WORLD FORUM FOR SRI LANKAN MUSLIMS

NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Climate Change, Plastic Pollution. Polluter to be a protector.
- The United Nations Security Council urges to increase representation of youth.
- The first annual report of the Canadian Chapter





Let's talk about plastic. Plastic pollution is flooding the planet

Welfare

Plastic pollution is taking its toll on human health and the environment.

Thankfully, we have a chance to change things.

Youth in decision making at all levels.

The United nations security Council urges member states to increase the representation of youth in decision making at all levels. The council urged member states to consider setting up meaningful mechanisms.

Contact Us

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worldforumforsrilankanmuslims.org

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WSLM meets with the Sri Lankan Minister of Environment

WORLD FORUM

FOR SRI LANKAN MUSLIMS

Pluralism and Human

Mr Rizwan Wahab (Chairman), Dr Ramali Maharoof, Mr Hilru Siddeeque and Prof Rasheen Bappu of World Forum for Sri Lankan Muslims (WFSLM) had a discussion recently with Hon Naseer Ahamed, Minister for Environment, Sri Lanka & Mr Samantha Abeywickrema (Advisor to the Minister).

WFSLM discussed matters pertaining to Environment & Climate crisis on how Sri Lanka could embrace climate action, with the broad consensus, that environment is becoming more challenging with the change of climate. Further the WFSLM delegation discussed and provided solutions where it matters, to major environmental issues in Sri Lanka as elaborated in page 5.

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ABOUT WFSLM



Our Purpose

- To provide platform for Sri Lankan Muslims worldwide to speak in one voice.
- To empower youth by developing and training them to become leaders of tomorrow.
- To focus on gender equality to build and reinforce the foundations of a pluralistic, democratic, and prosperous society in Sri Lanka.
- To stand against all forms of racism, hate crime and extremism.
- To assist in the development of socially conscious, cohesive communities, and support the welfare of all Sri Lankans.

Origins and Vision

The idea of uniting all half a million Sri Lankan Muslim expatriates under one banner was born in 2004 in an email thread and started to take shape in 2014 after the Aluthgama Incidents. The need and the urgency to form a united world body of Sri Lankan Muslims was conceptualized by a few community leaders. After discussion and deliberation among agroup of like-minded Sri Lankan Muslims living across the globe. The World Forum for Sri Lankan Muslims (WFSLM) was launched at a gathering in Harrow, Middlesex, United Kingdom on 18 October 2019 in the presence of many distinguished guests including Her Excellency Manisha Gunasekera, the High Commissioner for Sri Lanka in the United Kingdom and Rt. Honourable. Bob Blackman MP, and a large gathering of Sri Lankan expatriates of all communities and delegates from across the world.

WFSLM was established as an alliance body to bring togetherr all overseas Sri Lankan Muslim organizations and individuals tohave a unified voice in matters concerning the Muslims living inSri Lanka. As an independent, apolitical body, it will harness all available resources of the Muslim diaspora and strengthen the collective voice to build and reinforce the foundations of a pluralistic, democratic, and prosperous society in Sri Lanka.

We encourage our youth to actively get involved in all our activities and foster an environment and create opportunities to thrive and share responsibility and our vision in the service to humanity. WFSLM embraces diverse range of perspectives, knowledge, skills, expertise, experiences, talents, abilities and continually strengthening our standing in the global arena. We as a world forum have the vision for our people to grow with us in socio, cultural and economic spurs in pursuit of sustainable peace.



Fourth General Assembly and Annual **Conference 2023**

WORLD FORUM FOR SRI LANKAN MUSLIMS FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING



"Be Prepared - Look Wide"



Welcome Address Mr. Rizwan Wahab Chairman WESLM

Moderator Mrs. Tassy Dahlan

AND WEBINAR

Teacher, Educationist & Social Activist



General Assembly from 11.00 a.m to 12.15 p.m. Webinar from 12.30 p.m. to 2.00 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKERS

"Protecting youth from extremism and narcotic menace"

"Health without Wealth"



Prof. Rasheen Bappu

PhD (Aus), PhD (Malaysia), Msc (Aus), MBA, FCIM, CMILT (UK) Anthropologist & data scientist



Dr. Ruvaiz Haniffa

MBBS, DFM, PgDip, MSc, MD, FCGP, MRCGP, CTHE, SEDA **Consultant Family Physician**

Saturday, 28 October 2023

At 11:00 AM - 14.00 PM

British Summer Time (BST)

Colombo 3.30 p.m. Perth 6.00 p.m. Melbourne 9.00 p.m.

