

AHAVOLI

Convocation of Counselling Psychology 2014



Conferment of Diplomas
13th December 2014

CONVOCATION OF COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY

13th December 2014

ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 10.00 am Congregation / Guests takes their seats
10.05 am Invitees and Guest of Honour take their seats
10.10 am Arrival of the Students at the Bishop's house
10.20 am **Arrival of the Chancellor**
Most Rev.Dr.Thomas Savundaranayagam
10.25 am Graduands & staff procession commences
with Chancellor
10.30 am Chancellor arrives at stage
The entire congregation stands

**The lighting of the traditional lamp by the
Chancellor, Guest of Honour, director, one from the
staff and one from the students.**

**The anthem of National University of Ireland,
Galway will be Played.**

♣ **Prayer**

The Chancellor takes his seat and the entire
congregation sits down

♣ **Welcome Address**

Mr.Tharmalingam Ketheeswaran

♣ **Annual Report**

Rev.Fr.S.J.Rajanayagam, The Director

♣ **Message from**

Dr.James J.Browne,

President, (National University of Ireland, Galway)

♣ **Message from**

Nuala McGuinn

(Acting Director, Adult and Continuing Education NUIG)

♣ **Address by the Guest of Honour**

Mr.D.S.Soosaithas

LL.B(Colombo), Attorney - at Law, Senior State Council

♣ **Address by the Chancellor**

Most Rev.Dr.Thomas Savundaranayagam,

The Bishop of Jaffna.

♣ **Vote of thanks**

Miss. M.Shiromi

The Chancellor will rise and declare the opening of the Convocation

"I DECLARE THIS CONVOCATION OPEN FOR THE CONFERMENT OF DIPLOMAS"

The Chancellor resumes his seat

The Fr. Director will announce

"CHANCELLOR, YOUR GRACE, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD OF AHAVOLI, INSTITUTION OF COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY OF HIGHER STUDIES, ON THE RECOMMENDATION OF ACADEMIC COUNCIL, HAS RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING DIPLOMAS BE CONFERRED ON THOSE PRESENT IN PERSON AND IN ABSENTIA"

The director resumes his seat

The course directors will present the Graduands by announcing:

CHANCELLOR, YOUR GRACE, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING FOR THE AWARD OF DIPLOMA IN COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY 2012 - 2013 AND 2013 - 2014.

**LIST OF GRADUANDS
DIPLOMA IN COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY**

2012-2013

MERIT PASS

1. Tharmalingam Ketheeswaran

CREDIT PASS

2. Amalathas Grace Jeevananthini
3. Amirthalingam Sujeenthiran
4. Amirthanathan Mukunthan
5. Antony Joseph Vestin Usha
6. Arokkiyarajah Alen Gracia
7. Balasubramaniyam Niththiya
8. Gnanasekaram Kajantha
9. Jajenthirakumar Thadshajini
10. Jemesrajkaran Jeyaruby
11. Mahenthiran Jeyanthan
12. Rev.Fr. Jesuthasan Robert Vincent
13. Shanmuganathan Ushanthini
14. Tharmalingam Sinthuja
15. Theivendram Indrakumar
16. Thuraisingam Shangamathy
17. Vignarajah Krishnameera

**LIST OF GRADUANDS
DIPLOMA IN COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY**

2013-2014

MERIT PASS

1. Mohan Shiromi

CREDIT PASS

2. Anton Xavier Vijayan Prasanthan
3. AthithanJunis Pelicia
4. Balendran Judit Bamini
5. Christirasa Jeyam
6. Jeyarajah Rachel Kirushantha
7. Kovintharajah Kalaivani
8. Mahendran Menaka
9. Mariyanayagam Arul Roshan Fernando
10. Mathiyaparanam Mathiruban
11. Nagendram Nalina
12. Nampiyaruran Vinthuja
13. Navil Mohamed Rafi
14. Noel Winston Jerad Niroshan
15. Rasalingam Pirapagini
16. Raveendran Vithya
17. Rev. Fr. Santhiyapillai Balendran
18. Rev.Bro. Thires Pushpam Jenistan Benedict OMI
19. Rev.Fr. Christopher Godwin
20. Rev.Sr. Anton Selvarasa Mary Nijanthiny
21. Sasikumar Sujatha
22. Selvarasa Gnanamathangi
23. Selvarasa Sarankey
24. Shanmugarajah Brammiya
25. Sivagnanam Anusiya

