



Australian Tamil Congress



ISSN 1837-6460

December 2011

Volume 3, Issue 12

*ATC Wishes All Our Members and Supporters
a Happy and Prosperous 2012*



**The Australian Tamil Congress
wishes you a New Year
of peace and happiness!**



At the close of another year, we find ourselves reflecting on the achievements of the past year and on those who have supported and stood by us. We would like to sincerely thank you for your support.

Dear members,

At the close of another year, we find ourselves reflecting on the achievements of the past year and on those who have supported and stood by us. We would like to sincerely thank you for your support.

2011 has been a challenging year for all Tamils. The ATC has worked hard to during the year and had made significant progress. However we need to grow stronger, and achieve much more in 2012.

We can achieve exponentially more in 2012 with the support and man power of a larger member base and reach our goal of securing peace, freedom and justice for our Tamil people much faster.

Let us all resolve to work in unity this year to achieve the rights and dreams of our people in our homeland.

With best wishes for 2012 to you and your loved ones.

Australian Tamil Congress.

2012 எம்மினத்தின் ஒற்றுமை கொணரும் ஆண்டாக வேற்றுமை களையும் ஆண்டாக
எம் தலைநிமிரும் ஆண்டாக மலர நாம் அயராது உழைப்போம்.
அவுஸ்திரேலியத் தமிழர் பேரவையின் புத்தாண்டு வாழ்த்துக்கள்

வணக்கத்துக்குரிய பிதா SJ இமானுவேல் அடிகளாரின் புத்தாண்டுச் செய்தி

புத்தாண்டில் விடுதலையும் சமாதானமும் உங்களில் பிறப்பதாக!

ஒரு புதிய ஆண்டின் முதல் நாள் உலக சமாதான நாளாக பிரகடனப்பட்டுள்ளது.

பிறக்கும் புதிய ஆண்டு 2012 மனுக்குலம் முழுவதற்கும்

விசேடமாக ஆறு பத்து ஆண்டுகளாக அழிவுக்கு மேல் அழிவைச் சந்தித்து

மனித மாண்பிற்காகவும் மனித உரிமைகளுக்காகவும் சமாதானத்திற்காகவும் தாகிக்கும்

ஈழத் தமிழர்களுக்கு இந் நாளின் செய்தி என்ன?

மனித மாண்பும், மனித உரிமைகளும், சமத்துவம், சமாதானம், சகோதரத்துவம் -

இவைகள் இறைவனால் ஆரம்பத்திலேயே மனிதனுக்கு இனாமாகக் கொடுக்கப் பட்டவை.

இவைகள் மதித்து நடந்தால் நீதியான உண்மையான சமாதானம் பிறக்கும்.

ஆனால் மனிதனில் பல வித தீய சக்திகள் ஊற்றெடுத்து மனுக்குலத்தை பிழையான பாதையில் தள்ளுகின்றன.

மனித மாண்பு, மனித உரிமை, சமத்துவம், சகோதரத்துவம் இவைகளை அவ மதிப்பதும், அழிப்பதும், அடக்கு முறைகளில் ஈடு படுவதும் மனித உருவத்தில் செயற் பட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கும் தீய சக்திகளே.

என்று மனிதன் இத் தீய சக்திகளை சரியாக இனங்கண்டு அவைகளுக்கெதிராக போராடகின்றானோ, அன்று தான் சமாதானம் தோன்றும்.

எம்மை எதிர்ப்பவர் எல்லோரையும் இத் தீய சக்திகளாக இனங்காண்பதோ அவர்களுக்கெதிராக மாத்திம் போராடுவதோ பெரும் தவறு.

மனித மாண்பை உரிமைகளை அவமதித்து எமது இனத்தை அளிப்பதில் எமக்குள்ளேயும் ஏராளமான தீய சக்திகள் செயல் படுகின்றன. ஒரு பகுதியை மாத்திரம் முழுமையான தீய சக்தியாகக் கணித்துப் போராடுவது தவறு.

ஆகையினால் உண்மையான நீதியான சமாதானம் இப் பூமியில் தோன்றுவதென்றால் நாம் அச் சமாதானத்தை எம்மில் ஆரம்பிக்க வேண்டும்.

அதே போல் உண்மையான நீதியான விடுதலை வேண்டுமாயின் நாம் அவ் விடுதலையை எம்மில் ஆரம்பிக்க வேண்டும்.