World Forum for Sri Lankan Muslims

Secretary General

(c) +44 73 0017 6090

infoewfslm.org

Hazim Hamza

Canada 6.00 a.m. USA 6.00 a.m. UK 11.00 a.m.



www.wfslm.org

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PALESTINE

The energy, power, courage and resilience of Palestinian People has inspired the citizens of the World, notably the Muslim Countries waking them up from their deep slumber.

Alas! What a shame on Muslim Leaders NOT taking any tangible action except lip service.

Prime Minister Nathanyahu and his Right Governments determination to wipe out

Gaza with weapons given by America and President Biden and his administration, to kill, maim, men, women and children now exceeded twenty thousand half of them children.

Where is humanity? Where is Human Rights? UN Charter? 153 countries voted for CEASEFIRE, still Nethanyahu ignoring all call from UN- disrespect to the world organisation.

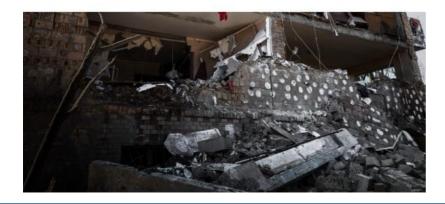
US admin and their western allies turning other side, while the mass killing of innocent Palestinians, their Properties, Hospitals, Churches, Mosques, Schools and universities and killing of astounding number of JOURNALISTS by the bombarded artillery and missiles supplied by America, paid from American Tax Payers against their Will, Americans Scream NOT in their name.!

Biden Admin doing everything opposite the will of its people.

US is losing its credibility in the World, their contribution snd direct material support has shocked humanity worldwide. The Palestinian and the concerned people of the World will NOT forget Biden Administration, as WFSLM believe US could have prevented this atrocities and mass killings. US will be remembered for its VETO

power in the UN Security Council denying the UN to enforce law and order, thereby bringing instability in the Region. US support to fanatic supremacy govt. of Nethanyahu in the history of mankind, Will be recorded, it will be remembered. It is not going to be TOO LONG, to see the political gun turning against Nethanyahu.

This is a war against the people of Gaza, Israel is daydreaming to carve out Palestine, by colonisation, siege and denial of basic human rights. Giving the Palestinians three options, to Starve-Leave Enmass or be killed. And surprisingly wants to Radicalise them? Palestinians or the convicted criminals in the Netanyahu Right Wing govt?







Palestinian society is well rooted. Since Nakba of 1940 they have come together to

survive with their tradition- it is a cultural war against the people of Gaza Barbarism and Savagery of IDF and attempting Military means to Oppress and Suppress Palestinians. Never going to happen. Tormenting Gazan's and lifeless is not the answer.

The Carnage MUST stop NOW A permanent Ceasefire is vital to stop any more massacre, Classic design of Genocidal intent, ethnic cleansing, and displacement of the innocent. Israel's is trying to justify attack. Israel needs to be ACCOUNTABLE.

The priority now is a comprehensive, complete and permanent ceasefire as the level of catastrophe is unprecedented.

Though we dispose the decisions of the Western Government to support Israel against the will of their citizens, and that of the World will be JUDGED through History.

Finally US and it's allies have lost their credibility and Role in the world and as Human Rights Champion due to the immoral and unjust oppression and suppressing of Palestinians, their culture and it has impacted and brought severe

consequences to humanity, this will also reflect the World how it Will function in the future. Remains be seen.

