



The Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust (NTT)
A Sri Lankan Grant-Making Organisation



About NTT

The Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust (NTT) was established in 2001, two years after the assassination of Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam, to continue his legacy as an activist, peacemaker, institution builder and scholar. His intellectual and political acuity guided his work on meaningful constitutional and practical options for a just and peaceful Sri Lanka. He focused on the emergence of an enlightened, corruption free, pluralistic society ensuring human rights, respecting diversity, assuring equal value and dignity for all, transcending all divisive barriers.

Our Vision

The establishment and protection of a just, equitable and peaceful society

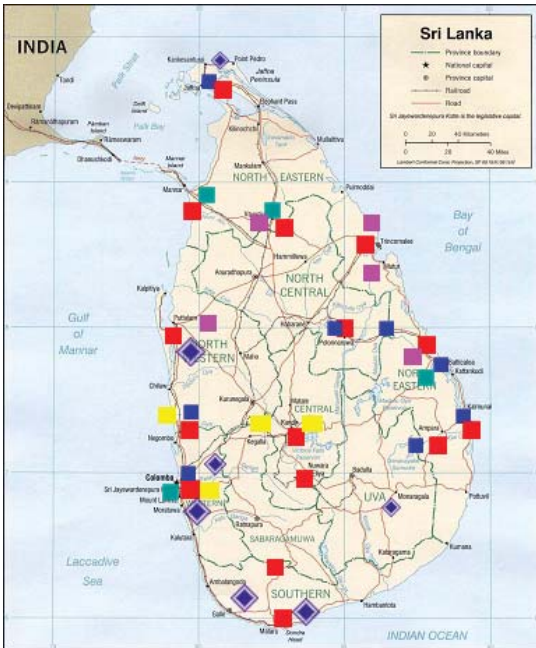
Our Mission

To collectively promote peace, reconciliation and human rights, sharing responsibility, resources and risks through strategic partnerships with, civil society, the public sector, business community, diaspora, academia and donors

Our Niche

NTT is unique in being an indigenous grant-making organisation and is steered and managed by a volunteer Board of Trustees, and a staff team and partners who represent Sri Lanka's diverse ethnic and socio-cultural fabric. The Trust through its grant-making over the last nine years has gained diverse and substantive programmatic experience and expertise to adapt to the changing needs and challenges of the island's population. It has carved its place as the only indigenous grant-maker in Sri Lanka combining human rights and peace building initiatives throughout the country.

Our reach over the last nine years



- Human Rights
- Peace / Conflict transformation
- Women's Rights
- Youth Engagement
- IDP Rights and Humanitarian Relief
- ◆ Pluralism

(Notes: Some organisations are based in one town but their reach spans throughout the country. Towns with multiple projects are only labelled once.)

Grant making

The Trust through its grant-making has supported projects in the areas of human rights, peace building and conflict transformation, women's empowerment, youth engagement, rights of the internally displaced, humanitarian relief and the promotion of pluralistic values within Sri Lanka.

It works with national and international partners to share knowledge and best practices and raises funds to support these projects.

The following is a snapshot of projects funded by NTT over the last nine years.

01. Human Rights

A. Families of the Disappeared

Honouring the memory of disappeared youth from the south during the 1987-1991 era, providing space for the family and friends to mourn the loss and to advocate against the continuing trend of disappearances in the country.



B. Right to Life Human Rights Centre

Human rights awareness raising among young female workers in the Katunayake Free Trade

Zone, which aimed to empower them to protect their rights and improve their standards of employment.

02. Peace Building and Conflict Transformation

A. The Peace Train



In May 2002, a diesel-powered train painted with art work and signs that represented peace travelled to the Northern town of Vavuniya from the city of Colombo carrying peace activists, religious dignitaries, representatives of the Government, business leaders, film directors, artists and others in an effort to promote the peace process immediately after the Sri Lankan Government and the Tamil rebels signed the ceasefire agreement in February 2002.

B. University of Colombo

Certificate Programme in Conflict Resolution and Peace Building – designed by the university to use as a tool to shape the attitudes and mindset of people. Public servants with the Ministry of Human Rights and the Ministry of Skills Development were provided the opportunity of participating in the programme.

03. Women's Rights



Suriya Women's Development Centre

Using cultural activism to advocate for women's rights, peace and justice with a specific focus on conflict affected women of all ethnic and religious communities in Eastern Sri Lanka.

