



# ANNUAL 2024



INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF  
**CAMELIDS**  
2024



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA**

Affiliated to the World Federation of United Nations Associations



**UNITED NATIONS  
ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA**

# **ANNUAL 2024**

**National Observance of the 79<sup>th</sup>  
UNITED NATIONS DAY**

**Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

**From 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.**

**at Sri Lanka Medical Association (SLMA) Auditorium**

**No.6, Wijerama Mawatha, Colombo 7**

# UN Secretary-General's United Nations Day Message



**24 October 2024**

The United Nations was built by the world, for the world.

Since 1945, it has been the place for countries to unite behind global solutions to global problems.

Solutions that ease tensions, build bridges and forge peace.

Solutions to eradicate poverty, spur sustainable development, and stand up for the most vulnerable.

Solutions that deliver lifesaving relief to people living through conflicts, violence, economic hardship, and climate disasters.

Solutions that level the scales of justice and equality for women and girls.

Solutions that tackle issues that were unimaginable in 1945 — climate change, digital technology, artificial intelligence, and outer space.

In September, the General Assembly adopted the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact, and the Declaration on Future Generations.

Together, these milestone agreements will help ensure that the United Nations system adapts, reforms, and rejuvenates, so it is fit for the changes and challenges around us and delivers solutions for all.

But our work will always be rooted in the timeless values and principles of the UN Charter and international law, and in the dignity and human rights of every person.

In today's troubled world, hope is not enough.

Hope requires determined action and multilateral solutions for peace, shared prosperity and a thriving planet.

Hope requires all countries working as one.

Hope requires the United Nations.

On United Nations Day, I call on all countries to keep this beacon for the world, and its ideals, shining.

## Message form the Chief Guest on the National Observance of the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day



On the 79<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations, it is my pleasant task today to reflect upon a few of the achievements of this Diplomatic and Political International Organization established with the intention of maintaining international peace and security.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the executive committee of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka for organizing this national event for the 74<sup>th</sup> time, annually to focus and educate the youth of our country giving them opportunities to showcase their talents and capabilities.

The UN General Assembly in 2000 embarked on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs 8 goals) with a target date of 2015 from the blueprint agreed by all nations and development institutions. The then Secretary General Ban Ki Moon presented to the world leaders at the General assembly in 2013 a report titled “A Life of Dignity for All”. Which outlined the achievements of MDGs. However eradicating extreme poverty continues to be a one of the main challengers of our time – Sec. Gen. Ban Ki-moon.

In a global partnership the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets to achieve by 2030 was an urgent call for all countries. In 2015 the General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals to achieve by 2030.

Today SDG 2 – aims to achieve Zero Hunger by 2030 is of prime concern. This goal targets to focus on “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”.

The Sri Lanka College of Paediatricians took a twist in the activities in my year as President of SLCP to focus more on a project titled “Feed a Child” to help achieve Sustainable Development Goal in certain parts of Sri Lanka. I am proud to inform you the project was a grand success.

However, continuous efforts must be made on all fronts to end hunger. I am confident that with the help of all partners inclusive of the United Nations, Government, civil society and others we can make SDG goals achievable by 2030.

**PROFESSOR GUWANI SHARIKA LIYANAGE**  
**Professor in Paediatrics**  
**Senior Lecturer in Paediatrics**  
**University of Sri Jayewardenepura**



## **Message from the Guest of Honour National Observance of the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day**



### **Unlock Your Potential: Your Future is in Your Hands**

What do we truly need in life? For many of us, the answer boils down to one thing: the pursuit of happiness. But what does happiness mean? For some, it's success; for others, it's fulfillment. Ultimately, it comes down to finding your purpose. Your purpose acts as a compass, guiding you through life's twists and turns, helping you make decisions that align with your true self.

Big dreams start with small steps. It's easy to feel overwhelmed when you look at the big picture. But remember, no goal is ever achieved overnight. The key is to break down those big dreams into smaller, more manageable tasks. Each step, no matter how small, brings you closer to your vision. Progress, not perfection, should be your focus.

Along the way, it's inevitable that we'll stumble. Failing is part of succeeding. Every mistake we make offers us a lesson, an opportunity to grow. When you face setbacks, remember that failure is not the opposite of success, it's a part of the journey. Each time you fail, you gain valuable insights that bring you one step closer to achieving your dreams.

Consistence beats talent when talent doesn't work hard. It's not always the most talented person who succeeds; it's the one who shows up every day, even when it's difficult. Whether it's in your career, relationships, or personal development, putting in consistent effort will always yield results. Hard work, determination, and perseverance can often outperform talent alone.

We are also greatly influenced by the people around us. You are the company you keep. Surround yourself with those who lift you up and push you forward. Build a circle of friends who believe in you, who challenge you to grow, and who inspire you to keep moving forward. Your environment plays a key role in shaping who you become.

Equally important is taking care of yourself. Take care of your mental and physical health. Success is not just about reaching your goals but also about maintaining balance in your life. Your body and mind are your greatest assets, so prioritize their well-being. When you're healthy and balanced, you're able to perform at your best.

And as you go through life, don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. New experiences expand your potential. Trying new things, meeting new people, and staying curious opens doors to growth and opportunities. Every new experience you embrace helps you discover more about yourself and the world around you.

Finally, never forget: You are capable of amazing things. Believe in your potential. Trust your journey, and keep working toward your dreams, one step at a time. Your future truly is in your hands.

**Dr. Chathura Warnasuriya**  
**Head of Law School, Senior Lecturer, Award Coordinator - LLM**

# Message from the Keynote Speaker on the National Observance of the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day



It is with immense pride and pleasure that I pen this message when the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka celebrates the significant National Observance of the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day.

Over the past decades, the UN has been a beacon of hope, unity and progress, working tirelessly to shape a better world with the ultimate objective of a farsighted vision which solely rests in the hands of today's youth.

However, empowering socially responsible youth is not just a moral obligation. It is a strategic necessity. The universal challenges we face today are numerous such as drastic climate changes, inequality, poverty and conflicts, etc. The impact of most of the global issues can be minimized and harnessed with the potential of our youth as they are treasure troves of super energy, ample creativity and an unwavering desire to make the world a better place.

The schools do intervene in this missionary juncture by providing necessary background and creating platforms for students to thrive and lead.

