

INTROSPECTION

Quarterly Newsletter of Internews Sri Lanka

Internews kicks off a series of community dialogues on peacebuilding



In Sri Lanka, Internews launched a series of community dialogues to engage interfaith communities and stakeholders in conversations about intercommunity understanding and relationship building. More than 80 journalists, CSOs representatives, interfaith group members and activists joined the three community dialogues. The first dialogue focused on learning from the 2019 Easter Sunday Attack, with an emphasis on discrepancies in how Tamil and Sinhala media outlets cover stories differently. The second discussed challenges that women media professionals face in the workplace, and the third examined the role of journalists in the elimination of sexual violence in conflicts.

The community dialogues have inspired collaborations among participating individuals and organizations. Verité Research, an independent research institute and think tank in Sri Lanka, partnered with Internews to conduct a collaborative, cross-cultural News Lab focusing on bridging the substantial gap between Sinhala and Tamil news content. Hashtag Generation and Verité Research also collaborated on a live webinar on media polarization.

Partner SLCJ launches a self-phased learning management system

"Through this course, I was able to correct many mistakes I made while presenting news."

Roopasiri Nawarathne

"Fact checking has become an ingrained part of my life now. I am now more careful to select facts and apply data correctly, both during work and during day-to-day life, and it feels like a daily responsibility now."

Charles Bernard de Silva

Internews supported partner Sri Lanka College of Journalism (SLCJ) to launch an online self-phased fact checking course for electronic media journalists and selected web activists. 125 electronic media journalists and web activists including 67 Sinhalese and 58 Tamil participants representing prominent state and private newsrooms completed the month-long course. The course included 14 interactive live sessions which were supplemented by the material on the Learning Management System (LMS).

Participants appreciated the course being free of charge and feedback gathered indicated that a significant number of course participants had not been exposed to techniques of fact checking through a structured method before. Most of them particularly appreciated the self-phased learning method introduced to them and how the course has changed their behavior and attitude towards fact checking.

Quarter in Figures

- Trained 125 electronic media journalists and web activists on fact checking
- Trained 46 youth on content creation tools
- Conducted a content creation competition for youth
- Supported 61 content pieces on advancing democracy through story fellowships
- Conducted 3 networking events and 2 news labs
- Supported 18 journalists to create and publish 35 stories on pluralism
- 81 journalists and CSO representatives attended the networking events including 50 women and 31 men.



Internews is an international non-profit media development organization with a presence in 100+ countries, whose mission is to empower local media worldwide to give people the news and information they need, the ability to connect and the means to make their voices heard. Internews has been working in Sri Lanka for 15+ years.