

Country/entity	Sri Lanka
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Agreed Statement on behalf of the Parties
Date	21 Mar 2003
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	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)

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

Parties	Government of Sri Lanka, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam
Third parties	Royal Government of Norway
Description	Re-affirmation agreement attempting to get the security situation under control with skirmishes between the LTTE and Sri Lankan Government.

Agreement document [LK_030321_Agreed Statement on behalf of the Parties.pdf \(opens in new tab\) | Download PDF](#)

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→Institutions for women
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The parties approved the proposal submitted by the Sub-Committee on Gender Issues to establish secretariats in Kilinochchi and Colombo.

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.
