

Country/entity	Sri Lanka
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Meeting of the sub-committee on immediate humanitarian and rehabilitation needs in the North and East (SIHRN)
Date	28 Feb 2003
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Sri Lankan Civil War (1983 - 2009)

The roots of the Sri Lanka conflict lay in British colonial policy which controlled the island from 1802 until 1948. During the early 1800s, the British brought Tamils from mainland India to work on the various plantations for tea, coffee and rubber, changing Sri Lanka's the demographic make-up. Upon independence, Sinhalese nationalism dominated the political sphere and introduced discriminatory policies against the Tamil minority straining relations and sparking protests. Armed Tamil resistance first came in the form of assassinations of moderate Tamils and opposition politicians in the mid-1970s. However, it was the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam's (LTTE) attack on checkpoint Four Four Bravo, which marked the turning point, sparking pogroms against Tamils in Sinhalese majority areas. This incident, known as Black July, is widely considered to the beginning of the civil war.

The first round of peace talks were backed by India, which had deployed the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in 1987, and led to the 1987 Indo-Sri Lanka Accord. The Accord was successful in persuading the majority of insurgency groups to lay down arms. However, the strongest Tamil insurgency group, the LTTE, was not party to the talks and refused to disarm, sparking direct conflict between the IPKF and the LTTE until IPKF withdrawal 1990. Following the withdrawal, the LTTE consolidated their power in the North and East sparking another intense and bloody war with the central government that lasted until 2002 when another peace process was launched under the auspices of Norwegian negotiators. The second round of peace talks, however, only continued until April 2003 and in March 2004, a large faction of LTTE cadres split from the main organization damaging LTTE unity. The LTTE were defeated militarily by a large-scale government assault in 2009, however, the conditions for peace remain uncertain.

Close
Sri Lankan Civil War (1983 - 2009)

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Sri Lanka LTTE 2002 onward process

Parties	Government of Sri Lanka, headed by Mr. Bernard Goonetilleke; Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, headed by Mr. Tamilselvan
Third parties	Royal Government of Norway, represented by Ambassador Jon Westberg; Ambassador Seiichro Otsuka of Japan participated on behalf of Mr. Yasushi Akashi, principal advisor to the Sub-Committee
Description	Short press statement issued by Norwegian Government announcing a list of approved development projects and the establishment of a resettlement project for Manar district, headed by members from both parties.

Agreement document	LK_030228_Meeting of the sub-committee on immediate humanitarian and rehabilitation needs in the North and East (SIHRN).pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
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Women, girls and gender

Participation No specific mention.

Equality No specific mention.

Particular groups of women No specific mention.

International law No specific mention.

New institutions No specific mention.

Violence against women Violence against women→Protection (general)
Page 1, SIHRN, to accommodate the urgent needs of the people, gave its final approval to the following projects that will be implemented as soon as the finances has been made available by the donors through the World Bank: ... *Centre (located in Kilinochchi) for mentally traumatized women

Transitional justice No specific mention.

Institutional reform No specific mention.

Development Development→Health (general)
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Implementation No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.