சுய அமைதியே உலக சமாதானத்தை நோக்கிய முதற் படி, சுய விடுதலையே ஈழ விடுதலைக்கான முதற் படி. சுய போராட்டமின்றி அரசியல் போராட்டம் மாத்திரம் நடாத்துவது வீணிலும் வீண்.

ஆகையினால், எனது அன்பான, சகோதர சகோதரிகளே!

பிறக்கும் புதிய ஆண்டில் உண்மையான சமாதானத்திற்காகப் போராடுவோம்
நீதியான முறையில் எமது மாண்பையும் மனித உரிமைகளையும் வென்றெடுப்போம்.

எம்மில் ஊறியிருக்கும் அடிமைத்தனங்களை தெளிவாக இனங் கண்டு

துணிவாகக் களைவோம், வீரத்துடன் செயல் படுவோம்.

எம்மைப் படைத்த இறைவன், எமக்கு இனாமாக அளித்த அத்தனை மனித விழுமியங்களையும் மீன்றெடுக்க எமக்கு ஆன்மீக சக்தி அருள் தருவார்.

சமாதானமும் விடுதலையும் உங்களிற்கும் உங்கள் குடும்பங்களிற்கும் வருவதாக!!!

பணியாளன் எஸ்.ஜே. இம்மானுவேல்

ஜோர்மனி, 31.12.2011

ATC's statement on LLRC Report

The Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) has finally released the report prepared by its Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC). Within a few days of its release, almost all who demanded a response from the GoSL on the credible allegations made against it for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the last stages of the war have dismissed the report as 'falling short of expectations' and simultaneously saying that it was no surprise that the report failed in its attempt to investigate human rights abuses.

The Australian Tamil Congress (ATC) is in agreement with the sentiments expressed by reputed Human Rights organisations, government representatives, respected human rights proponents and the media. According to these organisations and others, the serious shortcomings of the LLRC report clearly highlight the need for an international investigative mechanism into the last stages of the war as recommended by the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's Panel of Experts. The Australian Tamil Congress calls upon the International Community, the Commonwealth and the UN in particular, to go past the LLRC façade and to work towards establishing an international mechanism without further delay and bring the perpetrators of these horrendous war crimes and persistent violators of international humanitarian law to justice. The victims of war in Sri Lanka, at a minimum, deserve this.

We cite a few of the responses to the LLRC report:

United States' (US) State Department's Ms. Nuland: (while appreciating some recommendations in the areas of rule of law, media freedom, disappearances, etc) "I do have to say that we have concerns that the report, nonetheless, does not fully address all the allegations of serious human rights violations that occurred in the final phase of the conflict."

Human Rights Watch (HRW), New York: "The report of the Sri Lankan government's Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) disregards the worst abuses by government forces, rehashes longstanding recommendations, and fails to advance accountability for victims of Sri Lanka's civil armed conflict. [T]he LLRC report provides no realistic pathway for holding accountable military and government officials implicated in serious abuses."

The Asian Human Rights Commission, Hong Kong: "There was no reason to expect much from the report of the LLRC as this commission had no mandate to investigate and to file a report on the basis of investigations. It was a mere commission of gathering some view but even in that the people who were most affected, that is those who are from the North and the East, did not have genuine freedom to give a narrative of what they knew about what had happened to them and those known to them... [T]here is no reason for disappointment in this final report as the whole exercise relating to this commission was meant to be a farce, particularly to counter the criticism from UN agencies and other outside agencies for a credible inquiry."

The International Crisis Group (ICG): "The report acknowledges important events and grievances that have contributed to decades of political violence and civil war in Sri Lanka and makes sensible recommendations on governance, land issues and the need for a political solution. But it fails in a crucial task – providing the thorough and independent investigation of alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law that the UN and other partners of Sri Lanka have been asking for. It is now incumbent on the international community, through the UN Human Rights Council, to establish an independent international investigation in 2012. Without such an investigation, accountability for the crimes committed at the end of the civil war is highly unlikely; without accountability, and a full understanding of the nature of the violations which took place on all sides, the seeds of future conflict will grow."

