants, including government, media, union, and youth leaders.



- Mobile clinics: 05 clinics held in Ratnapura assisted 353 beneficiaries from 10 estates in obtaining vital documents such as birth, marriage, and death certificates, and NICs.

- National documentary launch: Held in September with 138 participants, including H.E. Satyanjal Pandey (Deputy High Commissioner, India), Hon. Bimal Rathnayake, Hon. Mano Ganesan, and Dr. Sathishkumar Sivalingam. The event presented research findings on the Malaiyaha community and advocated policy attention to their inclusion needs.



Civil Peace Service Project

The Civil Peace Service (CPS) program, funded by the German Federal Government and implemented through German civil society organisations in collaboration with international partners, aims to foster peace and stability across the countries they work in. This project represents a partnership between NPC and Agiamondo, a Catholic organisation, focusing on organisational development to enhance NPC's outreach capacity, knowledge management, and results monitoring. Ten activities targeting organisational development were completed during the year. The CPS project concluded during the reporting period.



Activities & highlights:

- Facilitation skills and workshop design: NPC staff participated in this training which aimed to equip staff with the skills needed to design and facilitate effective workshops. The focus was on developing creative communication strategies for peace and reconciliation efforts, with an emphasis on engaging participants and fostering collaboration. The sessions were facilitated by a cooperate skill development trainer Roshani Azeez, and a consultant from Strategic Inspiration (SIPL) Emikshan Emmanuel.
- CIMA training on digital transformation in finance: NPC finance department staff attended this training supported by CPS. The sessions introduced participants to modern digital tools and techniques for improving financial operations and ensured that the finance team stays updated with the latest advancements in their field, enhancing efficiency in NPC's financial management.
- Using ChatGPT tools effectively: 03 sessions were held at NPC and delivered by Andrea Novellis a PhD candidate in political science at the University of Milan. He is an expert strategist in using AI tools in research. The sessions provided project staff with tools to enhance their use of ChatGPT for project planning and reporting. Participants learned how to use the platform more efficiently, improving productivity and workflow within NPC projects.



Women Organised for Inclusion through Community Engagement

Funded by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the Women Organised for Inclusion through Community Engagement (VOICE) project empowers and mentors’ sub-national women civic leaders across seven districts, transforming them into catalysts for inclusive governance and reform. The initiative amplifies women’s voices in national and local reform agendas through multi-sectoral engagement, leadership development, and community advocacy. Operating through “super groups” (five active women per district) and “peer groups” (twenty women per district), the project builds a grassroots network of women leaders driving civic participation and social change. During the reporting period, 64 activities were completed, including training programs, advocacy campaigns, consultations, and exchange visits that collectively strengthened women’s leadership, democratic engagement, and influence in policy reform.



Activities & highlights:

- Learning and advocacy symposium: Held in March 2024 with 120 women leaders and distinguished speakers, including H.E. Julie Chung (U.S. Ambassador to Sri Lanka), Dr. Radhika Coomaraswamy (former UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women), Hon. (Dr.) Sudarshini Fernandopulle, MP and others focusing on women’s political participation and leadership.
- Exchange visit: Brought together 49 women leaders and 50 representatives from the Malaiyaha community for awareness sessions and exposure visits on civic engagement and inclusion.



- Advocacy and awareness: Campaigns advocating for a 25% quota for women in Parliament and promoting women’s participation in upcoming elections were organised across target districts.
- Capacity-building workshops: Conducted for 57 ‘super group’ members and 105 youth participants, focusing on democracy, accountability, pluralism, and inclusion.



- Youth and legislative engagement: 07 youth Training of Trainers (ToTs) and seven information sessions were held on civic space legislation, the Food Security Act, and gender-inclusive policies.
- Community consultations: 14 district-level consultations identified emerging local issues and priority reforms for women’s empowerment.
- Documentary production: “Women Interventions for Political Empowerment” captured women’s activism and leadership journeys in promoting democracy and inclusion.
- Notable successes: During the reporting period, 32 women from WOICE groups submitted nominations to take part in the local government elections. Two members- from Kandy, Kegalle and Matara were elected.

Key highlights for 2025:

- Resolving identified issues: 14 successful interventions were implemented across seven districts to address issues identified by Women leaders from August to November.
- Joint initiatives (actualisation activities) with youth: 07 successful interventions were implemented across seven districts to address issues identified by youth and women leaders from August to November. These activities strengthened connections between youth and women leaders, fostering intergenerational collaboration for shared community goals.
- Clustered interventions: 03 clustered interventions with 60 members participating were carried out in Badulla, Kandy, and Monaragala, and included a peace march and panel discussion. This activity promoted collaboration and solidarity among women leaders from neighboring districts facing similar challenges.
- Need-based information sessions/trainings: 140 women leaders and youth leaders reached through need-based one-day training sessions held in seven districts to strengthen participants’ understanding of ongoing interventions.
- National campaign in alignment with clustered interventions: A national campaign was held in Kandy on in November with 120 participants from all districts, promoting increased women’s representation in upcoming elections, raising awareness against verbal harassment, and featuring an exchange program.

From youth activist to local leader through WOICE



D. M. Nipuni Madushika Dissanayake, a dynamic youth leader from Kandy, has become a symbol of women’s empowerment through the WOICE Project. Joining in 2023 as a youth activist, she now serves as a member of the Samagi Jana Balawegaya, representing the Akurana Pradeshiya Sabha, a testament to how WOICE continues to nurture confident, capable women leaders committed to social and political transformation.

Aligned with WOICE’s goal of enhancing women’s participation in political, civic, and community life, Nipuni took part in leadership programs that built her confidence and capacity for decision-making. A pivotal moment came during a workshop led by then Member of Parliament and now Prime Minister Hon. Harini Amarasuriya, themed “Women as Pioneers in the Political Arena in the Face of Challenges.” The session inspired Nipuni to deepen her engagement in politics, transforming community activism into leadership.

