

Tamil Referendum Australia 2010

The Vadukkodai Resolution (VKR) is a landmark decision made by all Tamil political parties in 1976 to reclaim our traditional homeland and exercise our right to sovereignty. This is the culmination of the Tamil struggle for equality for over three decades before that time.

Fundamentals of VKR

1. The northern and eastern territory of the island of Sri Lanka is the traditional homeland of Eelam Tamils with centuries of history of its own sovereignty and independence before the advent of European colonialism;
2. The Tamil speaking people in the traditional homeland constitute a distinct nation, and Tamil speaking people living anywhere in any part of the island and Tamils of Eelam origin living in any part of the world may opt for citizenship in their traditional homeland;
3. The Tamil Nation has the Right to Self-Determination;
4. The Eelam Tamils aspire for the restoration and reconstruction of the independent and sovereign state of Tamil Eelam.

The following statement (of VKR) has been successfully ballot tested in Norway, France, Canada, Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany and United Kingdom among the Eelam Tamils;

" I aspire for the formation of the independent and sovereign state of Tamil Eelam in the north and east territory of the island of Sri Lanka on the basis that the Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka make a distinct nation, have a traditional homeland and have the right to self-determination."

Diaspora Context:

The presence of the Tamil Diaspora in the host country is a direct consequence of the illegal unitary constitution of Sri Lanka (1972 and subsequent amendments), which has deprived Tamils of their nationhood in its constitution. Further, the VKR-1976, also clearly states that Tamils of Eelam origin, living in any part of the world, have a say in the nationhood and statehood of Eelam Tamils.

What can VKR-2010 Achieve?

- 1) Re-affirm the political aspirations of the Tamils in the island of Sri Lanka
- 2) Opinion of Tamil Diaspora can be used to determine the political solution to ethnic conflict
- 3) Result be taken to Governments and International bodies
- 4) Bring about National and global solidarity amongst Tamils, and bring consensus on the National question

Why do we have referendum now?

After May 2009, there is no functioning leadership in Eelam for Tamils. The duty to lead our nation has been passed on to the Tamil Diaspora. (This is because Diaspora is the only group of Tamil people with time, resources and most importantly political space to function as free citizens - and exercise their political will)

Tamil Diaspora, in order to provide leadership, needs to assess the will of the people, as well as define the political fundamentals in a free and transparent manner - in a democratic way in a referendum.

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Other Frequently Asked Questions – Tamil Referendum – VKR

1. How the Vaddukoddai Resolution 1976 was tested?

This was a referendum in Sri Lanka, which confirmed that the Tamils in Sri Lanka have the right to self-governance.

2. Why is the referendum based on VKR1976?

VKR was made in 1976 by Tamil Political leadership. In 1977, in a general election people (in Tamil Electorates) gave their mandate in support. This was the last free and fair election held in Tamil Eelam (North- East of the island of Sri Lanka).

3. When will the referendum be held? **17th & 18th April 2010**

4. How do I participate in the referendum?

You have to enrol to vote in the referendum through our registered volunteers or by filling out the registration form. The registered volunteers will speak to you in person, call you through telephone or email you with registration forms. Registration forms can be downloaded from our website www.vkr1976.com.au. Completed registration form needs to be either emailed to registrations@vkr1976.com.au or mailed to PO Box 4061, Homebush, NSW 2140 prior to **20 March 2010**. After enrolling, you can vote at designated polling stations in Australia.

5. Who is eligible to enrol?

You are eligible to vote if you are:

- **Above 18 years old**
- **Permanent Residents, or citizens, or students or refugees or visitors (staying for more than three months leading up to April 2010)**
- **And one of the following**
 - a. **Born in the island of Ceylon and have Tamil as his/her mother tongue.**
 - b. **Have a spouse, who was born in Ceylon, and has Tamil as his or her mother tongue**
 - c. **A descendent of the above categories above (a) and (b).**

6. Has this referendum happened anywhere else, other than Norway?

Yes, France, Canada, Netherland, Switzerland, Germany and UK have successfully conducted the referendum with more than 99% voted 'yes' to the mandate. Further 5 other countries will conduct this referendum in the next few months.

7. Who is running the referendum?

A group of Tamils in Australia have registered an organisation called 'Tamils Referendum Council of Australia (TRCA) to run the referendum (on Vaddukoddai Resolution) in Australia to find out the wishes of the Australian Tamil Diaspora about Vaddukoddai Resolution of 1976. An independent professional electoral body will conduct the actual referendum (voting).

8. Where can I get more information about the resolution?

You can get the information online at www.vkr1976.com.au. The TRCA volunteers also will give you this information.