The truth is those who understood the history of such commissions in Sri Lanka and the well-entrenched culture of impunity prevailing there, did not expect a genuine outcome from this commission. The view of the Tamil community was always that this was just another time-buying exercise with sinister motives which include burying any evidence of war crimes and altering the demography and cultural identity of the Tamil majority North-East Sri Lanka.

ATC's Statement on LLRC report cont...

The LLRC report in its essence was well-analysed by noted scholar Gibson Bateman in his article in the Journal of Foreign Relations (USA). According to him, "It is very much what most people were expecting. A document that looks to the future, exonerates the military, does not touch on the question of accountability and includes some touchy-feely language about the country's need to move forward, celebrate its diversity and be grateful for the defeat of terrorism." In the area of accountability, key LLRC findings could be summarised as:

- Essentially, all civilian casualties were the result of people caught in the crossfire or were due to the fault of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fault and, "the protection of the civilian population was given the highest priority" by the Sri Lankan armed forces.
- Military operations moved at a "deliberately slow" pace because Sri Lanka's military personnel were so careful and cognizant of the dangers to civilian life during the final phases of the conflict.
- It was difficult to determine what happened regarding the shelling of hospitals (the report states that civilian witnesses could not pinpoint who was responsible for the attacks), although (in a self-contradictory manner) it was clear to the Commission that Sri Lankan military personnel never deliberately targeted civilians in the *No Fire Zones* (NFZs).
- Any rule of law violations that may have been committed (including the large numbers of disappearances that resulted from the surrender of unarmed persons to government forces) are isolated incidents perpetrated 'by a few' (i.e. unjustifiably ruling out the possibility that these violations were systematic).
- The government did not deliberately downplay the number of civilians in the NFZs to deprive them of food and medical supplies (while also admitting to its inability to obtain relevant documents to support its position).
- It was just too challenging to give even an estimate of civilian casualties during the end of the war.
- The most responsible way to approach ac-

countability and the pursuit of national reconciliation would be to establish some additional "independent" bodies, including one to conduct an investigation to ascertain the veracity of the Channel 4 documentary "Sri Lanka's Killing Fields", which shows government soldiers executing handcuffed and blindfolded prisoners of war (evidently, authentication by UN Rapporteurs was insufficient).

- To determine "questions of State responsibility," an "international tribunal" would be unhelpful because there just is not enough evidence about what actually happened during the final phase of the conflict.

Obviously the LLRC has faithfully reproduced what was presented to it by the government's civilian and military leaders without serious investigation to find out the truth, knowing well that all their assertions are in stark contrast to those by the UN Panel of Experts, the UN special envoy on extrajudicial executions, and the reports produced by US State Department and other independent organisations. The UN Panel of Experts concluded that both the government forces and the LTTE conducted military operations "with flagrant disregard for the protection, rights, welfare and lives of civilians and failed to respect the norms of international law."

Some of the blaring omissions of the LLRC report are, its shocking failure to call for any criminal investigations into possible indiscriminate artillery shelling of crowded areas and hospitals in which tens of thousands of civilians died; completely ignoring the allegations, with credible evidence, that government forces executed several LTTE leaders who attempted to surrender to the government during the last days of the war (the so-called 'white flag' incident); and its complete failure to discuss sexual violence, torture or ill-treatment of detainees, the detention of 300,000 people who were displaced by the conflict for several months and the denial of due process rights to more than 10,000 alleged LTTE members.

The Government of Sri Lanka established the LLRC in May 2010 as the cornerstone of its post-war domestic policy for addressing the period of conflict between 2002 and 2009.

ATC's Statement on LLRC report cont....

However, strong concerns about its mandate, processes and potential outcomes have been raised by the UN Secretary-General's Panel of Experts and several reputable NGOs including HRW, ICG and Amnesty International (AI). The UN Panel of Experts concluded that "the LLRC fails to satisfy key international standards of independence and impartiality" and further stated that the "LLRC has not conducted genuine truth-seeking about what happened in the final stages of the armed conflict, not sought to investigate systematically and impartially the allegations of serious violations on both sides of the war. "AI, HRW and ICG collectively refused to participate in the LLRC investigation stating that "in reality it's flawed at every level: in mandate, composition and practice". We agreed with their concerns then and, unfortunately all their predictions appear to have withstood the test of time.

