

**A Country at Peace – How Sri Lanka’s Young Generation Tries to Heal the Wounds of War**

**A Co-production between MBC Networks and Deutsche Welle-RADIO  
Producers: Romaine Anthony, Sangeeth Kalubowila, Kerstin Steinbrecher**

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TEASER

**(Music – FLUTE?)**

**Nat Sound:** Children chanting alphabet at informal school in Vettilaikerni (Jaffna Peninsula)

**(FADE UNDER & KEEP UNDER)**

**Recital:**

‘A’ for Apple  
‘B’ for ‘Ball’,  
Says father,  
But, isn’t it,  
‘A’ for ‘Arms’ and ‘B’ for ‘Bombs’  
I don’t know really.  
Though playing is  
Fun, with a gun,  
It blurred  
The image  
When it opened  
My uncle’s heart.....

**(BRING UP SOUND OF ALPHABET AGAIN)**

**NARRATOR 1:**

For most children all over the world, going to school and learning the alphabet is an exciting thing to do, opening up a whole new world of letters, words and stories. After school they go home to their families, do homework and then play outside, read, watch TV or listen to music. In Sri Lanka, many children haven’t had that opportunity. They have learned that ‘A’ means ‘arms’ and ‘B’ means ‘bombs’ – because a civil war has been raging in the country since they were born.

**(NATS OF TAPE REWINDING, NATS OF BOMBING AND SHELLING, RADIO (ARCH.))**

*Within hours after the LTTE called off their so called unilateral suspension of hostilities, midnight on Tuesday. security forces mounted a major ground offensive in the Jaffna theatre. Troops overcame stiff enemy resistance and were able to breach*

*defenders at some places. About 15 soldiers were killed and about 40 wounded in action.*

NARRATOR 2:

After almost 20 years of war the guns have now fallen silent in Sri Lanka. But after one year of fragile peace, the healing has only begun.

**(FILLER: BRING FLUTE MUSIC UP)**

***A Country at Peace – How Sri Lanka’s young generation tries to heal the Wounds of War. Now it’s your chance to listen to this co-production between MBC Networks, Sri Lanka, and Deutsche Welle-RADIO, Germany. [cut: This programme is part of our series “Conflict Prevention & Crisis Management” end-cut]***

**(FILLER – MUSIC)**

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MAIN BODY

***Nats: Galle Face Green on Sunday late afternoon***

NARRATOR 1:

Galle Face Green is a park right by the ocean in the centre of Colombo, Sri Lanka’s commercial capital. Families come here to enjoy an evening together, children fly their kites and young couples go for a stroll. Even after sunset finding some space on the patches of grass can become a challenge these days, especially on the weekends.

What today seems like the most natural thing to do, hasn’t always been like that. Up until a year ago, the people of Colombo, like those in the rest of the country, made sure they were home early, worried about sudden curfews, police checkpoints throughout the city, and even the possibility of being caught in a bomb explosion. So for most, enjoying their free time here, is still a new experience, or at least a more relaxed one after 20 years of war.

***Nats – bring up again***

### NARRATOR 2:

Seeing such a mix of communities here at Galle Face Green, including Sinhala, Tamils and Muslims, makes it difficult to imagine that there has been an ethnic conflict going on in Sri Lanka for more than two decades.

Peace, or rather a cease-fire, has only been possible after the Sri Lankan government signed a cease-fire agreement with the LTTE, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, in February 2002. The LTTE has been fighting for a separate state for Tamils in the Northern and Eastern provinces.

### NARRATOR 1:

But after 19 years of fighting, which has killed more than 60,000 people, both sides have now decided that it's time to talk --- and find a political solution to the conflict. ...The government has lifted its four-year ban on the LTTE, and the group -- once considered rebels -- have now dropped their demand for a separate state. Several rounds of peace negotiations have already been completed in Thailand and Norway. So far, they have progressed smoothly. But some of the more contentious issues have still not been resolved. Instead, humanitarian issues have taken the focus in the initial rounds.

### **Nats – Orphanage**

### NARRATOR 2:

For this orphanage, The Vajira Sri Jayawardane Rehabilitation Children's Home, just outside Colombo, one year of peace has meant it hasn't had any new arrivals from the North and East for over a year now.

