



UN Resolutions: Sri Lanka QSD on 5 February 2019

This briefing identifies relevant reports and useful documents, including recent parliamentary materials and press articles, which may be of assistance to Members in preparing for the following debate:

Lord Naseby to ask Her Majesty's Government following the resignation of the government of the United States from the United Nations Human Rights Council where they co-sponsored with the United Kingdom the Resolution 30/1 in 2015 and Resolution 34/1 in 2017, and given the progress made towards many aspects highlighted in the resolutions, what assessment they have made of whether to annul or withdraw those resolutions.

Copies of the materials are available for collection from the Library.

Key Information

- United Nations Human Rights Council, [Resolution 30/1: Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka](#), 14 October 2015; and [Resolution 34/1: Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka](#), 3 April 2017

Resolution adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council which outlines a process for the promotion of reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka, with a further resolution which reaffirms 30/1 and outlines developments made since.

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office, '[Boris Johnson: US Human Rights Council Withdrawal Regrettable](#)', 19 June 2018; House of Commons, '[Written Question: Sri Lanka: Human Rights](#)', 23 October 2018, 179260; and House of Commons, '[Written Question: Sri Lanka: Human Rights](#)', 14 January 2019, 205365

Comments by former Foreign Secretary, Boris Johnson, on the US' withdrawal from the Human Rights Council. Additionally, questions focusing on what actions the Government is taking to assist the implementation of resolutions 30/1 and 34/1 are included, with responses from Mark Field, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

- Foreign and Commonwealth Office, '[Mark Field: Why Does Reconciliation in Sri Lanka Matter to the UK?](#)', 4 October 2018; and '[Family Resettlement and Peacebuilding in Sri Lanka Boosted by £1 million](#)', 14 August 2018

Article by Mark Field published in preparation for a trip to Sri Lanka focusing on issues which have affected the country since the end of the conflict, including: returning private land in the North; Prevention of Terrorism Act; and reform of the constitution. Also included is a press release announcing £1 million of funding to provide infrastructure and services for those returning to villages in the north and east of the country.

- United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, [Promoting Reconciliation, Accountability and Human Rights in Sri Lanka](#), 25 January 2018; and Foreign and Commonwealth Office, [Human Rights and Democracy: The 2017 Foreign and Commonwealth Office Report](#), 16 July 2018, Cm 9644, pp 51–2

Report on the progress made in the implementation of resolution 30/11 during the period March 2017 to January 2018, with a particular focus on transitional justice measures and general human rights. In addition, a further report focusing on human rights developments in 2017 and actions taken by the FCO.

Parliamentary Debate, Statements and Questions

- A selection of written questions from the House of Commons: [196709](#) (5 December 2018); [196706](#) (5 December 2018); [186260](#) (5 November 2018); [177742](#) (15 October 2018); and [172516](#) (13 September 2018).

Press Articles and Comment

- Jeffrey Feltham, '[Sri Lanka: An Urgent Case for Conflict Prevention](#)', Brookings, 31 October 2018
- Mario Arulthas, '[The Failed Promise of Reconciliation in Sri Lanka](#)', The Diplomat, 11 October 2018
- Michael Safi, '[More Than 100 Human Skeletons Found in Mass Grave in Sri Lanka](#)', *Guardian*, 28 August 2018
- Patrick Wintour, '[Sri Lankan Reform Has 'Ground to a Halt' with Torture Used Freely—UN](#)', *Guardian*, 23 July 2018
- BBC News, '[US Quits 'Biased' UN Human Rights Council](#)', 20 June 2018

Further Information

- Human Rights Watch, '[Sri Lanka: Events of 2018](#)', accessed 28 January 2019
- Sri Lankan Prime Minister's Office, [Sri Lanka: National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights](#), 2017–2021
- House of Lords Library, [Progress on Reconciliation in Sri Lanka](#), 4 October 2017

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