Given that these concerns were already in the public domain, it should come as no surprise that the LLRC duly obliged and produced a report which justified the atrocities by the Sri Lankan regime and cleared itself of all responsibilities. Once again to quote Gibson Bateman from the Journal of Foreign Relations (USA), "It is hard to imagine that a reasonable person (who has been following events in Sri Lanka closely) could buy "the story" that is the LLRC." He further asserts that "the publication of the LLRC report is one more sign that Rajapaksa's regime thinks it can do whatever it wants and face no consequences for its actions".

The reactions from the embattled Tamil community in Sri Lanka are critical to have any success in achieving eventual reconciliation among different communities living there. The Tamil National Alliance (TNA), the major political party articulating for Tamil interests in Sri Lanka,

has responded with a statement that "the LLRC report categorically fails to effectively and meaningfully deal with issues of accountability", and added that "the findings of the LLRC offend the dignity of these victims who came before it to testify". TNA has also called upon the international community to establish a "mechanism for accountability" to bring to book the perpetrators of war crimes during the last stages of the War.

The LLRC report is fraught with severe shortcomings and a strong denial of state accountability. If this inadequate report goes unquestioned, Sri Lanka will be setting a dangerous precedent for countries to follow in the name of "state sovereignty". Failure by the international community to act sends the message that leading democratic bodies are unwilling to consistently protect and promote fundamental human rights and the core tenets of democracy.

The Australian Government and its Foreign Minister have been categorical in demanding that "the LLRC report deal with various questions which have been raised in the UN report on allegations of human rights abuses in Sri Lanka." "Australia's national position that the Human Rights Council needs to revisit its earlier deliberations on this matter" and the recent statement from the Foreign Minister that "he will comment on the LLRC report once it is made public" were strongly welcomed by all those concerned about the lack of respect for human rights in Sri Lanka.

The Australian Tamil Congress on behalf the Tamil community are in urgent need of our Foreign Minister to act swiftly to help initiate an international mechanism to address this compelling accountability issue so that a reconciled, prosperous, peaceful and a truly democratic Sri Lanka can evolve in the very near future.

Sri Lanka 'wheelchair tax' condemned by UK charity

The head of a UK charity that sent a consignment of wheelchairs to Sri Lanka has condemned the decision to impose customs duties of over \$8,000 (£5,180).

Peter Thompson, of the Yorkshire-based PhysioNet charity, said the shipment for Tamil war victims also took more than three months to clear customs.

The Sri Lankan authorities said the delay was because paperwork for the shipment was not properly completed.

They said all shipments arriving in Colombo are subject to duty payments.

But Mr Thompson said the \$8,000 (1m Sri Lankan rupees) that had to be paid in customs duties and port storage fees was unacceptable.

He argued that the delay in clearing the shipment - which contained 322 wheelchairs and other mobility items for disabled Tamil war victims - meant that the bill had to be paid before it was allowed to be transported to the north of the country.

The shipment was sent by PhysioNet in conjunction with a Sri Lankan Tamil charity based in the UK and the Roman Catholic church; together they met all of the costs of getting the consignment to Sri Lanka.

"But problems arose in Colombo when it took three months to clear the docks," Mr Thompson told the BBC.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-16353387>



Global Tamil Forum on LLRC

Global Tamil Forum (GTF) welcomes the long delayed publication of the 'Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission' (LLRC) report. Its findings only serve to emphasise the importance of establishing an international, independent accountability mechanism to investigate whether Government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) breached any international law, committed war crimes and crimes against humanity in the last months of the war.

Whilst the LLRC has received extensive criticism, it must be stated that some of its judgments and recommendations deserve acknowledgement. In particular, GTF welcomes the statement from the Commission "that the root cause of the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka lies in the failure of successive Governments to address the genuine grievances of the Tamil people." However, the LLRC's conclusions on the prosecution of the conflict contradict many of the findings of the United Nations Panel of Experts (PoE) report on Sri Lanka.

Rights Groups say LLRC report falls short

Amnesty International (AI) has said "The report's major shortcoming is in addressing alleged violations of the laws of war, where the LLRC appears to have taken the government's responses uncritically. The LLRC admits what the Government of Sri Lanka has assiduously denied – that civilians, including those in hospitals, suffered directly as a result of LTTE and government shelling, but the LLRC's blanket rejection of government targeting of civilians and its deliberate downplaying of the numbers of civilians caught in the final phase of the conflict is not warranted by the evidence, including that presented to the LLRC". Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch (HRW) has said "The commission's failure to provide a road map for investigating and prosecuting wartime perpetrators shows the dire need for an independent, international commission." - [Full Statement](#)



Australian MP says a long way to go for Sri Lanka

December 27, 2011 21:29:04

The head of a recent Australian parliamentary delegation to Sri Lanka says there is a long way to go on the issue of reconciliation as many feel the government is yet to address the issue of accountability.

