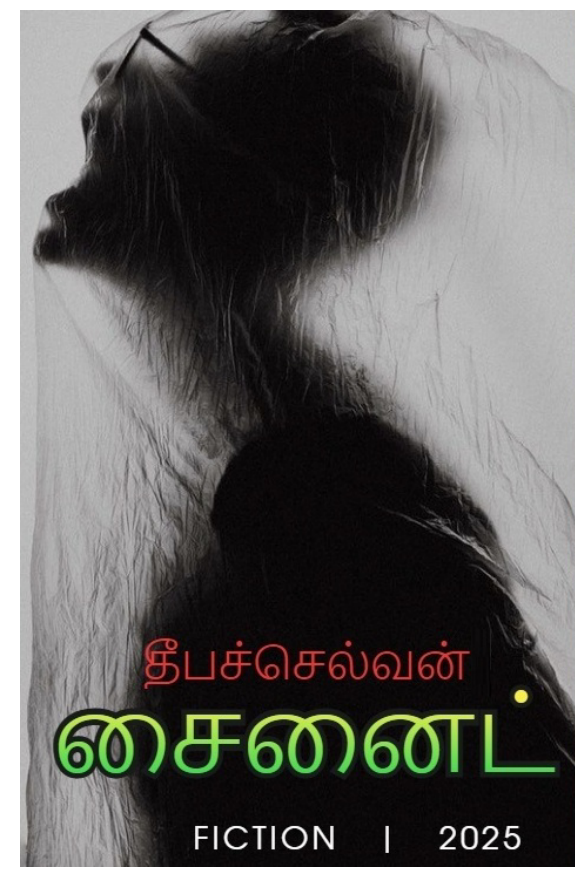


# Theepachchelvan's Article Sheds Light on the Perpetual Struggle of Displacement: The Plight of Sri Lankan Refugees



In an insightful article in Namathu Eelanadu monthly, titled "We Are Still Becoming Refugees: The Perpetual Struggle of Displacement," Mr. Theepachchelvan draws attention to the ongoing challenges faced by refugees and highlights the specific plight of Sri Lankan refugees, particularly the Eelam Tamils. With International Refugee Day serving as a timely reminder, the article emphasizes the urgent need for global collaboration to address the root causes of displacement and ensure the fair treatment and safe return of refugees.



The article points out that the causes of forced displacement, such as racism, political strife, religious conflicts, violence, poverty, and unemployment, continue to fuel the refugee crisis. Despite the efforts of organizations like the United Nations and its refugee agency (UNHCR), the number of displaced individuals worldwide continues to rise. Sri Lanka, even after a decade since the end of the war, continues to experience waves of displacement due to conflicts and political pressures.

Mr. Theepachchelvan highlights the distressing situation faced by Sri Lankan refugees, including those residing in refugee camps across different countries. In Tamil Nadu, India, approximately one hundred thousand Tamil individuals seek asylum in refugee camps, while an estimated forty thousand unregistered refugees face additional hardships exacerbated by the economic crisis and the recent COVID-19 pandemic. The article calls on the Tamil Nadu government to recognize these individuals as temporary refugees and provide necessary support.

The author further highlights the challenges faced by Eelam Tamils residing in Australian refugee camps, where the constant threat of deportation looms. These individuals fled their homeland due to various forms of peril, including the confiscation of their lands and belongings, leaving them stateless. The article emphasizes the impossibility of their return, given the prevailing threats and lack of a safe environment.

The article stresses that the struggle of Eelam Tamils has endured for three decades, resulting in increased numbers seeking refuge in Tamil Nadu and European countries. It emphasizes the deep yearning and dreams of Eelam Tamils for justice and the liberation of their motherland, using their refugee existence as a weapon to prevent future generations from enduring a similar fate.

Mr. Theepachchelvan's article underscores the need for immediate action to address the plight of refugees globally. It calls for governments and societies to work together to restore refugee rights, ensure fair treatment, and create a compassionate and inclusive world where forced migration becomes a thing of the past. By recognizing and actively working towards resolving the suffering of refugees, we can move towards a future where no individual is left behind, and the devastating experience of being a refugee is eradicated.

*Theepachchelvan (born 24 October 1983) is an Eelam poet, writer and freelance journalist. He has written important poems about the war in the fourth phase and continues to record the life of the wetland in his poems. Widely known at a very young age, he is considered one of the most powerful voices of our time.*

## Recognizing the Genocide in Sri Lanka: Uncovering the Truth of 2009



- SUKIRTHAN

A call has been made to the United Kingdom urging the country to officially acknowledge the genocide that took place against the Tamil population in Sri Lanka in 2009. Advocates are also requesting British intervention to establish a political solution in Sri Lanka through a referendum. In a recent conference held in Britain, human rights lawyer Patrick Lewis led

discussions on the ongoing structural genocide and the persistence of systemic racism in the Tamil homeland. The event, which took place in a special hall of the British Parliament, saw the participation of political activists from the Tamil homeland, British political leaders from various parties, and British Tamil activists.



During the conference, Rev. Thavathiru Velan Swamy, the coordinator of the People's Revolution Movement, and VSS Dhananjayan, a lawyer and civil society activist, delivered compelling speeches highlighting the ethnic hatred prevalent in the Tamil homeland in Sri Lanka and proposed approaches for an international resolution. Ms. Kisani delivered a welcoming speech on behalf of British Tamil Youth, and Selvan Sarveen delivered a special address.

