

Importance of Diaspora towards Sustainable Social Integration: A Case Study on Canadian Tamils of Sri Lankan Origin

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Sri Lanka is now at a point that needs to look at meaningful efforts towards post-conflict peace building. It is the present government's objective to bridge the North and the South through brotherhood. The term North-South should not be understood only geographically, but also in terms of the relationship between Sinhalese and Tamils around the world. Looking at the avenues of how to address the concerns of the Tamil diaspora is therefore a priority for reconciliation. Following the outbreak of violent conflict between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Sri Lankan state in 1983, many Tamils chose to leave Sri Lanka for their safety. As a result, Canada became a destination a great number of Sri Lankan Tamils. Therefore, this research mainly attempts to respond to the research question related to why Sri Lanka should understand the importance of addressing the Tamil diaspora of Sri Lankan origin for the integration process. The objective of the research was to understand the gravity of the presence of Tamil diaspora of Sri Lankan origin as a community in Canada. The hypothesis that drove the research was that Canadian Tamils of Sri Lankan origin do not hold the refugee status anymore and have a strong community whose voice is heard in Canada, having a potential level of making an impact on Sri Lanka. The authors based the study mainly on secondary and qualitative data. In analyzing the collected data, the authors found that the Tamil diaspora of Sri Lankan origin is no longer a burden to Canada as refugees. They are Canadian citizens who are capable of supporting the Canadian economy, society, and even influence the Canadian political order due to their financial, political, social, and cultural ability.

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