### ***Nats – Bring up sound of Orphanage***

Venerable, Dr. Hunopulogama Vaajya Shrirthero, a Bhuddist monk, founded the orphanage when the conflict began in 1983. Since then, it has been a safe haven for children who have lost their parents in the war. What started as a refuge for 100 children, has since seen some 1,300 children grow into young adults and move on to

live their own lives – normal lives. But, says the monk, almost all the children, when they arrive, carry terrible memories of the war with them:

**DUB: Cut – Monk**

Most of the children here have had their parents butchered or shot in front of their eyes. All of them have been through some kind of traumatic experience. Some children used to wake up screaming in the nights, calling for their mothers. Even now some children are scared of gun-fire.

**Nats – Children / Tea**

NARRATOR 1:

Tea time at the orphanage is always a big event in the course of the day. But it's also a major logistical effort: 326 children, that means 6 kilos of sugar and 6 packets of milk for making tea every single day.

**Nats – Kitchen**

With the orphanage totally dependant on donations and the monk's personal funds, he recently had to close his personal bank accounts – simply because there wasn't any money left. He has also started selling his own land to keep the home running. But still, the home is far from luxury. The children sleep in a big room with simple iron bunk beds on either side. And there is hardly any place for personal belongings.

NARRATOR 2:

But, every day, all around him, the monk sees that there are bigger problems than that. After being caught up in so much hate and conflict, these orphans seem more like adults than children, the images of war still in their minds, images which, the monk fears, they might never forget.

**DUB: Cut – Monk**

All the time they ask for guns. We give them balls, but no, we ask them what they want and the answer will be: "We want guns". So all the time when they play, they shoot each other, build bunkers... but they are all friends, no one actually has any anger....it is just what they remember. It really makes me sad to see that but it also makes me happy, knowing that all of them are good friends.

18-year old Sangeeth Kumar has been living at the Children's Home for the last 8 years. He came here when he was only ten years old, together with his brother and

his two younger cousins. Their fathers were two Sinhala brothers, who were married to two Tamil sisters. Coming from two ethnic communities didn't stop their parents from living together. But their family life ended abruptly when the two fathers were killed by the LTTE at a time when the boys were just toddlers.

NARRATOR 1:

But there is no hate in them. The four boys, along with the rest of the children here, are learning to put their past behind them and make plans for --what they hope -- will be a future that's brighter than their past.

**DUB: Cut – Orphan 1**

(older cousin) This is a good place, we are doing our studies well here. We want peace. We don't hate anyone, we want everyone living in peace like we are doing here, everyone: Tamils, Sinhala and Muslims they are all living here together peacefully.

**DUB: Cut – Orphan 2**

(younger cousin) We are here because of the war. But there are more children who have been left alone because of the war. There have to be people who are willing to take care of them. Those children can only have a future if someone is looking after them. I feel children who have been left alone because of the war....you mustn't push them away, give them a chance to grow up to be useful citizens.

**Music filler**

**Nats – Travel sound**

NARRATOR 2:

The Jaffna Peninsula in the North has been the area most battered by the war. Even after one year of peace, the landscape outside of Jaffna-town still bears visible scars of the conflict. Skeletons of bombed-out buildings stand out clearly against stretches of paddy fields. What is left of the buildings and the gardens is overgrown with shrubbery -- shrubbery that is now being cleared, and people *are* now returning to fields which had been left abandoned.

**Nats – Three wheeler / Traffic**

The centre of Jaffna town doesn't look any different from any other rural town in Sri Lanka, except maybe for the Tamil name boards above the shops, the frequent checkpoints and the many trucks and tractors carrying government troops. Those are constant reminders that this is still very much a fragile peace.

### **Nats – Traffic**

#### NARRATOR 1:

For the people in Jaffna-town, one year of peace means they no longer have to make a long sea journey to travel to the south. Instead they can now use the Kandy-Jaffna A-9 highway which had been closed for civilians during the war. Or they can even book a flight since civil air services have now returned to the North. And, as Prof. Balasundaram Pillai (Pillei), Vice Chancellor of Jaffna University, explains, life has also gotten easier in more ways than one:

### **Cut – Vice Chancellor of Jaffna University**

Earlier, when the Jaffna-man reached Colombo, first thing he has to go to the police station and register and no family member like to accommodate him in his house with a police registration, now that also is not there. So that security and transport was very much relaxed.

### **Nats – Bike bell**

#### NARRATOR 2:

The fuel embargo imposed on Jaffna during the war has been lifted, so cars and buses are now a common sight. But the people of the town still get around the way they used to during the war: on bicycles. Each family member in Jaffna has their own bike.