The five-member group with representatives from the government and the main opposition parties travelled to Sri Lanka at the invitation of that government.

The trip took in looking at several housing projects funded by the Australian government -- a report by the group is yet to be tabled in parliament.

Delegation leader -- Labor's Maria Vamvakinou

She says they had good access to members of parliament -- and she says the politicians they met were very aware that their actions are being scrutinised carefully by the international community.

Presenter: Michael Cavanagh

Speaker: Australian Labor Party MP, Maria Vamvakinou

Listen - [Click here](#)

The Ceylonese and Ethnic Identity-Anandan Segasothy

Why are the ethnic labels 'Sri Lankan Tamil', 'Ceylon Tamil' and 'Eelam Tamil' inaccurate, unequal, racist and dangerous? In this article I will go through a number of reasons why. The name Ceylon is an anglicised version of the Tamil word Chai-alam meaning 'red tract of land'; therefore all the people in the northern, eastern and about half the western coastline (35-40% of the land area of the island) are Ceylonese as their native tongue is Tamil.

The first official use of the term 'Tamil' to describe the population in the North and East (N and E) of Ceylon was by the British Colonialists. Until 1880 the British referred to the people in the N and E as 'Malabars' (people of Kerala) and after that changed it to 'Sri Lankan Tamil'. If the British never changed the word Malabar, would the Ceylonese of today be calling themselves 'Malabars'? Also, until the 1911 census, the British counted the Ceylonese and plantation Indians under the same category, thus promoting Sinhalese racism and highlighting how self-identification as 'Tamil' by Ceylonese will confuse foreigners.

The most glaring reason why the term Tamil is a ridiculous identity to use is that no foreign nation in history such as the Romans, Greeks, Chinese, Phoenicians, Persians, Indians, Arabs and Jews etc ever mentioned a Tamil community and kingdom of Ceylon in their records. So it is very strange that in the last 200 years a 'Tamil' community can just suddenly emerge. So what were the Ceylonese previously known or could have been known as? Nagas, Eelamese/Eelavars and Chinkalar/Chailanese.

The very ancient Dharmic epics the Ramayana and Mahabharata mentioned the Nagas of Ceylon not 'Tamils'. The Greek geographer Ptolemy in 140 ADE mentions a kingdom in the far north of Ceylon-Nagatheevu; again proving the Ceylonese people were known as Nagas and not Tamils. One of the names that the Chinese called Ceylon was Eelam-doe (Doe means island in Chinese) and not Tamil-doe. The famous king Elara (derived from Eela-Raja) was not known as 'Tamil Raja'. The Sangham records mention a poet by the name of Eelathu Poothanthevanar (Poothanthevanar from Eelam) not 'Tamil Theevuku' Poothanthevanar.

Secondly, language does not define ethnicity. No other ethnolinguistic identity in the world is formed from the language spoken. For example the Chinese, English, Americans, Japanese, Malayus, French, and Romans etc, are all known by either a person's or tribe's name, their places of origin or where their culture developed and not the language they speak. Tamil is just a language spoken by Ceylonese and this does not mean they have any connection with the people of Tamil Nadu. I predominantly speak English does that mean I'm an Englishman?

Thirdly, Tamil by definition is a name of a language. How can a person be a language? So by definition a 'Tamil' community cannot exist in Ceylon.

Fourthly there are already a group of people in South India

known as Tamilian, Thamilan and Tamil. Therefore saying there are 'Sri Lankan Tamils' not only causes confusion for foreigners as they could mistake the Ceylonese for South Indians but is racist and dangerous as well. If the successful Malaysian and Singaporean Ceylonese were known as 'Ceylon Tamils', we could be judged by other races in the country by the reputation of the Malaysian and Singaporean Indians. A recent example of how foreigners can be confused with the label 'Sri Lankan Tamil' and thus spread wrong information was a story on the ABC 7.30 Report where an ignorant journalist claimed that the Tamil speakers in Lanka migrated from India and were also brought as tea pickers by the British. It was the Plantation Indian coolies who were brought to pick tea, not the Ceylonese who never migrated from India and who are not racially related.

