

CSOs and NGOs Working for Human Rights¹

Name of Organisation: North South Initiative, Malaysia

Website of Organisation: <http://nsinitiative.net/>

Facebook of Organisation:

<https://www.facebook.com/northsouthinitiative/>

Organisation of DTP Alumni Y/N: Yes



The North South Initiative (NSI) is a Youth-Adult Partnership (YAP) initiative based in Malaysia. The main objective of NSI is to build synergy between the North and South in addressing human rights, social justice and development issues by using a holistic approach. NSI focuses on empowering marginalised groups of communities with strategic tools to bring about positive change in society.

Their goals are to analyse the current political economy and propose new systems based on solidarity and social justice to ensure marginalised communities have direct access to development planning and policy making processes using rights based approach and to build cross sector and interdisciplinary collaborative networks for sustainable social justice.

Indigenous Peoples:

Their first program focuses on empowering local farmers on the impact of globalisation on agriculture. For this program, NSI collaborates with the Pesticide Action Network and the People's Service Organisation to educate local farmers on greener alternatives and the impacts of agribusiness upon the environment. NSI are currently attempting to promote awareness of hazardous pesticides used by farmers and the impacts on their health. Another program is capacity building of indigenous youth in Malaysia. NSI aims to empower and guide a movement of indigenous youth activists that strive to preserve their cultural rights. NSI aims to raise awareness of strategies for social action and environmental justice amongst indigenous youths.

Migrant Workers:

NSI also has a programme to promote, organise and protect migrant workers in Malaysia. They aim to build a national coalition of migrant workers with other NGOs to advocate for the protection of the human rights of migrant workers. They focus on campaigning on labour rights, security rights and socio-cultural rights with the ASEAN Forum on Migrant Labour (AFML), the International Labour Conference and the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD).

Conflict Resolution and Peace Building:

In South East Asia regions of West Papua (Indonesia) and Patani (Thai-Malaysia border), NSI has conflict resolution and peace building programmes to ensure peace and stability. Their main objective is to equip these grassroots communities with the appropriate tools in conflict resolution and peace building. NSI also takes in interns for further training on these skills.

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¹ The Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) is an NGO affiliated with the Faculty of Law at UNSW in Sydney. Since 1990, it has provided training to over 2800 human rights defenders and community advocates. These individuals work for a wide range of organisations working to promote shared values of human rights – in different ways. This profile is part of a series developed by DTP (www.dtp.unsw.edu.au) to illustrate the richness and diversity of the organisations working to promote human rights more broadly.

