



YOUTH CAMP – 2026

"Youth Leadership for Human Rights in a Changing World: Empowering Young Leaders to Promote Integrity, Inclusion, and Responsible Citizenship."

Thematic youth camp on Human Rights and Social Responsibility by HRCSL

Sri Lanka is facing rapidly changing social, economic and technological conditions, creating numerous significant human rights challenges, particularly affecting young people. Although considerable progress has been made in strengthening democratic governance, legal protection and access to education, contemporary challenges such as drug use, bribery and corruption, cybercrime, the circulation of false information, hate speech, violence, discrimination, environmental degradation and mental health concerns continue to pose serious threats to the enjoyment of fundamental human rights and freedoms.

Young people constitute a significant proportion of Sri Lanka's population and play an important role in shaping the future of the country. Accordingly, in fulfilling its mandate to protect and promote human rights in the country, the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka intends to conduct a Youth Camp under the theme "Youth Leadership for Human Rights in a Changing World: Empowering Young Leaders to Promote Integrity, Inclusion and Responsible Citizenship."

The purpose of this programme is to develop a new generation of young people who understand emerging human rights challenges and are equipped with the knowledge, practical skills and values necessary to respond effectively within their communities. It also seeks to encourage young people to become active citizens of the country.

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka successfully conducted two Youth Camps in 2018 and 2019. For this camp, young people from all 25 districts of the country will be engaged. Through interactive learning, leadership development, practical exercises, group

discussions, simulations, community activity planning and team-building activities, participants will have opportunities to critically examine contemporary human rights issues, strengthen leadership and communication skills, make lawful and principled decisions, and identify practical solutions to challenges affecting their communities.

By investing in youth leadership and civic participation, the Commission aims to create a nationwide network of young human rights activists committed to promoting equality, integrity, democratic participation and human dignity throughout Sri Lanka.

The programme specifically aims to:

- Increase young people's understanding of fundamental human rights and their relevance to current social, economic, environmental and technological challenges.
- Increase awareness of emerging human rights issues, including drug use, corruption, digital rights, cybersecurity, the circulation of false information, discrimination, environmental justice, mental health and responsible citizenship.
- Promote the values of integrity, accountability, equality, participation, non-discrimination and respect for diversity.
- Develop leadership, communication, teamwork, problem solving, and legal and social advocacy skills among young people.
- Encourage meaningful youth participation in promoting human rights, good governance and democratic values in schools, universities, workplaces and local communities.
- Empower participants to design and implement community-based programmes at district level that promote human rights awareness, social responsibility and civic participation.
- Establish a nationwide network of young human rights activists who contribute to respecting and promoting human rights throughout Sri Lanka.

PROGRAMME INFORMATION

- Proposed dates: 26 October 2026 to 31 October 2026
- Venue: To be informed to participants later
- Participants:
 - 55 young men and women representing all 25 administrative districts of Sri Lanka.
 - Two participants from each district will be selected, ensuring gender balance wherever possible, resulting in 50 district representatives.

- An additional five (05) participants, including persons with disabilities and persons from other marginalised groups, will be selected to promote diversity, inclusion, equal participation and meaningful representation throughout the programme.

BASIC ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS

All applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Age: Must be between 18 and 29 years of age.
- Communication skills: Ability to communicate effectively in Sinhala, Tamil or English.
- Active participation: Ability and commitment to participate fully and actively in all activities and exercises conducted throughout the camp.
- Open-mindedness and respect for diversity: Willingness to act with curiosity and an open mind, and to value and acknowledge diversity, pluralism and the social realities of others.
- Interest in learning: Demonstrated interest in leadership development and the core values discussed at the camp, particularly human rights, inclusion, diversity, pluralism and intercultural dialogue.
- Commitment to community based activities: Commitment and motivation to plan and implement community projects relating to the protection and promotion of human rights in local communities following the Youth Camp.
- Responsibility and teamwork: Ability to fulfil assigned tasks responsibly, contribute to personal and social development, and work collaboratively with other participants from diverse backgrounds.
- Organisational affiliation: Membership in an organisation, network, institution, formal or informal youth group, or similar body that enables the applicant to contribute effectively to the promotion of human rights during and after the programme.

COSTS

- All residential facilities during the period of the camp will be provided by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, and all related expenses will be borne by the Commission.
- Transportation expenses incurred for participation in the Youth Camp will be borne by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, subject to the rules and procedures of the Commission. Transportation expenses will be reimbursed only

- on the final day of the camp to participants who have attended the camp on all days.
- Further details will be provided to those selected for the Youth Camp.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- The attached application form, together with the other required documents, should be submitted to **hrcsl.youthcamp@gmail.com** on or before 31 August 2026.
- All selections will be made by a committee appointed by the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, based on the above mentioned criteria and the information provided in the applications, with two participants selected from each district. The decision of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka in this regard shall be final.
- For further clarification, please contact the Education and Special Programmes Division of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka on 011-2505569.

Secretary
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka



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இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF SRI LANKA

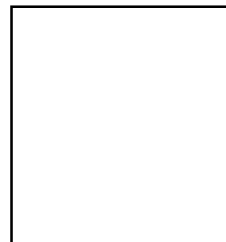
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APPLICATION FORM

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Copies of the other required certificates must be attached to the completed application form.
2. The information stated in the application must be certified by a Justice of the Peace or an authorized government officer.
3. If you are a university student, a certified copy of the university-issued identity card must be attached.

Affix a recent passport-size photograph here.



A) PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Full Name:

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2. Name with Initials:

3. Gender: Female [] Male [] Other []

4. Date of Birth: (Date/Month/Year) / /

5. Age as at 26.10.2026: years months

6. National Identity Card Number: (A copy must be attached)

7. Permanent Address:

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8. Telephone Number: (Mobile) (Home)

9. E-mail Address:

10. Administrative District:

11. Divisional Secretariat Division:

12. Grama Niladhari Division and Number:

B) EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

School / Institution / University attended:

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Professional or Higher Educational Qualifications

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C) EXTRACURRICULAR, LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Briefly explain your contribution to society and the community (not exceeding 50 words):

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2. Details of the organisation / network / institution / group that you currently represent or actively participate in

Name of the organisation/group:

Position/Role held:

3. Explain why you wish to participate in this Youth Camp (not exceeding 100 words):

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D) DECLARATION OF THE APPLICANT

I hereby declare that all information provided by me in this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree that if any information stated herein is found to be false or inaccurate, my eligibility for selection to this programme will be cancelled.

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Date

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Signature of Applicant

E) CERTIFICATION

(To be completed by a Justice of the Peace / Attorney-at-Law / Government Officer / Principal)

I hereby certify that the person named
..... has signed this application in my presence, that the particulars stated herein are true and correct, and that I have examined the Grama Niladhari certificate attached by the applicant and certify that it is correct.

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Signature and Official Seal of Certifying Officer

Name:
Designation:
Address:
Telephone Number:
Date: