



# Tamil Information Centre

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Committed to Human Rights and Community Development

**Saverimuthu Stanislaus: An Appreciation**  
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## **The death of a dedicated worker and a good friend**

We are greatly saddened by the death today of Saverimuthu Stanislaus, the Chair of the South London Tamil Welfare Group. The passing away of Mr Stanislaus has deprived the Tamils of a person dedicated to the cause of the refugees and the welfare of the Tamil community in Britain. Despite poor health for several years, he continued to champion the cause of the refugees, even travelling abroad to attend important meetings.

Mr Stanislaus was closely involved with the Tamil Information Centre for a considerable period of time on a range of issues, including campaigns to change policies and practices that denied protection to Tamil asylum seekers and refugees. His knowledge of asylum issues helped the TIC in its campaigns and lobby for better rights.

His long experience and talents were recognized and he was elected as a Trustee of the Refugee Council. As Trustee of the Refugee Council he was able to bring into prominence the Sri Lankan ethnic conflict and the plight of Tamil refugees and encourage the continuation of the special project on Sri Lanka publicizing the human rights violations against the Tamils. He worked closely with the British Home Office and served as a member of the Home Office User Panel. He also served in the advisory panel of the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC), an independent public body responsible for ensuring that all immigration advisers fulfill the requirements of good practice. He participated in the Home Office National Asylum Support Forum as a stakeholder. In these positions, Mr Stanislaus was able to influence policy decisions on asylum and immigration. He continually participated in meetings of community organizations with the Home Office and on many occasions was instrumental in arranging these encounters to enable the community take up issues of concern.

Mr Stanislaus initiated the establishment of the South London Tamil Welfare Group (SLTWG) and served as its chairman for a long time, working closely with the Merton Borough Council, particularly in integration projects. Under his leadership, the SLTWG served the community in London, especially the Tamil asylum seekers, offering advice and assistance on issues such as welfare benefits, housing and education. SLTWG also provides employment training, elderly and youth services and promotes social and cultural activities.

The long-standing dedicated work of Mr Stanislaus was recognized in Britain and his name was included in the New Year honours list in 2003 and was awarded an MBE for services to asylum seekers and refugees.

The TIC hopes that his commitment would remain an example to all and that his work would be carried on by others. The TIC extends its deepest sympathy to the family.

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