

Photo Exhibition "The People's Voice Is Louder"

The captivating exhibition titled "The People's Voice Is Louder," organised by Alliance Française Madras from June 17th to July 2nd, 2023, provided a poignant exploration of Sri Lanka's economic and refugee crises. Students from the Department of International Relations at Loyola College had the privilege of attending this thought-provoking exhibition, which featured the works of artists Lojithan Ram, Nayanahari Abeynayake, Pirainila Krishnarajah, and Riyal Riffai. The exhibition was a fusion of visual art, literature, and philosophy, skillfully employed by the artists to convey a powerful message about the profound challenges faced by the Sri Lankan people. Through their creative expressions, the artists shed light on the economic crisis that has gripped Sri Lanka in recent years. Using vibrant colours and symbolic imagery, their artwork depicted the harsh realities of poverty, inflation, and income inequality that have adversely impacted the lives of ordinary citizens.

In addition to addressing the economic crisis, the exhibition also expressed the pressing issue of the Sri Lankan refugee crisis. The artists endeavoured to evoke empathy and understanding by capturing the experiences of those displaced by conflict. Their artworks provided glimpses into the shattered lives and fractured identities of the refugees, aiming to humanise their stories beyond mere statistics. The exhibition served as a powerful call to action, urging viewers to recognise the consequences of violence and the urgent need for compassion and support for refugees. It prompted reflection on the interconnectedness of global issues and the responsibilities of individuals and societies to address them.

The visit to the photo exhibition provided the second-year students of the Department of International Relations with invaluable firsthand experience in engaging with international art and exploring complex socio-political issues through visual media. It encouraged critical thinking, empathy, and a deeper understanding of the multifaceted challenges faced by communities around the world.