The United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a roadmap in this journey. These goals are more than a global agenda. They are a call to action for each and every one of us to make an impact on our communities. Youth, with their passion for social justice and equality, are uniquely positioned to use the SDGs to drive change, locally and globally.

For example, Goal 4 - Quality Education offers young leaders the chance to bridge gaps in access to education. Youth-led initiatives can provide learning opportunities for marginalized groups, ensuring that no one is left behind. By tutoring peers, organizing educational workshops or leveraging technology to reach remote communities, young people can be a driving force for inclusive and equitable education.

Each of the SDGs present an opportunity for youth to serve their communities while building a more sustainable and just world.

But to unlock this potential, schools have a major responsibility to empower students with the knowledge, skills and resources necessary to become agents of change.

Hence, I am delighted to appreciate and admire the genuine load of work executed by the United Nations to create environments where young people can thrive.

We are absolutely grateful for the immeasurable steps taken by the United Nations for ensuring access to quality education, promoting entrepreneurship, encouraging civic engagement and fostering a culture of sustainability.

Together we can build a world that is more peaceful, equitable and sustainable for generations to come.

**Mrs. Manomi Senevirathne**  
**Principal**  
**Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo 5**



**Mr. Mohamed Zawahir**  
**President**  
**United Nations Association of Sri Lanka**  
**National Observance of the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day**



As we celebrate the 79<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United Nations Charter's entry into force on 24<sup>th</sup> October 1945, we are proud of our Association which was established 5 years after the establishment of the United Nations. Over the last 74 years we have committed to disseminate the good work of the UN to the common people. Our association is the National Affiliate of the WFUNA- World Federation of United Nations Associations for 74 years. We started our continues education program, approved by the Ministry of Education, through our registered 328 study circles across the country. The Association is registered in Sri Lanka under the companies act of 1982

The keynote address at the annual observance is usually given by a student selected in an open contest among our Schools Study Circle and we offer our best wishes to become a useful citizen in the years ahead. It is a rare opportunity to address a large gathering of citizens face to face. On the other hand, we also train the trainers from time to time where teachers in schools are educated on the work of the UN.

As President, I take this opportunity to welcome all students present here and their friends, to update their acquisition of knowledge on the worldwide irreplaceable work of the United Nations which is now the focus of attention at a seemingly difficult time.

Former Secretary-General Kofi ANNAN said "there is no other" in this age of strife, disunity and terror, On the other side of the same coin It is the only symbol of hope and justice in a disunited world.

It is with utmost commitment to help and guide the students involved in educating and implementing the SDGs. My sincere congratulations on behalf of the members of the National Executive Committee of the UNA and in my own behalf to all those who have actively involved in the number of projects we have done and plan to do in this year beyond. We invite the others who have not yet been in touch with us to contact our office for participation on Sustainable Development Goals.



**Errol Smith**  
**Secretary General**  
**United Nations Association of Sri Lanka**  
**National Observance of the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day**



The year 2024 marks the National Observance of the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations Day and it coincides with the 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka (UNASL).

UNASL, was established on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1950, five years before Sri Lanka was admitted as a Member State of the United Nations on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1955, together with 15 other countries.

UNASL has being the sole National Affiliate of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), since 1951 and is one of the most senior members among the over 110 member countries.

I am proud and humbled to have been unanimously re-elected for the 8<sup>th</sup> conservative term as the Secretary General of this prestigious Association, which has been an active and vibrant organization over the past 74 years.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has 17 goals with 169 targets which all UN Member States have agreed to try and achieve by the year 2030. However, with just six more years to go, there are significant challenges the world is facing in making substantial strides towards achieving the SDGs, based on the latest data and estimates.

SDGs focus and progress for 2024 are to End Poverty in all its forms everywhere. End Hunger, Achieve Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture. Further, it envisages Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-being for All Ages, Ensure Inclusive and Equitable quality Education and Promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, as well as focusing on Climate Change, Peace and Security, Inequalities among and between countries, etc.

The UNA-Sri Lanka continues to work closely with the Government Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Education, Environment, Social Services and Sustainable Development, as well as the United Nations Organization in Sri Lanka and the UN Information Center. The support, co-operation and encouragement extended to us has always been extremely encouraging and rewarding.

Further, the youth of our nation, which is yet another vulnerable sector, needs to be nurtured and guided in the right direction. One of the main strategies adopted to achieve this, is through the UNASL Schools Study Circle Island wide, which has proved to be an excellent platform.

It is prudent to mention that the establishment of the UNASL Youth Forum has been another strategic move to reach out to the youth, thus providing them with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge, skills and talents, as they would eventually be the future leaders in all spheres of activity, who could lead with dignity, honesty, transparency and accountability.

As a responsible UN-NGO, we are committed to carrying out the gigantic task ahead, to ensure economic growth and stability as well as promoting the 17 Sustainable Development Goals aimed at transforming the world – action to end poverty and inequality, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy health, justice and prosperity, bearing in mind that no one is left behind.



## 78<sup>TH</sup> UNITED NATIONS DAY – 2023

United Nation Association of Sri Lanka conducted the National Observances of the 78th United Nations Day at a function at the Sri Lanka Medical Associations Auditorium, No 6, Wijerama Mawatha Colombo 07, on Sunday 22nd October 2023 from 3.00 to 5.30pm.

Chief Guest, Ambassador Dr. S. A. C. M. Zuhyle, Guest of Honour, Ambassador Dr. Dayantha Laksiri Mendis, (United Nations Multilateral Agreements and Global Governance), Special Guest Dr. Noel Somasundaram, UNASL Executive Committee Members, UNASL members, School Study Circle teachers, students and parents participated in the 78th United Nations Day Commemoration in Sri Lanka it was.

The ceremony commenced with the National Anthem followed by the Welcome address by the President of the Association, Mr. Mohamed Zawahir.

The keynote address was delivered by Senuth Dilnada Vanniarachchi, a student of Mahinda Vidyalaya, Galle. He was the winner of the annual speech contest conducted by the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka. The UN theme for 2023 was “International Year of Millet”.

The President Mr. Mohammad Zawahir presented the first copy of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka Annual Report 2023 to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honor and the Special Guest. The Awards, certificates and cash prizes were also distributed to the winners and runners-up of the Speech Competition, General Knowledge Competition and Essay Competition.

