

Action Sri Lanka

Positive discrimination can go a long way in improving the situation of minority groups worldwide. This can only happen with the strengthening of democracy and by keeping away fascist forces. Providing equal opportunities for all is key to successful cohabitation of communities. Even to this day, the Tamils, who are a majority in the north and east of Sri Lanka, face unfettered discrimination. More than one-fourth of ethnic Tamils have been forced to leave their country and live as refugees around the world. They are not even allowed to mourn their dead. The genocidal war on the Tamils destroyed more than 160,000 houses, created 90,000 war widows, and ravaged the social, economic, and psychological lives of the civilian population, in which more than 146,679 civilians are unaccounted for and missing even to this day. The Tamils are doubly affected as a result of the economic collapse of Sri Lanka as the war-ravaged society struggles to bear the burden of steep price rises without any support from the government. They are looking forward to a comprehensive package, which accepts their demand for an international inquiry, the setting up of a peace and reconciliation commission along the lines of South Africa, demilitarization, and the return of civilian land to the Tamils along with a compensatory package for the war victims. The Sri Lankan government must accept the building of memorials by the Tamils by their community. The Tamils in Sri Lanka demand justice, and that can happen only with the recognition of their right to self-determination. Thank you.