

## **CENTRE FOR PEACE STUDIES SRI LANKA.**

Centre for Peace Studies Sri Lanka has been at the forefront of developing new ideas about Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Peace keeping, Human Security and Peacebuilding. It has developed an international reputation for the practical application of these ideas in war zones and communities driven by conflicts, most notably in and outside Sri Lanka. This has involved working with warring parties, Government agencies, NGOs, regional and international organizations, together with the civilian communities caught up in these conflicts.

### **BACKGROUND OF THE PROGRAM**

The Peace Ambassadors and Honorary Doctorate program has been a flagship program of the Centre for Peace Studies (CPS) Sri Lanka. As such, it was first defined by the CPS. It was carried out to promote and support the role of people in peace-building activities that contribute to living together in dignity and dialogue.

CPS firmly believes that Peacebuilding in the world is not an easy target to achieve through the agreements or negotiation without the contribution of the people. It's the prime duty of each and every individual.

The Peace Ambassadors are people from across the World, active in civil society organizations and programs. Participants have been chosen due to their motivation to build a better world where a different peace is possible.

During the program, they learn about peace and human rights, they develop local programs for peace, and they advocate for human rights and dignity. Participants are also committed multipliers involved in an organization or network, institution and/or informal group. They thus act as ambassadors for the values of human rights, peace, and intercultural dialogue, and they will also bring these values to youth work and to youth initiatives in their communities.

The conflict situations addressed by the participants are those where communities are experiencing or recovering from armed conflict, frozen conflicts, racism and aggressive nationalism and hate speech. Discrimination and human rights violations experienced by communities or young migrants and internally displaced people are also covered by the program.

### **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

The Centre for Peace Studies Act gives the power to grant honorary degrees, and assigns to the CPS Senate the role of providing for the granting of honorary degrees, and to Convocation the authority to confer honorary degrees approved by the Senate.

The bylaws of Senate provide for an Honorary Degrees Committee which has the task of encouraging and recommending nominees for honorary degrees, and submitting names to the Senate for consideration for honorary degrees. The bylaws provide that degrees honoris causa may be conferred at any Convocation provided that the names of such

persons shall have been considered and approved by the Honorary Degrees Committee, and shall have been recommended by the Senate.

## **PRINCIPLES FOR AWARDING HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREES**

The awarding of an honorary doctoral degree is a highly public action that brings visibility and distinction to both the recipient and to the Centre for Peace Studies as grantor. It is also among the highest honors the Centre for Peace Studies can confer. This distinction should, therefore, be given only for extraordinary accomplishments and in strict conformity with criteria approved by the Board of Trustees.

Honorary degree recipients share one commonality: Extraordinary distinction. However, the ways in which they demonstrate this distinction, the areas in which they have achieved it, and their geographic locations are likely to be diverse.

That a nominee may be controversial is not, in itself, reason to deny a degree honoris causa to an otherwise worthy recipient; however, no degree should be awarded to any individual when doing so could be reasonably expected to bring dishonor or embarrassment to the Centre for Peace Studies and the Centre for Peace Studies, Sri Lanka.

Honorary degrees conferred by the Centre for Peace Studies do not give honorees who do not possess earned doctoral degrees the right to use the title of "Dr." All recipients of honorary degrees may, however, list their honorary degrees in their biographies, resumes, or curricula vitae.

The Centre for Peace Studies will award honorary doctorates only.

An honorary degree is the highest honour the Centre for Peace Studies can bestow. Acceptance of an honorary degree by a candidate brings honour to both the recipient and the Centre for Peace Studies.

Normally, one honorary doctorate is conferred at each Convocation ceremony.

Honorary degrees are awarded to outstanding individuals who have made a worthy and unique contribution.

### **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION:**

Through conferring honorary degrees the Centre for Peace Studies recognizes individuals who have achieved outstanding accomplishments in research, scholarly and artistic works; performed exceptional public service; contributed greatly through their professional or philanthropic activity; and great athletic prowess.

