

British–Tamil Civic Repair · Failed Decolonisation — MP Evidence Pack

Structural argument for UK post-colonial repair responsibility — Soulbury 1944–47 gap, Section 29(2) removal, Mau Mau / Chagos / BN(O) precedent. Archival truth + research institution + civic partnership + mobility principles. Capped, vetted, lawful — no migration demand, no sovereignty claim.

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Audience

- UK MPs (esp. APPG for Tamils)
- Lords
- FCDO ministerial team
- Home Office policy
- DCMS / Arts Council
- UK universities
- Tamil civic society

Best used for

- Adjournment debate on Ceylon transfer of power / Soulbury record
- Written PQs to FCDO on the Mau Mau / Chagos precedent reach
- Home Office PQ on BN(O) / Ukraine / ARAP architectural availability
- DCMS / Arts Council PQ on diaspora-led heritage research support
- APPG for Tamils session on UK archival-truth consolidation

Tier-A evidence anchors

- Mau Mau settlement statement (Hansard, 6 June 2013)
- Cary Report — Hanslope disclosure (FCO, 2011)
- FCO 141 — Migrated archives (Ceylon material)
- *Mutua v FCO* [2011] EWHC 1913; [2012] EWHC 2678
- ICJ — Chagos Advisory Opinion (2019)
- UK–Mauritius Chagos Agreement (3 October 2024)
- BN(O) visa route — Home Office
- Ukraine Family Scheme / Homes for Ukraine
- Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP)
- Soulbury Commission Report (Cmd. 6677, 1945)
- TNA CO 54 / CO 537 — Ceylon Original Correspondence
- Wilson — *The Break-Up of Sri Lanka* (1988)
- Tambiah — *Sri Lanka: Ethnic Fratricide* (1986)
- Wickramasinghe — *Sri Lanka in the Modern Age* (2014)

- Mamdani — Define and Rule (2012)
- APPG for Tamils (UK Parliament)

Policy asks

- UK Government (FCDO): Publish an FCDO assessment of the Ceylon transfer-of-power record (Donoughmore 1931, Soulbury 1944–47, Section 29(2), Ceylon (Constitution) Order in Council 1946) in the light of UK contemporary post-colonial precedent (Mau Mau settlement 2013, Chagos Agreement 2024).
- UK Government (FCDO with TNA): Commission a Ceylon-specific consolidated finding aid covering CO 54, CO 537, FCO 141 Ceylon material — comparable to the Kenya 2014 and Cyprus 2016 consolidations — co-authored with a UK university partner and Tamil-led research institution.
- UK Government (Home Office): Provide a published architectural assessment of whether the BN(O) / Ukraine Family Scheme / ARAP precedent set is structurally available, in principle, to the Ceylon transfer-of-power case. A negative finding is useful policy clarity.
- UK Government (DCMS / Arts Council): Identify the standing UK funding routes available for diaspora-led heritage and archive-research where source-country institutional access is constrained — including comparison with the KITLV / Leiden custodian model and the BL EAP1450 endangered-archives precedent.
- UK MPs (APPG for Tamils): Host one cross-party evidence session on the Civic Repair sub-spine and the available UK post-colonial precedent set, with TNA, a UK university partner, and at least one in-country Tamil civic-society interlocutor.

Draft parliamentary questions

- [FCDO] What assessment has the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office made of the minority-protection clauses considered by the Soulbury Commission (Cmd. 6677, 1945) and the subsequent removal of Section 29(2) of the Ceylon Constitution by the 1972 Constitution, in the light of contemporary UK acceptance of post-colonial responsibility in the cases of Kenya (2013) and Mauritius (2024)?
- [FCDO] What plans does the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office have, in partnership with The National Archives, to publish a consolidated Ceylon-specific finding aid covering CO 54, CO 537 and the FCO 141 migrated archive material, comparable to the consolidations produced for Kenya in 2014 and Cyprus in 2016 following the Cary Report (2011)?
- [Home Office] What architectural precedent, if any, does the Home Office consider that the British National (Overseas) visa route opened on 31 January 2021 sets for the design of bespoke post-colonial protection routes for other affected communities, and what assessment has the Home Office made of the structural availability of that precedent to the Ceylon transfer-of-power case?
- [DCMS] What support is available, through the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Arts Council, for diaspora-led heritage research and archive consolidation where institutional access in the source country is constrained, having regard to existing UK academic partnerships such as the British Library Endangered Archives Programme?

Civic remembrance

This pack does not assert that Britain caused any specific episode of post-1948 violence in Ceylon or Sri Lanka. It records that Britain wrote, debated, and transferred a constitutional frame whose entrenchment architecture was thin, that contemporary UK practice (Mau Mau 2013, Chagos 2024, BN(O) 2021) has accepted the institutional bandwidth for post-colonial repair questions, and asks the UK to apply that bandwidth consistently to the Ceylon case.

Pack rules

- Never claims Britain caused Black July 1983 or any other named post-1948 episode. Argument is structural — minority-protection clauses without entrenchment plus majoritarian electoral pressure.
- Never proposes visa categories, eligibility lists, or numeric caps. Mobility-principles page is principles only.
- Never frames the case as anti-Sinhala or anti-Buddhist. Audit object is UK constitutional history and contemporary UK policy architecture.
- Never proposes that TLTE will deliver any partnership component, host a research institution, or accept casework. TLTE is observational throughout.
- Always pairs at least one Tamil-source or diaspora-source citation with one non-Tamil Tier-A source (Wickramasinghe 2014, Mamdani 2012, ICG, OHCHR).
- Always routes asylum / protection casework to UK Home Office / Refugee Council, NEVER to TLTE.
- Never names individuals (Tamil, Sinhala, British) other than parliamentary office-holders speaking in their official capacity on the public record (e.g. Hague 2013 statement).

Transparency

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