26. Sivanathan Karthika
27. Sivanesabalan Thamilarasy
28. Theivendran Thadshagine
29. Thevaraja JenetRexini
30. Thevathasan Gloriat Thenmoly
31. Vinson Godvin Dalini

THE CHANCELLOR

"BY THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME AS CHANCELLOR, I
CONFER UPON THOSE WHOSE NAME HAVE BEEN READ,
FOR DIPLOMAS FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED COURSE OF
STUDY"

The Chancellor resumes his seat.

Signing of the register of Diplomates

The Chancellor will sign the register of Diplomates

Closure of the Convocation

Chancellor will rise and declare the convocation closed as
follows :

"I NOW DECLARE THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
CONFERMENT OF DIPLOMAS CLOSED"

VOTE OF THANKS MISS. M.SIROMI

The Chancellor and rest leave the stage

Others remain standing

**MESSAGE FROM DR. JAMES J. BROWNE, PRESIDENT
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY**



**NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh**



On behalf of the staff and students of our University, I extend warmest greetings and congratulations to all of you who are presented with your Diploma awards today.

Since 2003, the relationship between NUI Galway and Ahavoli Centre has developed and strengthened. In 2006, the Centre was recognised and approved by the University as an Outreach Centre of this University. We are pleased that Ahavoli is now a thriving Education Centre offering accredited courses from National University of Ireland, Galway. Since then, 247 students have completed courses leading to awards of Diploma in Counselling Psychology and Diploma in Peacebuilding and Social Development. We are grateful to Irish Aid - the Irish government's overseas aid programme - for supporting our joint efforts to provide tertiary-level courses which contribute to educational and social development in Northern Sri Lanka.

Today, I wish all of you at Ahavoli Centre - staff, students, your families and friends - a joyful celebration of your academic achievements. I thank Fr. Rajanayagam and his professional team who directed your courses and who

continue to provide important social and educational services for the community of the Jaffna peninsula. I wish all of you success in the future and assure you of continuing support from National University of Ireland, Galway.

Wishing you all success in your lives and your careers on the years ahead.

James J. Browne PhD, DSc, MRIA, C.Eng.

Uachtarán - President

**Message from Ms. Nuala McGuinn, Director, Centre for
Adult Learning and Professional Development
National University of Ireland, Galway**



I congratulate the graduates today of the Diploma in Psychology of Counselling and the Diploma in Peace Building and Social Development Practice who complete their course with the Ahavoli Institute of Counselling Psychology, Jaffna and NUI Galway. The academic award presented to you is a fitting recognition of your dedication, hard work and achievement throughout your programme of studies.

While NUI Galway and the Ahavoli Institute come from very diverse traditions, this academic partnership recognises the public value of education and the central role that lifelong learning plays in economic prosperity and social development, and in enhancing the well-being and quality of life of individuals, families and communities. Since its inauguration, Adult Learning and Professional Development programmes of NUI Galway have placed the regional community which it serves at the centre of its courses and its curricula. Down through the years the

University has offered a wide range of courses – Social Action, Community Studies, and Community Development Practice - which are designed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills for capacity-building within communities.

The Diploma in Psychology of Counselling has been designed to provide a good theoretical foundation, together with basic skills, which will enable today's graduates to contribute as workers or volunteers within a wide range of community settings and services within your region. Equally, this second group of students to be conferred with a Diploma in Peace Building and Social Development Practice are now equipped to become Peacebuilding practitioners on this island. They have the potential to meet the challenges of these times and have an opportunity to play a significant role in peacebuilding and capacity-building within your country.