Secretary General Mr. Errol Smith presented the activities carried out by the UNASL during the year under review and Mrs. Panchali Rathnayake delivered the Vote of Thanks.

Cultural items were presented by Sri Lanka Police Dancing Troup.





Our sincere appreciation and thanks to Mr. Errol Smith, Secretary-General, Mr. Sampath Priyankara, Deputy Executive Chairpersons, Dr. Anver Dole, Vice Chairperson and Dr. G. D. Upali Jayawardena, Assistant Secretary General they have ungrudgingly devoted their time in compiling the Annual 2024, and to the learned contributors who have demonstrated their scholarship in providing articles. We also wish to thank for the contribution made by our valuable sponsors to the annual.



***Mr. Dharmadasa Vitharanage***  
***Editor***  
***United Nations Association of Sri Lanka***



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024/2025**

The 75th Annual General Meeting of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka was held on Sunday, 31st March 2024 at its National Secretariat in Panadura amidst a large gathering of members.

Hoisting of the National Flag and the United Nations Association Flag by President Mr. M.M. Zawahir and Secretary-General, Mr. Errol Smith, preceded the event, after which the meeting was officially called to order by Mr. Zawahir who extended a warm welcome to all present. Others at the head table were the Chairman of the Executive Committee, Dr. M.M.M. Rushanudeen and Secretary-General Mr. Errol Smith.

The National Anthem was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the National Flag and the United Nations Flag which were led by Secretary-General, Mr. Errol Smith, who also performed the solemn ceremony of Remembrance of those departed during the year, who had served under the United Nations Flag.

Thereafter the meeting proceeded as per the Agenda with the Adoption of the Agenda, Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM held on 26th March 2023, Adoption of the Secretary-General's Annual Report for 2023, Adoption of the Treasurer's Report and Audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 and the Election of Auditors for the year 2024.

This was followed by the Address by the re-elected President, Mr. M.M. Zawahir. He highlighted the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals. Dr. G.P.P. Silva expressed his appreciation and views on the work of the Association and spoke on the Ukraine war as well as the Sustainable Development Goals and equal rights for all.

Secretary General, Mr. Errol Smith, spoke on some of the important projects carried out during the year under review and proposed the Vote of Thanks. The meeting was followed by networking and lunch.





# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

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Dharmadasa Vitharana

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**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION**  
IN THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC  
**OF SRI LANKA**



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*(former Commander of the Sri Lanka Army, former Defence Secretary and former High Commissioner of the Court of Saint James)*
- Ambassador Nissanka Wijewardena  
*(former Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, former Chairman Bank of Ceylon, former Chairman of the Greater Colombo Economic Commission and former Secretary to the last Governor-General and held numerous high positions in the Ceylon Civil Service)*
- Late Ambassador Neville Karakaratne  
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*Former High Commissioner to the Court of Saint James and former Ambassador to France and former director General of Bandaranaike International Diplomatic Training Institute (BIDT)*
- Desamanya Dr. Gamini Corea - MA (Cantab), D Phil (Oxon)  
*(Former Under Secretary-General of the UN and Secretary-General of the UNCTAD, former Ambassador to the European Union)*
- Desabandu Dr. Siran Deraniyagala - MA (Cantab), PhD (Harv)  
*former Director General of Archaeology*
- Dr. Lakshman Marasinghe - LL. B (Lond), LL.M (Lond), PhD (Lond), LL. D (Colombo)  
*(University Professor and Head of the Faculty of Law, University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada)*
- Late Desabandu Dr. F.G. Hudson Silva  
*(Founder and President of the Sri Lanka Eye Donation Society)*
- Late Honourable Felix R. Dias Bandaranaike MP  
*(former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka)*
- Senator – Late Honourable Dr. M.V.P. Peiris
- Late Honourable Major Montague Jayawickreme MP

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- R. Hemali Priyadarshanie



## 79TH ANNIVERSARY OBSERVANCE OF SIGNING THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER

The United Nations Association of Sri Lanka organized a Commemorative program to mark the 79th Anniversary Observance of Signing the United Nations Charter, at Renuka City Hotel in Colombo on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.

President Mr. Mohamed Zawahir made the welcome address and made an Introduction to the UNA – Sri Lanka while the Secretary-General Mr. Errol Smith made presentations on the “Signing of the United Nations Charter”.

The occasion was graced by several members of the Diplomatic Corps, including Charge d’ Affaires of the French Embassy, Mrs. Marie-Noelle Duric, H.E. Ambassador Levan Dahargayan of the Russian Federation, H.E. Ambassador Alireza Delkosh from Iran, H.E. Badli Hisham Adam from the High Commission of Malaysia, H.E. Mohamed Mady from Embassy of Egypt, Mr. Stefan Winkler, Director of the Goethe Institut and Mr. Alexvey Jseleshela from the Embassy of the Russian Federation.

Dr. Sanath De Silva, Head of Department of Strategic Studies, of the Kotelalawala Defence University, made a presentation on “The Role of Disarmament pursued by Sri Lanka”, and Dr. Ajith Colonne, the versatile Mentor, Trainer & Consultant, delivered an address on “Rational Decision Making”.

The meeting was well attended by invitees from the Public and Corporate sector, as well as members of UNA-Sri Lanka. Hon. Karu Jayasuriya, former Speaker of Parliament, Minister & Diplomat, also graced the occasion and presented mementos to the Guest Speakers on behalf of UNA-Sri Lanka.



# ICE CREAM DANSALA ON POSON POYA DAY A PROJECT BY THE UNASL YOUTH FORUM

The Youth Forum of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka is yet another initiative of the UNASL to develop the talents and sharpen the skills of the Youth, which are an integral part of our society.

This Youth Forum was established two years ago and consists of young people within the age group of 18 to 35 years. They assist the association in its programmes and also carry out their own projects, with the approval of UNASL. They also meet once a month.

An Ice-Cream Dansala was conducted on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 (Poson Poya Day) on the main Hirana Road in Panadura, opposite the UNASL Secretariat and over 1500 Cones of Ice-Cream were distributed to children and adults going to the temples to worship, etc.,





## HUMAN RIGHTS DAY – 2023

The commemoration of “Human Rights Day” which has been declared by the United Nations is held annually by our Association with the UNASL Study Circles Island wide. However, during the past few years we were unable to organize the commemoration due to the Covid Pandemic.

