

TAMIL DIALOGUES:

TOGETHER

SUNDAY 22ND MARCH 2020
/9.30AM TO 6.30PM
& NETWORKING SESSION

TOWARDS

SOAS UNIVERSITY,
KHALILI LECTURE THEATRE (KLT)
10 THORNHAUGH ST,
BLOOMSBURY,
LONDON WC1H 0XG

TOMORROW

FREE EVENT
TICKETS AVAILABLE ON EVENTBRITE
LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

CONTACT: ADMIN.TIC@SANGU.ORG

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**TAMIL
INFORMATION
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**Centre for Community
Development**
Sustaining Communities - Enriching Lives

TAMIL DIALOGUES: TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW

In May 2019 we marked ten years since the brutal civil war ended, but the consequences of the conflict continue to have an enormous impact on the lives of the people in Ilankai. The lives of Tamils across the island in the post-war environment is a difficult and bitter struggle.

Hoping to ease poverty and develop economic and social capital, many willing diaspora actors have become involved in Ilankai. As a result, the diaspora has become an important political player. This engagement has shaped contemporary discussions in relation to gender and caste liberation and new articulations of nationalism and mobilisations. If these positive interventions are to be maximised, there needs to be greater discussion and collaboration - to develop meaningful understanding between diaspora groups and people working on the ground in Ilankai.

The diaspora community would benefit from learning to place Ilankai in an international context, to develop and maintain sensitivities to ground complexities and to begin considering how to work towards building trust across divisions in its own communities. Whilst there have always been different political parties and social groups within the Tamil community, they now need to work together to face the realities of the post-war environment. In addition, in the context of Sri Lankan state anti-democratic tendencies and human rights violations, it is also necessary to work with the international community against common threats.

To begin this process, Tamil Information Centre (TIC) held a two-day conference of diaspora groups and people in 2016. TIC's Executive Secretary, the late Mr Varadakumar, worked hard to organise this two-day conference. He worked tirelessly over 40 years and dedicated his life to the Tamil speaking people. He sadly passed away in March 2019. We have decided to organise a second conference with the same name to honour his legacy and continue the dialogues he was committed to facilitating.

Mr Varadakumar was intent on ensuring that the next generation are connected to their history, culture and homeland and as such, stimulated and assembled young, creative Tamil volunteers alongside activists, organisers and researchers, both Tamil and non-Tamil. He was encouraged and delighted by the number of young Tamils who are involved in many activities. He saw this diaspora conference as an ideal platform for them to contribute to their community. It will be a fitting tribute to him.

This all-day conference will create a platform to engage with academics, activists and researchers to brainstorm ideas on seeking accountability, justice and contribute towards a sustainable and long-lasting solution for the people in and connected to the Tamil homeland. The format of the event will be presentations, panel discussions, Q & A sessions and will conclude with agreeing on an action plan to move forward meaningfully.