I wish to express thanks to Fr. Rajanayagam, Course Director, and his team of colleagues who have sustained these excellent programmes at the Ahavoli Insitute. I wish also to acknowledge again the original support of our Government's *Irish Aid* programme, which provided funding to support this project.

I extend every good wish and success to the graduates of these programmes. The qualifications which you have received, meet the highest international standards and provide you with a solid educational base for your future career development.

Wishing you continued success in the future.

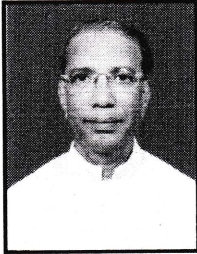
Nuala McGuinn

Director

Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development

AHAVOLI
Institute of counselling Psychology
St. Patrick's Road, Jaffna Sri Lanka

**REPORT FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2012 - 2013 &
2013 - 20014**



Your Lordship Rt. Rev. Dr. E. Thomas Savundaranayagam, the Chancellor of our Institute, Very Rev. Fr. Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr. Provincial of the oblates of Mary Immaculate, Very Rev. Sr. Provincial of the Holy Family, Honoured Guests, Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, ladies and Gentlemen and my dear Students.

INTRODUCTION

The God Almighty in His boundless mercy has helped us enjoy a good and smooth year and through His providence directed us to perform our duties very well in our institute. Therefore we thank Him and praise Him for His kindness and loving concern over us. I am happy to welcome in our midst our bishop Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Savundaranayagam the Patron and Chancellor of this institute and our guest honour Mr. D. S. Soosaithas LL.B. Attorney-at-Law, Senior State Counsel, Attorney General's Department. We also welcome our Vicar General, Very Rev. Fr. Justin B. Gnanapiragasam, the newly elected Provincial of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate very Rev. Fr. Edwin Vasantharajah. The Provincial Superior of the Holy Family Rev. Sr. Christa, I also welcome the new students, Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, and all the guests.

THE SITUATION IN THE NORTH

The war ended in 2009, and the guns are silenced. But the people are carrying the scars of the war on themselves. . The impact of war such as disturbed sleep and appetite, increased anxiety and nightmares, flash backs, thinking about the event constantly, hyper-alertness and confusion, overwhelming fear/emotional shock, fears of traumatic happening again, insecure feelings and feelings of helplessness, fleeing life's not worth living and attempts of suicide, disinterest in surroundings and withdrawal from others, memory and concentration problems and so on continue to haunt them. The children are the most affected in this war. During such times our institution was and is in the forefront helping the victims of the war and tsunami relieving them of their trauma and their mental stress. The presence of the army also contributes to the state of anxiety and other mental illnesses.

ACTIVITIES:

COUNSELLING THE VICTIMS OF WAR

Since 2013 we are doing this project. We take a special attention on school going children and their parents and teachers. We came across many children who have lost either both or one of their parents and their siblings. Due to this they do have traumatic experience. Through counselling and support we help them to study. We are doing this in some part of Vanni where most of the people are affected directly due to the war. We also do this in some parts of Jaffna peninsula where people got displaced to Vanni during war. Some of these families still didn't get their houses as they were destroyed. Many are still languishing in the camps as their lands are grabbed by the government for the use of the military.

The other important thing is as the government still maintains zero casualties during war; we are not allowed to do counselling and to have any contact with the resettled people. Hence we have to take permission from the District secretary of the government, G.S. and military to do this work. We have to go through a lot of odds to do this work. Anyhow we are doing this work well enough. We not only do counselling but also visit their houses. After the school hours we conduct child friendly space, play and art therapy and counselling for the children

COUNSELLING

We are doing counselling in our institution where 4 to 6 families or individuals come for counselling on daily basis. We get families who have problems as well as individually disturbed persons who have neurotic symptoms too.

