

<b>Country/entity</b>	Sri Lanka
<b>Region</b>	Asia and Pacific
<b>Agreement name</b>	The third session of peace talks between the Government of Sri Lanka (GOSL) and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) (Oslo Communique)
<b>Date</b>	5 Dec 2002
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	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)

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

<b>Parties</b>	Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE); Government of Sri Lanka
<b>Third parties</b>	Royal Government of Norway
<b>Description</b>	Press statement highlights attempts at re-consolidating the ceasefire, giving access to humanitarian aid and that parties re-affirmed the need to help women and children.

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**Agreement document** [LK\\_021205\\_Oslo Communiqué.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** New institutions→Reconciliation and peace  
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The parties acknowledged the need to ensure that the priorities and needs of women are taken into account in all aspects of the peace process. To this effect, they agreed to establish a permanent advisory committee which will, on a regular basis, submit proposals relating to women's interests to the sessions of negotiations and to the sub-committees of the peace process. The committee will consist of four representatives of each party.

**Violence against women** No specific mention.

**Transitional justice** No specific mention.

**Institutional reform** No specific mention.

**Development** No specific mention.

**Implementation** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

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