In commemoration of Human Rights Day, a meaningful lecture on Human Rights and Responsibilities was held on 10th December 2023 at 5.00 pm at the National Secretariat of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka.

The lecture was delivered by senior lecturer, retired principal S. L. R. D. By Mr. Ratugama. He presented the lecture in a simple manner so that all the participants could understand clearly about human rights and duties.

In collaboration with the Royal Netherland Embassy a booklet on Universal Declaration of Human Rights was translated and published by the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka and distributed the booklets among the participants of the lecture and the schools.

On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly approved and published the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Immediately after the publication of this historical document, the General Assembly, requested from all member countries to make this publication public in every country regardless of the differences based on the political situation, and to distribute, display, read and understand it mainly in schools and other educational institutions.

Kofi A. Annan  
Secretary-General



## *COMPUTER TRAINING CENTER*

The UNA-Sri Lanka Computer Training Center established with assistance from the UNA-China has been functioning smoothly over the past few years although the turnout of students has been inadequate.

We have developed suitable IT courses which have been accredited by the Sri Lanka Tertiary & Vocational Education Commission. The purpose of these courses are to improve the IT knowledge of the general public, especially school leavers.

The Certificate Awarding Ceremony of the Fifth Batch of students was held on 09<sup>th</sup> March 2024, at the UNASL National Secretariat.

Present on this occasion were the UNASL President, Secretary General, Executive Committee Members, Parents and Students.





## FOUNDER & FORMER UNASL SECRETARY-GENERAL'S 14<sup>TH</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY

The 14th Death Anniversary Commemoration of the Founder and Former Secretary -General of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka who was also the Founder Chairman of the Kumaran Fernando Foundation, was held on 21st March 2024 at the Kumaran Fernando Foundation premises in Panadura.

A simple ceremony with religious observances by the maha sanga followed by an alms giving, was held to invoke merit on the Late Kumaran Fernando.

Members of the Board of Directors of the Kumaran Fernando Foundation and UNASL Executive Committee Members participated in the meritorious event.



# STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

By: Dr. Upali Jayawardena

Consider the basic economic formula, that wealth is a function of Land, Labour and Capital. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century land was the most valuable component, and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century capital goods were more valuable. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century it is labour or human capital, which predominates. Today, the value of labour stems not from our ability to perform physical tasks, but from our intellectual capacity. Skilled people, not computers or raw silicon, are the fundamental source of the innovation that drives the economy.

In today's world, the most important natural resource is not wheat, gold or oil. It is people. The only form of capital with infinite potential return is human capital. To realize those returns, regions must create an environment that nurtures the development of its citizens. This means providing education opportunities that help students build basic skills, use technology and strengthen their capacity to innovate. It means creating a quality of life that encourages those students to stay in the region and attracts talented transplants. That is fostering a culture that rewards risk taking, values meritocracy and tolerates a wide diversity of ideas and lifestyles. It means focusing economic development efforts of helping regional firms to incorporate technology and strengthening network that support clusters. These are a tough set of tasks. Accomplishing them will require an active partnership of leaders from all the sectors the regional economy. Regions that can create such partnerships, and the people who participate in them, will be richly rewarded.

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is marked by global interconnections. People, Capital,

Information and goods, all flow across borders at ever increasing rates. By 2030, not only will emerging market economies contribute 65 percent of the Global GDP, but they will also be home to the majority of the world's working age population.

As National and International businesses increasingly compete for the best graduates in emerging market economies, skilled young people are rapidly migrating from Asia, Africa, and Latin America to provide much needed talent in the face of an aging workforce in Europe and North America.

The skills and talents of youth in the global south will be the engines of the world's future growth and prosperity. But critically, the education crisis in these regions threatens is very possible. In too many locations, parents and governments are unable to provide young people with a quality education and existing international assistance programs are not coming close to addressing the magnitude of the problems. A quality education for all young people, especially those in the global south, is good for public interest and it is time to ensure that all benefits it can play a role in ensuring its provision.

It is prudent to highlight that education makes us view obstacles as challenges to overcome with no fear, facing new things. It is the main factor behind successful people and the merit of developed countries. Therefore, education is deemed a real success behind any future success and economic prosperity.

# **GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND PEACE BUILDING**

By - ANUJANA RAJAKARUNA -

*“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”* – Coretta Scott King. In today’s fractured world, this powerful statement highlights our individual role in shaping a better world. Every act of kindness, no matter how small, enhances our collective well-being. In a world often divided by conflict, personal responsibility is key to building global citizenship, fostering cross-cultural understanding, and creating lasting peace. With news headlines dominated by conflict—such as the ongoing crisis in Gaza—embracing our shared humanity is crucial. Youth, with their energy, creativity, and empathy, are uniquely positioned to lead this transformative journey toward a more harmonious world.

## **Embracing Global Citizenship and The Power of Youth.**

Global citizenship involves recognizing the far-reaching impacts of our actions and understanding our interconnectedness. This perspective fosters empathy and solidarity, essential for tackling global issues like poverty, climate change, and conflict. According to the United Nations, over 1.8 billion young people worldwide have the potential to drive social change and promote peace.

The influence of youth in global change is significant. Research shows that young people are often at the forefront of activism, using social media to amplify their voices. The global climate strikes led by Greta Thunberg illustrate the profound impact of youth-led movements on public awareness and policy discussions. The United Nations Development Programme’s Youth Empowerment Index highlights the crucial role of youth in social and political spheres.

Youth involvement in decision-making processes is also increasing. The UN Youth Envoy ensures that young voices are included in global discussions on sustainable development and human rights, underscoring the importance of their perspectives in shaping a just world.

## **Youth as Peacebuilders**

Today’s youth are more connected than ever, thanks to technology and social media. This connectivity provides a unique opportunity to promote cross-cultural understanding and challenge stereotypes. UNESCO's Global Citizenship Education (GCED) initiative highlights the importance of educating young people about their roles in an interconnected world.

Despite this potential, the current state of the world can be disheartening. Conflict zones like Gaza underscore the urgent need for peace. Many engage in external battles, only to face internal conflicts that erode their own peace. It is crucial for young people to recognize the futility of such conflicts and channel their energies into constructive endeavors.

