



INTERGENERATIONAL DIALOGUE SERIES

"VOICES OF PEACE" - Sarah Kabir

***April 6, 2021
on Zoom***

REGISTER

"This is what "Voice of Peace" (VOP) offers: a platform for the affected, but mostly unheard voices of Sri Lanka's protracted conflict, a safe space to give them ownership of the ongoing peace process. VOP recognises the journeys of those who were actively involved in and acknowledged during the war – but have been ignored during this moment of 'peace'. By viewing people as experts of their own lives, VOP offers an opportunity to listen to their histories, their present, and their hopes for the future. It offers a combined narrative of the two camps that once stood opposite each other at the frontlines of a battlefield..." (Kabir 2018, p. 13)



The Intergenerational Dialogue Series, organised by the Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) aims to generate knowledge of past events surrounding the civil conflict that spanned three decades to promote reconciliation, non-recurrence, and social responsibility through inter-generational discussions, for sustainable peace in Sri Lanka. The third session in the series is proposed to be held on April 6, 2021 on Zoom.

The third dialogue planned for this series is an online discussion with author and activist Sarah Kabir. Sarah will give insights from her book “Voices of Peace”. The format of the event is set to be a book reading followed by a question-and-answer session. Voices of Peace (herein referred to as VOP), is an anthology of stories from a sample of twenty combatants from both sides of the conflict. The book published in 2018 contains narratives that highlight the experience and struggles of combatants during and after the war. Sarah’s work of recording narratives with the view of preserving the multifaceted history of the state emulates the principles of memorialisation. Further, the socio-political context of the state provides a backdrop in which revisiting the human aspect of ethnic and civil conflict is pertinent if not imperative. The growing tension between communities as well as the developments vis-a-vis international response to human rights in Sri Lanka revitalises the importance of familiarising with the human cost of conflict in order to move towards a more cohesive society.

The series was launched with a discussion by Rev. Galkande Dhammanada Thero titled ‘Loving Kindness for Inner Peace.’ on December 6, 2019. The conversations followed by a guided meditation session where participants were encouraged to tap into their inner healing. The second dialogue was held on August 24, 2020 with Dr Malathi de Alwis on the challenges of memorialisation, titled “Memorialisation and Community”. The presentation explored the human desire to remember as well as forget and socio-political implications of the same. Both sessions were attended by a large audience comprising a cross-section of academics, development partners, researchers, students, and journalists.

In the context of the recent untimely demise of Dr. Malathi de Alwis and her being the last speaker in the Intergenerational Dialogue series, this webinar will also pay homage to her legacy.

About the Speaker

Sarah Kabir is a researcher, activist, and published author. Her work primarily focuses on social cohesion and reconciliation. Currently she acts in her capacity as Project Director in a documentary project exploring the nexus between social cohesion, history, and education. Her previous work has been in both the development sector as well as the government. Voices of Peace (2018) is a culmination of her research vis a vis post war reconciliation from the perspective of soldiers and her most notable work thus far.