



1977

2024

47 Years of Service

President's Annual Report

Dear SCOT member,

SCOT as some of you know was founded in 1977, following the aftermath of 1977 riots in Sri Lanka. SCOT has completed 47 years serving the underprivileged Tamil Speaking people of Sri Lanka as non-political organisation, we are going to have the 48th Annual General Meeting in November 2024.

Since the last AGM we have had General Council (G.C.) meetings every other month of the year. In addition, on alternative months we aim to have Projects subcommittee meetings where new applications are presented to this subcommittee by the Project Officer to analyse these applications and consider recommending to the G.C. for approval for funding. Close to the fund-raising events like the annual Charity Dance and the Tamil New Year Lunch and lecture, we also have SCOT Event subcommittee meetings. To improve communication between GC members we have formed a SCOT GC WhatsApp group where only SCOT matters are discussed. For many years we also have a WhatsApp group which is open for all GC members to join and contribute.

Following COVID 19 we have our committee meetings mostly virtually. This has substantially reduced the laborious travelling around by the G.C. members to the SCOT committee meetings. We have Tamil/Sinhala New Year celebrations and in the Charity Dance 'face- to- face'. In addition G.C. members have started meeting with our spouses in one of the G.C members home over a meal, at our own expense as part of a Team Building day.

SCOT focuses our charity activities on what we call our 3 Es objectives. They are the Education, Employment and Empowerment of our underprivileged Tamil speaking people in Sri Lanka. Most of our charity activities are in the North, East and Hill Country because these are the areas that were economically and infrastructurally underdeveloped due to the ethnic discrimination and decades of ethnic war. When natural disasters strike we provide emergency funding too.

At present our main educational projects are supporting the children in 3 orphanages in Batticaloa with extra tuition after school hours. In Trincomalee district in Eechalampattu village, we provide extra tuition after school to 5th grade, O/L and A/L students. Each of these projects cost £1000 or more to SCOT annually, but we are pleased to note the progress in the grades received by children in these national examinations and we are happy to report the number children entering universities have increased. This year we have supported pre-school education diploma courses in the Vavuniya university, and we are monitoring progress. Employment projects we support are well monitored via the Sri Lankan NGOs/charities we work in partnership with. SCOT is keen on supporting employment projects that are self-sustainable after one cash funding. Mostly funding is given in stages following the recipient bodies submitting reports of their progress.

Fortunately, the present Sri Lankan Government is moving towards equity among people of different ethnic, religious and regional identities and SCOT welcomes such progressive thinking in Sri Lanka. Most of us in the U.K. are blessed to escape alive the ethnic war and have established ourselves economically. The enjoyment that one receives while helping the suffering poor is something that money cannot buy. Billionaire philanthropists like Bill Gate and others have attested to that. They have said compared to acquiring things they wanted to have, helping the poor brings them the greatest satisfaction and enjoyment. I know that SCOT members do charity through different channels. I only request you to ask yourself whether you can afford to donate more when charities have fund raising activities. Encourage your children to visit our website (<https://www.scotuk.org/>), ask them to find out about the charity activities that we do and consider becoming members of SCOT. Membership fee is only £5 a month or £60 a year and the membership form can be downloaded from SCOT website.

AGM for this year will be held at the Sri Lankan Restaurant “Virundhu” (address 113 Field End Rd, Eastcote, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1QG), on Sunday 24th November 2024. We take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and look forward to seeing you in-person at this AGM.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Bala Anton Canagasabey

SCOT-President