

British Tamils Forum (BTF)

UK-based Tamil diaspora civic structure, founded 2006. Focuses on constituency-level engagement with British parliamentarians from areas of Tamil population concentration (Mitcham & Morden, Harrow, Croydon, Tooting, Hounslow, Ilford, Wembley, Brent North). The principal post-2009 vehicle for diaspora engagement with All-Party Parliamentary Groups, parliamentary questions, and constituency MP letters.

BTF is the diaspora civic structure whose work most directly intersects with the MP Evidence Packs organ. Its constituency-level engagement is the practical mechanism by which most of the UK-tabled parliamentary questions on Sri Lanka in the post-2009 era have reached the order paper. TLTE is not part of BTF; BTF's published work is one of the citation anchors the MP Packs methodology relies on.

§1 What it does

BTF maintains constituency-level engagement with UK MPs whose constituencies contain meaningful Tamil populations. It coordinates joint constituency letters on time-bound issues (UN Human Rights Council resolutions, anniversaries of mass-atrocity events, deportation cases, specific PTA detentions identified by name in OHCHR communications), facilitates MP visits to north-east Sri Lanka and to the diaspora, and supports the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils.

It does not run survivor intake. Where individual cases require legal or safeguarding response, BTF routes to ITJP, PEARL, the Refugee Council, the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, or solicitors specialising in the relevant jurisdiction. This routing-not-intake discipline is the same one that TLTE's Charter requires.

§2 Why it matters to the case

The UK parliamentary record on Sri Lanka in the post-2009 era — Hansard, parliamentary questions, ten-minute rule motions, Westminster Hall debates, APPG reports — is a substantial part of the international-record branch of the case. Without BTF and the diaspora civic structures alongside it, that record would be materially thinner. The MP Evidence Packs organ at /mp-packs makes this work durable and machine-readable; BTF is one of the cited sources its methodology rests on.

Sources

- British Tamils Forum — published statements and parliamentary engagement record (britishtamilsforum.org).
- All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tamils — annual reports and Hansard record.

What this is not

- This article is not an endorsement of BTF's specific positions or any individual it has supported.
- This article does not name any BTF officer or volunteer.
- This article does not assert that BTF speaks for British Tamils as a whole. Multiple structures exist.