

## Welcome to 2021.

*What it means for Tamil American Advocacy*



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Dear <<First Name>>,

We hope the new year will be a great one for you! Thank you thus far for your continued support of USTAG's work and mission. It is with your valuable support that we are able to continue our advocacy into the new year. We are making preparations to work with the new administration and influence the course of the upcoming UNHRC session. We believe our efforts for justice, accountability, and peace in Sri Lanka will strengthen in 2021. To help with the work we continue to do for our brothers and sisters in the homeland, please consider [donating today](#) to help us start our year right.

**Donate Now**

**Here is what we have been doing this month to make a difference.**

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## December Accomplishments:

Our advocacy focus this month has been refugee resettlement, communicating issues in Sri Lanka via a core group letter for the UNHRC, and hosting events to keep our members in the loop regarding our work.

## Refugee Resettlement Fundraising Efforts

This year, we raised funds to help resettle refugee families returning to Sri Lanka from India under the auspices of the UNHRC. As a required incentive, a cash disbursement of LKR 50,000 per month is needed per family for 6 months. We are planning to shoulder the responsibility of 50 families, which will cost ~\$80,000. On Giving Tuesday this year, November 30th, we started Phase I of our fundraising efforts. We continue to invite your generous donations at this time of need. All contributions can be tax-deductible.

[Donate to our Refugee Resettlement Fundraiser](#)

## UNHRC Core Group Letter

The core group letter urges for a new, stronger resolution calling on Sri Lanka to fulfill its obligations or face the consequences. The letter has received widespread support from elected Tamil representatives from home, diaspora organizations and civil groups. USTAG is happy to endorse the letter and is working with other groups gather further support. It is the time for Tamils around the world and in the homeland to unite and request IC to deliver overdue Justice to the victims. Justice delayed is Justice denied.



## December 19: Annual General Meeting

Every year, we conduct an Annual General Meeting (AGM) with our members to discuss and vote on key issues. This year, we looked at the situation in Sri Lanka, our advocacy efforts, the challenges we faced, and action items we could pursue to make our efforts more effective going forward. Many speakers at the meeting gave summaries of our past events and their effectiveness. We

voted on key issues such as the organization's new constitution and bylaws. We also addressed questions from our members. For a full summary of the meeting- including its agenda, action items, and speeches, please click on the PDF link below.

### Meeting Notes PDF

## Presentation at Tamil Sangam Event 2020

For the Ilankai Tamil Sangam Virtual Annual Event this year, we presented about the ongoing state of war against Tamils in Sri Lanka and introduced ways to bring awareness to the situation and become a better advocate at the end of our presentation.



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## Continued Projects

### Congressional Advocacy Internship

The USTAG strongly values the involvement of young people in our cause. For this reason, we work every week with young people across the country on Zoom and help them become better advocates for justice and peace for Tamils in Sri Lanka. We are always welcoming passionate, young individuals to join us in our mission. **If you know a young person who is passionate about justice and human rights, please consider sharing [this flyer](#) with them or email [outreach@theustag.org](mailto:outreach@theustag.org) for more details.**

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## Announcements

## Change of Bylaws and Constitution approved for the Upcoming Fiscal Year

Our Bylaws Committee presented a final version approved by the GC at the December 19th AGM meeting to assure our organization operates more effectively. These updates were accepted during our Dec. 19 AGM. If you have any questions, please email [info@theustag.org](mailto:info@theustag.org) for more information.



### USTAG's 6th Election

USTAG will elect a maximum of 35 members to form the GC to serve for a period of two calendar years for the 6th time. The election for the GC will be conducted every two years through electronic means. The guidelines for the election stated in the USTPAC bylaws will be followed. We look forward to working with our future Governing Council!

### REMINDER: PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!

If you have not done so already, please stay current with your involvement with USTAG by paying your dues this year. You must be fully paid to participate in the upcoming election and to be a member of the Governing Council. Being a member is the best way you can continue to stay in the loop on what's happening in the United States on Eelam Tamil issues and the best way to serve the Tamil people from here in the US. Remember to pay your dues before the year is over through our [website](#).

To renew your membership, please click [here](#).

To start a new membership, please click [here](#).

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## Show your Support for Tamils in Sri Lanka

To continue doing the valuable work we do, we need support from people like you now more than ever. YOU can deliver hope not only to our cause but also directly to Tamils in Sri Lanka by supporting our work.

## Donate Now

### Join Us Today

### Visit our Website for More Information



Be sure to add [outreach@theustag.org](mailto:outreach@theustag.org) to your email contacts list for our newest updates!  
Doing this protects against overzealous spam filters.

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