



கனடியத் தமிழர் தேசிய அவை  
National Council of Canadian Tamils  
Conseil National de Tamouls Canadien

## **Prominent Tamil Diaspora organizations collectively sent a letter to the Tamil Parliamentarians stressing on the importance of the core principles and the key aspects to consider for any formal negotiations**

The letter was sent by the National Council of Canadian Tamils (Canada), Danish Federation of Tamil Associations (Denmark), Italian Council of Eelam Tamils (Italy), Maison du Tamil Eelam France (France), Council of Eelam Tamils in Germany (Germany), National council of New Zealand Tamils (New Zealand), Dutch Tamil Forum (Netherland), Norwegian Council of Eelam Tamils (Norway), Swiss Council of Eelam Tamils (Swiss) and Tamil cultural centre - Belgium (Belgium).

The letter stressed the Tamil Parliamentarians to consider the non-negotiable core principles of the Tamil people and the key aspects below before they embark on any formal negotiations on behalf of the Tamil people with the Government of Sri Lanka.

1. The current economic crisis in the island of Sri Lanka and the widespread call for accountability and justice for the Tamil Genocide are forcing the Government of Sri Lanka to show the International Community that they are trying to reconcile with the Tamil people. The invitation from President Ranil Wickramasinghe to the Tamil parliamentarians to come for a negotiation without precondition is reprehensible given the seven-decade-long history of deception by successive Governments of Sri Lanka.
2. The current constitution with the unitary state structure, the 13th amendment and the already failed Provincial Council System do not address the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil Nation. Even a Federal Constitution would not be workable until the hierarchical conception of the unitary state structure is dismantled.
3. The Tamil people have continuously demonstrated their core principles at many different times in history, including during the Thimpu talks organized by the Government of India and in the Tamil People's Council's (TPC) proposal in 2016. The core principles 1) Tamil people constitute a Nation, 2) Tamil people have their inalienable right to self-determination, and 3) the Existence of a traditional and historical homeland comprising the Northern and Eastern provinces in the island of Sri Lanka as of 1948 are non-negotiable. Any negotiation should start only after the Government of Sri Lanka publicly recognizes the core principles of the Tamil people.

Also, the Tamil diaspora organizations referred the TPC's proposal of 2016 which further outlined the following key aspects to consider in any formal negotiations:



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4. A pre-constitutional agreement in the form of a treaty (like the Dayton Agreement and the Good Friday Agreement) is necessary before any constitution-making process can begin. The treaty should inter alia recognize the Tamil nation's right to self-determination, its sovereignty and constituent power and its traditional homeland in the areas of historical habitation of the Tamil people as of 1948.
5. This agreement should also spell out inter alia measures to be taken for accountability and justice, address issues relating to disappearances, the release of political prisoners, release of land occupied by the Armed forces in the North-East, demilitarization, state-sponsored colonization, security sector reforms and contain guarantees of non-recurrence. It would be impossible to create a safe and open environment for discussing these political/constitutional issues without creating the above enabling conditions in the Northeast.
6. Any treaty should provide that if the arrangements are unilaterally abrogated by the numerically larger Sinhala Buddhist majority and its political representatives, and in the absence of any other viable alternatives that ensure the adherence to the core principles, the Tamil people may decide to hold a referendum to determine their political status further.
7. This treaty should be underwritten by a third party

We kindly ask the international community to arbitrate, based on these above-mentioned non-negotiable core principles of the Tamil people and the key aspects. We also urge the international community including IMF, World Bank and ADB, not to give any aid to the failed state of Sri Lanka until a permanent political solution to address the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil people is implemented.

The prominent Tamil diaspora organizations strongly urged the Tamil Parliamentarians to follow these core principles of the Tamil people and key aspects before any formal negotiations with the Government of Sri Lanka.

**Thank you**  
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