But although things look like they're returning to normal in town, every single person here has a story to tell.....stories that are far from normal....

### **Cut - GTZ cleaning lady**

Before 1995, October 23<sup>rd</sup> this army is moving here and my husband dead my children, morning no breakfast, sometimes children go to school and head fainting like this and sometimes no dinner, now my children also good. Now I have work here, now I also have lunch and breakfast, before, no.. (starts crying)

She's not the only one. On the peninsula alone there are some 19,000 widows who have become the bread-winners for their families because their husbands have died in the war.

### **Nats - Car**

#### NARRATOR 1:

Leaving Jaffna town and travelling south along the A9 through areas controlled by the LTTE, even the tall Palmyrah trees on either side of the road tell the story of war. There are lines of trees that have no tops, all of them cut down to half their size by the shelling during the war.

### **Nats – Palmyrah trees**

Along the way, landmine warnings appear at every kilometre. Drivers, and in fact anyone who passes through, also need to mind the red and white markers, stuck in the ground with wooden poles. Straying off the road is dangerous here as only some areas along the road have been cleared of mines.

### **Nats – Counting, down, explosion of mine**

Clearing Sri Lanka of some 2 million landmines has become a Herculean task.

### **Nats – Beep**

#### NARRATOR 2:

UN Demining Units along with several NGOs have now begun the slow process of picking the area clean of the hundreds of thousands of mines scattered across the North and East...their work made easier by the peace process.

In Elephant Pass, the little strip of land which links the Peninsula to the mainland, 21-year old Thavayuvam, a local de-mining worker, uses only a handmade three-pronged wooden rake to search for buried mines. It's a nerve wracking job and clearing an area as small as an office desk takes an enormous amount of time and energy. They don't get a risk allowance, these workers, but that hasn't dimmed their enthusiasm for their work, as Thavayuvam explains:

**DUB: Demining Staff – Jaffna,**

We have worked on this for the last two years and we've already removed about 95,000 mines. We are not getting a lot of money for this, but we are doing this to help the people. If we delay our work, it will affect our own people and they might lose their legs. We are mostly involved in de-mining in the residential areas, and here we have to work quickly, so that people have a chance to return to their homes. Official reports say there are about two million mines still left, and we think that number is correct.

**Nats – Killinochchi Central College**

NARRATOR 2:

30 kilometres from Jaffna town down the A-9 is Killinochchi. Stopping at Killinochchi Central College the welcome by the children is enthusiastic...why? because they're hoping the visitors have brought them some school books...something that had been missing for so long.

**Nats – Killinochchi Central College: "Books, books"**

NARRATOR 1:

Inside the school, children carry on with their studies, trying to ignore the rain water that's dripping from the ceiling. There are potholes in the classroom floor and the windows are just gaping holes in the wall.

These are problems they are starting to think about only now. But compared to what they have been through during the war, they seem so insignificant. These are children who used to run for cover, looking for some kind of shelter whenever heavy fighting erupted. Back then, their biggest worry was if they would still be alive the next day:

**DUB: Cut – Boy Killinochchi 1 (brown haired)**

It was really hard during the war, but now that things are better, we feel we have more freedom. Back then, when we were in school, we could always hear the sound of shelling, but now we are getting a taste of what peace is like. During the war, we always worried we might be bombed in our classroom, and sometimes we had to lie on the ground to take cover. But now, things have changed. We are not afraid of planes anymore. When we see one today, we run out and wave at it.



## NARRATOR 2:

These children have braved the war to keep studying, despite being forced to stay at home for several weeks or even months when there was heavy fighting.

There are other children who haven't seen a school in their life-time, children who live in cramped spaces inside refugee camps. More than 800.000 people have been displaced during the war, many of them forced to leave their homes and move around several times.

And, as Dr. Daya Somasundram, a psychiatrist at the Jaffna District psychiatric hospital explains, living in a refugee camp makes it even harder for these children to leave behind the traumas they have been through.

### **Cut – Dr. Daya Somasundram, psychiatrist at the Jaffna District Psych. Hospital**

Children in refugee camps who have been displaced are more vulnerable to these kinds of problems and they don't have access to help. Also they might not be going to school regularly and some of the environments in the refugee camps has a bad effect on children, [...] The children sometimes learn bad habits so that we have a lot of problems with child abuse, sexual abuse, unwanted pregnancies, these kinds of problems from refugees camps.

