



SDJF Newsletter

“Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages” on International Youth Day 2022

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International Youth Day is celebrated annually on 12 August to bring youth issues to the attention of the international community and celebrate the potential of youth as partners in today’s global society.

The Day gives an opportunity to celebrate and mainstream young peoples’ voices, actions and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal and equitable engagement. It was established by the UN General Assembly (A/RES/54/120), which on 17 December 1999, endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth calling for 12 August to be declared International Youth Day.

Who are the Youth?

There is no universally agreed international definition of the youth age group. But, the United Nations in its universal acceptance consider ‘Youth’ to be between the ages of 15 and 24 years. However, if a person is given equal treatment under the law, that is the age that is commonly accepted as a ‘Youth’. Yet, the stipulated definition of ‘Youth’ varies from country to country and region to region as socio-cultural, economic and political factors fluctuate in defining who can be considered a ‘Youth’.

Intergenerational Solidarity to combat Ageism

This year’s, 2022, message to the community is to take action across all generations to achieve the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and leave no one behind. Their key objective is to give the message to sustain ‘Intergenerational Solidarity’ among young and the old alike in achieving SDGs in our respective communities. Youth are considered to be one of the crucial elements in SDGs as they are featured across the Goals and targets. According to the [Global Report on Ageism](#) launched by the United Nations in March 2021, it is paramount to make the youth aware about the hidden impact of ageism in the present world. Ageism is considered an unaddressed issue in health, human rights, development and democracy, which also intersects with other forms of biases such as sexism and racism. This kind of negative impact of ageism has prevented people from reaching their full potential in life and contributing to the society. Youth are invariably impacted by ageism in their lives in terms of employment, health, political participation and justice. In order to prevent major drawbacks created by phenomenon like ageism, United Nations suggest intergenerational interventions as one of the three strategies. It is expected to promote social connectedness and thereby intergenerational solidarity through such interventions.



Newly established Incubator Space at University of Sri Jaywardenepura promotes Creative Learning



Sri Lanka Development Journalist Forum (SDJF) trained university students on new and modern media skills such as digital drama, mobile film making, mobile photography, doodle art and multimedia article writing recently. The trained students were invited to take part in the idea market event to pitch their ideas to resolve or advocate for social change by producing variety of new and modern media products. In the idea market, students are given the opportunity to link with experts in the field and they were provided in person and one to one coaching and mentorship. The students had an opportunity to pitch their idea to the mentors and twist the angle of the story to be

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Did you know?

Half of the people on our planet are 30 or younger, and this is expected to reach 57% by the end of 2030.

Survey shows that 67% of people believe in a better future, with 15 to 17 year-olds being the most optimistic about this.

The majority of people agree that the age balance in politics is wrong. More than two thirds (69%) of people across all age groups agree that more opportunities for younger people to have a say in policy development/change would make political systems better.

Globally, only 2.6% of parliamentarians are under 30 years old, and less than 1% of these young MPs are women.

[Source: Be Seen Be Heard Campaign](#)

interesting and meaningful.

The approved story pitch has been selected for the small grant program where students will receive a stipend to produce their stories in the field. In order to ensure the quality and provide a continuous guidance, SDJF nominated mentors to equip with them throughout the process.

The media products produced by the students will be used as evidence to engage them with advocacy for desired social change in their community with the guidance and support from SDJF and Helvetas.



The event hosted at the Media Incubator Space in the university was remarkable for the students. The incubator space is a place where students can use to create their innovative ideas as solutions for their social problems and get trained on media skills within the model studio inside the space.

The motivation, enthusiasm and willingness to learn and pitch their creative story ideas were very impressive among the students. They were working in the Incubator Space with a sense of fulfilment and ownership as they felt that space is given to them to be free and creative. The Liaison Officer of USJP Ishara Wadduwage said, “We are really happy that the Idea Market was held in a place of our own. We felt a certain ownership. Today, we developed our story ideas and so many new ideas could be developed. We discussed matters that will help develop our career in the future.”



The Incubator Spaces for media students are developed in three state universities, namely USJP, University of Jaffna and University of Peradeniya under the InSPIRE project. With many challenges, the spaces have been completed and the students use the spaces for many interactions and creative expressions including to learn and discuss about Information Right and Freedom of Expression.

The activity is implemented as part of the Incubator Spaces for Promoting Information Right and Freedom of Expression (InSPIRE) project which is funded by the European Union and co-implemented by SDJF and Helvetas Sri Lanka.



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