## **Promoting Cross-Cultural Understanding**

Cross-cultural understanding is the foundation of global citizenship. It involves appreciating and respecting diverse traditions and customs, which fosters mutual respect and reduces conflict. The World Economic Forum notes that young people are increasingly participating in

cross-cultural exchanges through study abroad programs, international internships, and virtual collaborations.

Youth can further this understanding by engaging in educational and dialogue opportunities. By participating in exchange programs and leveraging digital platforms, they can break down barriers and build bridges. Education systems should prioritize global citizenship, incorporating curricula that emphasize cultural diversity and global interdependence.

### **A Vision for the Future**

Reflecting on the loss of my grandmother on March 30, 2021, has been a profound journey. Her passing made me realize that death is inevitable, and we are all on a journey from womb to tomb. This reflection brings into sharp focus the futility of hatred and conflict in such a brief existence.

When I point a finger at you to say that you are responsible for the societal catastrophes we face, four fingers point back at me, reminding me that I am also part of this social fabric. My grandmother's legacy of compassion has taught me the importance of peace and collective responsibility. As youth, we have the power to drive global change by promoting global citizenship and cross-cultural understanding. Let us embrace this responsibility with fervor. Our passion for compassion can truly heal our planet. In our short lives, let us strive to build a peaceful, interconnected world where the greatness of our community is measured by our compassionate actions

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# **YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION: PAVING THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE**

**By - RANISHKA PEIRIS**

In recent years, the entrepreneurial landscape has witnessed a significant influx of young innovators who are breaking traditional barriers and reshaping industries. Youth entrepreneurship and innovation have become crucial drivers of economic growth and societal change, spurred by inspiring stories of young entrepreneurs, supportive innovation hubs, and a plethora of opportunities available in business and technology.

One of the most compelling aspects of youth entrepreneurship is the success stories of young innovators who have made a substantial impact at an early age. Take Ben Pasternak, for example. At just 15, he created the mobile app “Impossible Rush,” which quickly gained popularity. His knack for innovation led him to co-found the social networking app “Monkey,” which he later sold to Holla in 2017. Ben’s journey underscores the potential of young minds to disrupt the tech industry. Similarly, Mikaila Ulmer, who started her lemonade business, Me & the Bees Lemonade, at just 4 years old, has become a symbol of entrepreneurial spirit and environmental consciousness. Using her grandmother’s flaxseed lemonade recipe and sweetening it with honey to support bee conservation, Mikaila has grown her business to be featured in major grocery stores across the United States. By age 11, she had already secured a deal with Whole Foods. Mozhiah Bridges, another young trailblazer, founded Mo’s Bows at the age of 9. His handmade bow ties captured the attention of fashion enthusiasts and led him to appear on Shark Tank, where he secured mentorship from Daymond John. Mozhiah’s success exemplifies how young entrepreneurs can blend creativity with business acumen to carve out a niche in competitive markets.

To nurture such talent, various innovation hubs around the world provide resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities tailored specifically for young entrepreneurs. The Young Innovators Hub (YIH), for instance, operates in multiple cities globally and offers workshops, hackathons, and incubation programs that help young innovators turn their ideas into viable businesses. These hubs are vital in providing the foundational support needed to navigate the complexities of starting and scaling a business. The start-up Grind Youth, a global community dedicated to young entrepreneurs, facilitates learning through events, educational content, and a platform where young founders can share their experiences. This community-centric approach fosters collaboration and mutual growth, empowering youth to push the boundaries of innovation. MIT Launch, another notable program, helps high school students develop entrepreneurial skills through a comprehensive summer program and year-round



activities. Participants receive mentorship from MIT experts and work on their startups, gaining invaluable hands-on experience in the process.

The burgeoning field of youth entrepreneurship is further supported by various programs and competitions that provide funding, mentorship, and educational resources. The Thiel Fellowship, founded by Peter Thiel, offers \$100,000 over two years to young people under 23 who want to drop out of college and focus on their startups. This fellowship not only provides financial support but also connects fellows with a network of accomplished entrepreneurs. Google Code-in is another remarkable initiative, offering pre-university students aged 13-17 the opportunity to work on opensource projects. This competition introduces young minds to software development, fostering technical skills and real-world problem-solving abilities. Organizations like DECA and Junior Achievement (JA) also play a crucial role in preparing youth for careers in business and technology. DECA hosts competitions and conferences that nurture leadership and entrepreneurial skills, while JA provides programs focused on entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy through hands-on experiences.

In closing, the landscape of youth entrepreneurship and innovation is vibrant and full of potential. With inspiring young entrepreneurs leading the way, supportive innovation hubs providing essential resources, and numerous opportunities for education and growth, the future of business and technology is in capable hands. These young innovators are not only shaping their own destinies but are also driving significant societal and economic changes, proving that age is no barrier to making a substantial impact.

# **YOUTH & MENTAL HEALTH**

By - A.M. LOGARAJ

**“There are wounds that never show on the body that are deeper and more hurtful than anything that bleeds” - Laurell K. Hamilton**

Mental health has become a critical issue in today’s society, especially among the youth. The transition from childhood to adulthood is marked by significant physical, emotional, and social changes, which can often be overwhelming and challenging at times. As a result, many young people experience mental health issues, making awareness and the availability of resources crucial.

Globally it is estimated that 1 in 7 (14%) 10 - 19-year-olds experience mental health conditions, yet these remain largely unrecognized and untreated. Adolescents with mental health conditions are particularly vulnerable to social exclusion, discrimination, educational difficulties, risk-taking behaviors, physical ill-health, and human rights violations.

## **The Importance of Mental Health Awareness**

Raising awareness about mental health is the first step toward addressing the issue as it helps in identifying and understanding mental health problems early on, allowing for timely intervention. Multiple factors affect mental health, the more risk factors adolescents are exposed to, the greater the potential impact on their mental health.

Factors that contribute to stress during adolescence, include exposure to adversity, pressure to conform with peers, and exploration of identity. In addition to this, the influence of Media and gender norms can inflame the disparity between an adolescent’s lived reality and their perceptions or aspirations for the future. Other important determinants include the quality of their home life and peer relationships. Violence (especially sexual violence and bullying), harsh parenting, and severe socio-economic problems are recognized as risks that affect one's mental health.