Recognised by the Kandy WOICE Women’s Group, she was encouraged to pursue a political path to expand her impact. Despite being in the opposition, Nipuni continues to serve with commitment, collaborating with WOICE on health outreach for tuberculosis patients and women’s economic empowerment initiatives. Her empathetic and inclusive leadership has earned her wide respect.

Nipuni’s journey reflects the transformative power of training, mentorship, and opportunity in shaping a generation of politically active, community-minded women leaders driving change across Sri Lanka.

People Unite for Justice and Accountability

Supported by the U.S. Department of State, the People Unite for Justice and Accountability (PUJA) project promoted reconciliation and transitional justice through victim-centered, independent, and inclusive approaches. Implemented jointly by the National Peace Council (NPC) in partnership with Right to Life Human Rights Centre (R2L), Verité Research, Centre for Human Rights and Development (CHRD), and Peace & Community Action (PCA), the project advanced advocacy, capacity building, and public awareness on accountability and the rule of law. Across the reporting period, 202 activities were completed, strengthening public understanding of transitional justice, promoting truth-telling, and supporting victims and families affected by human rights violations. This initiative fostered collaboration among civil society, media, and state institutions, generating momentum for justice and reconciliation across ethnic divides.



Activities & highlights:

- Truth-telling advocacy: NPC conducted 21 district-level forums on transitional justice with 742 participants (399 males, 343 females) including DIRC/LIRC members, state officers, and community leaders.
- Information-sharing sessions: 20 sessions on transitional justice for 684 state officials, including 07 District Secretaries, 03 Assistant District Secretaries, 37 Divisional Secretaries, and 26 Integration Officers.
- Media training: 23 journalists (13 males, 10 females) trained on mindful storytelling to report on enforced disappearances and human rights violations with empathy and accuracy.
- Psychosocial support for HRDs: 61 human rights defenders from NPC, CHRD, PCA, and R2L trained in psychosocial care and stress management.
- Capacity building on TJ (R2L): 06 meetings for HRFAC members, CSOs, journalists, and lawyers engaged 217 participants (131 males, 86 females) on transitional justice mechanisms and their effectiveness.
- Key Informant Interviews (R2L): 27 interviews collected testimonials from victims and families of the missing in the South and East for documentation and advocacy.
- Public advocacy (R2L): 05 editorials and a press conference promoted public dialogue on transitional justice, constitutional reform, and reconciliation.



- Truth and justice forums (PCA): Forums and focus groups in the Eastern Province engaged 103 participants (51 males, 52 females), building understanding of truth-seeking and accountability.
- Capacity building (PCA): 105 participants (59 males, 46 females) trained on transitional justice and victims’ rights.
- Legal and psychosocial support (CHRD):
 - Monitored court appearances in the North and East, assisting 374 participants.
 - Provided counseling and de-stressing support for 195 individuals and travel assistance for 48 litigants (18 males, 30 females).
 - Documented 45 victim case studies for international advocacy and reporting.
- Media outreach (Verité Research): Produced analytical content on UNHRC resolutions, minority rights, and transitional justice; online posts reached 33,069 views, surpassing the 7,500-view target.

Key highlights for 2025:

- Launch of PUJA (puja.lk): A digital platform documenting the personal narratives of Sri Lanka’s disappeared, survivors, and families of victims of the ethnic conflict, youth insurgencies and human rights violations. Featuring multilingual access in Sinhala, Tamil, and English, PUJA enables inclusive storytelling across communities. By archiving stories under categories such as Disappearances, Family Voices, Historical Incidents, and Legal Battles, it preserves lived experiences and fosters continued dialogue on truth-seeking, memory, and justice, serving as a vital resource for civil society, researchers, and survivors engaged in reconciliation and transitional justice.

No further activities could be implemented as the project came to an early end after being terminated under a Presidential Order affecting all U.S. Department of State supported programs.



Mobilising University-State Engagement for Reconciliation

Supported by GIZ (in partnership with the Ministry of Justice, Prisons Affairs, and Constitutional Reforms), the Mobilising University-State Engagement for Reconciliation (MUSTER) project bridges the gap between academic research and public policy by fostering collaboration among university students, academics, and state actors to address local reconciliation challenges. Implemented over 18 months through 04 universities- Ruhuna, Jaffna, Eastern, and Sabaragamuwa, the initiative strengthens evidence-based decision-making and encourages inclusive policy dialogue between higher education and government institutions. During the reporting period, the project advanced university-community partnerships and built research capacities among students and faculty to identify, analyse, and propose practical solutions to issues affecting reconciliation, inclusion, and governance at the local level.



Activities & highlights:

- Project orientation for academics and officials: Conducted in Colombo with 25 participants (23 males, 02 females) representing the 04 partner universities and district secretariats. The session established a foundation for academic-government collaboration and outlined research priorities.
- Student orientation program: Brought together 47 students (17 males, 30 females) from the 04 universities, introducing them to the project framework, research objectives, and reconciliation themes.
- Facilitation and mentoring meetings: 04 coordination meetings in project districts linked research students, mentors, and government officials to align field studies with national reconciliation goals and ensure practical application of findings.
- Sri Lanka Barometer sharing sessions: 09 dialogue sessions held across the participating universities disseminated key insights from GIZ's Sri Lanka Barometer study, encouraging reflection on trust-building, governance, and civic participation.





- **Field research initiatives:** 12 student-led research projects were launched to identify reconciliation challenges within local communities, generating data and policy recommendations for integration into district-level planning and service delivery. These are being identified and addressed in collaboration with the relevant district secretariats.
- **Progress review meeting:** A multi-stakeholder forum with academics, students, and state officials assessed interim outcomes, refined research methodologies, and reinforced commitment to sustaining university-state partnerships for peacebuilding.
- **District-level training initiatives:** 06 district-level training sessions were conducted on qualitative research methods, case study development, data collection, research ethics, and themes such as pluralism, inclusiveness, gender equality, and preventing violent extremism (PVE).

