

Religion-State Enforcement Gap — Sri Lanka — MP Evidence Pack

Packages the documented asymmetry between Article 9 of the 1978 Constitution, the ICCPR Act No. 56 of 2007, and the cumulative incitement record (Aluthgama 2014 -> Digana 2018 -> Easter 2019 -> forced cremation 2020–22) into UK FCDO, DCMS, and EU GSP+ channels. Cross-community: Tamils, Muslims, Hill Country Tamils, Christians. Anchored on Shaheed (A/HRC/43/48/Add.2), ICG, OHCHR, Verité, NCEASL. Never names, never aggregates in TLTE voice, never frames as anti-Buddhist.

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Audience

- UK MPs
- FCDO South Asia
- APPG for Tamils
- APPG on International Freedom of Religion or Belief
- USCIRF (US)
- EU GSP+ monitoring mission

Best used for

- FCDO written questions on UK position regarding Article 9 + ICCPR Act §3 asymmetric enforcement
- Written questions on UK engagement with the UN Special Rapporteur on FoRB report A/HRC/43/48/Add.2 (Shaheed, 2020)
- Submissions to the EU GSP+ 2027 monitoring framework on religious-freedom enforcement gap
- APPG-FoRB / APPG-Tamils joint panel on cross-community impact

Tier-A evidence anchors

- Constitution of Sri Lanka (1978) — Article 9 'foremost place to Buddhism'
- ICCPR Act No. 56 of 2007 — Sri Lanka
- Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on FoRB on Sri Lanka — A/HRC/43/48/Add.2 (Shaheed, 2020)
- Buddha Sasana Circular 2008
- ICG Asia Report N°291 — Sri Lanka's Muslims: Caught in the Crossfire
- Verité Research — Fading Beliefs (2018)
- NCEASL — incidents against Christians registry
- OHCHR — forced cremation findings (2020–2022)

Policy asks

- UK Government (FCDO): Set out the UK's position on the documented asymmetric enforcement of the ICCPR Act No. 56 of 2007 against minority defendants versus the absence of completed §3 prosecutions

against documented majoritarian incitement events recorded by OHCHR, ICG and the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief.

- UK Government (FCDO): Publish UK assessment of Sri Lanka's progress on the recommendations in A/HRC/43/48/Add.2 (UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, 2020).
- EU GSP+ monitoring mission (via UK partners): Incorporate ICCPR Act §3 enforcement-asymmetry findings into the 2027 GSP+ regulation monitoring framework as evidence under ICCPR Articles 18, 20 and 27.
- UK MPs (APPG-FoRB and APPG for Tamils): Host one joint panel covering the Hindu (Kurunthumalai), Muslim (forced cremation), Christian (NCEASL) and Hill Country Tamil (statelessness) cases together — to disprove any single-community framing.

Draft parliamentary questions

- [FCDO] What assessment has the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office made of the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief on Sri Lanka contained in document A/HRC/43/48/Add.2, and what representations has the United Kingdom made on their implementation?
- [FCDO] What weight does the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office give to the documented pattern of prosecutions under section 3 of Sri Lanka's International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights Act No. 56 of 2007 against minority-faith defendants, in its assessment of Sri Lanka's compliance with Articles 18 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?
- [DCMS] What discussions has the Department for Culture, Media and Sport had with the United Kingdom National Commission for UNESCO regarding the 2008 Buddha Sasana Circular on places of worship in Sri Lanka, having regard to the 1972 World Heritage Convention?
- [FCDO] What representations have United Kingdom partners made within the European Union Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus monitoring framework regarding Sri Lanka's enforcement record under Articles 18, 20 and 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ahead of the 2027 regulation cycle?

Civic remembrance

This pack does not assert that Buddhism or Sinhala-Buddhist heritage are illegitimate. It reads what Sri Lanka's own Constitution, the ICCPR Act 2007, and the cumulative civil-society and UN record establish, and asks the UK and EU to engage existing FoRB, ICCPR-Act and GSP+ channels that already have jurisdiction.

Pack rules

- Never names individual monks, defendants, complainants, prosecutors, or named victims.
- Never aggregates incident counts in TLTE voice. Always cites ICG, OHCHR, Shaheed, Verité, NCEASL, Hashtag Generation verbatim.
- Never frames the pack as anti-Buddhist or as a theological critique. The audit object is the ICCPR Act §3 enforcement gap and the Article 9 constitutional asymmetry — both Sri Lankan state instruments.
- Always carries the Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Hill Country Tamil cases together. Never a single-community frame.
- Always pairs at least one Tamil-source or minority-source citation with one non-minority Tier-A source (Shaheed, ICG, OHCHR, Schonthal-Cambridge, Bartholomeusz, Deegalle). Institutional credibility is the posture.
- Never routes survivors or witnesses to TLTE. Signposts UN SR-FoRB, OHCHR, NCEASL, Hashtag Generation, HRCSL, the Sri Lankan RTI Act 2016 channel.

Transparency

Published under the UK Transparency of Lobbying Act 2014 posture. TLTE C.I.C. is a community interest company, not a state, party or charity. Era: Aarambam (founding).