

40 Years of Service

Standing Committee of Tamil Speaking People (S C O T) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of SCOT will be held on Sunday 18th November 2018 commencing at 9.30 am, at The Royal British Legion Poppy Factory Premises, Petersham Road, Richmond, TW10 6UR.

The following documents are enclosed for your careful perusal prior to the meeting:

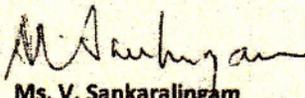
- Annual Report 2017/2018
- Statement of Audited Accounts 2017/2018
- Projects officer's Report 2017/2018
- Minutes of the AGM held on 19th November 2017
- Sample of Nomination forms for the election of Office Bearers for 2018/2019

****Please note that the completed nomination forms should reach the secretary by 16th November 2018.**

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Registration and Apologies
2. Adoption of the Minutes of AGM held on 19.11.2017
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Adoption of Statement of Audited Accounts
5. President's Address
6. Election of General Council Members 2018/2019, including the appointment of Honorary Auditor
7. Any Other Business. (The matters to be discussed should be notified to the secretary by 11th November 2018)

Thanking You


Ms. V. Sankaralingam

President	Secretary	Treasurer	Projects Officer
Dr E Velauthapillai Brindhavan 4 Harrington Close Gedling, Nottingham NG4 2QZ Tel. 01159613908	Ms V Sankaralingam 106 Adelaide Road West Ealing London W13 9EB Tel. 020 8579 7988	Mr A.B Alphonsus 34 Davenham Avenue Northwood Middlesex HA6 3HQ Tel. 01923 826019	Mr M Rudran 64 The Avenue Hatch End Middlesex HA5 4TT Tel. 0203 742 6184



Standing Committee of Tamil Speaking People President's Annual Report 2017 – 18

The primary object of SCOT is relief of poverty and social upliftment of Tamil Speaking People. SCOT has worked and continues to work diligently over the years in furtherance of this objective. In this regard, during this review period the General Council has continued to be in regular contact with our beneficiary organisations and others in the North and East of Sri Lanka to establish changing needs and priorities of the disadvantaged communities there. More about this regular contact later in this Report.

SCOT completed forty years of existence at the end of 2017. A fitting celebration of the 40th Anniversary is planned for 20th October 2018 in combination with our Annual Christmas Dinner Dance. Forty years of existence is a significant achievement for any organisation. But in SCOT's case, to continue to this day strictly along the lines and ideals selected by our founding fathers is truly remarkable. These achievements by SCOT over the years were made possible by the dedicated and selfless services rendered by our Past Presidents, Officers and Members of General Councils and SCOT Members during the last four decades. We owe a genuine debt of gratitude to them, particularly to our Past Presidents, for their leadership, prudent counsel and spirit of friendship always, in managing the affairs of SCOT. We do recognise that the policies and procedures initiated and implemented by them have largely stood the test of time and have guided our organisation to this day. We acknowledge with pride and gratitude the contributions and achievements of each and every one of them for SCOT.

In this context, it would be appropriate to review briefly some of the prominent ongoing projects of SCOT in recent years. **SCOT Kathiresan Memorial Scholarship programme** to help able and needy G C E (A level) students in the Eastern province is going strong. It has been going on from 2009, for nearly ten years and is achieving remarkable results. **SCOT Gold Medal** of Jaffna University Medical Faculty, awarded to the best student who scores the highest marks in the clinical component of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at the Final Examination for Medical Degrees was established in 2011 and is in perpetuity. The JU Medical Faculty informs SCOT General Council of the name of the recipient each year when the SCOT Gold Medal is awarded and sends us a copy of the Convocation Handbook. The **SCOT Model Farm Project** to disseminate information and knowledge of modern methods and techniques in Farming, particularly in drip-irrigation, to peasant farmers to help them increase their yield and productivity has been going on for about five years and results achieved to date are encouraging. The Model Farm is in the Vanni and is operated in co-operation with Jaffna University Faculty of Agriculture, the local office of the government Irrigation Department and others. This project has been promoted and operated on behalf of SCOT by Mr V Paramanathan, a General Council member of many years standing.