We do group counselling for the widows and the victims of war trauma. The government has neglected this part of the program completely. Anyway we made use of the opportunity to do this ministry where ever it is needed.

FAMILY MINISTRY

Our diocese had taken **Human Dignity and Family** as the theme for this year to conscientize the families of their responsibilities and duties. We do the following programs for the benefit of the families.

1. Visiting all the parishes in our diocese and do enrichment programs for the married couples
2. Marriage preparation course for the to be married couples for two days in a month
3. Counselling services for the families

4. Training of family ministers in parishes
5. Natural Family planning and pro-life movement
6. Awareness programs on family violence and alcoholism

DIPLOMA IN COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY AND FORMATION OF COUNSELLORS

This time we have 10th and 11th batches of students to be given diploma in counselling psychology. 17 students in the year 2012 to 2013 and 31 from 2013 to 2014 concluded their Diploma program.

The staff is very strict in forming them and they did a yeomen job in their teaching and formation. In the academic year 2012 – 2013 out of 17 students one got the merit pass and in the year 2013 – 2014 out of 31 students one obtained a merit pass. The others were successful.

The academic staff of the counselling section worked tirelessly with dedication to form them as good counsellors. I thank the staff for their cooperation and the work that they have done to bring out good quality counsellors. I also congratulate all the counselling students for their achievements. They did their work very well and put more work to achieve their goal.

DIPLOMA IN PEACE BUILDING AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

We advertised this program twice for the year 2012 and 2013, only two applied and we had to drop the program. During the time of war, there was a need for this as there were very many NGOs employing them. Now many have gone out of the country as they have been pressurized

to close down. The applicants seek only job oriented courses and as this course has no demand none shows any interest.

EXTENSION OF AHAVOLI

I am happy to let you know that we have erected a three story building consisting of class rooms, counselling rooms and visitors' rooms. It was possible due to the generosity of our bishop and chancellor who gave us the land to put up this building. We were able to get funds with the help of Church in Need, Germany and with our Jaffna Diocesan Aid. Now we have ample space for our activities.

SENTIMENTS OF GRATITUDE

I thank the almighty God for all the blessings that He showered on us and inspired us to do this ministry well. He made everything possible for us to educate our youth in His own way.

I thank our Bishop, the Patron and Chancellor for his unstinted support to our institution. He always encourages with his advice and looks into the maintenance of this institute. He is very much concerned about the progress of this institute.

We are grateful to the administration of National University of Ireland, Galway for their direction, advice and financial help. I thank the President of NUIG, Dr. James J. Browne and the Director Ms. Nuala McGuinn for their encouragements and support that they are giving to us with their messages.

Our special thanks go to all the members of staff for their untiring efforts for the formation of our students. It is due to their dedicated services, our students are awarded