PEACE TO PALESTINE

Rizwan Wahab Chairman WFSLM 31 December, 2023 World Forum for Sri Lankan Muslims



WSLM meets with the Sri Lankan Minister of Environment

Climate Change and Security

Policymaking must reflect the 'do no harm' principle at the global level. While Sri Lanka cannot safeguard the planetary boundaries by itself, that is no justification for inaction. Sectoral policies around trade, agriculture, transport, infrastructure investment, and social welfare need to be assessed against their implications for national security, including and especially the indirect pathways that comprise their environmental consequences. Prioritizing an ambitious international climate policy is also an investment in national security.

How can complex government decision-making processes operationalize this principle? One way of enhancing awareness would be to make climate and security considerations mandatory for governmental decisions. There is a much better case to force policymakers to spell out the impacts of their decisions with respect to national security, including the climate crisis, so as to nudge them to consider these explicitly.

it is important to ensure that our climate policies (which we need at scale) are conflict-sensitive. Fundamentally, this means avoiding that marginalized groups – whether at the community, national or continental level – are asked to bear the largest burden of adapting. This implies foregoing 'easy solutions', such as blanket bio-fuel mandates that risk driving up food insecurity and instability in other countries through the pressures they exert.

Climate Security: A Way Forward

Given the threat climate change poses to Sri Lanka's strategic interests – through natural disasters, water and food shortages, damage to infrastructure, long-term energy needs, economic losses, migration, and the possibility of conflict – the national security angle is a promising means of jump-starting an otherwise intractable political situation. The need for a concerted response to global environmental threats is clear from any angle, however, and effective solutions will require collaboration between all levels of government and the private sector, and all this, frighteningly enough, must happen as soon as possible, before the unavoidable becomes the overwhelming."

Human Security Is Systemically Important

There is a fundamental and massive threat to human security around the world and to the foundations of our civilization. A rapidly changing climate threatens the availability of and access to food and water in many regions, while simultaneously increasing health and disaster hazards - to an extent that calls the very habitability of significant parts of the world into question. The destabilization potential linked to these challenges poses significant risks for peace and stability. What does this mean for Sri Lanka? Global public goods - above all, a habitable planet - are a precondition for our security. Consequently, a viable security strategy must ensure that these preconditions are safeguarded. Fully confronting the ecological threats to our civilization is obviously beyond the power of traditional security policy instruments (or any single state). But that does not mean that we can largely ignore them. Instead, our entire policymaking system needs to be harnessed and aligned with these fundamental objectives. This implies that the global security consequences of domestic policies need to play a much larger role in national policymaking



Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) The death toll, both human and elephant, from Sri Lanka's longrunning human-elephant conflict problem hit a record high in 2022, with 145 people and 433 elephants killed.

With the trend worsening in recent years, the government has recently set up a committee to implement a national action plan to tackle the problem from various angles. Community fences surrounding villages and cultivated plots are considered the most viable solution over the current default of fences enclosing protected areas, which are only administrative boundaries that the elephants don't recognize. But these and other proposed solutions won't be rolled out widely: Sri Lanka's current economic crisis means only pilot projects in two of the worstaffected districts will go ahead for now.

Furthermore, with the available statistical evidence this problem will be increasing in future, if prompt actions are not taken. Protected areas, corridors, electric fencing, acoustic and light devices, natural methods, compensation and risk transfer, and awareness creation can all play a part in mitigating conflict and allow for a peaceful coexistence between humans and elephants.



WSLM meets with the Sri Lankan Minister of Environment

Shrinking habitat, growing conflict

A 2019 study found that people live in nearly 70% of the elephant range in Sri Lanka. Almost 40% of land outside the country's protected areas is shared between humans and elephants.

With a growing population of humans, and a shrinking habitat for elephants, the HEC problem has continued to deteriorate over the years, making the year 2022 the worst one yet, with a toll of 433 elephant and 145 human lives. More than a third of elephant killings involved shooting. explosive -laden bait and electrocution lead to elephant deaths reported in 2022. Electric fences, has grown in prominence as a key cause of elephant deaths in recent years.

The drive for more agricultural lands resulted in encroachment in past few years [and] could contribute to people utilizing live electricity to protect their crops, resulting in this higher number by electrocutions.



