

NEWSLETTER

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ABOUT US

VISION OF THE NISD

To be a centre of excellence, nationally and globally in Social Work Education, Training and Research

MISSION OF THE NISD

"To enhance human resource for Social Development through the preparation of competent manpower in social work at all levels, generate and disseminate new knowledge and technologies for social work practice, provide specialized services for social welfare and social development"

WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY CELEBRATION - 2026



World Social Work Day was commemorated globally on 17th March each year under a unifying theme that reflected the priorities and commitments of the international social work community. The theme for 2026, "Co-Building Hope & Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society," emphasized collective responsibility, solidarity, and collaborative action in fostering social cohesion and inclusive development.

The 2026 celebration featured the distinguished presence of Professor Stephan Lund, Deputy Dean of the School of Health and Clinical Sciences and Head of Social Work and Social Policy at the University of Western Australia, who delivered the keynote address. Hon. Minister Dr. Upali Pannila, Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The Secretary to the Ministry and the Hon. Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment also participated in the programme, further enhancing the significance of the event. The programme was jointly organized by the National Institute of Social Development (NISD), the Sri Lanka Association of Professional Social Workers, and the NISD Alumni Association, reflecting a shared commitment to strengthening and advancing the Social Work profession in Sri Lanka.

The event was held on 17th March 2026 at the Auditorium, 19th Floor, Suhurupaya, Battaramulla, from 9.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. The programme included two panel discussions conducted in both English and Sinhala mediums. The English medium panel discussion was held under the theme "Advancing Partnerships for an Inclusive Society: The Role of the Social Work Profession." The Sinhala medium panel discussion was conducted under the theme "Empowering Communities through Social Work Field Practice". In addition to the panel discussions, cultural performances presented by students added colour and diversity to the celebration. The active participation and insightful contributions of academics, students, and distinguished invitees made the event vibrant, intellectually enriching, and truly reflective of the collective spirit and professional solidarity of the Social Work community in Sri Lanka.



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WELCOMING THE BSW 2025/2026 INTAKE – ORIENTATION PROGRAMME



The National Institute of Social Development (NISD) warmly welcomed the new cohort of the Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) 2025/2026 Intake through a comprehensive Orientation Programme organized by the School of Social Work. The programme aimed to introduce students to the academic environment, institutional culture, and professional expectations of social work education.

Throughout the orientation, students participated in a series of informative and engaging sessions conducted by academic staff and invited professionals from diverse fields. These sessions provided valuable insights into social work practice, ethical responsibilities, community engagement, and personal development.

The programme also included awareness sessions on social wellbeing, safety, and legal responsibilities, helping students understand their role as future social work professionals. Interactive discussions and activities further encouraged students to build connections with peers and faculty members. This orientation programme marked an important first step for the new intake, fostering a sense of belonging and preparing them for their academic journey and professional development in the field of social work at NISD.



CELEBRATING UNITY AND NEW BEGINNINGS

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The National Institute of Social Development (NISD) Student Support Service Center, in collaboration with the Art & Cultural Club, successfully organized – “Senehase Rathriya” on 25th February 2026 at 6.00 p.m. within the institute premises. The event was organized to warmly welcome the new beginning of 2026 while promoting unity, friendship, and mutual respect among students. The evening featured vibrant musical performances, artistic presentations, and engaging activities that created a joyful and memorable atmosphere. It provided a valuable opportunity for students to connect, celebrate diversity, and strengthen the spirit of togetherness, fostering a sense of belonging within the NISD community.

AWARENESS PROGRAMME ON ‘PRAJA SHAKTHI’ AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMME

The students of the 2021/2022 Bachelor of Social Work (Honours) Degree Programme are currently undertaking their final year second semester community work projects under the Praja Shakthi Programme and the Community Empowerment Programme. These initiatives aim to provide students with practical experience in applying Social Work knowledge and skills within community settings while promoting sustainable community development.