The Honorary Degrees Committee will take the following considerations into account in selecting candidates:

The level of excellence and eminence the candidate has demonstrated in scholarship, scientific inquiry or artistic endeavors, gaining high and sustained recognition nationally or internationally.

- The extraordinary nature of the candidate's public service to humankind.
- The candidate's significant creative, material or financial contributions that have greatly benefited the Communities.
- The level of significant athletic prowess demonstrated by the candidate.
- A candidate whose presence at Convocation would be an inspiration to the graduating students.

In determining those candidates to recommend, the committee will attempt over time to achieve a balance across academic or professional disciplines and types of contributions, and a diversity of gender and cultural backgrounds.

The committee may also take into consideration those who for reasons attributable to social prejudice or ignorance may have been passed over.

**The following persons are not normally eligible for consideration for an honorary degree:**

- current members of the Board or Senate;
- current or recent members of the faculty or staff of the CPS;
- current students;
- current holders of elected office at any level (municipal, provincial, federal, or within any Aboriginal community) and members of the federal Senate
- for clarification, elected officials are not normally eligible for the following reasons:
- to protect the Centre for Peace Studies from the perception of a conflict of interest; and

b) to protect the Centre for Peace Studies from the perception that it is getting involved in partisan politics; people who are elected officials in other countries may be considered if they do not have political influence over the Centre for Peace Studies and if the Centre for Peace Studies likely does not have influence over their electorate; and people who are former holders of an elected office or former federal Senators are eligible for consideration; and people who have been awarded an honorary degree in the past are in no way restricted from running for elected offices in the future.

c) religious leaders, unless they are being recognized largely for other contributions outside of their religious leadership.

The conferring upon any person of an Honorary Degree shall not qualify that person to become a candidate for any Degree or Diploma, eligibility for which is confined by Ordinance, Resolution or Regulation Centre for Peace Studies graduates; it shall, however, entitle that person to become automatically a member of the General Council. No Honorary Degree shall be conferred upon a person on the payroll of the Centre for Peace Studies, except that the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts or the Honorary Degree of Bachelor of Science may be so conferred, in recognition of long service or exceptional merit, upon a person who is not already a graduate of the Centre for Peace Studies.

The Degree of Doctor honoris causa may be conferred on grounds other than scholarship, but other Honorary Degrees carrying the title of Doctor shall not be so conferred save most exceptionally.

No application from any person desirous of receiving any Honorary Degree shall be entertained.

## **HONORARY DEGREES COMMITTEE**

The Honorary Degrees Committee is appointed annually by Governors and consists of the CEO and such other members of Governors as determined from time to time by Governors. The duty of the Committee is to select persons to be recommended to Governors for the conferment of Honorary Degrees.

## **NOMINATIONS PROCEDURE**

The Secretary to the Committee writes to the Country Heads of CPS and asks for details of the Country nomination(s) to be submitted, with a note including the Country's priorities for the awards, by late April and October that year.

(a) All members of Governors have the right to put forward nominations for Honorary Degrees to be awarded on the basis of academic distinction. These should normally be submitted to the appropriate Country in the first instance. Exceptionally, such a nomination may be sent direct to the Secretary to the Honorary Degrees Committee if there is good reason why it should be considered without delay.

(b) Nominations or suggestions for Honorary Degrees to be awarded on other grounds may be sent direct to the Secretary to the Honorary Degrees Committee by any member of the Centre for Peace Studies community.

Each Country may put forward more than one nomination for degrees listed below for each of the graduation ceremonies at which degrees taught in the Country will be conferred and one nomination for the degree of Doctor honoris causa, although it should be understood that the number of Honorary Degrees each year is not constant. Nominations in respect of Degrees to be conferred will normally be considered by the Committee in late Spring and recommendations conveyed to the first meeting of Governors thereafter.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

It is important from the beginning of the process of nomination through to the point at which a decision is reached and the successful candidates have been invited by the CEO, that a high level of confidentiality be maintained. It would be a major embarrassment if a nominee was made aware of their nomination and was then subsequently unsuccessful. Equally it would be embarrassing for the Centre for Peace Studies if there was disclosure in the public domain prior to the successful nominees receiving official notification from the CEO.