Some adolescents are at greater risk of mental health conditions due to their living conditions, stigma, discrimination or exclusion, or lack of access to quality support and services. These include adolescents living in humanitarian and fragile settings; adolescents with chronic illnesses, and intellectual disability, and those in early or forced marriages are a few suitable examples.

**“There is hope even when your brain tells you there isn’t” - John Green**

## **Destigmatization of Mental Health Issues**

Stigma remains one of the biggest barriers to mental health care as the negative stereotypes and misconceptions about mental health conditions can lead to discrimination and social exclusion,

discouraging young people from seeking help. Destigmatization efforts aim to challenge these harmful beliefs while promoting a more accepting and understanding society where everyone feels appreciated and heard.

Public campaigns, educational programs, and personal stories are powerful tools that can help destigmatize mental health and by highlighting that mental health conditions are common and treatable these initiatives can slowly but surely change perceptions and attitudes. If you think closely, ***'Most of us don't hesitate to pop a pill or visit the doctor when we come down with a cold'***. When society views mental health with the same seriousness as physical health problems, it will encourage young people to seek help without fear of judgement.

***"Never give up on someone with a mental illness. When 'I' is replaced by 'We', illness becomes wellness"*** - Shannon L. Alder

## **Promotion & Prevention**

Access to mental health resources is essential for the youth to manage their mental health effectively. These resources can range from professional services to self-help tools and peer support networks. Mental health professionals, such as psychologists, counselors, and psychiatrists, offer specialized care for various mental health conditions. In addition to this, schools and universities have integrated counseling services into the education system while also introducing hotlines that offer support and guidance making its service accessible to all students.

It is crucial to address the needs of adolescents with mental health conditions, Avoiding institutionalization and over-medicalization, prioritizing non-pharmacological approaches, and respecting the rights of children in line with the United Nations Convention are key for adolescents' mental health.

***"Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise again"*** - Victor Hugo

The importance of mental health awareness, destigmatization, and access to resources cannot be overstated, particularly for young people navigating the complexities of growing up, by fostering a culture of openness and support, society can help young individuals manage their mental health more effectively, leading to healthier and happier lives. It's vital to continue to advocate to ensure that adequate resources are available to those in need. This collective effort can make a significant difference in the well-being of the youth and the future of society.

# **DIGITAL LITERACY & CYBER SECURITY**

By - ANUJANA RAJAKARUNA

The digital age has brought with it a host of challenges that make it necessary for young people to be digitally literate and safe online. Having knowledge about the internet is not just an advantage but should be considered necessary for today's living. It can either help young individuals flourish in a digital society or get entrapped in its traps.

## Digital Skills are Powerful

Digital literacy equates to having a modern toolbox for success. For the youth, this goes far beyond being able to operate computers and smartphones; it incorporates many essential skills crucial to personal growth and career building. In order to navigate through various educational resources and engage these platforms effectively, one needs to have good digital skills. Education now largely relies on online platforms which create a need for some basic knowledge on how they work as well as a creative use of tools available for projects' development and collaboration in the contemporary education environment. With these abilities, young people can interact at international levels, think outside the box, and prepare themselves for careers in the future's ever more digitized workplaces.

## Ensuring Online Safety

With the incredible benefits of digital technology come significant risks, making cybersecurity a vital concern. Young people are particularly vulnerable to online threats such as phishing scams, malware, and identity theft. Therefore, understanding how to protect oneself online is crucial. This involves using strong, unique passwords for different accounts, being cautious about sharing personal information, and recognizing the signs of phishing attempts and other malicious activities. The ability to identify suspicious emails, manage privacy settings on social media, and secure personal devices is fundamental to maintaining online safety. By cultivating these practices, youth can safeguard their personal information and mitigate the risks associated with online interactions.

## Putting Responsible Internet Use into Practice

Responsible internet usage goes beyond personal security; it is also about being ethical and considerate in the virtual world. For young people, this means treating others well in the web, avoiding misinformation, and being aware of the long-lasting effects of their online presence. It is crucial to analyze the information we consume and share; consequently, this calls upon us always to check whether it comes from a credible source while at the same time adding value to our online communities. Demonstrating empathy and respect through digital communication channels fosters an encouraging atmosphere around them. As online citizens, young people hold the ability to make positive transformations in these digital spaces while their actions stand aligned with honesty and honor.



Empowering the next generation.

To be able to navigate the digital sphere effectively, it is important to educate and raise awareness among young people. Programs that give literacy training about the internet and cyber security have been proven effective in equipping them with knowledge. By participating in such activities as digital literacy workshops and cyber security simulations, participatory learning can be used to enhance comprehension and retention of these crucial concepts. This is why we encourage forward-thinking attitudes towards their digital literacy and cyber security so that they can enjoy the many advantages that technology offers while safeguarding themselves and society from its hazards.

In conclusion, as our digital world keeps changing, it's crucial for today's youth to be savvy about digital skills and cybersecurity. Learning how to use technology responsibly and stay safe online isn't just a nice-to-have—it's a must. By getting a handle on these skills, young people can safeguard themselves and help create a safer, more positive online space for everyone. It's about making sure that as we move forward, we're not just keeping up with technology, but using it in smart and responsible ways.

# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - 2024

International Women's Day - 2024 was commemorated by the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka on Sunday, 9th March, 2024 at the MJF Foundation Center in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

This Multi-Service Project was sphere header by Mr. Errol Smith, Secretary-General of the UNASL.

The President of the UN Association of Sri Lanka Mr. Mohamed Zawahir addressed the audience on the topic - "Breaking the Workplace Barriers".

He spoke on many important and significant aspects related to Gender Equality, Women Empowerment, Challenges faced by Women, Safety of Women and Girls, etc. He further elaborated on women's discrimination, cultural environment, diversity, leadership, advocacy and empowerment.



Dr. Upali Marasinghe made a presentation on Physical and Mental Health of women in the current context and malnutrition which are affecting the health condition, particularly of women and girls.

Dr. (Mrs.) Charika Marasinghe spoke on Women and Children and shared her valuable experiences among those present, which was highly appreciated.