In support of these field initiatives, an awareness programme for faculty supervisors and field supervisors was conducted on 22 January 2026 from 9.30 a.m. under the patronage of Senior Professor Premakumara de Silva, Director General of the NISD. The programme provided important guidance on the objectives, implementation process, and supervisory roles related to the Praja Shakthi and Community Empowerment programmes, ensuring effective coordination and support for students engaged in community-based practice.



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OPENING OF THE TRAINING, RESEARCH AND FIELD-BASED REGIONAL CENTRE IN AMPARA

The National Institute of Social Development marked a significant milestone with the opening ceremony of the relocated Training, Research and Field-Based Regional Centre at No. A01/B, Pandukabhaya Mawatha, Ampara. The event was graced by Hon. Dr. Upali Pannila, Minister of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment; Hon. Priyantha Wijerathna, Member of Parliament for the Digamadulla District; and Hon. Manjula Rathnayake, Member of Parliament for the Digamadulla District, along with several government officials and institutional representatives.



A special lecture and open discussion on “The Application of Counselling in Social Development” was delivered by Professor Premakumara de Silva, Director General of NISD. The session engaged counsellors, social work professionals, school guidance teachers, and officers from the Police Child and Women’s Bureau.

The establishment of this regional centre represents an important step in expanding NISD’s academic and professional programmes to rural areas, strengthening access to education, training, and services in social development across the region.



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WORKSHOP ON EFFECTIVE FIELD SUPERVISION FOR SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE

The Workshop on Effective Field Supervision for Social Work Practice, organized by the Field Work Unit of the School of Social Work, National Institute of Social Development (NISD), was successfully conducted on 18th March 2026 at the NISD Conference Hall. The workshop was held in conjunction with World Social Work Day and was conducted under the patronage of Professor Stephen Lund from the University of Western Australia.



The workshop brought together faculty members and field supervisors, providing a platform to enhance knowledge and best practices in field supervision. Conducted in hybrid mode, it enabled both physical and virtual participation. Prof. Lund emphasized reflective practice, professional guidance, and the importance of supervision in ensuring quality social work education. The event also included interactive discussions, fostering knowledge sharing and professional development among participants.



ACADEMIC PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES NO. 02 - PROFESSIONALIZATION OF SOCIAL WORK IN SRI LANKA

The Academic Public Lecture Series No. 02, organized by the National Institute of Social Development (NISD), was successfully conducted on 18th March 2026 at the NISD premises in Liyanagemulla, Seeduwa, with hybrid participation enabling both physical and virtual attendance. The lecture, titled "Professionalization of Social Work in Sri Lanka," was delivered by Prof. Stephan Lund from the University of Western Australia, who shared valuable international perspectives and insights into the evolving standards, practices, and challenges of professional Social Work.



The session brought together a diverse audience including academics, practitioners, and students, creating a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and critical discussion. Prof. Lund's presentation emphasized the importance of strengthening professional identity, ethical practice, and institutional frameworks in advancing Social Work in Sri Lanka. The interactive discussion that followed further enriched participants' understanding and encouraged reflection on local practices in a global context. This successful event marked another significant step in NISD's ongoing commitment to promoting academic excellence, professional development, and meaningful engagement within the field of Social Work.



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STAFF PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP



The National Institute of Social Development (NISD) successfully organized an Academic and Non-Academic Staff Performance Development Workshop under the Outreach Capacity Building and Wellbeing Training Programme on 27th February 2026. The workshop aimed to enhance staff capacity, promote teamwork, and strengthen physical and mental wellbeing among employees.

The programme commenced with welcome remarks delivered by Ms. V. Vasudevan, Additional Director General (Acting) and Director of Training, followed by a presentation on the objectives of the programme by Ms. K. S. Wedisinghe, Senior Training Officer. The gathering was further addressed by Senior Professor Premakumara de Silva, Director General of NISD, highlighting the importance of staff wellbeing and professional development within the institution.



