

# Activities – Committees, Forums, Networks

## Theatre for Social Change Network SCN

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The huge tent of Janakatriya (Theatre of the People) in Sri Lanka.  
Performances in the tent.



### Activities 2014 – 2016

#### Members

President: Cecile GUIDOTE ALVAREZ (Philippines)  
Assigned as Secretary: Parakrama NIRIELLA (Sri Lanka)

#### Activities 2014

##### December

Organized the 'Puravesi Balaya' (Power of Citizens) Movement and drew together artists of all formats in Sri Lanka subjected to oppression by the political hierarchy that was in power at that time, on a single platform.

#### Activities 2015

##### January

Initial steps were taken to form an organization of Theatre Artists who committed themselves to change the oppressive political powers.

##### February

Established the National Federation of Theatre Artists, Sri Lanka. The organization consists of Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim artists including artists residing in the provinces adversely affected by 30 years of communal conflicts and war.

##### April

Supported Inter Act Art (IAA) to organize the 4th International Theatre Festival in Colombo through the National Federation of Theatre Artists, Sri Lanka

##### May

Initiated networking of all artists living across the country through Janakaraliya Theatre Of the People

##### July & August

1. Visited Kolkata to participate at the Bratyajon 4th International Theatre Festival and during that period visited Sanjoy Ganguli of "Jana Sanaskriti" and Ashish Ghoswami of „Natya Chethana" who are working with theatre activities for social change.
2. The Annual Journey of Janakaraliya with the Mobile Theatre started on 25 July at Chilaw and continued theatre activities in the district till 22 October. Performances were followed by Forum discussions with people gathered to watch dramas. A day was devoted for the Tamil and Muslim artists who are living in the district to perform during the festival.



#### Activities 2016

##### January

Started rehearsals of the new play, „The Travelling Circus of Refugees", a collaborative production of Janakaraliya and Mind Adventures Theatre Group of Colombo. The drama discusses the need for conflict-free social environments for personal development. It could be performed in both interior and exterior performing spaces. The play will be produced in Sinhala, Tamil and English. We are planning to perform the drama in Sri Lanka as well as India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh with the intention of congregating several different Asian Drama Groups working towards positive social changes through drama and theatre.

##### February

Joint Meeting in Fujairah/UAE, of Theatre in Conflict Zone Network, the Network – Heritage, Indigenous Cultures & Migration and Theatre for Social Change Network represented by Alexandre Stillmark CZN, Jorge Ortoll N-HIM and Parakrama Niriella SCN. It was decided that all these 3 networks should communicate and interact with each other constantly.

Since Janakaraliya (Theatre Of the People) is already lined up to the Theatre of the Oppressed (TO) using Applied/Forum Theatre for transformative effects on society, it was decided to connect and develop contacts through SCN network for ITI.

This report has been submitted by Parakrama Niriella and does not include the activities Cecile Guidote-Alvarez which can be found in the Philippine Report.