

# Centre for Just Peace

# and Democracy

2004-2007



CJPD

[www.cjpdonline.org](http://www.cjpdonline.org)



ground realities



decision makers



diaspora networks

## Who we are

The Centre for Just Peace and Democracy (CJPD) is an action research centre working towards a negotiated resolution to the armed conflict in Sri Lanka.

With approximately a million Tamils living in India, North America, Europe and Australia, the Tamil Diaspora has historically played a significant role in the conflict in Sri Lanka. **CJPD** was founded in 2004 to formalise pre-existing networks of activists and academics in the Tamil Diaspora and beyond who have worked to bring about a just peace in Sri Lanka. **CJPD** will work with all communities to promote a just peace.

While **CJPD** does not represent either party to the conflict, it draws on the trust and relationships built by its members to gain insights into the Tamil perspective that are not available to those outside the Diaspora. By combining intellectual rigour with a sound practical understanding of ground realities **CJPD** seeks to increase the quality of interaction between the parties to the conflict, civil society groups both within Sri Lanka and in the Diaspora, and with the international community.

**CJPD** strives to provide a forum to channel diverse opinions and facilitate the formation of political opinions amongst all those who have an interest in resolving the conflict. By conducting primary research, publishing reports, carrying out analysis and organising conference, workshops and seminars, **CJPD** contributes to the conflict resolution discourse on Sri Lanka.

**CJPD** is aware that an end to war needs to challenge the status-quo and the notion of impossibility. As a track 2 actor **CJPD** strives to end war and work towards formulating a negotiated and just resolution to the deep-rooted and protracted conflict in Sri Lanka.

Since 2004 **CJPD** has partnered with Geneva Call and the Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies to deliver two workshops and a major international seminar.

In 2007 **CJPD** signed a MOU with the Berghof Foundation for Peace Support for Institutional Support and Programme Support.

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## What we offer

Although there are some exploratory studies and research seeking to put forward alternatives to conflict, these track 2 initiatives have often been detached from ground realities. **CJPD** through its extensive networks in the Diaspora and Sri Lanka seeks to elucidate the link between developments in the peace process, the positions of various stakeholders and ground realities.

Based in Lucerne, Switzerland, **CJPD** is able to offer a critical-analytical perspective free from the political pressures faced by research centres based in Sri Lanka, while still drawing on our Diaspora and Sri Lankan networks to gain an understanding of ground realities.

## What we seek to do

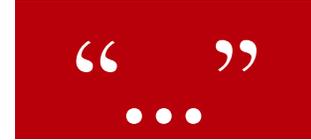
The aim of the organisation is to act as an agent for peace by:

- strengthening sustained and transformative dialogue with all key stakeholders;
- fostering research and analysis to produce analytical reports advocating measures to realise negotiated resolution to the war;
- engaging in dialogue with organisations with similar objectives;
- conducting seminars, symposiums and workshops to promote the cause of negotiated resolution to the deep-rooted conflict; and
- advocating the importance of restoring democracy as the means to bring about just peace.

In a crowded research environment **CJPD** fosters research and analysis on issues perceived to be contentious and non-negotiable: human rights, children in armed conflict, national-versus human security, sovereignty, nationality, etc.

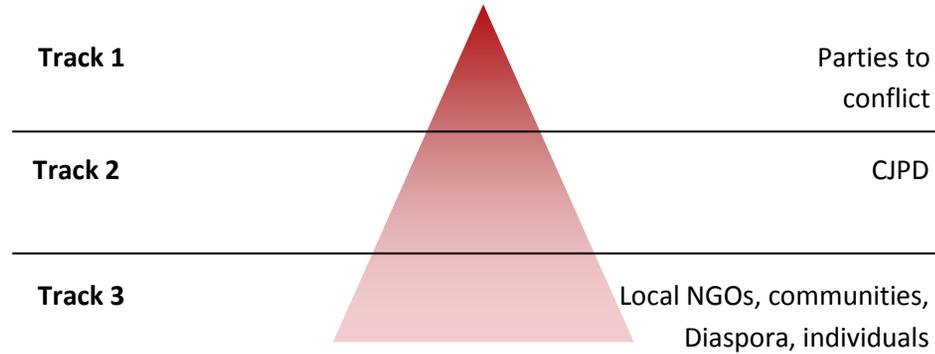
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## Who we work with



**CJPD** seeks to engage track 1 and track 2 actors:

- policy and decision makers amongst the parties and the international community; and
- opinion leaders from civil society organisations, academic and professional groups inside Sri Lanka and within the Diaspora.