And there are also other problems as Dr. Hiranthi Wijeymanne from UNICEF explains:

### **Cut – Dr. Hiranthi Wijeymanne, UNICEF, Back to school programme**

they have been there for so long, it's sometimes 5 years, it's sometimes 10 years, the way it's set up there, no privacy, families living on top of each other (and the complete lack of services) [...], I mean they are living in these dark and dingy kind of camps, how can the kids really study or do homework, I mean the whole environment is really anti-education, learning and development.

## NARRATOR 1:

Wijeymanne says she would like to see all refugee camps closed down as soon as possible and see people return to even a simple hut that they can call their own. But as she is also aware, it will take several more years for her wish to come true.

Although over 200,000 displaced people have now returned to their villages, once they do get home they often find that their homes have either been destroyed, or are

still occupied by the army. Others return to realise that their gardens have turned into mine fields.

### **Cut -- GTZ guy**

I think there is animals and snake all this is jungle area but I didn't see...

### NARRATOR 2:

This man hasn't seen his house for more than twelve years now and he fears there might not be anything left of it. His house is located inside a High Security Zone, areas which are still off limits for civilians. Like many people of his area, he hopes the peace process will allow him and his family to resettle soon.

Like him, hundreds and thousands of displaced families have returned to find nothing there, says Brenda Barrett of UNHCR, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees:

### **Cut – Brenda**

Often time what happens is people return home without information of their home or with imperfect information. So maybe they think their house is still standing and I've actually seen families return to the land that they owned to see nothing on it. Their house was completely destroyed or there were remnants of their house and everything was looted and nothing was there.

### **Nats – School Bell**

### NARRATOR 1:

In the meantime, UNICEF has taken a small step towards putting things right for the children in the country. UNICEF has now launched the "Every Child in School"- Campaign that targets the 65,000 children who are not in school in the North and East. But the odds are stacked against them as more than 200 schools still can't be used.

### **Nats -- Construction sound**

### NARRATOR 2:

Rebuilding and repairing those schools has therefore now become a priority. And the sound of construction has become a common one in towns. The effort to rebuild can

be seen almost everywhere here. The idea is to try and give children at least some kind of primary education. But it will still take some time before this reconstruction reaches some of the most affected areas....areas like the coastal town of Vettilaikerni.

The villagers here are only now returning to semi-permanent huts, feeling that its now safe to start living normal lives -- even though conditions are still harsh. The village school consists of two trees and a chair only for the teacher.

### **Nats – Recital of Alphabets**

#### NARRATOR 1:

This after-school class is for kids who need extra attention. It's part of a programme put together by the GTZ, the German Technical Corporation, one of the many organisations which are helping to put the region back on its feet and restoring some kind of normalcy to the lives of the kids and their families. Here, the kids sit inside an open hut built with the leaves of a palmyrah tree, ... it's a shelter from the sun, but it can hardly stand the battering of a heavy shower.

### **Nats – Ocean or filler**

#### NARRATOR 2:

But on the Jaffna peninsula there are also children who have exchanged their school uniforms for battle fatigues when they were still in their early teens. It's yet unknown how many children have been drafted by the LTTE as soldiers. Some, have even joined because they wanted to:

### **DUB: Cut – Child Soldier 1 (48)**

I joined the LTTE and faced my first battle when I was 13. I had no problems in fighting as I had a lot of training. I joined at my own will. My mother died of cancer when I was small and I was full of hate then and I wanted to join the group. I have given up that mentality now and I won't go back.

This former LTTE cadre is now 19-years old. But at the age 13 he was able to handle an AK-47 assault rifle, and shoot his target with perfect aim. And he is no exception. The same goes for all the other children who have been put through months of

rigorous military training. So much so, that soldiers in the areas say, that in a battle, when face to face with a boy half their size, they couldn't afford to think twice.

## **Nats -- of the Rehabilitation Camp**

### NARRATOR 1:

This rehabilitation camp in Jaffna is home to 16 former Child Soldiers who have either surrendered or have been arrested by the Sri Lankan army. Most have spent over a year in the centre. And they are the lucky ones. This is the only camp in the entire country which runs any kind of rehabilitation programme for former soldiers.

