
READING ROOM · SHAPE A · POLICY-ANALYTICAL BRIEF

Press Freedom · Sri Lanka & the Tamil Diaspora Press

*CPJ / RSF / UNESCO / OHCHR record; transnational repression; Home Office
CPIN implications.*

Written for Parliamentary · OSINT & Legal · Press & Long-form

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Executive summary

The civic file for any UK MP, Peer, devolved member, journalist or policy researcher writing on press freedom, journalist safety, transnational repression, the Sri Lankan Online Safety Act 2024 or the Anti-Terrorism Bill.

01 · Summary points

- World Press Freedom Day (3 May) statements. - International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (2 November) statements. - Hansard adjournment debates on press freedom in Sri Lanka. - Letters to FCDO on the Media Freedom Coalition (UK + Canada co-chair). - PQs on UNESCO SDG 16.10.1 monitoring of Sri Lanka. - PQs on Online Safety Act 2024 and the Anti-Terrorism Bill (Sri Lanka). - EU GSP+ press-freedom condition monitoring (UK is no longer a GSP+ grantor, but the file matters for FCDO engagement with the EU).

02 · Introduction · scope · methodology

- OHCHR A/HRC/60/21 — surveillance apparatus in the north and east "largely intact". Already cited on /primary-evidence. - HRW World Report 2026 — Sri Lanka — police and intelligence "monitor and intimidate" HRDs and civil society. - CPJ Sri Lanka killed-journalists database — primary kill-record since 1992. <<https://cpj.org/asia/sri-lanka/> - UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists — UN registry, SDG 16.10.1 indicator. <<https://www.unesco.org/en/safety-journalists/observatory> - RSF World Press Freedom Index — annual; Sri Lanka in bottom third since 2009. <<https://rsf.org/en/index> - OHCHR OISL 2015 (A/HRC/30/CRP.2) — targeting of journalists during and after the war. - UN Panel of Experts on Sri Lanka 2011 (Darusman) — media suppression in final stages. - Article 19 — Sri Lanka analyses of Online Safety Act 2024 and Anti-Terrorism Bill. <<https://www.article19.org/> - Freedom House Transna

03 · Section I · structural record

- FCDO. Publicly back UNESCO SDG 16.10.1 monitoring of Sri Lanka, and raise the Online Safety Act 2024 and the Anti-Terrorism Bill at the next UN Human Rights Council session. - FCDO. Use the Media Freedom Coalition (UK + Canada co-chair) to keep Sri Lankan press freedom on the standing agenda. - FCDO. Publish UK Global Human Rights Sanctions (UK Magnitsky regime) consideration of named state actors where credentialed UN or CPJ casework has documented attacks on journalists. - UK MPs. Mark World Press Freedom Day (3 May) and 2 November with a Hansard-recorded statement citing CPJ / RSF / OHCHR. - UK MPs. Table written PQs on FCDO assessment of journalist safety in

the Northern and Eastern Provinces. - Home Office. Reflect the press-freedom record in CPIN updates relevant to journalist asylum claims from Sri Lanka.

04 · Section II · current operational picture

- "What recent assessment has the Government made of press freedom in Sri Lanka, with reference to the Reporters Without Borders World Press Freedom Index?" — FCDO, written. - "What representations has the Government made to Sri Lanka on the human rights implications of the Online Safety Act 2024 and the Anti-Terrorism Bill?" — FCDO, written. - "What discussions has the Government had within the Media Freedom Coalition on Sri Lanka?" — FCDO, oral. - "What assessment has the Government made of the impunity rate for crimes against journalists in Sri Lanka, with reference to the UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists?" — FCDO, written. - "What consideration has the Government given to designations under the Global Human Rights Sanctions Regulations 2020 in respect of attacks on journalists in Sri Lanka?" — FCDO, written. - "What guidance does the Government give to UK-based diaspora jour

05 · Section III · comparative frame

- Never name a living at-risk journalist. Use outlet and credentialed-body language only. - Never name a perpetrator. Cite CPJ, OHCHR, UN HRC, UN WGEID, ICJ verbatim. - Never aggregate killed-journalist totals. Cite CPJ / UNESCO Observatory verbatim with date and URL. - Pair every Tamil journalist reference with the broader Sri Lankan press-freedom record (Sinhala-language and English-language journalists have also been killed, intimidated and exiled — Tier-A sources document this). - UK Lobbying Act 2014 transparency note shown on the pack's first screen. - UK Terrorism Act 2000 §12 — any historical LTTE-period reference is limited to Tier-A historical record framed as history.

06 · Conclusions · policy implications

This section is set out in the live source. The institutional shape is preserved here so a reader scanning for the canonical block knows where it sits; the evidence chain is on the archive page cited on the cover.

07 · Recommendations

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08 · Footnotes

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