### Levels of engagement in conflict transformation (3-track model)

Although various studies on this topic have drawn attention to the extent to which the Diaspora influences the dynamics of peace and conflict, at present there is no centre available for effective interaction between Diaspora voices and international conflict resolution experts. **CJPD** recognises the Diaspora as a critical factor in achieving sustainable just peace in Sri Lanka and mobilises the capacities of the Diaspora as agents to secure justice, peace and democracy for all.

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The active involvement of Diaspora legal experts in drawing up the structure of the 2003 Interim Self-Governing Authority provides a valuable model that the **CJPD** will seek to replicate in its efforts to mobilise Diaspora academics and political activists to make a positive contribution towards securing a just peace in Sri Lanka.

## What guides us

**CJPD** adheres to the following basic principles and guiding norms:

- negotiated resolution of deep-rooted conflicts;
- the right to self-determination;
- impartiality;
- constructive-critical engagement with stakeholders;
- egalitarian democracy and justice;
- gender equality;
- social justice and sustainable development;
- good governance and accountability; and
- individual and collective human rights.



## What we work on



### ***Dialogue Promotion***

Promote transformative and sustained dialogue between the parties to the conflict, civil society groups both within Sri Lanka and in the Diaspora, and with the international community with a view to breaking down preconceived mindsets and stimulating innovative policy options.

### ***Action Research***

Identify potential research topics through extensive consultations with **CJPD** networks both in the Diaspora and Sri Lanka, and partner and donor agencies. Policy papers and reports are aimed at informing policy makers, civil society organisations and other key actors on best practice, lessons learnt from comparative case studies, and opportunities for strategic interventions.

### ***Mobilising Diaspora Networks***

Mobilise the Diaspora as agents for peace, **CJPD** will undertake activities that utilise and strengthen Diaspora capacities to participate in democratic processes. The overarching goal is to identify a group of academics and political activists within the Diaspora who could function as multipliers and catalysts.

## Activities

### Advancing Mine Action in Sri Lanka

During 2005 and 2006 Geneva Call , an international humanitarian organisation dedicated to persuading armed Non-State Actors (NSAs) adhere to a total ban on anti-personnel (AP) mines conducted workshops on 'Advancing Mine Action in Sri Lanka' in partnership with **CJPD**. The first workshop was held in July 2005 and the next in April 2006.

#### July 2005, Paris, France

Activists from the Tamil Diaspora communities in France, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and the United Kingdom along with certain Sinhalese expatriates attended the workshop. Also present was a representative from the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

Anne Capelle of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Katherine Krammer of Geneva Call made presentations on the Mine Ban Treaty and the Deed of Commitment

Presentations were made by Rev Rienzie Perera of the inter-Religious Peace Foundation, Christoph Hebiesen of the Swiss Foundation for Mine Action on behalf of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) for Sri Lanka and Chandru Pararajasingham of the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO)-Sri Lanka.



## April 2006, Geneva, Switzerland

Activists from the Tamil Diaspora in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States and Sinhalese expatriates from Australia participated in this workshop.

The seminar heard presentations from Ms Katherine Kramer, Programme Director for Asia at Geneva Call, Rev Rienzie Perera of the Inter-Religious Peace Foundation in Sri Lanka, Mr Tim Horner of the UNDP, Mr Velupillai Sivanadiyar, President of TRO, Dr Namasivayam Moorthy representing White Pigeon UK, Ms Anne Capelle, a former director of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Ms Janine Handel of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.

