

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Sri Lanka Barometer?

A: The Sri Lanka Barometer (SLB) is a research initiative to deepen the understanding of how Sri Lankans perceive reconciliation and its most salient dimensions, as well as to track progress in each of these dimensions. The SLB initiative consists of three components: (1) a nationally representative public opinion survey implemented every two years; (2) complementary qualitative research; and (3) a communications and outreach component. The overarching objective of the Sri Lanka Barometer is to inform public discourse and policymaking in the country's pursuit of greater unity and inclusion.

Q: Who is implementing the Sri Lanka Barometer Initiative?

A: The SLB was initially piloted under the **Strengthening Reconciliation Processes in Sri Lanka (SRP)** programme of GIZ and subsequently supported through GIZ's **Strengthening Social Cohesion and Peace in Sri Lanka (SCOPE)** programme. During this period, its core implementing partners included the [Institute for Justice and Reconciliation \(IJR\)](#) in South Africa and the [Centre for Poverty Analysis \(CEPA\)](#) in Sri Lanka.

The SLB is now institutionally anchored at [The Insights Initiative \(Guarantee\) Limited](#), marking its transition to an independent institutional home (since January 2026). It is currently implemented by Insights with support from [Search for Common Ground \(SFCG\)](#).

Q: Who funds the Sri Lanka Barometer?

A: The SLB is currently funded by the European Union. Between 2018 and its transition to The Insights Initiative, when the SLB was implemented under GIZ, it was co-financed by the European Union and the German Federal Foreign Office.

Q: When was the Sri Lanka Barometer initiated?

A: The SLB was initiated in 2018 following discussions with the Ministry of National Integration and Reconciliation.

Q: What has been the response of the government of Sri Lanka?

A: Since 2018, successive ministries expressed interest in developing a deeper understanding of public perceptions around the reconciliation process in the country. Further, the Diyawanna Declaration by the Parliamentary Select Committee for National and Religious Harmony of 2019 recommends to the Sri Lankan Parliament the need for tracking public opinion to inform policymaking on a regular basis. This and other mandates for citizen consultation and inclusion in reconciliation have acted as a prompt to conduct the bi-annual SLB survey to understand perceptions and track reconciliation in Sri Lanka.

The Ministry of Justice served as SCOPE's principal government partner and formally endorsed the Sri Lanka Barometer (SLB) initiative at its launch in March 2022. This endorsement provided official recognition for the initiative within the Sri Lankan government and created opportunities to engage directly with policymakers and inform policy discussions. At the same time, the design and implementation of the research has been led by independent organisations, ensuring that both the research process and its findings remain independent, objective, and impartial.

Q: How was the SLB conceptualised?

A: In order to bring local voices, experiences, and expertise into the conceptualisation of the SLB, expert discussions and community consultations were organised across the island in 2018. This was further done to ensure that the SLB's theoretical framework reflected the relevant academic discussion and at the same time remained grounded in the lived realities of Sri Lankans and strongly anchored in the Sri Lankan context. Local researchers have worked closely with researchers from the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) in South Africa to adapt the methodology used in the [South African Reconciliation Barometer](#), the longest-running public opinion survey of its kind in the world, to the Sri Lankan context. Local researchers and communities have further played a vital role in conceptualising the eight dimensions of reconciliation identified as relevant in Sri Lanka. Similarly, the survey questionnaire was developed together with local researchers that have in-depth understanding of the Sri Lankan political, social, and economic contexts.

Q: What is the definition of reconciliation used by the SLB?

A: The community consultations showed that people's thoughts and experiences on reconciliation are diverse, dynamic, context-specific, and very personal. Hence, the SLB does not follow a narrow definition of reconciliation but explores the concept through eight interlinked dimensions that were identified as relevant to reconciliation in the Sri Lankan context through community consultations and expert discussions. These eight dimensions that are: Dealing with the Past; Justice for All; Identity and Belonging; Interpersonal, Social and Political Trust; Equality of Opportunity; Active Citizenship; Accountable Governance; and Security and Wellbeing.

Q: What is the methodology used for the SLB Public Opinion Survey?

A: SLB uses a quantitative survey design, with data collected biennially from a nationally representative sample of Sri Lankans aged 18 and above. The sample size was 3,876 in Round 4 (2025), 3,876 in Round 3 (2023), 3,860 in Round 2 (2021), and 3,880 in the Baseline survey (2020). Across all Rounds, estimates were produced with a 95% confidence level and a margin of error of 1.6%. The sampling framework allows for disaggregation across provinces and key demographic groups. Data was collected using a structured questionnaire that was designed based on a previously developed conceptual framework and that is reviewed before every new survey iteration.

Q: How are survey data and findings used and who can use the results?

A: The findings from the SLB Public Opinion Survey are used to inform public discourse and policymaking around social cohesion and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. Beyond this, the SLB aspires to become a public resource that can benefit various endeavours by providing evidence-based information, e.g. in the public sector, academia, media, development sector, or the general public. The survey results are made available in all three languages in the form of a written report and various online resources including social media ([Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [TikTok](#)) and the Sri Lanka Barometer website www.srilankabarometer.lk.

In addition to its publications, SLB data is available through the [Online Data Analysis \(ODA\) Tool](#), which allows users to explore all survey indicators across different survey years and disaggregate composite indicators by province, regional cluster, ethnicity, religion, age, and gender. For users requiring more advanced analysis, the full datasets from the 2020, 2021, and 2023 survey rounds are publicly available for download through the [Roper Center for Public Opinion Research](#) archives. The 2025 dataset will be made available following the completion of the one-year embargo period.