It's run by the Sri Lankan government but the officer in charge, Major Jayawardane says, it's not getting the kind of support he thinks is necessary. Already, they're almost one million rupees in debt to the shops in the neighbourhood. He feels camps like this can do a lot to transform violent young people to normal teenagers.

## **Nats -- Camp**

### **DUB: Cut – Major Jayawardane**

The situation in the South is really bad now, the same will happen in the North if there is no proper programme to rehabilitate people who have had military training and who fought in the war, so I think the government should use this rehabilitation programme for at least one or two years, keep them here for 7 or 8 months, give them some vocational training. In this centre we talk to them about politics, culture, religion and traditions every day. So I think here they have learned a lot.

### NARRATOR 2:

They have learned a lot yes, and it sounds almost too simple. But everyone of them once had the potential to kill thousands of people. Now, however, these young adults have a different mission on their minds.

### **DUB: Cut – Child Soldier 2 (19): (Disk 2, Track 1-4)**

I hope I can find a job after graduating. Or I would like to do set up my own business....be self-employed.

Here at the camp, the boys catch up on reading and writing skills and they are also taught tailoring, electrical wiring, or farming to set them up for independence. But even with these skills, do they really have a fair chance of a normal life? Or even a normal job? While most here have their minds set towards the future, there is also a nagging fear on all of their minds.... None would say their names or want their pictures taken – and they have good reason:

**DUB: Cut – Child Soldier 3 (21yrs): (Track 45, 6:16-60 )**

Anyone who surrenders to the army is considered a traitor. Once they surrender, if they try coming back home, they will definitely be killed.

They say they would rather leave the country for good than going back to their own homes. But still, there's also a strange kind of loyalty amongst them... which makes them hesitant to speak out against the group they have been with.

**Filler – Sweeping the floor of the Psych. Hospital**

NARRATOR 1:

The trauma of war has affected almost all the children on the peninsula. Having had to treat traumatised children here at the Jaffna District Psychiatric Hospital, Prof. Daya Somasundaram feels that war is a terrible experience, for infants in particular, when they are missing a parent, especially their mother.

For children the trauma is harder to bear, he explains, when they are displaced from their homes, when their homes have been destroyed, and they find they can't go back.

Then more than ever what is needed, Somasundram says, is a stable environment which can help children deal with their trauma and make some sense of what has happened:

**Cut – Dr. Daya Samasundram, psychiatrist at the Jaffna District Psychiatric Hospital**

Without a stable environment you can't really heal the person. It's like filling a bucket with a hole at the bottom. Suppose you counsel a person because they

have undergone a some traumatic experience like being in a home and suddenly having to face a bombing. This has happened to us also. A counsellor was counselling and suddenly there is a plane coming in for bombing. So the client got up and ran out, so they are exposed to the same things again and again, or a torture victim, he is frightened that he is arrested again and so he has to undergo the same problem again.

### **Nats – Muslim mosque (FADE UNDER & KEEP, FADE OUT)**

#### NARRATOR 2:

In the Eastern Province of the country, things are even more complex than in the North. The province composes of three groups, Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims, and they have gone through a civil war which has drawn them apart in the worst kind of way:

#### **Cut -- Rupasinghe**

They have gone through a civil war, therefore the three communities have deep suspicion of each other.

Kumar Rupasinghe is the President of the Coexistence Foundation. After working in the East and having seen how divided the communities are, he feels those divisions have also had an effect on the minds of the children:

#### **Cut – Kumar Rupasinghe**

If you ask children to paint a picture, say, a Sing. Child or a Tamil or a Muslim, they will draw something which is very frightening, always it is a dark picture of sth frightening coming up that is what is inside their psychology because they have lived in separate societies. So the perceptions they have of the other community is stereotyped and very negative. Therefore a lot of work needs to be done to change that stereotype of the other community.

#### NARRATOR 1:

While the actual peace talks seem to be going well, progress on the ground hasn't been as smooth. Rupasinghe feels that the needs of the people, especially those of young adults have to be addressed. In the East, he says, there is a lot of frustration among young people who feel that their leaders are not in touch with them, that they don't consult them and are very distant.

Rupasinghe warns that leaving those ideas and concerns of the young people out of the whole process, and not making them stakeholders in the peace talks, might turn them into spoilers.

## **Nats – Colombo traffic**

### NARRATOR 2:

In Colombo, most people think they should support the peace process. But there are others, like this young man, who are still suspicious:

### **Vox Pop:**

I really don't know what the politicians have in mind. We don't really know whether the politicians are doing this for personal gain, we are really not clear about that. If the government is doing this with good intentions then it's a good thing....but I don't think they are.

