

Global Tamil Forum (GTF)

UK-headquartered umbrella network of Tamil diaspora civic organisations, constituted in 2010. Specialises in parliamentary advocacy in the UK, EU, and Canada, and in written submissions to the UN Human Rights Council process. One of the standing diaspora interlocutors of the post-2015 Geneva resolutions cycle.

GTF operates in the same broad ecology as PEARL and TGTE but in a different register: it is a federated advocacy body whose principal output is parliamentary briefings, joint statements with allied civil-society organisations, and structured engagement with the UN Human Rights Council. It is one of several diaspora structures that emerged after the 2009 closure documented in the Narrowing Timeline.

§1 What it does

GTF coordinates joint statements and briefings across Tamil diaspora organisations in the UK, EU, Canada, and Australia. It is a regular oral-statement participant at UN Human Rights Council general debates on Sri Lanka, has made written submissions to OHCHR consultation cycles preceding the 30/1, 34/1, 40/1, 46/1, 51/5, and 57/6 resolutions, and convenes annual parliamentary events at Westminster and the European Parliament.

It is lawful in its operating jurisdictions. Its activities — advocacy, briefing, written submissions to UN bodies — fall within the protected sphere of association and petition in those jurisdictions. It is, like TGTE, designated as banned under Sri Lankan law; the designation has been criticised by ICJ, HRW, and the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales.

§2 Why it sits in the record

GTF is archived here because its consistent post-2015 engagement with the UN Human Rights Council process is part of the answer to the structural objection 'have the diaspora actually engaged with international institutional processes?' The OHCHR Sri Lanka Accountability Project's working files, the successive Council resolutions, and the UN Special Rapporteurs' communications collectively show that the diaspora has engaged through the lawful international channels — and that the closure of the domestic transitional-justice route in 2020 was not for want of trying on the diaspora side.

Sources

- Global Tamil Forum — published constitution and statements (globaltamilforum.org).
- OHCHR A/HRC/46/20 (2021) — references civil-society submissions including diaspora.
- ICJ briefings on Sri Lankan proscription regime.

What this is not

- This article is not an endorsement of GTF's specific advocacy positions.
- This article does not name any GTF officer or member.
- This article does not assert that GTF speaks for the diaspora. Multiple structures exist.