Palmyra as elephant barriers

Hardy palmyra trees endowed with sharp, saw-tooth-like fronds and rough trunks, should get more attention in being adopted as a natural barrier against crop-raiding elephants. While the trees take about eight years to grow fully, their rough exterior features can be a deterrent if planted in rows in a zig-zag pattern. Palmyra is a cost-effective natural solution when planted as a barrier. "Palmyra cultivation is not costly and can be expanded,". when the trees are small, they need to be protected against bandicoots and mice, but as the trees grow bigger, less maintenance is needed and they can become a barrier against elephants. Zig-zagging palmyra planting model is popular in India as a solution to the human-elephant conflict. Elephants eat the palmyra fruit but do not get close to the tree trunk because of its sharp fronds. Around 1,000 acres have been successfully cultivated in a zig zag pattern.

Coastal erosion

Channels or gullies on the face of a bank or dune are a sign of a runoff problem. Runoff causes erosion when water falling on and/or running across bare or sparsely vegetated areas dislodges vegetation, soil, sand, and other sediments. Controlling runoff from upland sources helps reduce a significant cause of erosion on many beaches, dunes, and banks. Efforts to control runoff focus on reducing the quantity and velocity of water flowing across the land surface and changing the direction of flow as necessary to address specific erosion problems. If overland sources of runoff are not successfully managed, the effectiveness of shoreline stabilization techniques can be compromised. When runoff flows over a coastal bank, dune or beach, it can erode these landforms from above and worsen other coastal erosion problems (i.e., erosion from tides, currents, wind, and coastal storms). Salt-tolerant plants with extensive root systems can help address both kinds of coastal erosion problems.

Conclusion

Climate change, Environment Security, Human-elephant conflict and Sea erosions were the main concerns of the discussion. General pollution due to eliminating trees for commercial purposes need to be addressed by the government too. WFSLM gave solutions for the present issues which country is facing and opted to support the Ministry to plant trees in most needed locations recommended by the Ministry of Environment. Further WFSLM suggested for government to take appropriate steps to embark on a campaign "Polluters to be made Protectors of the Environment" by executing a national program very soon.

By Prof Rasheen Bappu, Anthropologist, Intelligence data scientist and a member of WFSLM

Plastic Pollution | Polluter to be a Protector

Let's talk about plastic. Plastic pollution is flooding our planet and taking its toll on human health and the environment.

Thankfully, we have a chance to change things.

Next week, governments at the UN are starting the second round of negotiations for a Global Plastics Treaty. We need everyone to join in calling for a strong treaty to tackle the plastics crisis.

This treaty is a big deal and it's crucial for world leaders to get it right. If it's ambitious enough, the Global Plastics Treaty could slash plastic production and force Big Brands to clean up their mess.

We know the harm plastic is causing to people and planet - yet big brands and oil giants want to keep making more. If the plastic industry has its way, plastic production could double within the next 15 years.

Securing this agreement won't be easy. The fossil fuel industry is already trying to influence the negotiations. Plastic is big money, and their future depends on pumping out more and more of it. Meanwhile, scientists and civil society representatives from nations facing the worst of the plastics crisis are being locked out.

We can't let this happen, Global Plastics Treaty negotiations in Paris next week. We need to send a clear message to all our leaders be bold and make these negotiations a success!

A strong Global Plastics Treaty would set legally binding targets to address the whole lifecycle of plastics. This is our chance to truly tackle plastic pollution and turn off the tap on runaway plastic production.

Global Plastics Treaty is what the people want,

With an ambitious Global Plastics Treaty, we can finally end the age of plastic. Our health, climate, and planet's future depend on it.





WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY - 5th June

It is celebrated on June 5 every year to raise awareness and encourage action for the protection of our planet. It was first established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972, and since then, over 150 countries participate in various activities to celebrate this day.

World Environment Day, safeguard the jewel that brings peace, beauty, and serenity into our lives.

Always remember that Earth is not inherited from our ancestors but borrowed from our children. When you let the Earth breathe, you let nature and yourself blossom.

It is a day that reminds everyone on the planet to get involved in environment friendly activities.

The key messages of World by climate change and to transform consumption and production in a global movement to #beatplasticpollution.

