

Ms. Natasha De Silva, Sri Lanka

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I am 22 years old and grew up in Colombo, Sri Lanka. I graduated from Coventry University with a degree in Journalism and Media in July 2012, and currently following a Masters course in International Politics and Human Rights at City University, London.

My purpose in life is to give a voice to the voiceless and be an inspiration to people. I am passionate about Peace building and want to make a difference in the world, and aim to inspire all people to do the same.

The 25 year long Civil War in Sri Lanka may be over, but there are still many memories of pain, loss and anxiety. There are post-war conflicts still going on in the country and I came to the Olympic Truce Youth Peace Ambassador Training Workshop to help my country move past these to build a brighter future and bring about a real sense of peace to all the citizens of Sri Lanka.

Following Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy: "BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD", I believe that the smallest thing we do can make a difference is still essential to start. My dream is to see a tidal wave of goodness from 7 Billion people in the world and that is why I have decided to be a Youth Peace Ambassador.

My Peacemaking Dreams are:

- For different religious communities to respect each other for what they believe thereby creating freedom to practice and a society without religious conflict.
- No political conflicts and violence, creating true understanding between political parties, non-violent political campaigns and fair and honest elections.
- All ethnic communities will live in harmony and for ethnic minorities to feel a sense of belonging and acceptance.