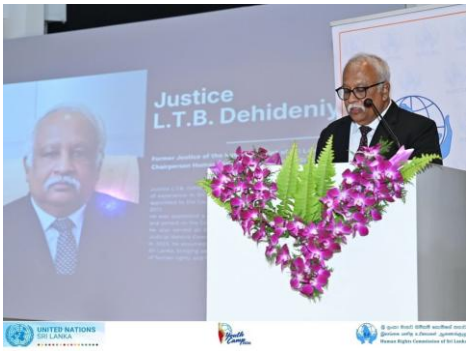
HRCSL and United Nations Sri Lanka Empower Young Leaders to Promote Human Rights

26–30 October 2026

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka (HRCSL), in collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office in Sri Lanka, successfully held a five-day Youth Camp from 26 to 30 October 2026 at MAS Athena, Thulhiriya. The camp was held under the theme **"Youth Leadership for Human Rights in a Changing World: Empowering Young Leaders to Promote Integrity, Inclusion and Responsible Citizenship."**



Justice L.T.B. Dehideniya, Chairman of the HRCSL, and Ms. Laila Nazarali, Senior Human Rights Advisor at the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, who delivered the opening remarks. The Chief Guest, Mr. Megha Sooriyaarachchi, joined the programme virtually and addressed the participants.

The camp brought together 46 young people from diverse backgrounds, to strengthen their understanding of human rights, build leadership skills and encourage active engagement in promoting a just, inclusive and responsible society. Sessions covered human rights, fundamental rights, human dignity, equality, diversity, non-discrimination, integrity and accountability. It also addressed contemporary challenges including corruption, drug prevention, climate change, digital rights, online privacy, cyberbullying, misinformation, hate speech and technology-facilitated sexual and gender-based violence.





Through expert-led discussions, group activities, practical exercises and collaborative learning, participants examined human rights concerns, reflected on their responsibilities as citizens and explored ways of addressing challenges within their communities. The programme also emphasized ethical leadership, respect for diversity, responsible decision-making and meaningful youth participation in democratic and social processes.

At the closing ceremony featured an insightful session with Prof. Farzana Haniffa, Commissioner of the HRCSL, took part in an interactive discussion with the participants and responded to their questions. The ceremony also included participant reflections, presentations of selected youth action plans and the awarding of certificates.



Beyond the formal learning sessions, the camp provided opportunities for young people from different backgrounds to exchange experiences, build friendships and strengthen mutual understanding through cultural, recreational and team-building activities. Through this collaborative initiative, the HRCSL and the United Nations Residence Coordinator's Office reaffirmed the importance of youth participation in advancing human rights and strengthening democratic values. The camp sought to inspire young people to translate their knowledge into meaningful action and become responsible leaders and active advocates for a more inclusive, equitable and rights-respecting society.





















UNITED NATIONS SRI LANKA

Youth Camp 2026

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