The workshop included interactive sessions such as yoga, Zumba exercises, group discussions, and team-building games, creating an engaging environment for participants. These activities encouraged relaxation, collaboration, and a positive workplace culture, contributing to the overall wellbeing and professional growth of the NISD staff community.



BUDDHIST COMMUNITY CULTURAL PROGRAM AT NISD THALAWA

The Buddhist Community Cultural Program was successfully held at the National Institute of Social Development (NISD), Thalawa on 03 February 2026, with the participation of community members from Anuradhapura and Thalawa, NISD staff, and Smart Village students. The program provided a valuable platform to celebrate and preserve Buddhist cultural values while promoting unity, cultural bonding, and peaceful coexistence.



The event strengthened social relationships, mutual trust, and community participation, contributing to social cohesion and community wellbeing. Cultural and religious activities also supported emotional wellbeing, moral development, and peaceful attitudes among participants.

A special highlight of the program was the international participation, with representatives from Sri Lanka, India, Brunei, Vietnam, and Thailand, which enriched cultural exchange and strengthened international friendship



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Research Study on Mobilizing Resident and Institutional Capacities for Sustainable Rehabilitation: The Study of Ridiyagama Kalana Detention and Rehabilitation Home, Sri Lanka



The study report was officially handed over to the Hon. Minister Dr. Upali Pannilage, the Secretary Mr. Samapath Manthrinayake, and Ms. Darshani Karunaratne, Director of the Department of Social Services, by Professor Premakumara de Silva, Director General of NISD, together with Dr. Keerthi Jayawardena, Senior Research Officer of the Research Division, NISD.

The National Institute of Social Development (NISD), through its Social Development Policy, Research and Publications Division, conducted a study titled “Mobilizing Resident and Institutional Capacities for Sustainable Rehabilitation: The Study of Ridiyagama Kalana Detention and Rehabilitation Home, Sri Lanka.” The research focuses on enhancing residents’ psychological development and developing a comprehensive institutional and Social Work intervention model to support sustainable rehabilitation, effective service coordination, and long-term institutional improvement.



FIVE-DAY SHORT-TERM TRAINING PROGRAMME

NISD successfully conducted a five-day training programme on Stress Management and Counselling Skills for police officers representing the Negombo, Kelaniya, and Gampaha Police Divisions. The training programme was held from 09th to 13th February 2026, with the participation of 60 police officers. The programme was organized and facilitated by the Training Division of NISD, aiming to enhance the psychological wellbeing, emotional resilience, and basic counselling competencies of police personnel who serve on the front lines of community safety and law enforcement.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Senior Professor Premakumara de Silva, Director General of NISD. The event was further honored by the presence of SSP Mr. Bimal Perera, representing the Negombo Police Division, and Ms. V. Vasudevan, Additional Director General of NISD. Their participation highlighted the importance of strengthening mental health awareness and counselling capacities within the police service. This initiative reflects the significant national contribution of the National Institute of Social Development toward human resource development and psychosocial wellbeing in Sri Lanka.



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OPENING OF THE GYMNASIUM AND WELLNESS CENTRE



The Sports Unit of the Student Support Services Centre, in collaboration with the Sports Club of the National Institute of Social Development, successfully inaugurated a Gymnasium and Wellness Centre at the institute on 25th February 2026. The initiative aims to promote physical fitness, mental wellbeing, and a healthy lifestyle among students and staff members of the NISD community. The opening ceremony was attended by Dr. Ravi Silva, Medical Officer of Health (MOH), and Senior Professor Premakumara de Silva, Director General of NISD, together with a gathering of academic staff, non-academic staff, and students. The establishment of the Gymnasium and Wellness Centre marks an important step in encouraging holistic wellbeing and creating a supportive environment that values both physical and mental health within the institute.