## **FORMAT OF NOMINATIONS**

This nomination must be written under Freedom of Information guidelines. Please try and restrict your information to what is available in the public domain. Where it is

necessary to include private information this must be clearly marked as such, i.e. "Information not in the public domain".

Nominations should be submitted on the forms provided by the Secretary to the Committee or you can prepare under mentioned format (please note that a nomination not submitted in this format is difficult to assess and the nomination is thus likely to be undermined):

- (a) a completed nomination form (copy attached);
- (b)
  - (i) a supporting submission on the form provided (copy attached) which contains an introductory statement setting forth the principal grounds for the distinction;
  - (ii) a brief chronological, narrative account of the nominee's life and work;
  - (iii) an outline of the nominee's most significant academic or other achievements;
  - (iv) an assessment of his/her standing on a basis of international comparison or in the life of the nation;
  - (v) CPS connection or link (please provide evidence of what benefit has been received within the Centre for Peace Studies), or if none any tangible association with our values; and
  - (vi) any other information the proposer would wish to bring to the attention of the Committee.
- (c) nominations should be accompanied by details of the nominees' published works in an Appendix.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

The Honorary Degrees Committee shall submit a Motion for the award of Honorary Degrees in the form of a written report which shall be made available to members of Governors at least two days before the Ordinary Meeting at which it is to be presented.

The names of those recommended for Honorary Degrees are confidential until approved by Governors and offers have been accepted by candidates.

### Honorary Degrees

D.B.A. Doctor of Business Administration

D.C.L. Doctor of Civil Law

D.C.S. Doctor of Commercial Science

D.D. Doctor of Divinity

D.Ed. Doctor of Education

D.Eng. Doctor of Engineering or Eng.D. Doctor of Engineering

D.Eng.S. Doctor of Engineering Science

D.F.A. Doctor of Fine Arts

D.H. Doctor of Humanities or HH.D. Doctor of Humanities

D.Journ. Doctor of Journalism

D.Mus. Doctor of Music or Mus.D. Doctor of Music

D.P.A. Doctor of Public Administration

D.P.S. Doctor of Public Service ·

D.R.E. Doctor of Religious Education

D.S. Doctor of Science or D.Sc. Doctor of Science or Sc.D. Doctor of Science

J.D. Doctor of Jurisprudence  
L.H.D. Doctor of Humane Letters  
Litt.D. Doctor of Letters or Doctor of Literature  
LL.D. Doctor of Laws  
Ped.E. Doctor of Pedagogy  
S.T.D. Doctor of Sacred Theology

### **PUBLICIZING THE NOMINATION AND THE AWARD**

Nominators should not approach nominees to inform them that they are under consideration. The Centre for Peace Studies will not release the outcome of any individual nomination, except by making a public announcement of the honorary degree recipients for a particular Convocation. The names approved by the Senate will not be made public until this time.

The Secretary will determine the timing of the public announcement in consultation with the CEO, who will make the announcement.

### **AWARDING**

- Honorary degree recipients are invited to give the Convocation address but may decline the invitation to do so.
- Honorary degrees are not awarded in absentia.
- Honorary degrees are not awarded posthumously. An exception may be made in the case of the honour having been accepted and arrangements made for its awarding prior to the death of the nominee.

The citation for the honorary degree should be no longer than three minutes in length. In accordance with Council Bylaws, “each recipient of an honorary degree shall be presented for admission [to the degree] by the CEO or by a person designated for that purpose by the CEO”.

The gown worn by candidates for the honorary degree is the black doctoral robe of the Centre for Peace Studies, faced with emerald green chevrons. The honorary degree hood is lined with gold, with white trim. The Centre for Peace Studies will make a gift of the honorary degree hood to the candidate after the ceremony; the gown will be available on loan but is retained by the Centre for Peace Studies.

### **REVOKING**

The Bylaws of Senate provide that “the Senate may revoke an honorary degree and all the rights and privileges connected therewith.” The Senate would consider revoking the degree on the recommendation of the Honorary Degrees Committee, by means of a vote.