Key highlights for 2025:

- **District-level training initiatives:** 02 non-residential district-level training workshops were held in January at EUSL and SUSL to enhance student awareness on pluralism, inclusiveness, gender equality, and preventing violent extremism (PVE).
- **Sri Lanka Barometer sharing sessions:** One findings-sharing session was conducted in January for 36 (19 male, 17 female) representatives from the South Eastern University.
- **Short documentary films:** 04 short documentary films were produced in April 2025, each highlighting one intervention per university/district, with guidance from an NPC resource person.
- **Publication of case studies:** One case study publication documenting the work of the three research pods from each university was released at the National Symposium held on 20th June 2025. A total of 150 copies in Sinhala and Tamil were distributed.
- **Progress review meeting:** 04 review meetings were held from January 24 to 28 at UOJ, SUSL, UOR, and EUSL to assess research progress, with participation from academics, students, and government officials.
- **National-level symposium:** The national symposium was held on 20th June 2025 at SEWAS, Colombo, as a residential event to present student research findings. A total of 142 participants from all 04 universities attended (88 beneficiaries and 54 invitees).

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- Actualisation platform/cohesion activities: 12 student-led social cohesion activities were conducted across 04 project districts from April to June, based on research findings.
- Creative dissemination workshops: 02 one-day workshops on creative research dissemination were held for UOR and UOJ students in July, introducing innovative tools for sharing research data.
- Project reflection meetings: 02 in-person reflection meetings were conducted with UOR and UOJ research teams to review lessons learned and plan next steps, with a total of 50 participants.
- Final project meeting: One virtual final project meeting took place on 30th July, bringing together 75 participants - including key actors, students, and officials - to share insights, experiences, and best practices.

Stories from the field:

A turning point in life



The MUSTER Project marked a defining chapter in H.K.M. Achini Dilhani Kumarasingha's university journey, transforming her understanding of research, learning, and community engagement. Prior to joining MUSTER as a final year student at the University of Ruhuna, she had seldom taken part in initiatives of such nature. Through her involvement, she gained invaluable practical exposure to research methodology, bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and its real-world application. What made the experience especially meaningful was the opportunity to work alongside university lecturers and academic experts, learning firsthand how research can effectively address real community challenges.

As a final-year student, she was required to complete a dissertation. While the university's theoretical preparation was useful, the MUSTER Project provided the hands-on experience needed to identify and tackle ground-level issues through systematic research. Under structured guidance, she learned to recognise community-based challenges related to reconciliation, ethnic relations, and social cohesion. The project offered a comprehensive understanding of the research process, from problem identification and data collection to analysis and conclusion. Sessions conducted by field experts deepened her appreciation of research as a powerful tool for social change, enhancing both her academic growth and personal development.

The knowledge she gained boosted her confidence and transformed her approach to her dissertation, shifting her perception of research from a daunting academic requirement to a purposeful, impactful process.

The Sri Lanka Barometer sessions introduced her to national-level frameworks and findings, linking field experiences to broader reconciliation and peacebuilding goals. This strengthened her capacity for evidence-based reasoning and critical interpretation of social dynamics. Before participating, she had little interest in research and often found it intimidating. However, the project replaced that hesitation with genuine enthusiasm for exploring social issues and contributing to community solutions. The MUSTER Project not only equipped her with research skills but also instilled confidence, direction, and purpose. It inspired her to continue engaging in community-based research and to apply her knowledge toward fostering understanding, reconciliation, and lasting social impact.

Active Citizens for Elections and Democracy

Active Citizens for Elections and Democracy (ACED) project strengthens electoral integrity, civic participation, and inclusive democracy in Sri Lanka and the Maldives. The project is implemented by the National Peace Council (NPC) in partnership with People’s Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL), Association of War Affected Women (AWAW), Centre for Communication Training (CCT), and Women & Democracy (W&D). Supported by the European Union (EU), the initiative promotes informed participation, gender inclusion, and accountability in electoral processes through research, civic education, and policy advocacy. During the reporting period, the project advanced citizen engagement and electoral reform through large-scale voter education campaigns, policy dialogues, youth mentoring programs, and gender advocacy initiatives. Key interventions empowered women, youth, and marginalised communities, particularly the Malaiyaha Tamil population, to participate meaningfully in governance and political processes across both countries.



The workshops enhanced participants' understanding of the vital role pluralism plays in fostering an inclusive society. Additionally, they highlighted the importance of cultivating a national identity that bridges religious, regional, and political divides.

Activities & highlights:

- Right to Information (RTI) trainings: Conducted five district-level trainings in Kalutara, Galle, Batticaloa, Kandy, and Jaffna for 196 participants (106 males, 90 females) from media, CSOs, and election monitoring groups, promoting transparency in election campaigns.
- Youth mentorship sessions: Held 20 sessions across 20 districts, engaging 598 youth (261 males, 337 females) on astute voting and youth participation in elections.
- Voter preference research: Completed a national study on “Factors Guiding Voter Preferences in Elections” with 1,350 respondents. The research, conducted by University of Colombo academics, analysed decision-making, vote-buying, and endorsements.





- Devolution dialogues: Facilitated 06 discussions across key districts with 202 civil society leaders, including DIRC/LIRC members, to counter negative narratives on devolution and advocate for minority participation.

