A Photo Journal of
Building Religious Tolerance
in Mattakkuliya, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
INTRODUCTION

Through research, dialogue, education, and community interventions, the promoting religious harmony project will enhance understanding between and amongst different religious groups in Sri Lanka, promote social harmony, and foster inter-ethnic and inter-religious coexistence. The project aims in the long term, to contribute to reducing inter-religious tensions in Sri Lanka, to generate a spirit of tolerance and understanding, to celebrate religious diversity, and to develop lessons for other societies experiencing similar conflict.

This publication is the result of the promoting religious harmony project’s community action in Mattakuliya, Colombo.
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colitew සාමාන්‍යතාව විශේෂයෙන් පවුලී ඔබට කොහොමද පන්නම් පැවැති කොහොමද යනුවෙන් සැම් හෝ දිස්ත්‍රික්කා දැක්වීමට නිර්ණය කරනු ලබන්නේ. සමාත්‍ය සහිතව මිශ්‍රීම්, සියළු පැවැති නාමකරණය, පෙළබඳ නාමකරණය, කිසිදුක් නැමැති සාමාන්‍ය ඔස්සේ ඉතිහාසීක හැකිය

මේ දුරිකුත් දැක්වීමට පැවැති කොහොමද පන්නම් පැවැති කොහොමද යනුවෙන් සැම් හෝ දිස්ත්‍රික්කා දැක්වීමට නිර්ණය කරනු ලබන්නේ. සමාත්‍yw සහිතව මිශ්‍රීම්, සියළු පැවැති නාමකරණය, පෙළබඳ නාමකරණය, කිසිදුක් නැමැති සාමාන්‍yw ඔස්සේ ඉතිහාසීක හැකිය.

මෙම EQUITAS විදේශ සිදුවන්නේ විද්‍යාලය මොහොත් කොහොමද පන්නම් පැවැති කොහොමද යනුවෙන් සැම් හෝ දිස්ත්‍රික්කා දැක්වීමට නිර්ණය කරනු ලබන්නේ. මේ මේ කොහොමද පන්නම් පැවැති කොහොමද යනුවෙන් සැම් හෝ දිස්ත්‍රික්කා දැක්වීමට නිර්ණය කරනු ලබන්නේ. මේ මේ කොහොමද පන්නම් පැවැති කොහොමද යනුවෙන් සැම් හෝ දිස්ත්‍රික්කා දැක්වීමට නිර්ණය කරනු ලබන්නේ.
சான்றிலுள்ள குற்றங்களை பிழைக்கவும், பித்தாகரச் சமன்பாட்டுகளை, பொழிவூடு புகழ்பெற்றவைகளைச்சுருக்குவதற்கு அனுப்பும் அயலியானை ராணாத்தின் குறுநிகாயான குலபேசி பக்தர்களின் பிரதிக்கோட்டை காப்பாறு தேர்த்து கொண்டுள்ளனர் பராதோரால் செய்யப்பட்ட தீர்மானமாகும்.

துறவர்களுக்கு நேரலையான வந்ததுக்கு அதன்படி சமயபாட்டின் கூற்றுகளை நோக்கியது ஏற்பாட்டுகளுக்கு அடிமட்டத்தில் குறுநிகாயான குலபேசியானவர்களுக்கு தொடர்புடைய வாய்வை அளிக்கிறது. இந்தக் குறுநிகாயான வந்ததுக்கு நேரலையான வந்தது போட்டியில் நடந்து கூற்றுகளை அறிவித்து பார்வோறோல் குலபேசியானவர்களுக்கு மேலும் புகழ்பெற்று, புற்று முச்சையானவர்களுக்கு பார்வோறோல் அறிவித்து போட்டியில் நடந்து கூற்றுகளை அறிவித்து பார்வோறோல் பார்வோறோல் குலபேசியானவர்களுக்கு மேலும் புகழ்பெற்று, புற்று முச்சையானவர்களுக்கு அருந்து அந்தந்த போட்டியில் நடந்து கூற்றுகளை அறிவித்து பார்வோறோல் குலபேசியானவர்களுக்கு மேலும் புகழ்பெற்று, புற்று முச்சையானவர்களுக்கு 

