

## “Sri Lanka in the Commonwealth: Future Challenges and Prospects”

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Commonwealth organization contains the countries, which obtained independence from their former colonial ruler British Emperor. The main objective of establishing of Commonwealth organization is freely co-operating in the pursuit of peace, liberty and progress. Over last decades Commonwealth Nations developed Principles of the London Declaration to move forward in decolonization and post-cold war era. In 2005, Commonwealth adopts the Declaration on Strengthening Co-operation in International Humanitarian Law to strengthen up the organization structure and core values of Commonwealth Nations. Ceylon became a part of the Commonwealth of Nations since 1948.

In 2009 Sri Lanka submitted nomination to host Commonwealth Head of Government 2013 (CHOGM) meeting under President His Excellency Mahinda Rajapaksha to ensure Sri Lankan commitment to protect international and commonwealth values. CHOGM was very significant to Sri Lankan Government to open up post war development and peace situation to international community. At the same time western countries and non-state actors (NSA) claimed Sri Lankan Government committed war crimes and ethnic genocide during the Northern and Eastern humanitarian missions and requested to conduct international independence investigation to bring justice for victims and their families.

The main objective of this paper is to evaluate Sri Lanka Commonwealth relations under the President Mahinda Rajapaksha era. Moreover, this paper will highlight contemporary issues between Sri Lanka and Commonwealth values, principles, future challenges and perspectives. Through that knowledge of interdependency with State actors as well as recognition of their co-inherent right to influence on state system could also be gained. More confidential primary sources such as Government Press Release, Speech made by authorities are highly useful to examine this context. Secondary sources such as newspaper & Journal articles will be referred to understand the context and address the research issues properly. Both primary and secondary sources will be referred to address the future challenges and perspective.

**KEYWORDS:** COMMONWEALTH, DEMOCRACY, FOREIGN POLICY, HUMAN RIGHT, STATE ACTORS