Partner highlights: **PAFFREL**

- Voter Education Toolkit: Revised and published in Sinhala and Tamil, integrating new electoral reforms and thematic areas.
- Training of Trainers (ToT): Conducted in Kurunegala and Batticaloa for 65 CSO leaders from nine districts to pilot and refine the updated toolkit.
- Social media campaigns: Produced multilingual voter education videos for upcoming elections, reaching a wide national audience.
- Advocacy and public dialogues: Hosted 03 national consultations (Colombo, Jaffna, Puttalam) with 103 participants, addressing election integrity, misuse of state resources, and citizen responsibilities.
- TV discussions: Featured experts on leading networks (Swarnavahini, Sirasa, Hiru, Shakthi) discussing election timing, the role of the Election Commission, and campaign finance accountability.

Partner highlights: **CCT**

- Political literacy programmes: Conducted an orientation and 03 residential trainings for 100 Malayaha youth leaders (41 males, 59 females) on democracy, civic engagement, and voter education.
- Election commission visit: Facilitated an exchange for 15 youth leaders to the Nuwara Eliya Election Office to discuss voter registration challenges and accessibility.
- Exposure visits: Organised 02 visits to local government authorities in Ambagamuwa and Maskeliya for 28 youth leaders to improve civic understanding of local governance.
- Documentation clinics: Held 10 estate-level mobile clinics, registering 785 new voters, with 632 confirmed additions to the electoral roll.
- Youth leadership and awareness: Conducted a training on political astuteness for 30 youth who later led local awareness drives during national elections.
- Street drama campaigns: Performed 05 community street dramas across estates, reaching 415 residents, emphasising voting rights, women’s participation, and civic activism.

Partner highlights: **AWAW**

- Provincial workshops: Conducted 05 two-day workshops across the North Western, Central, North Central, Uva, and Sabaragamuwa provinces, training 149 women political leaders on democracy, governance, human rights, and UNSCR 1325.
- National advocacy event: Co-organised with NPC and PAFFREL, an event on 9 September 2024 at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute advocating for a 25% quota for women in Parliament, attended by 250 participants including diplomats, political leaders, and civil society representatives. Former president H.E. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga served as Chief Guest.

Partner highlights: **W&D, Maldives**

- Gender quota advocacy: Drafted and presented legislation proposing women’s representation quotas in the Maldives Parliament (People’s Majlis) and political parties.
- Stakeholder engagement: Conducted consultations with 05 national women’s NGOs, the Human Rights Commission, and multiple political parties to advocate for Temporary Special Measures (TSMs).
- Public awareness campaign: Launched “Women in Majlis”, a 05-part interview series featuring women candidates from the 2024 elections to highlight barriers to political participation.
- Voter education programs: Coordinated with local councils and Women’s Development Committees to plan island-level voter education programs and launched dedicated online awareness platforms and social media outreach tools.

Stories from the field:

Empowering youth leadership: Initiative for informed voting in Batticaloa



NPC worked with Batticaloa District based partner- Butterfly Peace Garden to empower, mentor and train young people to promote youth participation in democratic processes, especially upcoming elections. Among the participants was Ms. N. Tharuniksha, a youth leader from Batticaloa, whose enthusiasm and initiative made her a standout example of how training can translate into action.

Following her participation in the youth mentoring and voter education session held in October 2024, Tharuniksha took the lessons she learned to her own community. With the support of her former school, she independently organised an awareness program the very next day at the Ananda Educational Institute in Batticaloa, where she had studied. The session reached 90 first-time voters, focusing on the importance of informed decision-making, responsible voting, and active civic engagement.

Her initiative demonstrated both leadership and a strong commitment to democratic values. By using the knowledge and tools gained through the ACED training, Tharuniksha not only educated her peers but also inspired them to view voting as a meaningful civic responsibility rather than a mere duty.

Her efforts have since encouraged other young people in Batticaloa to explore ways they, too, can contribute to strengthening democracy at the community level. The National Peace Council and Butterfly Peace Garden have commended her commitment, recognising that her proactive leadership exemplifies the lasting impact of youth empowerment in promoting participatory democracy.

Key highlights for 2025:

NPC led several initiatives under the ACED Project to strengthen electoral democracy in Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

- The Research Report on Factors Guiding Voter Preference in Elections was launched in Colombo on June 27, with the participation of Dr. Johann H. Hesse, Head of Cooperation of the EU Delegation.
- Findings of the research were shared through 05 district consultations in Gampaha, Kegalle, Jaffna, Anuradhapura, and Batticaloa, engaging 122 CSO, media, and youth leaders.
- 12 awareness meetings across 11 districts brought together over 400 DIRC/LIRC members to counter negative narratives on devolution and promote minority participation in governance.
- 04 youth trainings in Kalutara, Colombo, Hambantota, and Gampaha built advocacy and leadership skills of 129 young participants, promoting youth quotas and election participation.
- 07 collective meetings with 283 CSO members across seven districts were convened to advocate for timely elections.
- Cross-country engagement was fostered through two online exchanges with Maldivian partners to share the revised PAFFREL toolkit and research findings.

PAFFREL advanced electoral integrity through field surveys reviewing 1,500 polling stations in ten districts and follow-up meetings with provincial politicians. Two lobby meetings in Colombo advocated for financial independence of the Election Commission and the establishment of a fixed electoral calendar.

CCT strengthened electoral inclusion of the Malaiyaha community through 30 documentation clinics, five civic-awareness street dramas, and training programs for youth leaders, two of whom went on to contest at the local government elections. Dialogue sessions with political and administrative representatives fostered accountability and youth participation.

AWAW organised 04 provincial-level capacity-building workshops empowering 119 women political leaders, followed by an advocacy roadmap session and campaign on democratic institutions. A parliamentary exposure visit in July enabled 47 women leaders to engage with senior parliamentary officials and gain insights into governance and policy processes.

W & D The Maldivian partner implemented a series of social media campaigns, podcasts, and voter education programs across ten atolls. These activities built networks of aspiring women politicians, countered misinformation, and promoted inclusive political participation and engaged citizenship.