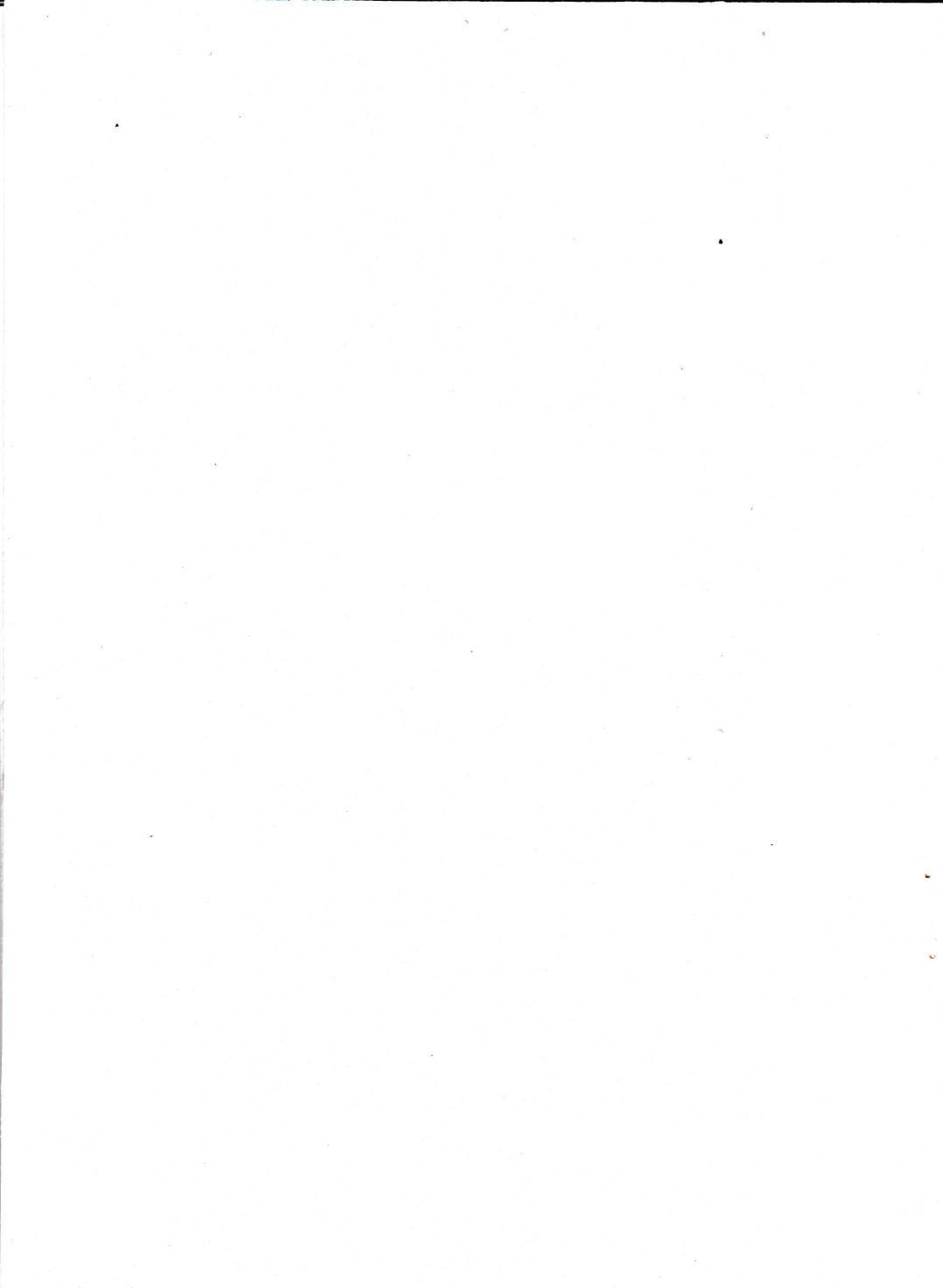
the Diplomas today. We also thank the clerical staff for their valuable services.

CONCLUSION

Dear students, you are going to be awarded with certificates of Diploma in Counselling Psychology and Peace Building and Social Development Practice. Now that the war has come to an end but the people carry with them the scars and effects of wars. The war has left more than 80,000 widows who are struggling both psychologically and physically to survive. There are children without parents, and vice versa. Most of the people have lost their life's savings, homes and their ancestor's lands. Many people are in a state of anxiety about their missing near and dear ones. We get reports of many attempted suicide cases very often. Many are languishing in the camps and prisons not knowing when they will go to their places or reunite with their dear ones. This war left many people with psychiatric illness. We have a great task ahead as counsellors to give light to their lives. You will have to work hard with full of dedication to rebuild their lives and instil in them the hope and help them to live a meaningful life.

Our institution feels very happy and proud of your achievements. I congratulate you with the staff. I wish you all success in your pursuit and career. I thank you all and God bless you.







Ahavoli
Institute of Counselling Psychology
Jaffna Sri Lanka

Tel 021 222 2856 E.mail : raj1@sltnet.lk



National University of Ireland
Galway, Ireland,

www.nuigalway.ie