04. Engaging Youth - Promoting youth leaders and instilling democratic values among youth

A. Lanka Youth Organisations Network

"Democratic Youth Leadership Programme".

Through this programme, the Trust supported the



network's efforts to build the capacity of youth organisations in the Western Province – by providing training in leadership to over

350 youth leaders to increase their knowledge and understanding of human rights, democracy and pluralistic values.

B. Movement for the Defence of Democratic Rights

Youth voice for peace and co-existence.

A national radio programme broadcast in all three languages, used popular music and radio interviews with young Sri Lankan celebrities to convey the message of peace and to encourage youth to provide leadership and actively engage in peace building initiatives within their communities.

05. Internally Displaced People's (IDP's) Rights and Emergency Relief



A. Emergency Response – A joint effort by NTT, civil society organisations and the business community to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to civilians affected by the escalating armed conflict in the North and East of Sri Lanka in 2006-07.

06. Pluralism

Helping to build a society which respects and celebrates the differences of language, culture and religion – through the use of drama, art, film and debate



Uva Wellassa Farmer Women's Organisation

Awareness building and intra and inter - school discussions and debates on the ethnic conflict at selected schools in the multi ethnic communities in the District of Moneragala. The discussions were aired on local radio to encourage dialogue and reduce ethnic, cultural and religious prejudices among the multi ethnic youth in the region.

07. Commemorative Events to honour the memory of the late Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam

Every year the Trust together with the organisations that were founded by the late Dr. Neelan Tiruchelvam – namely the Law and Society Trust, The International Centre for Ethnic Studies and Tiruchelvam Associates, hosts a series of events to commemorate the birth and death anniversary of the late Dr. Tiruchelvam which fall on 31st January and 29th July respectively.



A. Cultural Event in January

Dr. Tiruchelvam's birth anniversary is celebrated annually with a cultural event which showcases international artistes of repute, followed by a workshop for Sri Lankan artistes and students of the arts.



B. Memorial Lecture in July

Dr. Tiruchelvam's death anniversary is commemorated annually with a lecture delivered by an international scholar on emerging issues relating to human rights, governance, peace and conflict, or social justice.



C. Road Painting Initiative in January and July

As part of the Neelan Tiruchelvam Commemorative events, the Trust continues its Road Painting initiative where the site of Dr. Tiruchelvam's assassination is painted with peace symbols and a common trilingual slogan- "secure the sanctity of life". The aim of this endeavour is to symbolically reclaim public sites of political violence through artistic expressions which convey the message of peace and denounce violence.



How you can help

The work of NTT would not be possible without the continuing support of many organisations and individuals who have enabled the Trust to work towards promoting social justice and peace-building in Sri Lanka.

At this historical juncture as Sri Lanka is faced with an opportunity to re-build trust between communities and to re-create a democratic society where the rights of every citizen are ensured and respected, NTT as an indigenous grant-maker, based on the belief that the contribution of Sri Lankans is imperative to this initiative, appeals to you for support in continuing our work.

We seek your support by way of a financial contribution/pledge. Every Rupee you contribute to NTT will add four more Rupees to our “challenge grant” from our founding donor the Ford Foundation. This will consolidate our endowment fund and help sustain our work in the midst of many challenges and a changing economic and financial crisis here in Sri Lanka and around the globe.

If you wish to contribute, please complete the attached pledge form and submit it to a representative of the Trust or mail it to the address provided. You will receive an official receipt for your contributions to NTT.

Thank you for partnering with us in re-building a just, equitable and peaceful Sri Lanka.

Donation/ Pledge Form

I would like to donate to the Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust

Donation Amount _____

Currency _____

Donor Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Country _____

Phone Numbers

Home _____ Office _____

Mobile _____

E-mail Address: _____

I wish to make my donation by:

Cash

Cheque/Money Order/Bank Draft
(made out to The Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust)

Other (Please specify)

Bank transfers can be directed to:

Name of Account: **Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust**

Name of Bank: **The Hongkong and Shanghai
Banking Corporation Limited**

Bank Address: **24, Sir Baron Jayatilaka Mw
Colombo 01, Sri Lanka**

Current Account Number: **003 – 058120 – 001**

(for donations in
Sri Lankan Rupees)

USD Call Account Number: **003 – 058120 – 025**

(for donations in
USD Foreign Currencies)

Swift Code: **HSBCLKLX**

Thank you for your donation



The Neelan Tiruchelvam Trust

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