Plural Action for Inclusion, Reconciliation, and Social Justice

Funded by Misereor (Germany) and CAFOD (UK), the Plural Action for Inclusion, Reconciliation, and Social Justice (PAIRS) project promotes social justice and ethnic reconciliation through pluralistic inclusion and citizen engagement. As a successor to the PACT and COMPACT initiatives, PAIRS deepens their impact by empowering a broad coalition of religious leaders, state officers, women and youth leaders, and civil society organisations across 16 districts.



The project strengthens cooperation between the state and civil society to protect civic space, promote inclusive governance, and advocate for equitable policy reform. During the reporting period, 49 activities were completed, reaching 2,940 direct beneficiaries and influencing an estimated 8,800 households through advocacy, dialogue, and institutional engagement.

Activities & highlights:

- Capacity-building sessions: 16 trainings conducted for 587 DIRC members (350 males, 237 females) to enhance their knowledge of pluralism, inclusion, and social justice.
- Scoping meetings: 16 consultations with religious leaders, state officials, CSOs, youth, and media representatives engaged 436 participants to identify local reconciliation and governance priorities.



- Training for state administrators: 05 sessions held for 202 senior government officers from five districts focused on pluralism, inclusion, and gaps in the Government Establishment Code.
- Youth leadership training: 32 youth leaders (17 males, 15 females) trained on mobilisation, facilitation, and state policies to serve as local focal points for NPC interventions.
- Democracy and religious leaders' forum: 03 national-level consultations with faith and civil society leaders culminated in the presentation of a Memorandum on Strengthening Democracy to presidential candidates.



- Project orientation: A 02-day residential orientation held in Colombo engaged 88 participants (45 males, 43 females) from partner organisations across 16 districts, introducing the project framework and objectives.
- DIRC facilitation meetings: Conducted across all 16 districts with 1,577 participants (850 males, 727 females), strengthening district-level coordination and interfaith collaboration.

Key highlights for 2025:

The PAIRS project achieved significant reach in 2025, directly engaging 3,285 beneficiaries across its initiatives that impacted an estimated 9,855 households. They include:

- 11 training sessions on pluralism, inclusion, and relevant state policies, including provisions in the Government Establishment Code and identified gaps and responses, were carried out for 280 state administrators in project locations.
- 18 ethno-religious and socio-economic issues resolved through facilitation/ mediation by DIRCs.
- 09 inclusive administrative practices have been adopted by state officers as a result of our work.
- 31 actualisation activities were carried out and included the following:
 - Mobile legal and social security clinics in Deraniyagala: 250 Malaiyaha and other community members were supported to address and resolve legal and social security-related issues through a series of mobile clinics and community dialogues.
 - Reopening of Araneri Hindu religious school, Galle: 60 schoolchildren now benefit from renewed access to religious and language education in their own faith tradition.



- Improved estate services in Nuwara Eliya: The Holyrood Estate authority installed boards with house numbers, significantly improving postal delivery for hundreds of estate families.
- Inclusive transport initiative: A trilingual sticker campaign in Sinhala, Tamil, and English, covering destination boards and reserved seating for clergy, expectant women, and persons with disabilities, promoted Equal Language Access and Inclusive Transport Services at SLTB depots in Kurunegala, Badulla, and Jaffna.
- Trilingual signage for public health access: Installation of Sinhala, Tamil, and English nameboards at Vavuniya General Hospital enhanced accessibility and dignity for patients from all communities.

Stories from the field:

Addressing ethnic and religious tensions in Polonnaruwa

As part of the Plural Action for Inclusion, Reconciliation, and Social Justice (PAIRS) initiative, the National Peace Council conducted a scoping activity in the Polonnaruwa District to identify and address underlying ethnic and religious tensions. The session brought together 30 members of the District Inter-Religious Committee, including religious leaders, state officials, civil society representatives, youth, and media personnel, reflecting the project's inclusive approach to peacebuilding.

The activity served as an important platform to explore existing conflicts, particularly between Sinhala and Muslim communities, and tensions among Buddhist and Catholic groups that have persisted in the aftermath of the Easter attacks. Through facilitated dialogue, participants shared their experiences of inter- and intra-community relations, openly examining whether religious institutions and leaders contribute to or mitigate such tensions. These discussions also emphasised the role of faith in advancing social justice and reconciliation.

Using the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) tool, participants collectively identified and prioritised 15 key issues driving conflict in the district. Among the most critical were religious conversions linked to financial incentives, the spread of fundamentalist ideologies, and unequal distribution of resources among religious institutions.

The strong participation and engagement of both male and female religious leaders, together with state officials, demonstrated broad commitment to collaborative problem-solving. Several government officers, including those responsible for social integration and women's development, requested further analysis of the findings to inform their district-level initiatives.

This activity successfully deepened NPC's understanding of local dynamics and strengthened relationships among community stakeholders. Building on this foundation, the PAIRS project will extend similar scoping and dialogue processes across 16 districts, reinforcing NPC's mission to foster peace, inclusion, and social justice throughout Sri Lanka.

Institutional Support Grant – Open Society Foundations

Supported by the Open Society Foundations (OSF), this initiative strengthened the institutional and programmatic capacity of the National Peace Council (NPC) to advance national reconciliation, inter-community trust building, and conflict mitigation in Sri Lanka. The grant enabled NPC to sustain its core operations and continue promoting transitional justice, human rights, and pluralism, while advocating for inclusive, negotiated political solutions to address the root causes of conflict. Through this institutional support, NPC maintained organisational stability amidst constrained civic space and reduced donor funding for administrative costs. The grant covered key staff positions, including the Executive Director and Administrative Manager, and supported the enhancement of NPC's administrative, financial, and communication systems, ensuring efficiency and sustainability across its peacebuilding portfolio. Overall, the OSF grant reinforced NPC's long-standing role as a credible national actor committed to building a cohesive, rights-respecting, and inclusive national identity, while enabling the organisation to respond proactively to Sri Lanka's evolving peace and governance challenges.



