

KILA Urban Policy Cell, in association with UNICEF, the School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies, and the Centre for Technology and Human Development

Studies

Organizing

Youth Consultation at Mahatma Gandhi University

The Kerala Cabinet has established the Kerala Urban Policy Commission (KUPC) to develop a comprehensive urban policy that will guide the state's development trajectory for the next 25 years. The Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) has been designated as the state-level nodal agency for this initiative.

Recognising the need for an inclusive and forward-looking vision, the KUPC emphasizes the importance of incorporating the voices of children and youth into the policy framework. As critical stakeholders in the future of urban development, their perspectives on challenges, aspirations, and priorities are essential in crafting a policy that reflects their needs and visions.

To facilitate this, the KILA Urban Policy Cell, in collaboration with UNICEF, is organizing regional and state-level consultations with children and youth. These sessions aim to engage this unique demographic to understand their viewpoints better and integrate them into the policy formulation process.

As part of this initiative, the KILA Urban Policy Cell is organizing a participatory consultation with youth in Kottayam, in partnership with School of Gandhian Thought and Development Studies of Mahatma Gandhi University. This session will take the form of a Youth Consultation, providing a platform for youth to express their ideas, aspirations, and concerns for the future of Kerala.

The primary objectives of the consultation are:

1. Collecting valuable input from children to inform the urban policy-making process.
2. Educating youth about the functioning of ULBs and the principles of local governance.
3. Encouraging youth to engage with civic and community issues in a structured and meaningful way, fostering their development as responsible citizens.

This initiative seeks to empower youth, amplify their voices in policymaking, and build a foundation for their active participation in governance. It aims to pave the way for a sustainable and inclusive urban future by integrating the aspirations and priorities of younger generations into the state's urban development framework.

By hosting this consultation at **MG University** on **7th February 2025**, the KILA Urban Policy Cell aspires to inspire the youth in Kottayam to become active contributors to the future of Kerala, fostering a culture of inclusivity and responsibility in urban governance.