

Country/entity	Sri Lanka
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	First meeting of the sub-committee on gender issues (SGI) held in Kilinochchi
Date	6 Mar 2003
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	Government of Sri Lanka, represented by Dr. Kumari Jayawardena, Dr. Deepika Udagama, Dr. Fazeela M. Riyaz, Ms. Kumundi Samuel, Ms. Faizun Zackariya; LTTE, represented by Ms. Thamilini Subramaniam, Ms. Kaaya Somasundram, Ms. Premila Somasyndram, Ms. Suthamathy Sanmugarajah, Ms. Yalisai Balasingham
Third parties	Norwegian Government facilitator, Dr. Astrid N. Heiberg
Description	The first meeting of the Sub-committee on Gender Issues (SGI) was held in Kilinochchi 5-6 March 2003. During the meeting in Oslo both parties expressed their willingness to set up this Committee in order to secure the active participation of women and the effective inclusion of gender issues in the peace process.

Agreement document [LK_030306_First meeting of the sub-committee on gender issues \(SGI\) held in Kilinochchi.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	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical

Page 1, Paragraph 2-3, ... In their determination to include the gender perspective in the peace process they decided to focus their efforts on the following issues in the immediate and long term:

- Resettlement

Paragraph 5, The SGI will immediately get involved with SIHRN in the process of Accelerated Resettlement Programme for the Jaffna District (ARP-J) and Fast-track Resettlement Programme for the Mannar District (FTRP-M) an other ongoing resettlement programmes in the North and East.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender Page 1, Paragraph 1, ... During the meeting in Oslo both parties expressed their willingness to set up this Committee in order to secure the active participation of women and the effective inclusion of gender issues in the peace process.

Page 1, Paragraph 2-3, ... In their determination to include the gender perspective in the peace process they decided to focus their efforts on the following issues in the immediate and long term:

- Livelihood and employment

Paragraph 4, The SGI will report directly to the plenary session of the peace talks and work closely with the other Sub-committees and other mechanisms associated with the peace process. It will identify issues of concern to women that need to be addressed and bring those concerns into the agenda of the peace process.

Paragraph 6, the SGI support the SIHRN's [Sub-committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Need in the North and East] project for traumatized women in Kilinochchi and strongly encourages SIHRN to set up similar centres in the east and in other districts affected by the conflict.

Paragraph 7, The SGI will formulate Gender Guidelines for the Sub-Committees and other mechanisms associated with the peace process.

Paragraph 10, The Committee members visited several projects concerning the welfare of women in the Kilinochchi area.

The Sub-committee on Gender Issues consists of the following five members from each of the parties: [see parties]

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 Page 1, Paragraph 2-3, ... In their determination to include the gender perspective in the peace process they decided to focus their efforts on the following issues in the immediate and long term:
- Political representation and decision-making

**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 No specific mention.

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 Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance
[Summary] Agreement references the Sub-committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Need in the North and East as the abbreviation 'SIHRN'
Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Infrastructure and reconstruction
Page 1, Paragraph 2-3, ... In their determination to include the gender perspective in the peace process they decided to focus their efforts on the following issues in the immediate and long term:
- Infrastructure and services

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

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

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

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

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** Page 1, Paragraph 2-3, ... In their determination to include the gender perspective in the peace process they decided to focus their efforts on the following issues in the immediate and long term:
- Personal security and safety

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 Paragraph 5, The SGI will immediately get involved with SIHRN in the process of Accelerated Resettlement Programme for the Jaffna District (ARP-J) and Fast-track Resettlement Programme for the Mannar District (FTRP-M) an other ongoing resettlement programmes in the North and East.

Paragraph 6, the SGI support the SIHRN's project for traumatized women in Kilinochchi and strongly encourages SIHRN to set up similar centres in the east and in other districts affected by the conflict.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation Page 1, Paragraph 2-3, ... In their determination to include the gender perspective in the peace process they decided to focus their efforts on the following issues in the immediate and long term:
- Reconciliation

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 <http://peaceinsrilanka.org/insidepages/Pressrelease/RNG/PV/RNG06MarchPV.html>
[archived hardcopy printed 06/10/2003 (not recoverable via Wayback Machine)]
