

<b>Country/entity</b>	Sri Lanka
<b>Region</b>	Asia and Pacific
<b>Agreement name</b>	First meeting of the sub-committee on gender issues (SGI) held in Kilinochchi
<b>Date</b>	6 Mar 2003
<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>	Government of Sri Lanka, represented by Dr. Kumari Jayawardena, Dr. Deepika Udagama, Dr. Fazeela M. Riyaz, Ms. Kumundi Samuel, Ms. Faizun Zackariya;  LTTE, represented by Ms. Thamilini Subramaniam, Ms. Kaaya Somasundram, Ms. Premila Somasyndram, Ms. Suthamathy Sanmugarajah, Ms. Yalisai Balasingham
<b>Third parties</b>	Norwegian Government facilitator, Dr. Astrid N. Heiberg
<b>Description</b>	The first meeting of the Sub-committee on Gender Issues (SGI) was held in Kilinochchi 5-6 March 2003. During the meeting in Oslo both parties expressed their willingness to set up this Committee in order to secure the active participation of women and the effective inclusion of gender issues in the peace process.

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**Agreement document**      [LK\\_030306\\_First meeting of the sub-committee on gender issues \(SGI\) held in Kilinochchi.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.

<b>New institutions</b>	<p>New institutions→Institutions for women Page 1, Para 12 The Sub-committee on Gender Issues consists of the following five members from each of the parties: Dr. Deepika Udagama; Dr. Fazeela M. Riyaz; Ms. Kumuduni Samuel; Ms. Faizun Zackariya; Ms. Thamilini Subramaniam; Ms. Kaaya Somasyndram; Ms. Premila Somasyndram; Ms. Suthamathy Sanmugarajah; Ms. Yalisai Balasingham.</p> <p>New institutions→Infrastructure (general) Page 1, Paragraph 7 The SGI will formulate Gender Guidelines for the Sub-Committees and other mechanisms associated with the peace process.</p> <p>New institutions→Reconciliation and peace Page 1, Paragraph 1 ... During the meeting in Oslo both parties expressed their willingness to set up this Committee in order to secure the active participation of women and the effective inclusion of gender issues in the peace process.</p> <p>Page 1, Paragraph 4 The SGI will report directly to the plenary session of the peace talks and work closely with the other Sub-committees and other mechanisms associated with the peace process. It will identify issues of concern to women that need to be addressed and bring those concerns into the agenda of the peace process.</p>
<b>Violence against women</b>	<p>Violence against women→Protection (general) Paragraph 6, the SGI support the SIHRN's [Sub-committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Need in the North and East] project for traumatized women in Kilinochchi and strongly encourages SIHRN to set up similar centres in the east and in other districts affected by the conflict.</p>
<b>Transitional justice</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Institutional reform</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Development</b>	<p>Development→General Page 1, Paragraph 2-3, ... In their determination to include the gender perspective in the peace process they decided to focus their efforts on the following issues in the immediate and long term: - Livelihood and employment</p> <p>Development→Health (general) Paragraph 6, the SGI support the SIHRN's [Sub-committee on Immediate Humanitarian and Rehabilitation Need in the North and East] project for traumatized women in Kilinochchi and strongly encourages SIHRN to set up similar centres in the east and in other districts affected by the conflict</p>
<b>Implementation</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other</b>	No specific mention.