



# National Shoora Council

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**Hon Prof. Harini Amarasuriya MP**  
Prime Minister and Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
Battaramulla, Sri Lanka

## **Urgent Appeal for Fair Representation for the Muslim Community in Educational Policy-Making Bodies**

**Hon. Prime Minister,**

We write to you with deep concern regarding a matter that strikes at the very heart of fairness, inclusivity, and national unity — the lack of reasonable representation of the Muslim community in the education policy-making bodies that are shaping Sri Lanka's historic 2026 reforms in education.

You are no doubt aware that the Constitution recognizes that the country comprises of Sri Lankans from different religious and cultural backgrounds. The fundamental rights provisions of the Constitution provide for every person the 'freedom of thought, conscience and religion' and for every citizen 'the freedom to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching'. The Directive Principles of State Policy, though not enforceable, have been held by the country's Superior Courts as setting forth the 'standards or norms of reasonableness which must guide and animate governmental action'. It is in this backdrop that we seek your urgent intervention to ensure that all key educational institutions dealing with education in general and reforms in particular have a fair representation of Muslim educationists, academics and professionals.

You are also well aware that meaningful education is not only the foundation of national development but also a bridge that unites communities in our multi-ethnic and multi-religious country. For this reason, reforms of such magnitude must reflect the diversity as well as the unity of Sri Lanka. Yet, despite the scale of the upcoming changes, a critical gap exists in the current appointments:

- **National Education Commission (NEC):** 15 members, no Muslim academic representation.
- **Academic Affairs Board of NIE:** 15 members, no Muslim representation.
- **Council of NIE:** 11 members, with only one Muslim entrepreneur, and no Muslim academics.
- **Committee for Draft Proposed Education Council:** 9 members, no Muslim representation.
- **Voluntary Advisory Council (Ministry of Education):** 14 members, no Muslim representation.

This exclusion means that nearly **10% of Sri Lanka's population** the Muslim community has been left without a voice in shaping reforms that will define the future of education. Such an omission not only risks overlooking vital cultural, linguistic, and religious perspectives, but also sends a troubling signal of inequity at a time when our nation must demonstrate unity and fairness.

Please permit us to respectfully mention that the consequences of this oversight are serious:

- **Loss of Trust:** Communities cannot have confidence in reforms that do not include them.
- **Policy Blind Spots:** Without Muslim academics, reforms may fail to respond to the genuine needs of all cross sections of students.
- **Threat to National Unity:** Education should bring us together, not create division and alienation.

We therefore urge you, with utmost respect and urgency, to:

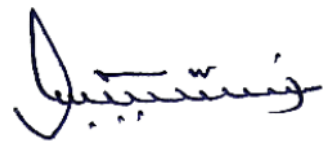
- 1) **Immediately appoint qualified Muslim academics and professionals** to the NEC, NIE Council, Academic Affairs Board, and other reform-related committees.
- 2) **Adopt an inclusive framework** to guarantee fair representation of all major communities in education governance, especially during the 2026 reform process.
- 3) **Demonstrate Sri Lanka's commitment to equity and unity** by ensuring that these reforms reflect the voices of all communities, given the background of past alienations that have ended up in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UN HRC), subjugating this island nation into foreign interventions, the avoidance of which must begin with educational reforms in the leadership of which all stake holders must be reasonably and fairly represented.

The 2026 reform is being positioned as a landmark in Sri Lanka's education history. Let it also be remembered as a reform that strengthened trust, unity, and fairness by ensuring that no community was left out of the decision-making process.

We appeal to you to act swiftly and decisively so that the reform process truly reflects the shared aspirations of all Sri Lankans.

Yours sincerely,

Sgd  
**M.M. Zuhair PC**  
President-NSC



**Rasheed M Imthiyaz AAL**  
General Secretary- NSC