

Rt Hon Sir Edward Davey MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon James Cleverly MP  
The Foreign Secretary  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London, SW1A

22nd September 2022

Dear Foreign Secretary,

Firstly, we would like to congratulate you on your recent appointment as Foreign Secretary. As you settle into your new role, we are writing to request a meeting to ensure that the rights of Tamils are at the top of your agenda.

As you will be aware, Sri Lanka is currently in the midst of an economic, political and human rights crisis. The impact of short supplies of food, medicines and fuel are having a significant impact upon millions of people across the country. We are deeply disappointed in the leadership of new President Ranil Wickremesinghe, and would like to raise our concerns about the oppression occurring at the hands of his government.

As Sri Lankan citizens take to the streets to demand reform, the UK must stand with them. And the UK Government must work with our allies to ensure that the humanitarian impact of this crisis is mitigated. We hope you will be able to update us on the engagement which you and your counterparts have had with our partners to discuss the response to the ongoing situation in the country.

We also want to raise our concerns about the long-standing and ongoing human rights abuses against Tamils in Sri Lanka. Reports from numerous human rights organisations, as well as the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, have painted a disturbing picture of the human rights situation in Sri Lanka following the atrocities of the Civil War.

It's clear that domestic mechanisms for accountability in Sri Lanka have eroded and failed over the past few years. We are concerned that the Sri Lankan government will only continue as it has – to deny, to delay, and to evade.

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It is vitally important that you make clear to President Wickremesinghe that those who committed war crimes must be properly investigated and held to account for what they have done. Where there is evidence that atrocities have been committed by an individual, it is vital that the UK Government takes action, including the use of Magnitsky sanctions.

We also hope that you will take the significant step of finally recognising the genocidal actions against the Tamils.

The UK Government must not turn a blind eye to the injustices of the past - nor can we ignore the human rights abuses taking place in Sri Lanka right now.

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible, and hope that you will meet with us to discuss our concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ed Davey".

Ed Davey MP  
Kingston & Surbiton

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sarah Olney".

Sarah Olney MP  
Richmond Park