Activities & highlights:

- Research and communication support: Enabled the Executive Director's regular political commentary and national newspaper column contributions. Supported the production of weekly and monthly analyses, press releases, and newsletters in Sinhala, Tamil, and English, widely disseminated through media channels and the NPC website.
- Staff capacity building: A 02-day training program held in December 2024 at the Mermaid Hotel, Kalutara, engaged 56 participants including staff, board, and governing council members. Sessions covered administrative, HR, and financial policies, alongside interactive project progress presentations and strategic discussions.
- Annual report publication: The 2023 Annual Report was compiled, designed, and printed with OSF support, documenting NPC's annual achievements and providing a key institutional record for dissemination among members, media, donors, and the diplomatic community.

Key highlights for 2025:

- In 2025, OSF support continued to strengthen staff capacity, facilitate research and communications to produce commentary pieces and newspaper articles and enable the publication of the annual report. The grant also supported key administrative functions by covering part of the salaries of essential staff.

Media and Advocacy

During the year, NPC disseminated political commentaries, newsletters and press releases that were published in the mass media in three languages. The material was uploaded onto NPC's website. Its Executive Director, Dr. Jehan Perera, contributed a regular column to a national newspaper, which came out of NPC's work and the public discourse at its activities. Excerpts from selected media releases.

(all media releases can be accessed on NPC's website www.peace-srilanka.org):

Women's symposium calls for inclusion of women at all levels of decision making (18.03.2024)

A major problem in Sri Lanka is the gap between aspirations and reality, words and deeds, laws and their implementation. Gender relations is no exception. The Women Organised for Inclusion through Community Engagement (WOICE) Learning and Advocacy Symposium organised by the National Peace Council (NPC) brought together more than 120 women leaders and activists from seven districts across the country.

Unreleased Nawaz Commission report may hold key to acceptable TRC (06.06.2024)

During a recent visit to the North, President Ranil Wickremesinghe stated that the government would be establishing a truth and reconciliation commission (TRC) to address human rights issues that arose out of the three-decade long war. He said that the legislation was nearly finalised with the main remaining question being whether the power to prosecute war crimes should be given to the commission or to a special court.

Forthcoming election provides a historic opportunity to resolve ethnic conflict (14.06.2024)

Sri Lanka is witnessing a positive transformation of electoral politics in relation to its long-standing ethnic conflict that commenced with the economic collapse of 2022. The notion that the country required a "system change" was promoted by the student-led protest movement that publicly eschewed racism and upheld the rights of equal citizenship in their slogans. In a manner inconceivable in the past, the three main candidates for the presidential election in October appear to be outbidding each other in support of the 13th Amendment to the constitution and devolution of power to the provinces.

Ethnic reconciliation must be priority for the new President (17.09.2024)

As the presidential election campaign draws to a close, the focus must shift from electoral competition to the urgent challenges facing the country. While the election outcome remains uncertain, what is clear is that the next president will inherit a country grappling with economic instability and deep-rooted problems of impunity and corruption. A pressing challenge that also needs to be at the forefront of the government that is formed is the need to resolve the long-standing ethnic conflict.

Prioritise justice and reconciliation following election victory (16.11.2024)

The National Peace Council (NPC) extends its congratulations to President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and the National People's Power (NPP) on their election victory, which secured a two-thirds majority in parliament. This overwhelming mandate reflects the trust placed in the president and his party to lead the country towards economic development, justice, and reconciliation. The broad-based support for the government, spanning all regions of the country- including areas predominantly inhabited by ethnic and religious minorities-demonstrates a significant step towards national unity.



FINANCES

Audited Financial Statements



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NYR/KPS/JJ

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL OF SRI LANKA (GUARANTEE) LIMITED

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statements of National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (Guarantee) Limited ("the Company") which comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2024, and Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Reserves and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (Guarantee) Limited as at 31 December 2024, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Sri Lanka Statement of Recommended Practice for Not-for-Profit Organizations (Including Non-Governmental Organization) (SL SoRP-NPO's [including NGO's]) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Sri Lanka Auditing Standards (SLAuSs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by CA Sri Lanka (Code of Ethics) and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of Board and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Board of Directors ("the Board") is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Sri Lanka Statement of Recommended Practice for Not-for-Profit Organizations (Including Non-Governmental Organization) (SL SoRP-NPO's [including NGO's]) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Sri Lanka, and for such internal control as Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, Board is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Board either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

(Contd..2/-)

Partners: D K Hulangamuwa FCA FCMA LLB (London), A P A Gunasekera FCA FCMA, Ms. Y A De Silva FCA, Ms. G G S Manatunga FCA, W K B S P Fernando FCA FCMA FCCA, B E Wijesuriya FCA FCMA, R N de Sararam ACA FCMA, N M Sulaiman FCA FCMA, Ms. L K H L Fonseka FCA, Ms. P V K N Sajeewari FCA, A A J R Perera FCA ACMA, N Y R L Fernando ACA, D N Gamage ACA ACMA, C A Yalagala ACA ACMA, Ms. P S Paranasvillane ACA ACMA LLB (Colombo), B Vasanthan ACA ACMA, W D P L Perera ACA

Principals: T P M Ruberu FCMA FCCA MBA (USJ-SL), G B Goudian ACMA, D L B Karunathilaka ACMA, W S J De Silva BSc (Hons) - MIS MSc - IT, V Shakthivel B.Com (Sp), M U M Mansoor ACA

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Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SLAuSs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SLAuSs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

As required by section 163 (2) of the Companies Act No. 07 of 2007, we have obtained all the information and explanations that were required for the audit and, as far as appears from our examination, proper accounting records have been kept by the Company.