OPENING OF THE NISD IT CENTRE

The National Institute of Social Development proudly marked the grand opening of its new IT Centre on 30th March 2026 at Wing A Building. The event was graced by Prof. Premakumara de Silva, Director General of NISD, whose presence added significance to the occasion. The ceremony was attended by students, as well as academic and non-academic staff, reflecting a shared commitment to institutional development. Organized by the IT Committee, the event highlighted the importance of advancing digital learning. The new IT Centre will enhance access to modern technological resources, supporting both academic and professional growth at NISD.



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UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL AND UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCES 2026

4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOCIAL WORK 2026 (ICOSW 2026)

The National Institute of Social Development (NISD) proudly announces the 4th International Conference on Social Work 2026 (ICOSW 2026), scheduled to be held on 23rd September 2026. Under the theme "Co-Building Hope and Harmony: Social Work Responses to Inequality and Social Change," the conference aims to bring together academics, practitioners, and researchers to share knowledge and innovative practices. The event will feature keynote speaker Prof. Dai Haijing from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and will cover a wide range of sub-themes addressing contemporary social challenges. NISD warmly invites local and international participants to contribute and engage in this important academic forum.



Undergraduate Conference on Disaster Management 2026 (UCDM 2026)



The National Institute of Social Development (NISD) proudly announces the Undergraduate Conference on Disaster Management (UCDS) – 2026, scheduled for 23rd July 2026 at the Full Moon Hotel, Seeduwa.

The conference will be held under the theme "Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: Evidence, Ethics, and Innovation for Inclusive Social Development." It aims to provide a platform for undergraduate students to present research and share innovative ideas on disaster management and resilience.

The event will feature Professor O.G. Dayaratna Banda as the keynote speaker and will cover key areas such as climate change, community resilience, governance, and post-disaster recovery.

NISD invites undergraduate students from all universities and institutions to actively engage and contribute to this important academic forum.



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“GREEN TODAY” – ANNUAL ENGLISH DAY CELEBRATION



The BSW 2025/2026 batch successfully organized “Green Today 2026,” the Annual English Day Celebration, as a follow-up to the English Intensive Course. Held on 30th March 2026 at NISD Wing A, the event provided a vibrant platform to showcase students’ language proficiency, creativity, and teamwork. Through engaging performances and diverse activities conducted in English, students demonstrated confidence, effective communication, and collaboration. The programme also incorporated environmental awareness in line with the theme “Green Today,” highlighting students’ ability to apply classroom learning in a practical context. Overall, the event reflected holistic development, leadership, and active student engagement.

STRENGTHENING STUDENT WELFARE THROUGH EXPANDED MAHAPOLA SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

The NISD proudly celebrates a significant achievement in strengthening student welfare and access to higher education through the successful increase in the number of Mahapola scholarships from 30 to 120. In addition, the monthly Mahapola allowance has been increased to Rs. 3,750, providing greater financial support to students pursuing their academic aspirations. Furthermore, with the approval of the Treasury, steps are currently being taken to further enhance this allowance in the future.

NISD extends its sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Chairman of the Mahapola Trust Fund, retired Judge Mr. Malalgoda, the Director General of NISD, Professor Premakumara de Silva, and all staff members whose dedication, commitment, and continuous support contributed immensely to this important accomplishment.



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IFTHAR CELEBRATION

In celebration of the holy month of Ramadan, the National Institute of Social Development (NISD) organized a special Ifthar celebration on 9th March 2026 at the institute premises. The event brought together students, academic staff, and non-academic staff in an atmosphere of unity, harmony, and mutual respect.

The celebration reflected the rich multicultural and inclusive environment of NISD, providing an opportunity for participants to appreciate the significance of Ramadan and the values it promotes, including compassion, generosity, and togetherness. The gathering also encouraged interfaith understanding and strengthened the sense of community among members of the institute.

The evening concluded with the sharing of traditional Ifthar refreshments and fellowship, making the event a memorable occasion that reinforced friendship, cultural appreciation, and social cohesion within the NISD family.



