

Full Text of Motion

November 2011. ONGOING SITUATION IN SRI LANKA

Whereas the Tamil people have historically inhabited the North-Eastern parts of the island of Sri Lanka as their traditional homeland; and

Whereas the Tamil people are distinguished from other groups living in the island by their unique language, culture, religion, traditions and history; and

Whereas the Tamil nation has been historically marginalized in language, education, and citizenship and suffered state sponsored pogroms; and

Whereas the UN Secretary General appointed Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka produced a report indicating war crimes and crimes against humanity were committed during the final stages of the war; and

Whereas the Report of the Secretary-Generals Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka found credible allegations of indiscriminate killing of civilians, extrajudicial killings of political prisoners, and the systematic bombings of hospitals were committed by the Sri Lankan Government and Armed Forces during the final stages of the war; and

Whereas despite compelling evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity, the Sri Lankan government outright dismisses the analysis of the UN Special Rapporteur and the Report of the Secretary-Generals Panel of Experts on Accountability in Sri Lanka; and

Whereas the United Kingdom based Channel 4 News broadcasted a groundbreaking documentary entitled "Sri Lanka's Killing Fields" which features devastating and unprecedented video evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity during Sri Lanka's civil war; and

Whereas certain footage from the documentary has been authenticated by the UN and has been declared as evidence of definitive war crimes by the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings; and

Whereas despite the Government of Sri Lanka declaring a return to normalcy there continues to be a denial of political and civil rights for the Tamil people, the Tamil people continue to endure violent persecution, media restrictions, the Sri Lankan military occupation of the North-East, ethnic cleansing and colonialism, forced detention and slow progress in resettlement of Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPS); and

Whereas the York federation of Students has stood in solidarity and consistently supported the Tamil community's call for justice, fairness, and human rights while

being a strong voice for peace on the global stage.

Be It Resolved that the York Federation of Students shall endorse the international call to immediately establish an independent, international, and impartial mechanism to ensure truth, accountability and justice in Sri Lanka; and

Be It Further Resolved that the York Federation of Students encourages its members to pressure the Federal Government to unequivocally call for an international war crimes inquiry to establish accountability and true reconciliation; and

Be It Further Resolved that the York Federation of Students encourages its members to stand in solidarity with the Tamil nation in their global struggle for self-determination and freedom; and

Be It Further Resolved that the York Federation of Students calls for an immediate end to the colonialism and genocide of the Tamil nation and an end to the occupation of the Tamil homeland by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces and its allied paramilitary groups.