22 October 2025
Colombo

National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (Guarantee) Limited

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2024

ASSETS	Note	2024 Rs.	2023 Rs.
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	4	119,509,985	109,172,976
Intangible Assets	5	169,510	201,142
		<u>119,679,495</u>	<u>109,374,118</u>
Current Assets			
Receivables	6	17,912,208	2,893,678
Cash and Bank Balances	7.1	82,979,993	64,191,485
		<u>100,892,201</u>	<u>67,085,163</u>
Total Assets		<u><u>220,571,696</u></u>	<u><u>176,459,281</u></u>
FUNDING & LIABILITIES			
Accumulated Funds			
Restricted Funds	12	48,350,356	16,705,270
Unrestricted Funds	9	(3,768,643)	531,648
Reserve A	10	17,392,491	15,813,699
Reserve B	11	15,821,140	16,149,721
Revaluation Reserves		97,446,080	97,446,080
		<u>175,241,424</u>	<u>146,646,418</u>
Non-Current Liabilities			
Staff Welfare Fund	13	725,853	725,853
Retirement Benefit Liability	8	10,358,363	15,456,283
Deferred Liability	14	14,107,141	2,528,742
		<u>25,191,357</u>	<u>18,710,878</u>
Current Liabilities			
Income Tax Payable	20.3	8,306,811	7,474,631
Payables	15	11,766,315	3,627,354
Bank Over Draft	7.2	65,789	-
		<u>20,138,915</u>	<u>11,101,985</u>
Total Funding and Liabilities		<u><u>220,571,696</u></u>	<u><u>176,459,281</u></u>

These Financial Statements are in compliance with the requirements the of Companies Act No.7 of 2007.



Finance Manager

The Board of Directors is responsible for these Financial Statements. Signed for and on behalf of the Organization by;



Director



Director

The accounting policies and notes on pages 07 through 20 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.



National Peace Council of Sri Lanka (Guarantee) Limited

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

Year ended 31 December 2024

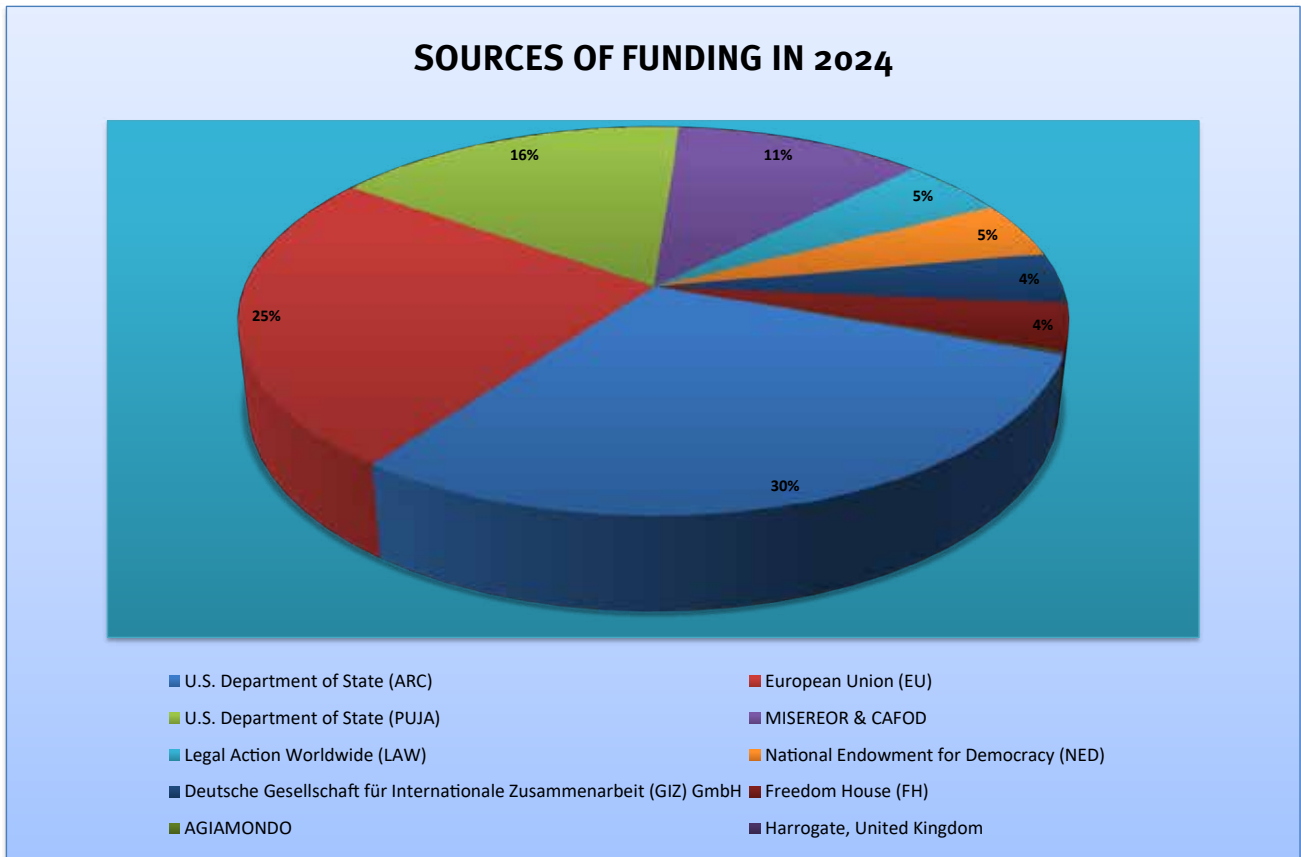
	Note	2024 Rs.	2023 Rs.
Incoming Resources	16	421,540,055	278,076,995
OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Project Expenses	17	(421,540,055)	(278,076,995)
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) on Operating Activities		-	-
Revenue Earned from Other Activities	18	6,049,877	5,330,767
Administrative Expenses	17.1	(3,006,165)	(7,067,056)
Finance Cost	19	(131,430)	(92,880)
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) Before Tax		2,912,282	(1,829,169)
Income Tax Expenses	20.2	(5,514,430)	(4,094,582)
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) After Tax		(2,602,148)	(5,923,752)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	13,066,400
Total Comprehensive Income for the Year		<u>(2,602,148)</u>	<u>7,142,648</u>

The accounting policies and notes on pages 07 through 20 form an integral part of the Financial Statements.