EQUITAS கூறுகளின் பிரதிக்கோட்டைகளின் செயல்பாடு என்ற துணையான Bing Arguelles, Cristina Galofre, Sara & Ian Hamilton அறிவித்து கூற்றிடைக்கு நேரலையான சமயமாகும்.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The community actions with the Sunday schools in Matakuliya, Colombo was implemented by Colombo district team consists of Thiyaga Chandana, Jegan Prakash, Ramanusha Poobalarathnam, Kethma Kalhari Wickremasinghe, Niluka Fonseka and Rohini Dasanayaka.

We, the Colombo team, are grateful to the guidance of our coach, Ermiza Tegal. And also we like to thank the following Sunday Schools who participated in the project K.P. Pathmaraja, principal of Hindu Sunday School, Rukmal Silva, the principal of St.mary’s Sunday School, Prasanna Vijitha Kumara, the teacher at Buddhist Sunday School and A.A.M. Musammil, the principal of Islam Sunday School.

And also we would like to thank Dr. Samitha Hettige, who worked as a project coordinator at the beginning of this programme.

Further we would like to thank the EQUITAS team consists of Bing Arguelles, Cristina Galofre, Sara & Ian Hamilton

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MESSAGE FROM EQUITAS

On behalf of the Equitas team based in Montreal, I congratulate all those who were involved in this publication. This book helps to document the amazing work of a dedicated team undertaking human rights education activities with Sunday Schools in Colombo. It is a tangible record of their efforts and contributions towards the success of the Promoting Religious Harmony Project (2014 – 2016). Equitas was delighted to be able to work with the Colombo Team and the International Centre for Ethnic Studies on this initiative and we look forward to continuing to collaborate and share experiences on the promotion of religious harmony.

It is my sincere hope that this book and the pictures herein serve as a source of inspiration and motivation to encourage young and older readers to participate in efforts to promote inter-religious understanding and national reconciliation in Sri Lanka and elsewhere.

Ian Hamilton
Executive Director
Equitas – International Centre for Human Rights Education
Montreal, Quebec
Canada
MESSAGE FROM ICES

A group of activists and social workers in and around the capital city of Colombo, engaged in a number of activities as part of an initiative on building inter-religious harmony and promoting peaceful coexistence.

They chose as their site of the intervention 'Dhamma' and 'Sunday' schools in the suburb of Mutuwal. The group engaged with students and teachers from the four major religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity.

As part of the series of interventions the group had training programmes on inter-religious harmony and human rights for the teachers and students of the Dhamma and Sunday schools; organised an exposure visit that enabled teachers and students to visit 'other' places of worship and develop an understanding of 'other' religious practices; and made book donations to the schools. They also held a cultural show to foster co-existence and religious harmony.

This publication contains several photographs from the different activities and serves to document pictorially the several activities of this group.

My congratulations go out to the members of the group. The ICES has been impressed with the dedication and the commitment the group has shown in order to celebrate Sri Lanka's religious and ethnic diversity. It is a modest, but important, contribution to building a plural and tolerant society.

Mario Gomez
Executive Director
International Centre for Ethnic Studies
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Teachers from different religious Sunday schools from the Mattakkuliya area came together to explore human values and non violent communication. They worked together and experienced teaching values to children using the Play It Fair toolkit.

Lasalian Training Center
Modara-Mattakuliya
Nonviolent Activism

A Photo Journal of Building Religious Tolerance
Children following the Hindu faith gathered to share their ideas and discuss human values. They experienced how the value of respect and understanding between different religious identities can build bridges among communities. They explored how non-violent communication can be practiced.