Baby Cheramy Gift Packs valued at over Rs.2,500/= each were distributed to the beneficiaries with the courtesy of Hemas Holdings Ltd.,





A Western Medical Clinic was conducted and medicines as well as vitamins were provided free of charge. Further, a Diabetes and Blood Pressure Screening Program was also conducted.



There were many other facilities such as a session on beauty culture, cookery demonstrations, mobile salon, ayurvedic treatment, etc., as well as music and entertainment which added glamour to the event and the women enjoyed thoroughly at least for a moment. One could clearly see the happiness illuminating from their faces.

The audience, which numbered over 250 participants, were all served breakfast, refreshments and lunch which was sponsored by the Merrill J Fernando Foundation.

Project Chairman, Errol Smith, Secretary General of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka commented that the project was a tremendous success which profusely benefited the large number of women present.





# MULTI-SERVICE HEALTH PROJECT

A Multi-Service Health Project was held by the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka, at the Suseema Ramaya, Katukurunda, Kalutara on Sunday, 27th December 2023, jointly and in collaboration with the Lions Club of Panadura and the Sri Lanka German Friendship Society.

The Project included the following services, among others:

- Western Medical Clinic with medicines given free
- Vision Screening and distribution of Spectacles, Free
- Identifying patients for Cataract Surgeries
- Diabetes Screening (Fasting & Random)
- Blood Pressure and BMI Screening
- Children's Dental Clinic including extract

Over 400 people were treated at this Camp, the cost of which was over Rs.750,000/= and it was a tremendous success through which people from the area as well as adjoining areas benefited immensely. Those detected with cataract, were referred to the Gift of Sight Eye Hospital in Panadura for surgeries.



This mega project was sphere headed by the Secretary General of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka Mr. Errol Smith, who provided all the medicines and diabetes screening strips free of charge and the Spectacles were jointly sponsored by all three organizations.



# CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS FORUM

The Secretary General of the United Nations Association of Sri Lanka, Mr. Errol Smith was invited and attended two meetings of the Civil Society Organizations Forum of the Ministry of Environment, representing the Association as a Founder Member.

This meeting of all Civil Society Organizations was convened to address the issues facing Sri Lanka which are highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Adapting to climate change is becoming a routine and necessary component of planning at all levels. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 2016-2025 is a key instrument in identifying adaptation needs as well as developing and implementing strategies and programs to address those needs.



The Climate Change Secretariat of the Ministry of Environment, via the delivery partner, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), is currently in the process of revising the NAP 2016-2025 under the GCF-funded NAP Readiness Support Project.

NAP 2016-2025 recognized the establishment of a Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Forum to support climate actions that have grassroots level operations. It will function as a supporting body for Sector Climate Cells (SCC) and the National Working Group and Provincial Climate Institutions being established parallelly.

This forum has been organized as part of the **National Adaptation Plan Readiness Support Project** and serves as a crucial platform for discussing strategies and actions that will shape our collective response to climate change challenges.



The initial CSO Forum meeting was held on 04th September 2023 and the second on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at the Ministry of Environment Auditorium in Battaramulla.

Civil Society Organization (CSO) working on climate action in the fields of (1) Food Security; Agriculture, Livestock & Fisheries, (2) Water Resources, (3) Coastal & Marine, (4) Health, (5) Human Settlements & Infrastructure, (6) Ecosystems & Biodiversity, (7) Tourism & Recreation, (8) Export Agriculture, and (9) Energy, Industry & Transport and (10) Cross-cutting sectors such as Policy Studies, Gender Social Inclusion, Research, Technology Transfer, Capacity Building, Education, Climate Information, etc., were invited to join hands and drive real change at the upcoming initial CSO Forum towards achieving Climate Action goals of Sri Lanka.



**What is Expected:**

Engage in dynamic discussions, policy dialogues, and collaborative actions to combat increasing climate challenges, from policy advocacy to on-ground implementation.

**Strategies for Discussion**

- To learn about the roles and responsibilities of CSOs in climate action
- Discuss the impacts of climate change on vulnerable sectors and cross-cutting themes
- Strategize to shape climate policies
- Network with fellow CSOs working on climate action
- Create opportunities for CSOs to collaborate on national and subnational climate actions.





## Winner

### UNASL Best Study Circle Projects 2023/2024

St. Joseph's Balika Vidyalaya, Kegalle



Seated from Left to Right - Ms. P. M. B. I. A. Jayamali, Ms. J. K. S. Bandara, Mr. V. J. R. Jayasiri (Vice Principlal), Ms. S. R. G. T. Menike (Principal, S.L.E.A.S.), Ms. J. P. R. Chandralatha (Vice Peincipal), Ms. R. P. A. Pushphakanthi, Ms. D. M. C. Baminiwaththa

Standing from Left to Right - D. M. C. L. Dasanayaka, K. H. J. H. Karunarathna, S. A. S. P. Samarasinghe, H. P. S. N. Hewage, R. R. I. S. Bandara, M. R. S. K. Warshakoon

## Winner

### UNASL Best Study Circle Teacher-in-Charge 2023/2024

St. Joseph's Balika Vidyalaya, Kegalle

**MS. R. PRIYADARSHANI PUSHPAKANTHI**



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

### UNASL Best Study Circle Projects 2023/2024

#### Vijaya Vidyalaya, Matale



Seated from Left to Right – G. N. Gunathilaka, Ms. P. G. L. S. Bandara, Ms. H. G. A. D. Karunaratne, Mr. A. H. W. R. Theekshana (Principal), Ms. D. R. Weerakoon (Study Circle Teacher-In-Charge)

Standing from Left to Right – I. G. K. S. B. Ehalage, J. A. C. B. Arachchige, W. G. T. M. Mauryawansa, D. J. I. D. Premaratna, L. M. W. M. Lankanayaka, W. N. S. D. Kurera, K. G. H. N. Thilakaratne, N. H. M. T. De Silva, M. A. K. P. Malthunga, T. M. Sugathadas, W. G. N. K. Rushanthi, D. D. L. D. Hemachandra

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

### UNASL Best Study Circle Teacher-In-Charge 2023/2024

#### Vijaya College, Matale

**MS. D. R. WEERAKOON**





### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

#### **UNASL Best Study Circle Projects 2023/2024**

**Kegalu Vidyalaya, Kegalle**



Seated from Left to Right - Mr. U. G. J. S. Rathnayaka (Vice Principal), Mr. W. A. H. Bandara (Vice Principal), Mr. A. L. P. Amarasooriya (Principal), Ms. R. A. K. Ranaweera, (Teacher-In-Charge)