**Members of the Diaspora in discussion with Anne Capelle**



**Ms Janine Handel of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs**

**L to R: Mr. Tim Horner, Dr Namasivayam Moorthy, Ms Katherine Kramer and Prof Chandrakanthan**



## **International Seminar – ‘Envisioning New Trajectories for Peace in Sri Lanka’:**

In April 2006, **CJPD** collaborated with the Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies, Sri Lanka Office in holding an International Seminar on ‘Envisioning New Trajectories for Peace in Sri Lanka’ in Zurich.

The seminar brought together a wide range of scholars, academics and activists from all communities in Sri Lanka, the Tamil Diaspora, the Sri Lanka expatriate community and conflict transformation experts from the international community. The objective of the seminar was to explore fresh approaches towards finding a sustainable solution to the war in Sri Lanka.

The participants were selected through a process of joint discussion between **CJPD** and Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies, Sri Lanka Office. The participants acted in their individual capacity and not as official representatives of any political party, organization or institution. Against a background which can at best be described as politically polarized with high levels of mutual mistrust, the hope was to create an atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding and a common attitude towards generating creative options.

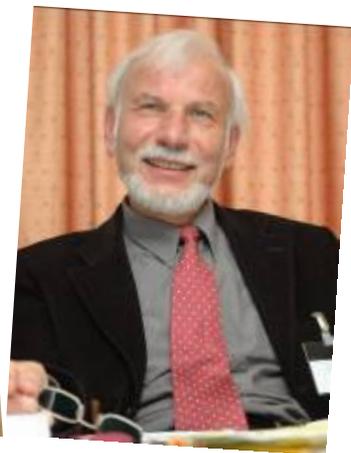
The seminar was organized at the track-2 level with a vision to revitalize a genuine discourse between opinion leaders and policy makers across the conflict divide. It was an exploratory first step towards communication between actors at the track 2 level. The seminar comprised 8 sessions.

At the conclusion of the final session, the participants agreed to meet again to explore the question whether a resolution of the conflict may be secured by:

- a. an unitary constitution with extensive devolution; or
- b. a federal constitution with a thick framework of power sharing; or
- c. a confederation of states; or
- d. an association of states on the lines of the European Union



The seminar brought together a range of Tamil, Sinhala, Muslim and international academics and activists.



L to R: Ms Nimalka Fernando, Prof John P. Neelsen, Dr Jayampathy Wickramaratne and Mr Viswanathan Rudrakumar

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**Ms Vinothini Kanapathipillai**



**Dr Clem Mc Cartney**



**Ms Jezima Ismail & Prof Jeyadeva Uyangoda**



**Prof Kristian Stokke**



**L to R: Mr Vasu Gounden, Prof A.M. Navaratna-Bandara, Mr Viraj Mendis & Prof Peter Schalk**



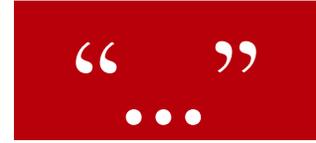
**Mr Nadesan Satyandera & Dr Norbert Ropers (Co-chairs)**



**Hon Gajen Ponnambalam M.P.**



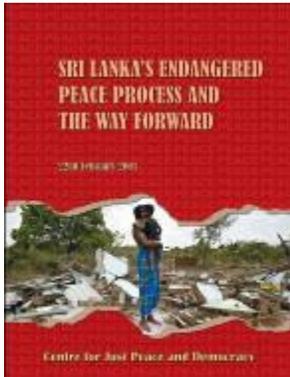
## Publications



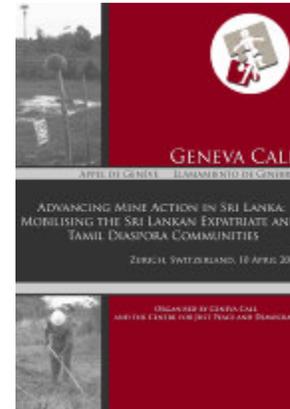
**Envisioning New Trajectories for Peace A** collection of papers presented at the 'Envisioning New Trajectories for Peace in Sri Lanka' seminar in Zurich.



**Report of the Workshop** Advancing Mine Action Clearance in Sri Lanka: Mobilising the European Tamil Diaspora.  
*In conjunction with Geneva Call*



**Sri Lanka's Endangered Peace Process and the Way Forward:** Analysis of the reasons for the collapse of the CFA and recommendations to achieve a just peace.



