



## **Resolution Date: 22/10/2014**

### **Resolution Title: Tamil Solidarity**

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This trade union branch agrees to affiliate to the Tamil Solidarity campaign.

Regarding the Tamils in Sri Lanka, we note:

- Many reports – by the UN, Channel 4, human rights organisations, etc – have highlighted the slaughter of tens of thousands of Tamil civilians by Sri Lankan armed forces in 2009.
- Hundreds of thousands were then held in open prison camps, thousands were 'disappeared'.
- Tamil women have been subjected to systematic rape and sexual violence by Sri Lankan armed forces.
- No one from the Sri Lankan government or armed forces has been held accountable for these well-documented war crimes and human rights abuses.
- Predominantly Tamil land in the north and east is now under military occupation.

On the general situation in Sri Lanka, we note:

- A general clampdown on democratic rights throughout Sri Lanka, including the arrest and intimidation of journalists, trade union and political activists, and human rights campaigners.
- The open operation of violent nationalist groups to threaten and attack minorities.
- 'Free economic zones' are being opened up, allowing overseas multinationals to further exploit sweatshop labour.
- The driving through of privatisation, job losses and cut-backs in public services, such as health and education, hitting working people and the poor hardest.

Regarding the Tamil Solidarity campaign, we note:

- Since 2009 Tamil Solidarity has campaigned tirelessly to raise awareness of the situation facing the Tamils in Sri Lanka.
- Tamil Solidarity is a non-sectarian campaign taking up the rights of workers and all oppressed people in Sri Lanka, regardless of their ethnic or religious background.
- Tamil Solidarity has launched a 'join a union' initiative to encourage workers from the Tamil community to get involved in the trade union movement in Britain.



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We call for an independent war crimes investigation; the withdrawal of troops from Tamil areas; an end to detention without trial; to stop arms sales to Sri Lanka; for democratic rights for all; support for independent trade unions; to defend the right of Tamil self-determination.

Tamil Solidarity asks for a minimum annual affiliation of £50 per branch (or similar sized body), £100-150 per district/region/group, and £250 per national union body.

Please make cheques out to Tamil Solidarity, sent to the above address. Direct BACS payments can also be made: email [info@tamilsolidarity.org](mailto:info@tamilsolidarity.org) for bank details.

Affiliates receive a monthly National Coordinating Committee report, notification of events, and other information as required. News can be found on our website: [www.tamilsolidarity.org](http://www.tamilsolidarity.org)

We welcome questions/suggestions and wish to deepen our work with the trade union movement.

We can provide speakers to meetings and events