

Write to Reconcile is looking for emerging Sri Lankan and Diasporic Writers!

Only 2 1/2 Half Weeks Left to Apply!

With about 2 ½ weeks left before its application deadline of **April 29th**, *Write to Reconcile*, a **free** creative writing programme focussed on reconciliation in Sri Lanka, is already receiving many submissions from those interested in participating. The organizers urge emerging and new writers and poets from Sri Lanka and the Diaspora to send in their entries soon. The first 12 successful applicants who apply before **April 24th** will receive free signed copies of Shyam Selvadurai's *Many Roads Through Paradise: An Anthology of Sri Lankan Literature*. The Project is open to anyone between the ages of 18-29, as well as Sri Lankan teachers and professors of any age.

Write to Reconcile is the brainchild of the celebrated Sri Lankan author Shyam Selvadurai and is now in its third year. Selvadurai is an experienced teacher of Creative Writing and has taught in such universities as the University of Toronto, the University of Guelph and York University. "The craft of creative writing is not taught in Sri Lanka," Selvadurai said, "so *Write to Reconcile* is a unique opportunity for people interested in being writers to learn their craft." The award-winning writer, Nayomi Munaweera, joins Selvadurai as part of the creative team.

The selected 25 participants will have the opportunity to work closely with both Shyam and Nayomi who, together, will conduct a week long residential workshop in Anuradhapura at one of the hotels located in the heart of the historical city. All the expenses of the selected participants will be met by *Write to Reconcile*. During the workshop, participants will be taught all they need to know about the craft of creative writing. There will be lectures on plot, character, setting, poetry etc. These will be followed by in-class exercises that will allow participants to practice what they have learnt and share their work with fellow participants, thus greatly improving their creative writing abilities. In the evenings, there will be visits by human rights workers who will talk about their life and work, as well as the screening of films that are related to the theme of reconciliation. Participants will make 2 field trips into the Vani and the Border Villages to meet with villagers from these areas, sit in their homes and find out first-hand their experience of the war and about their lives post-war. The hope is that these visits will inspire some wonderful creative work. Post-workshop, participants will workshop their creative pieces in online forums with Shyam, Nayomi and fellow participants. They will then edit one of their pieces with Shyam for publication in the *Write to Reconcile Anthology 3*, which will be published and distributed free island wide in March 2017 (to read the previous 2 anthologies go to www.writetoreconcile.com).

The project is coordinated by Amrita Pieris, known for her role as Director of the Galle Literary Festival, "This is my third year with the Project and I am excited to be back on it. The programme is very rewarding - you see the writers develop their writing skills and confidence and also forge lasting friendships with other participants from all communities and parts of the country, truly beginning the process of reconciliation and nation building in post war Sri Lanka."

The Project is funded by the American Centre and takes place under the auspices of the National Peace Council. For more information and to download an application go to www.writetoreconcile.com