**Report of the Workshop** Advancing Mine Action in Sri Lanka: Mobilising the Sri Lankan Expatriate and Tamil Diaspora Communities  
*In conjunction with Geneva Call*

## Future Directions



**CJPD** proposes to realise its major objectives through:

### **Action Research**

- Endangered Peace Process and the Way Forward
- Resistance/Liberation Movements and Transition to Politics
- The International Community's Interests in Sri Lanka's Conflict
- Earned Sovereignty and Self-determination Discourse

### **Interactive Dialogue Workshops, Seminars and Conferences**

- Humanitarian Dimension in the 'undeclared war' in Sri Lanka
- Children and Armed Conflict in Sri Lanka

### **Field Study**

- 'From the Worst to the Best' : The Tamil Diaspora in Switzerland

### **Archival Project**

- Sri Lanka Archive: An electronic archive compiling all UN documents relating to the Sri Lanka situation since 1983.

### **Website Development**

- Design and publish an effective website.

**CJPD** is fully cognizant that its actions will have to reflect ground realities. It will closely monitor the situation as it unfolds and tailor its actions to meet new challenges and opportunities.

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## CJPD Membership



Membership to the CJPD is open to all who share its objectives:

**Individuals:**

Entitles members to receive copies of Research Papers and participate as observers at international conferences and seminars organised by CJPD.

**Associations:**

Entitles representatives of the association to receive copies of Research Papers and participate as observers at international conferences and seminars organised by CJPD.

	Individual (yearly)	Associations (yearly)
Europe	€100	€150
UK	£50	£75
USA	\$150	\$200
Canada	\$150	\$250
Australia	\$175	\$250

**Charter Members:**

One hundred and twenty-five (125) individuals internationally will be invited to become Charter Members of CJPD by CJPD's Advisory Board. Amongst other privileges, these members will meet annually at a CJPD conference in Switzerland.

## Organizational Set-up

Management Team		Institutional Support	
Mr Anton Ponrajah, Director Administration	Switzerland	Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies, Colombo	
Mr A.C. Tarcisius, Director Academic	UK	Dr Norbert Ropers	Sri Lanka
Mr Nadarajah Elango, Diaspora Coordinator	France	Ms Luxshi Vimalarajah	Sri Lanka
Mr Ana Pararajasingham, Head of Research	Australia	<b>Resource Network*</b>	
Mr Prasanna Chandrakumar, Programme Coordinator	Australia	Dr Karunyan Arulanantham	USA
Ms David Demani, Office Administrator	Switzerland	Rev Prof. S.J. Emmanuel	Germany
<b>Adviser</b>		Mr Arjuna Ethirweerasingam	USA
Mr Nadesan Satyendra	UK	Dr Jay Maheswaran	Australia
<b>Advisory Board</b>		Ms Karen Parker	USA
Dr Rev A.J.V. Chandrakanthan	Canada	Prof P. Ramasamy	Malaysia
Mr Balasingham Basharan	Norway	Dr Sachithanandam Sathananthan	India
Ms Verena Graf	Switzerland	Prof Peter Schalk	Sweden
Ms Vinothini Kanapathipillai	Australia	Dr Brian Senewiratne	Australia
Mr Viraj Mendis	Germany	Prof N. Shanmugaratnam	Norway
Mr Suthaharan Nadarajah	UK	Mr Arjuna Sittampalam	UK
Prof John P. Neelsan	Germany	Dr Satchi Srikantha	Japan
Mr Gill Piquis	France	Prof Sri N. Sriskandarajah	Sweden
Justice R. Rajasingham QC	UK	Dr D. Sriskandarajah	UK
Mr Visuvanathan Rudrakumaran	USA	Dr Rajan Sriskandarajah	USA
Prof M. Sornarajah	Singapore	Mr M. Thanapalsingam	Australia
		<i>*The Resource Network will be expanded from time to time, for a more current list please visit our website - <a href="http://www.cjpdonline.org">www.cjpdonline.org</a></i>	



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