Valluvar Araneri Hindu School
Modara - Mattakuliya
Students following the Islam faith gathered to share their ideas and discuss human values with participatory activities. They discussed how the value of respect can build bridges and understanding between different religious identities. Children explored the various human conditions that lead to conflicts and how to prevent potential conflicts.

Mattakkuliya Ahadhiyyah School
Modara - Mattakkuliya

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Mattakkuliya Ahadhiyyah School
Modara - Mattakkuliya
Children following the Christian faith gathered to share their ideas and discuss human values. They experienced how the value of respect and understanding between different religious identities can build bridges among communities. The students explored how non-violent communication can be adopted to their lives.

St. Mary's Sunday School
Modara - Mottakuliya

A Photo Journal of Building Religious Tolerance
Children following the Buddhist faith experienced how the value of respect can build bridges and understanding between different religious identities. They explored how non-violent communication can be practiced.

Gamini Damma School
Modara - Mattakuliya

A Photo Journal of Building Religious Tolerance
Children and teachers who participated in the religious harmony building program visited four significant religious places. They visited the Gangarama Temple, the Mayurapathy Hindu Kovil, Mattakiluya Mosque and the Supuvath Arana Catholic Church at Seeduwa.

ወንцов ໐Firstname ການອ່ານຫາ ການ ເຊິ່ງແຂ່ງຂອງ ການ ການທີ່ ການ ຈ່າຍງານ. ການ ຀ານ ຈ່າຍງານ ການ ທ່າອານ ລາວ ຈາກ ການ ການ ຈ່າຍງານ ການ ການ ການ ຈ່າຍງານ ການ ການ ການ ການ ຈ່າຍງານ ການ ການ ການ ການ ການ ການ ຈ່າຍງານ ການ ຈ່າຍງານ.

A Photo Journal of Building Religious Tolerance
To rejoice the wonderful journey we had with the participants of our programme, a celebration of an inter-religious Christmas festival was organized. The children from different religions prepared and performed dances, songs and plays to appreciate the different religions and their culture.

St. Mary’s Sunday School
Modara - Mottakuliya
When every human being lives and acts with the good knowledge & understanding of their own religion the religious harmony will dawn in the world. We don't need a ruthless war which kills human beings mercilessly. We will change the world as a place which is full of peace & prosperous. For that we need this kind of programmes.

Fathima Asna Iqbal  
Mattakkuliya Ahadhiyyah School - Mattakuliya

A Photo Journal of Building Religious Tolerance
Feedback from Participants

This is the first time in my life to take part in an event in which teachers representing other religions took part. Till this opportunity came we worked separately. Now it is great that a good relationship has been built up among four religions through this programme. We will invite people from other religions to our special events in the future. It is clear that the programme has played a very important role in promoting religious harmony in Mattakkuliya area.

Tharaka Dushshantha (Teacher)
Gamini Daham School - Mattakkuliya

This is my first time to participate in an event where teachers from different religions shared. It has been an eye-opener for me. I have learned a lot from the programme and it has helped in building a harmonious relationship among different religions.

A Photo Journal of Building Religious Tolerance
Feedback from Participants

We brothers & sisters learned how to respect each other through participating in numerous kinds of practical activities. We got an opportunity to have friends from other religions. I was able to come to know about many good things and facts of other religions which I had not known before in my life. I am very fortunate to be a part of this programme.

Rebeka Mendis
St. Mary Sunday School - Mattakkuliya

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Rebeka Mendis
St. Mary Sunday School - Mattakkuliya

A Photo Journal of Building Religious Tolerance
Feedback from Participants

Our only aim is to create a society which is full of morals and good characters. Through working with children & teachers from all the four religions, as a nation and as a society we can be a great example to the entire world. This programme played an immense role in strengthening religious harmony in Mattakkuliya area.

K. P. Pathmaraja (Principle)
Valluvar Araneri Hindu School - Mattakuliya

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