

Country/entity	Sri Lanka
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	LTTE-SLMC Joint Communiqué
Date	13 Apr 2002
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Sri Lankan Civil War (1983 - 2009)

The roots of the Sri Lanka conflict lay in British colonial policy which controlled the island from 1802 until 1948. During the early 1800s, the British brought Tamils from mainland India to work on the various plantations for tea, coffee and rubber, changing Sri Lanka's the demographic make-up. Upon independence, Sinhalese nationalism dominated the political sphere and introduced discriminatory policies against the Tamil minority straining relations and sparking protests. Armed Tamil resistance first came in the form of assassinations of moderate Tamils and opposition politicians in the mid-1970s. However, it was the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (LTTE) attack on checkpoint Four Four Bravo, which marked the turning point, sparking pogroms against Tamils in Sinhalese majority areas. This incident, known as Black July, is widely considered to the beginning of the civil war.

The first round of peace talks were backed by India, which had deployed the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in 1987, and led to the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. The Accord was successful in persuading the majority of insurgency groups to lay down arms. However, the strongest Tamil insurgency group, the LTTE, was not party to the talks and refused to disarm, sparking direct conflict between the IPKF and the LTTE until IPKF withdrawal 1990. Following the withdrawal, the LTTE consolidated their power in the North and East sparking another intense and bloody war with the central government that lasted until 2002 when another peace process was launched under the auspices of Norwegian negotiators. The second round of peace talks, however, only continued until April 2003 and in March 2004, a large faction of LTTE cadres split from the main organization damaging LTTE unity. The LTTE were defeated militarily by a large-scale government assault in 2009, however, the conditions for peace remain uncertain.

Close
Sri Lankan Civil War (1983 - 2009)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Sri Lanka LTTE 2002 onward process

Parties

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam:
 signed by Vellupillai Pirapahran, National Leader
 Mr. Anton Balasingham, Political Ideologue;
 Mr. S. P. Thamil Chelban, Head of the Political Wing;
 Col. Karuna, Commander for the Batticaloa-Ampara districts;
 Col. Pathuman, Commander for the Trincomalee district;
 and Mrs. Adel Balasingham

Sri Lanka Muslim Congress:
 signed by Rauf Hakeem, National Leader;
 Mr. Athaullah, Chairman;
 Dr. Uthumalebbe, Senior Deputy Leader;
 Mr. Mohideen Abdul Cader, Deputy Leader;
 Mr. Basheer Segu Dawood, Secretary, Policy Propaganda;
 Mr. Mashoor Noordeen, Deputy Chairman;
 and Mr. Mashood Mowlana, Additional Secretary, Policy Propaganda.

Third parties -

Description Short joint statements, ceding representation of the Muslim population in the Northeast to the SLMC. Agreement further provides provisions for the creation of a Joint committee of representatives from the LTTE and SLMC to facilitate the return and resettlement of refugees and aid them cultivate the land, as well as for the LTTE to stop the collection of monies to finance the war from Muslims.

Agreement document [LK_020413_LTTE and SLMC Joint Communique.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/national group No specific mention.

Religious groups

Groups→Religious groups→Substantive

Page 1,

...At this meeting decisions were made to solve some serious problems currently faced by the Muslims living in the North/East. Mr. Pirapaharan invited the displaced Muslims of Jaffna and Vanni to return to their homes. It was decided to establish a Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the LTTE and the SLMC to facilitate the return and settlement of refugees. It was also decided to create a conducive environment to encourage the return of the displaced Muslims of the East to their villages...

Page 1,

...For years Muslims were unable to cultivate their agricultural lands in the North/East. It was decided to assist them to cultivate their land. The LTTE also agreed to stop forthwith the practice of collecting funds for the war effort from the Muslims of the East...

Page 1,

...It was decided to appoint representatives from the SLMC to solve, through dialogue with senior commanders, the problems the Muslims face in their districts of the North/East and to strengthen mutual understanding between the Tamils and Muslims....

Page 1,

...It was also decided that the Muslims should be represented at the forthcoming peace talks between the Government and the LTTE and that such representation should be from the SLMC...

Page 1,

...It was further agreed that the Muslim are a separate community with their own identity and that the political, cultural and other rights of Muslims, as a district community of the North/East, must be safeguarded. It was decided to continue the discussions to protect the separate identity of the Muslims...

Page 1,

...Recognising that the SLMC enjoys the support of the vast majority of the Muslim community, it was decided that discussions with regard to the Muslims of the North/East should be conducted with the SLMC...

Indigenous people

No specific mention.

Other groups

No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 1, Paragraph 3, At this meeting decisions were made to solve some serious problems currently faced by the Muslims living in the North/East. Mr. Pirapaharan invited the displaced Muslims of Jaffna and Vanni to return to their homes. It was decided to establish a Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the LTTE and the SLMC to facilitate the return and settlement of refugees. It was also decided to create a conducive environment to encourage the return of the displaced Muslims of the East to their villages.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.



Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Other
Page 1, Paragraph 8, It was further agreed that the Muslim are a separate community with their own identity and that the political, cultural and other rights of Muslims, as a district community of the North/East, must be safeguarded. It was decided to continue the discussions to protect the separate identity of the Muslims.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation Socio-economic reconstruction→Taxation→Reform of taxation
Page 1, Paragraph 5, The LTTE also agreed to stop forthwith the practice of collecting funds for the war effort from the Muslims of the East.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage Land, property and environment→Cultural heritage→Intangible
Page 1, Paragraph 8, It was further agreed that the Muslim are a separate community with their own identity and that the political, cultural and other rights of Muslims, as a district community of the North/East, must be safeguarded. It was decided to continue the discussions to protect the separate identity of the Muslims.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

**Intelligence
services** No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel
and opposition
group forces** No specific mention.

**Withdrawal of
foreign forces** No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

**Crime/organised
crime** No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Edrisinha, Gomez, Thamilmaran, Welikala (Eds.) (2008), 'Power-sharing in Sri Lanka: Constitutional and Political Documents, 1926-2008' (Colombo: Centre for Policy Alternatives), p. 680.