Fifthly, the Tamil speakers from India are disliked by their fellow Indians. The linguistic groups which hate them the most are the Malayalees and Kannadigas, both ironically being neighbours of Tamil Nadu. Most of the key ministers in the Indian government during the period from 2001-2010 responsible for the fake 2002 ceasefire and for war crimes from the IPKF invasion till recently are Malayalees. Some of them are J.N. Dixit, Vijay Nambiar, Sathish Nambiar, Shiv Shankar Menon and Kelath Nararyan. J.N. Dixit the Indian high commissioner to Ceylon was the one responsible for manipulating the daft Rajiv Gandhi into sending the IPKF to invade Ceylon. Therefore calling yourself Tamil not only gets you hated by the majority of Indians but also results in the Sinhalese colonialists gaining the support of the Indian government.

Sinhalese propaganda relies on calling Ceylonese as Tamils. By saying that Ceylonese are Tamils they hope to manipulate and confuse foreigners (such as the Indians, BBC and the ABC journalist) that Ceylonese are Dravidians who migrated from India: both points of which I proved incorrect in my previous article- 'Inhabitants of the North and East are Indigenous'. One of the lies told by the Sinhalese propagandists to the Indian government is: 'if there is a separate Tamil state in Ceylon, Tamil Nadu will also want to secede from the Indian union.' Thus using the label Ceylonese, means that lie is not available to the Sinhalese propagandists.

Lastly, the word Ceylonese and Sinhalese are derived from the same word (Chaialam) and are only phonetically different. In affect this means that the Sinhalese can say they are part of Ceylon whilst the inhabitants of the northern and eastern parts of Lanka are foreign and without an identity. The loss of identity is the same as genocide. Therefore the terms 'Ceylon Tamil', 'Sri Lankan Tamil', 'Eelam Tamil' are unequal, racist and inaccurate. Since the word Sinhalese is a Tamil word the 'Sinhalese' in reality lack an identity.

For all the above mentioned reasons 'Ceylon, Sri Lankan and Eelam Tamil' are not appropriate ethnic labels. The identity Ceylonese is the most accurate, effective and sensible and should be used instead.

Disclaimer : *The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of ATC*

Australian Tamil Congress

Postal Address:

P.O. BOX 22 COMO WA 6952 AUSTRALIA

Tel: 1300 660 629

Web: <http://www.australiantamilcongress.com>



In the past, only a fraction of Tamils have participated in politically active groups. Today the need is for a united and concerted action. We need to draw the silent majority and fresh blood into political awareness to convey the collective view of our community effectively.

We have some major projects and we cannot succeed without membership numbers and the funds that can generate! We are aware that a strong membership base is paramount to have a viable platform to make an impact. We earnestly request your help at this critical time to join our efforts. Being member of ATC, you will be entitled to participate in various ATC working groups and influence the direction.

You can contribute in various ways to our long-, medium- and short-term activities in humanitarian, legal, political, community, and communication fronts.

Please join us in our crusade for peace and justice by having your family and friends join ATC!

Articles and feedback to the National Newsletter

Please send us your views and creations to be included in our Newsletters to

newsletter@australiantamilcongress.com

Disclaimer : *The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of ATC*

Australian Tamil Congress: On a Crusade for Peace and Justice

Vision

“Australian Tamil Congress is formed in order to create a congress of our people, for our people and by our people based on the principles of justice and peace amongst ourselves, and to provide for a common voice in promoting our general welfare, prosperity, independence, equality, security and peace”

Mission

“The Australian Tamil Congress encourages the positive participation of Tamils in Australian society, highlights issues of importance to Tamils, upholds core Australian values and engages other communities, governments and organisations in addressing the socio-cultural and political concerns of Tamils.”

Objective

“As part of an international Tamil human rights and political organization dedicated to generating change through ‘Collective Global Tamil’ action to institute and educate people on Tamils’ right to survival and self-determination, and to promote the safety, welfare, economic development of Tamils worldwide; and to teach the lessons of the Tamil Genocide in Sri Lanka for future generations.”