SURYA MANGALYA 2026



The institute successfully celebrated the New Year Ceremony, Surya Mangalya 2026, on 30 April 2026. The event was organized by the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) students of the 2022/2023 and 2024/2025 academic batches, with the active participation of the institute's staff members and students.

The ceremony was held with the objective of celebrating the Sinhala and Tamil New Year while promoting unity, cultural appreciation, and institutional harmony among the NISD community. The occasion provided an opportunity for staff and students to come together in a spirit of fellowship, exchange New Year greetings, and extend wishes for a prosperous and successful year ahead.



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TOURIST INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE CENTER ESTABLISHED UNDER THE SMART VILLAGE CONCEPT

A Tourist Information and Guidance Center has been established in the Perawella village area near Bomburu Ella under the Smart Village Project, with the aim of enhancing tourism services while promoting sustainable community development within the locality.

This initiative was developed as a community-based project by two fourth-year undergraduate students of the National Institute of Social Development, reflecting the practical application of academic knowledge towards rural development and community empowerment.

The project is being implemented collaboratively by the National Institute of Social Development and the Ministry of Rural Development, Social Security and Community Empowerment. The primary objective of the Tourist Information and Guidance Center is to strengthen the local tourism industry while contributing to the socio-economic development of the Perawella community through the creation of livelihood and income-generating opportunities.



Through this initiative, the project is expected to improve visitor guidance and tourism-related services, encourage community participation in tourism activities, and support sustainable rural development in the area.

Another community-based initiative, the Perawella School Development Project, is currently being implemented in Perawella under the Smart Village concept. The project aims to enhance educational facilities and create a more supportive learning environment for schoolchildren while contributing to the overall social development of the community. Through this initiative, efforts are being made to strengthen educational opportunities and promote sustainable community empowerment in the area.



PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED BY NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

COURSE TITLE	ENTRY QUALIFICATION	TIME PERIOD/ MEDIUM	VENUE
DEGREE PROGRAMMES			
Master of Social Work (SLQF 10)	A Bachelor's Degree from a recognized university or Higher Education Institute with a minimum of 30 credits in the relevant subject area	Two year/ Part-time (English/Sinhala/Tamil)	NISD, Seeduwa
Bachelore of Social Work Honours	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L Examination with minimum requirements for university admissions (The applicants should appear for a selection test and an interview)	Four year/ Fulltime (English/Sinhala/Tamil)	NISD, Seeduwa
HIGHER DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES			
Higher Diploma in Social Work	Completion 30 credits Diploma in Social Work	One year/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	NISD, Seeduwa
Higher Diploma in Counseling	Completion 30 credits Diploma in Counseling	One Year/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	NISD, Seeduwa
DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES			
Diploma in Social Work	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Diploma in Counseling	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Diploma in Child Protection	Passing the G.C.E.(A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Diploma in Gerontology and Eldercare	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	NISD, Seeduwa
Diploma in English	Passing the G.C.E.(A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Diploma in Women Empowerment	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	NISD, Seeduwa
Diploma in Sign Language	Passing the G.C.E. (A/L) examination	12 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	NISD, Seeduwa
CERTIFICATE PROGRAMMES			
Certificate Course in Social Work	Passing G.C.E. (O/L) examination	06 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Certificate Course in Counseling	Passing G.C.E. (O/L) examination	06 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura), Killinochchi
Certificate Course in Child Focused Community Development	Passing G.C.E. (O/L) examination	06 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura, Killinochchi
Certificate Course in Research Methodology and Academic Writing	Passing G.C.E. (O/L) examination	06 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura, Killinochchi
Certificate Course in Elder Care	Passing G.C.E. (O/L) examination	06 Months/ Weekend (Sinhala/ Tamil/ English)	Seeduwa, Ampara, Thalawa (Anuradhapura, Killinochchi



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