Standing from Left to Right - G. R. M. I. Gamlath, R. B. S. M. Ranasinghe, W. R. C. S. Bandara, K. G. S. H. Premasinghe, E. R. S. T. B. Ekanayaka, A. A. N. C. Amarasinghe

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

#### **UNASL Best Study Circle Teacher-In-Charge 2023/2024**

**Kagalu Vidyalaya, Kegalle**

**MS. RANAWEERA ARACHCHILAGE KUMUDUNEE RANAWEERA**



## 4<sup>th</sup> Place

### UNASL Best Study Circle Projects 2023/2024

Pushpadana Girls College, Kandy



Standing in front of Row from Left to Right - Tharushi Dewmini, Chathunika Gunarathna, Pamudhi Shehara, Nimsara, Dilshani Janithi Yugandara,

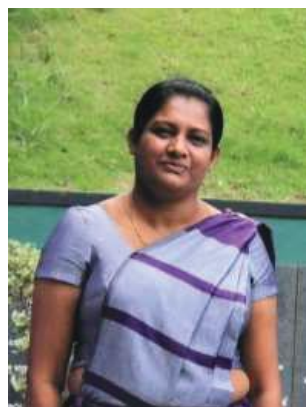
Standing behind Row from Left to Right - Buvini Omayya, Shashiprabha Kandage, Heshani Nethsara, Senudi Sethumya

## 4<sup>th</sup> Place

### UNASL Best Study Circle Projects 2023/2024

Pushpadana Girls College, Kandy

Mrs. AJINI KUMARI WELIWITA RAMBUKWELLA



## 5<sup>th</sup> Place

### UNASL Best Study Circle Projects 2023/2024

Mahinda Vidyalaya, Galle



#### From Left to Right

- Seated - Mr. L. P. Weeraman (Deputy Principal), Mr. Janaka Peduruhewa (Principal), Mr. Nuwan Chathuranga (M.I.C)
- Standing 1<sup>st</sup> Row - W. K. A. Thenupa, G. L. T. Kamalarathna, A. M. P. Adhikari, P. T. Ewmith, Yuneth Athukorala
- Standing 2<sup>nd</sup> Row - S. H. Samarakoon, Nadula Wanniarachchi, Kenuka Sayul, M. Rethisha, A. G. Sithil
- Standing 3<sup>rd</sup> Row - Laknitha Ukwatta, A. V. C. Vithanage, Viduth Vinsanda, Tharuga Dewnitha, Sithun Senanayaka, Manula Gunasekara
- Standing 4<sup>th</sup> Row - Binuka Mandara, W. K. S. Yehen, B. D. Wedamulla, Didula Bimsara, M. H. G. Yasaru
- Standing 5<sup>th</sup> Row - T. A. Kulunu Gunasekara, Vethum Pathirana, Senuth Dilnada, N. N. B. Mehansa, Ranitha Pethmin, Disnuja Diwmina, Chanidu Shaluka

## 5<sup>th</sup> Place

### UNASL Best Study Circle Teacher-In-Charge 2023/2024

Mahinda Vidyalaya, Galle

MR. G. H. NUWAN CHATHURANGA







# UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

National Observance of the 79<sup>th</sup> UNITED NATIONS DAY  
*at the*

**Sri Lanka Medical Association Auditorium**

6, Wijarama Mawatha, Colombo 7, at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## PROGRAMME

- 03.00 p.m. - Hoisting of the National and UN Flags by the President - UNASL and the Chief Guest
- 05.05 p.m. - National Anthem of Sri Lanka
- 03.10 p.m. - Observation of One Minute's Silence in memory of those who have sacrificed their lives under the UN Flag, during the past year
- 03.15 p.m. - **Opening Performance by the Sri Lanka Police Dance Troupe**
- 03.20 p.m. - Introduction of the Head Table
- 03.25 p.m. - Introduction of the President - UNASL by Ms. Panchali Ratnayake, Asst. Secretary-General, UNASL
- 03.30 p.m. - Welcome and Address by the President of the UNASL, Mr. Mohamed Zawahir
- 03.40 p.m. - Presentation of the UNASL Annual 2024 to the Chief Guest and dignitaries.
- 03.45 p.m. - **Performance by the Nakkawatha National School Dance Troupe**
- 03.50 p.m. - Introduction of President – UNASL Youth by Mr. Isindu Edirisinghe
- 03.53 p.m. - Address by the President of the UNASL Youth Forum, Mr. Rakeeb Zawahir
- 04.00 p.m. - Introduction of the Guest of Honour by Dr. Anver Dole, Vice Chairperson, UNASL
- 04.05 p.m. - Address by Guest of Honour – Dr. Chathura Warnasuriya, Senior Lecturer, Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology – Head of the Law School.
- 04.15 p.m. - Introduction of Keynote Speaker by Ms. Shyama Wijekulasuriya, Executive Member, UNASL
- 04.20 p.m. - Address by Keynote Speaker Ms. Manomi Seneviratne, Principal, Visakha Vidyalaya, Colombo.
- 04.30 p.m. - **Performance by the Sri Lanka Police Dance Troupe**
- 04.40 p.m. - Introduction of Chief Guest by Dr. Sarath Samarage, Vice Chairperson, UNASL
- 04.45 p.m. - Address by the Chief Guest, Prof. Guwani Liyanage, Professor in Pediatrics, University of Sri Jayawardenapura.
- 05.00 p.m. - Presentation of Awards
- 05.10 p.m. - **Performance by the Sri Lanka Police Dance Troupe**
- 05.20 p.m. - Presentation of Certificates – UNASL Computer Course and the School Dance Troupe
- 05.30 p.m. - Introduction of the Secretary-General UNASL by Dr. Upali Jayawardena, Assistant Secretary-General of the UNASL
- 05.35 p.m. - Vote of Thanks by the Secretary-General, UNASL Mr. Errol Smith
- 05.45 p.m. - Termination of Official Session followed by Refreshments





**“Sustainable development is the pathway to the future we want for all. It offers a framework to generate economic growth, achieve social justice, exercise environmental stewardship and strengthen governance.”**

**- Ban Ki-moon**



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