Prominent Members of Parliament and Ministers who attended the conference, including Mr. John MacDonald MP, Mr. Virendra Sharma MP, Sir Ed Davey MP, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, Ms. Sarah Jones MP, Shadow Minister of State for Police and the Fire Service, Mr. Sam Tarry MP, and Mr. Gareth Thomas MP, Shadow Minister for International Trade, expressed their commitment to push for a resolution on the issue in Parliament.

V.S.S. Dhananjayan, the lawyer and civil society activist, drew attention to the ongoing militarization, Buddhistization, and land encroachments in the Tamil homeland in the North East. He highlighted that despite 14 years passing since the end of the war, the presence of the military in the region remains significant, with one soldier for every two civilians. He also emphasized that soldiers not only occupy private lands but also engage in agriculture, exerting

immense pressure on the local population. Dhananjayan further criticized the construction of a Buddhist temple on Kurundur hill, which violated a court order from Mullaitivu, and accused government agencies of biased operations in the North-East, particularly citing the arbitrary actions of the Archaeological Authority.

Rev. Thavathiru Velan Swamy, a conference participant from Thailand, delivered a keynote speech condemning the systematic ethnic cleansing taking place in the name of Buddhistization in the North East. He revealed that individuals, including Members of Parliament and religious leaders, are arbitrarily arrested without court warrants if they advocate for Tamil rights in the region. Rev. Swamy called upon British MPs to intervene and halt the genocide being perpetrated in the Tamil homeland under the guise of Buddhistization. He also urged the UK to follow Canada's example and officially recognize that the Sri Lankan government committed genocide against the Tamil population in their homeland. Human rights barrister Mr. Patrick Lewis and human rights activist Janani Demokram, Director Chair of Together Against Genocide, also addressed the conference.

Following the conference, Rev. Thavathiru Velan Swamy emphasized that a lasting solution for the Tamil population can only be achieved through a plebiscite, and he urged Britain to take necessary steps in this regard. He also asserted that the events of May 2009 constituted a genocide against the Eelam Tamils and called for recognition of this fact by the UK government.

## Geneva: The Dismaying State of Victims' Families



### The Editorial of Namathu Eelanadu Monthly - June 2023

The 53rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council is scheduled to commence on July 19th and conclude on July 14th. During this session, on Wednesday the 21st, at 3 pm Geneva time (6.30 pm Sri Lanka time), High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Derk, presented an oral report on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.



This report assessed the progress made in terms of reconciliation, accountability, economic crisis, and corruption scandals, as outlined in Resolution 51(1) titled 'Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka'. While concerns were voiced by member states, it is unlikely that any new resolutions will be passed on Sri Lanka.

The composition of the Sri Lankan delegation has changed since the last session, with Himali Arunathilaka, the Permanent Resident Representative of Sri Lanka in Geneva, leading the current delegation. These developments suggest that Sri Lanka is not giving due attention to this issue.

Furthermore, it appears that Western countries, including the United States, will not take significant measures against the present government led by Ranil. As usual, various political leaders, affected parties, and diaspora organizations will likely attend side events, representing the affected side.

Regrettably, it is unlikely that substantial progress will be made beyond these actions, not only in this session but also in the foreseeable future. This essay explores the reasons behind this stagnation and its potential consequences.

The absence of new resolutions against Sri Lanka indicates a reluctance among member states to exert strong pressure on the country. Despite concerns being expressed, no concrete measures are expected to be taken. The international community's hesitance to address the ongoing issues highlights the limited effectiveness of the United Nations Human Rights Council in enforcing change.

During the last session, a delegation led by Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Sabri and Minister of Justice Vijayadasa Rajapaksa represented Sri Lanka. However, the current delegation is led by the Permanent Resident Representative of Sri Lanka in Geneva, Himali Arunathilaka. This shift in representation suggests a lack of priority given to the matter by the Sri Lankan government. It also implies that the government led by Ranil is unlikely to face significant consequences for its actions.

Considering the current political landscape, it is highly probable that the Ranil-led government will maintain its position of power. Even if a change in leadership were to occur, the new government would likely align itself with America, India, and Western nations. This underscores the dominance of global politics exerted by these powerful players. Consequently, the Geneva Conference serves merely as a forum for affected parties seeking justice, with little hope for substantial resolution.

The persistence of this situation is likely to lead to an impasse, rendering the dilution of matters even more challenging. Victims and those seeking justice may face frustration and a sense of hopelessness as their concerns go unresolved. Without substantial action and accountability, the pursuit of reconciliation and human rights in Sri Lanka will remain stagnant, perpetuating a cycle of injustice and suffering.

The 53rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva presents a disheartening picture regarding victim relations in Sri Lanka. The lack of international pressure, political dynamics, and the foreseeable future dominated by similar circumstances contribute to the perpetuation of a dire situation.

The Geneva Conference, although providing a platform for affected parties to voice their concerns, is unlikely to yield significant outcomes beyond this symbolism. As a result, a troubling impasse may ensue, prolonging the suffering and hindering progress towards reconciliation and human rights in Sri Lanka.