According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which organizes World Environment Day, "more than 400 million tonnes of plastic are produced every year worldwide, half of which is designed to be used only once. Of that, less than 10 per cent is recycled. An estimated 19-23 million tonnes end up in lakes, rivers, and seas annually".

In 1973, UNEP made 5 June "World Environment Day" for the sake of the planet and all things that call it home. In the past 50 years, this United Nations celebration has grown considerably. This year, governments, businesses, and civil society are coming together for World Environmental Day to find solutions to plastic pollution. Plastics, which are made from fossil fuels, contribute to climate change, as well as harmful ecosystems, being to biodiversity, and human health.

Happy Environment Day WFSLM



The United Nations Security Council urges member states to increase the representation of youth in decision-making at all levels.

The Youth Wing of WFSLM recognizes the contribution of youth worldwide and their continuous support in encouraging youth members of WFSLM to fully participate and involve in global efforts and meaningful participation in international affairs, especially in the peace process and in avoiding the exploitation of youth.

Recognizing the threat to stability and development posed by the rise of radicalization among young people, the Security Council urged member states to consider ways to give youth a greater voice in decisionmaking at the local, national, regional and at international levels.

Through the unanimous adoption of resolution 2250 (2015), which defined youth as persons aged 18 through 29, the Council also urged Member States to consider setting up mechanisms that would enable young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes and dispute resolution.

Prior to its adoption, Jordan's representative, Dina Kawar, said the resolution considered was the first of its kind on youth, peace, and security that followed efforts by the Prince of Jordan, public discussions on combating violent extremism, and the Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security that took place in Amman in August.

The world's attention seeks to ensure that young people are given the attention they deserve at a time when the world is a stage for an increasing number of negative issues.





By the terms of its resolution, the Council recognized that today's generation of youth is the largest the world has ever known and accounted for many of those civilians affected by armed conflict, including refugees and displaced persons.

it expressed concern over the increased use of the Internet by terrorists and their supporters to recruit and incite youth to commit terrorist acts and underlined the need for Member States to work together to prevent terrorists from exploiting new technologies.

The Council said that youth should be actively engaged in shaping lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation, as they represent "a unique demographic dividend that can contribute to lasting peace and prosperity" if inclusive policies were put in place.

Member States were encouraged to engage local communities and non-governmental actors "in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts". They were also encouraged to address conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism by empowering youth, families, women, religious, cultural and education leaders, as well as other concerned groups in civil society, and by adopting "tailored approaches" to counter recruitment and violent extremism.

Among other terms, the resolution called for the participation and views of youth to be considered during the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements, as their marginalization would be detrimental to building sustainable peace, including aspects such as repatriation, resettlement, and reconstruction.

Compiled by Rizwan Wahab, Secretary-General



The First Annual Report of the Canadian Chapter

WORLD FORUM FOR SRI LANKAN MUSLIMS CANADIAN CHAPTER

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT FOR THE FIRST YEAR 2023

Number of meetings held – Two One Virtual on 5th February 2023 One Physical on 19th February 2023

The following were announced: Approval of Canadian Chapter and to Open a bank Account as per WFSLM letter dated 14th March 2023

The following major activities were undertaken and completed.

I. The General chapter Logo and Canadian Chapter Logo

II. Promoted WFSLM at the Winter Fest held on 12th February 2023

III. Ramadhan Greetings message
IV. Promoted the Dry Rations Project,
Planting of Coconut Saps and Medical
Supplies for Sri Lankan Hospitals
V. Attended the IHMC preparation Meetings
organized by USLMCC both virtual and

