

Referendum on Independent Tamil Eelam - 99.33% Vote Yes!

The Tamil National Council (TNC) formed for the purpose of political and diplomatic activities in Great Britain and to conduct a referendum in the Great Britain on re-mandating the historical Vaddukkoaddai Resolution (1976), which was mandated by the Tamil speaking people of Sri Lanka in the 1977 general election calling for an independent and sovereign state of Tamil Eelam in the contiguous north and east of the island of Sri Lanka. TNC wish to thank all those who made our endeavour a success. The Tamil National Council along with the help of various other voluntary organisations in the UK acted as independent & impartial adjudicators in conducting the poll.

It is also necessary to demonstrate the goal and the will of the Tamil people through various means. One such effective means could be the revalidation project. Since it is among the Diaspora population it requires adequate attention to the issue of credibility and success level. It is only when an overwhelming mandate as the one obtained in 1977 could enhance the reassertion of Vaddukodai resolution and could regain the legitimacy among international community. Such mandate would draw adequate attention of the international community and could exert pressure for paradigm shift in their approach in this issue.

Voters were asked whether they endorsed the principles contained in a 1976 resolution that called for an independent Tamil state in the North and East of Sri Lanka. At the final count on Sunday 31st of January, we found that the extraordinary turnout brought 64,692 Tamils together to vote in the referendum. Of those voting, 64,256 (99.33%) voted in support of the formation of an independent and sovereign Tamil Eelam in the North and East of the island of Sri Lanka. 185 (0.29%) voted against and 251 (0.39%) votes were spoilt. Polling took place in sixty-five booths across London and in major cities and towns throughout the UK.

Now the verdict of the Tamil Diaspora in the UK is very clear. The emotions were very high at the counting stations and a very vibrant event was structured for the final count at the Park Lane Hotel London on the evening of 31st January 2010.

The UK main political parties attended and gave their unconditional support to the organisers to proceed further with the referendum results which has brought great support to the Eelam struggle. The event was addressed by guest speakers Hugh Charlton, a human rights barrister and member of CAMPAC, Barry Gardner, MP Brent North, Mike Griffiths, a Labour party activist and trade unionist, Shiobhan McDonagh, MP for Mitcham and Morden, Raj Boodhoo, a solicitor and a

Tamil National Council

தமிழ் தேசிய சபை



international human rights activist, Andrew Charalambous, Conservative parliamentary candidate for Edmonton, Professor Theeran from Tamil Nadu, Joan Ryan, Enfield North MP, Andrew Pelling, independent MP for Central Croydon and Jan Jananayagam, MEP candidate. We thank all of you for your invaluable support. Now that the British Tamils have spoken, alongside there brethren in [Norway, Canada, France, Germany, Switzerland & Holand](#) who all voted 99%+ in favour of the formation of Tamil Eelam, the Tamil National Council implore the British Government, the European Union, and the United Nations to pursue the Sri Lankan government to conduct a UN-Supervised referendum for Tamils living in the North and East of the Island. A similar referendum in 1999 put an end to a similar conflict in East Timor and has been successfully followed in recent times in Kosovo and Montenegro. Democratic referendum is the only civilised and just mechanism to end inter-community conflicts and it's time Sri Lanka joined the modern world.

We thank our partners; British Tamils Forum (BTF), Tamil Youth Organization (TYO), Tamil Activists Forum (TAF), the UK Country Working Group for the formation of Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam and all other organisations for their unassailable solidarity for the effective coordination and hard work for the accomplishment of this historical expression of free speech by the UK Diaspora Tamils. We are indebted by the contributions made by the grass root organizations, community workers and also the individuals who sincerely committed themselves to the success of this ground-breaking endeavour. We also thank the media that took keen interest in our democratic mission and for giving coverage of the outcome.

We thank with overwhelming gratitude the contribution of the committee members, monitoring committee members and the volunteers including the witnessing British Parliamentarians, Councillors and various persons of political interests, who, with their philanthropic public spirit, helped us to conduct the poll in such an exemplary manner as to give the referendum unquestionable credibility and authenticity.

Nandri (Thank You)
On behalf of Tamil National Council

S.Sriranjan
Secretary