Sri Lanka's *Sunday Times* recently found that some young adults in Colombo city were not even aware that there were peace talks going on. Others were totally indifferent, feeling it had nothing to do with their lives.

Whether it's really ignorance or disinterest, or even something the government is doing wrong in getting it's point across to the younger people is hard to figure out.

### NARRATOR 1:

Further down, in the so-called "Deep South" of the country, most of the young people do want peace. But they are also really worried about what the final settlement would mean for them. Because even today most have problems finding a job. Since they are convinced that prospects are better for people in the city, most want to leave and move to urban areas, says Siripala Hettige, Professor of Sociology at Colombo University:

### **Cut – Hettige**

In the South, the Sinhala youth do not see any prospect outside the public sector, they think their future depends entirely on state institutions. That is because our educational policies have really not produced young people in order for them to be able to fit into any kind of economic situation. They have been basically brought up in an environment where they could only think in terms of finding public sector employment. So they want to protect their stake as it is constituted today, that is the Sinhala youth perspective.

## **Nat – Traffic in Colombo**

## NARRATOR 2:

With so many people travelling from all over the country to Colombo, Sri Lanka's commercial capital has become a real melting pot for all the different communities. What is striking though is that despite two decades of war, Colombo has remained virtually untouched by the ethnic divisions. People here, especially students, get on well with each other... whether they be Tamil, Sinhala or Muslim, says Hettige:

### **Cut – Hettige:**

Everybody is talking about the ethnic divide, the ethnic conflict, you know, students belonging to all three communities coming and participating in academic programmes we never experienced any problem, any kind of tension And I don't think we have problem in this sense.

### **Nat – Traffic in Colombo**

## NARRATOR 1:

Their might not be conflict on campus, but there isn't a lot of mixing going on either between the communities. Mixing, that might be crucial to understanding each other and for building a lasting future. Hettige thinks that communication between the different ethnic groups is really important and that giving young people the opportunity to learn each others language would help:

### **Cut – Prof. Hettige**

I don't think that this is a big deal to teach another language, because in the whole world, people learn languages and that is not a difficult thing. Most people would learn a language within a very short period of time. You don't need huge investments, it is not like giving computer skills.

That would also create job opportunities for young people. Hettige's vision is that young teachers from the North could come to the South to teach Tamil and teachers from the South could move to the North. UNICEF's Hiranthi Wijemane agrees:

### **Cut – Wijemane**

That is very important because I think, communication is a very good bridging thing and I think that Tamil can learn Sin. And Sin. can learn Tamil, that would be great, I think to have a bridging language like English would be very useful



because then again it's a link language And I think the people from the South should visit the North and the other way around. I mean I have visited these areas and I don't see a difference, it's the same kinds of problems.

### **Nats – Kandy peace song**

#### NARRATOR 2:

Listening to this peace song performed by the students of the Girl's High School in Kandy, it's hard to notice where Sinhala ends and where Tamil begins. With their performance they have found the perfect way to merge their two languages and cultures. Unity, the lyrics say, is like an umbrella – and what use is one that's broken?

### **(BRING UP NATS OF SONG; CROSSFADE WITH: Nats – Children at the Orphanage)**

Back in the orphanage just outside Colombo, these children have been through awful times early in their lives. But here they are also learning how to move on:

#### **DUB: Cut – Monk**

Yes, there is hate in these children when they come here, so we have worked on it. We talk to them every day to tell them that they can't hold anyone else responsible for something one person did. It's personal, it's a problem between two people. If someone killed my brother, I can't take it out on other people, can I? Hanging on to those awful memories and holding a grudge, clinging to the hate will only destroy our own minds and ourselves. So now, they are not so full of hate and anger anymore. There used to be hate. But now they look at the things that happened to their parents as things of the past, and they have moved on.

### **Nats – Children at the Orphanage singing**

These children are trying to put their past behind them, the healing made easier because their stories are being told and heard.....a lesson worth learning for everyone else.

#### **Cut – Kumar Rupasinghe**

I think there is a tremendous need of telling the stories of each community to the other to understand the suffering that each community has gone through. We have to have what is called a healing process and to have a healing process, every community must recognise that they have actually done harm to the other community.

**(BRING UP Nats – Children at the Orphanage singing)**

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