Physical.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

A. Promoted memberships in Canada for the Chapter and for WFSLM Globally B. Active Participation to celebrate the

Islamic History Month 2023

C. Register the Chapter Provincially first and then Federally

D. Open Bank account to be opened.

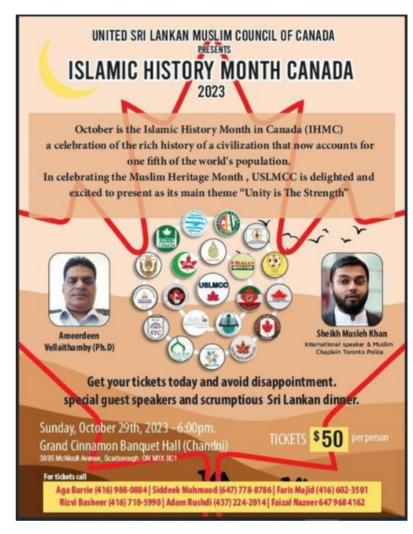
E. Proposal to initiate a Directory in Progress

1. FINANCIAL REPORT – None Reported

2. CONCLUSION

First year have been very busy specially launching and setting up the Chapter, Alhamdulillah, thanks to the dedicated members and the office bearers

Faizal Mohamed Nazeer, Chairman AGA Barrie, Country Coordinator Adam Rushdy, Secretary





International Women's Day Report

WFSLM joins the members of World Forum worldwide and rest of the World to celebrate International Women's Day.

This year's theme, "Choose to Challenge" urges us to take action and push for progress by challenging gender stereotypes and biases. Let's our voices heard to advocate for change and support one another in our pursuit of equality.

Let us also take a moment to reflect on our progress and achievements thus far. Let us also recognize the challenges we still face in achieving gender equality and the importance of standing together in solidarity. Sri Lankan women have come a long way in breaking down barriers and achieving gender parity in education, employment and forging ahead with other areas. However, WFSLM recognises that women still face obstacles in areas such as equal pay and access to leadership roles.

On Women's Day, we as a worldwide organisation, membership spread in 27 countries reminded of the incredible impact that women have on our society and in spearheading leadership in corporate sector and other spur of life, without confining themselves to housewife role.

Women have been instrumental and succeeded in driving the global business landscape forward, and in international blue-chip companies.

WFSLM values diversity and empowers women to achieve their full potential through our project and activities and our own Gender Equality team with active membership and leadership.

As WFSLM continue to grow and expand, we remain committed to promoting gender equality and creating opportunities for women to get involved in all our activities worldwide and leadership.

This Women's Day, let us reflect on how far we have come in our efforts to promote gender equality, and let us renew our commitment to continue pushing for progress. To all the amazing women in Sri Lanka, we appreciate their commitment and dedication.

Today (and every day) is a day where we can celebrate women's achievements and increasing visibility across the world. It is also essential to call out the inequality that women have faced and continue to face. Together, we can forge women's empowerment.

Together, we can make a difference and create a brighter future for all Sri Lankan women and women globally Happy International Women's Day!





Health and Wellbeing Sub Committee

Health and Wellbeing Subcommittee of WFSLM organized a webinar prior to Ramadan to enlighten safety measures for a healthy Ramadan. This was the the main event organised by the WFSLM Health and Wellbeing team for the year 2023. It was an interactive session by three prominent medical specialists. This was held on 19th March to Coincide with just before the holy month of Ramadhan. The topic was Safe Fasting in Chronic Health Conditions. The event was moderated by Dr Ramali, an ICU specialist and the two speakers were Dr Aaysha Cader a Specialist Cardiologist and Dr Aseef Yehiyan a Specialist Surgeon. The event was widely advertised by the media team of WFSLM in a lot of countries. The event turned out to be a successful one with a lot of useful information given out by the speakers and some useful questions being answered too. The aim is to have more events of this nature which will be useful to the public. Several organizations around Middle East and Asia partnered with WFSLM in promoting the event among a wider audience.



Essential medical equipment worth of half a million was donated to Teaching Hospital Mahamodara. Galle, Sri Lanka.

This is a project of WFSLM Finance Team.

The donation was handed over to the Hospital Director by WFSLM representative from Colombo, Sri Lanka.





Humanitarian projects carried out by WFSLM in Musali, Mannar District





Some of the projects were, Tree planting, coconut sapling distribution, Tube well and other humanitarian projects initiated by WFSLM. During the visit to Sri Lanka in July / August 2023, Chairman visited some of these project with sites, met volunteers on the ground and had cordial discussion and visited donation recipients.