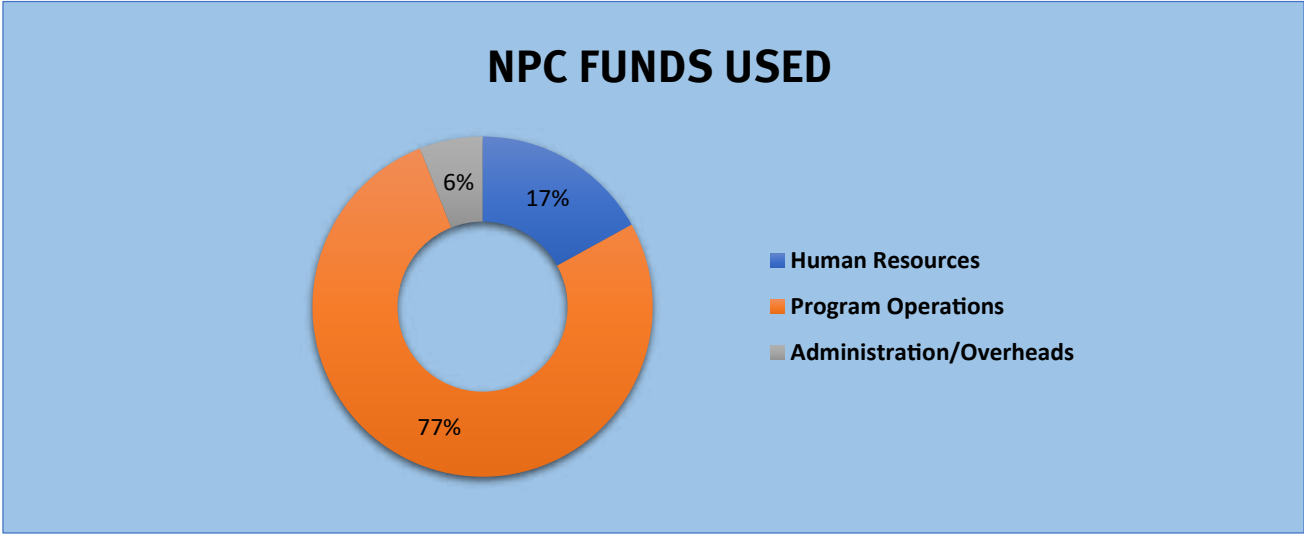


Funding Portfolio

Name of donor	Amount (LKR)	Percentage
U.S. Department of State (ARC)	132,507,541	29.46%
European Union (EU)	111,564,163	24.80%
U.S. Department of State (PUJA)	73,408,420	16.32%
MISEREOR & CAFOD	51,429,610	11.43%
Legal Action Worldwide (LAW)	21,976,566	4.89%
National Endowment for Democracy (NED)	21,121,250	4.70%
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	19,033,083	4.23%
Freedom House (FH)	17,607,552	3.91%
AGIAMONDO	653,212	0.15%
Harrogate, United Kingdom	484,525	0.11%
TOTAL	449,785,922	100.00%



Funds Utilisation



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 PARTNERS AND DONORS

Major Donors



Way Forward

In the forthcoming period, the National Peace Council (NPC) will continue to advance a vision of peace grounded in pluralism, justice, inclusion, and accountable governance. There will be strategic emphasis on research-informed advocacy that provides a strong foundation for this work. We will endeavour to strengthen our capacity to become a policy-relevant peacebuilding institution that acts as a bridge between community experience and national policymaking. Future work will deepen the link between analysis, community action, and policy influence.

The advocacy of pluralism and power-sharing will continue to be our core message as being essential to reconciliation. The urgent need for structural reforms in the country to ensure that Tamil, Muslim, and other minority communities have meaningful access to representation and decision-making continues. NPC will continue promoting an understanding of pluralism as a shared societal value that safeguards the rights and dignity of all citizens rather than as a minority-centred demand. We will emphasise that pluralism strengthens unity and forms the basis of a stable democracy. NPC will expand community engagement, deepen public dialogue on constitutional reform and devolution, and promote analysis that links pluralism to economic wellbeing, social stability, and the strengthening of democracy.

Through its interventions, NPC will support state officials to provide inclusive services, build civil society capacity for advocacy, and create platforms for marginalised voices, especially women and youth, to influence governance. In particular, we will escalate our work with historically marginalised groups, particularly the Malaiyaha Tamil community and sub-ethnic groups that face restricted access to land, services, labour protections, and representation. Through research, partnerships, and advocacy, NPC will amplify their concerns and promote policies that expand justice and opportunity.

Accountability remains central to sustainable peace. NPC will continue to emphasise that accountability is not only about the past but is essential to preventing future violations and building trust in institutions. Public confidence can only grow through transparency, consistent application of the law, and credible systems of redress. We will therefore engage with state institutions and civil society to strengthen citizen awareness of legal rights, reinforce the rule of law, and promote locally relevant accountability mechanisms.

NPC's engagement with communities and community leaders throughout the country makes it clear how strains on livelihood and inadequate access to services can deepen pre-existing ethnic or religious tensions and aggravate inequality. NPC will therefore expand research and programming to better understand how these pressures influence community relations and state–citizen trust. It will work with partners to elevate policy responses that integrate climate adaptation, inclusive economic development, and conflict-sensitive resource management which are key to preventing new conflict flashpoints.

National Peace Council of Sri Lanka

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