Now, about our regular contact with people and organisations in the North and East referred to at the beginning of this Report. You all are well aware that SCOT funding policy has always been in keeping with the needs and priorities of the community in the North and East. SCOT has always endeavoured to apply its available resources to where the need is..

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President's Annual Report 2017 – 18 contd.

greatest, and on the basis of sound value for money. I am very happy to say that we continue to do so; following extensive investigations and consultations, we concluded recently that lack of proper competence in English language is a major handicap suffered by the youth in the North and East. This handicap denies good opportunities in employment not only to the school leavers among them, but even those who proceed to higher education at universities find it difficult to keep abreast of developments abroad in their chosen subjects by use of the internet. The underlying cause has been identified as due to lack of properly trained and qualified English teachers at a significant number of secondary schools in the North and East. In order to remedy this, SCOT has with the co-operation of other organisations, embarked on a **programme to fund training of such teachers**. When the results of the first batch of these trainees are analysed shortly, it is hoped the programme will be amended, adjusted and expanded to achieve maximum value. In order to help raise funds specifically for this programme, Dr S Navaratnam organised a Musical Concert in South West London in August this year. The General Council and I do appreciate this initiative by Dr Navaratnam and thank him and all SCOT and General Council members who helped and supported him.

But of course, attention to our core activities has continued without disruption during the review period. Financial assistance to Orphanages, Children's Homes, healthcare initiatives including medical camps and widows' income generation activities are examples of continuing care by SCOT to the disadvantaged in the North and East. As it is evident in the Statement of Audited Accounts enclosed with this Report, total income generated by SCOT during the current year is approximately £37,000 and our expenditure on funding various projects is approximately £21,000 during the same period.

The General Council and I acknowledge with thanks the generosity of our members and the local community. We warmly invite many more members of the community who subscribe to our aspirations and our charitable objectives to join SCOT. We hope you too will encourage your friends, family and children to join SCOT and help ensure that our work continues. Our effectiveness as a community organisation is vastly enhanced the more members we have, both directly and indirectly. We are constantly on the lookout for members to join the General Council too and help actively in our work. Being a General Council member is both challenging and rewarding. Surely you can do more for our people. You could take an active part in the activities of SCOT. Your General Council meets about six times a year and spends time discussing a number of matters including funding of projects or planning fundraising events. Your involvement will be valued for the new ideas you bring and will help us do more for our hapless brethren in the North and East.

On a personal note, I like to state here that my term as SCOT President will end at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. It has been a great privilege for me to serve SCOT over the years in various capacities and I thank all members for giving me these opportunities. I am particularly indebted to the officers and members of the General Councils over the last two years for their help, support, and prudent counsel to me and I thank them all most sincerely.

Finally, the Annual General Meeting is the occasion for our members to attend, to join in discussions, share their views and ask questions about our work. I hope many members will join us at this meeting this year on Sunday 18th November at 9.30 am at the Royal British Legion Poppy Factory, 20 Petersham Road, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6UR.

Dr E Velauthapillai
President, SCOT

24 September 2018

Standing Committee of Tamil Speaking People (SCOT)

Project Officer's Report 2017 - 18

We are grateful to our dear members, donors, advertisers and patrons for helping us support our fellow Tamils, "udan pirava sahothararkal", in hardship.

The situation for the Tamil speaking people in the North, East and the Malayalam still remains dire. Educationally, economically and socially there has not been any significant change. For example, percentages of people below the poverty line are largest in Tamil areas; 1% and 3% in Colombo and Galle compared to a staggering 18%, 13%, 11%, 10% and 8% in Killinochi, Mullaitivu, Batticaloa, Trinco and Jaffna respectively.

A comprehensive list of projects funded by SCOT in 2017/8 is the Treasurer's report.

It is important to harness all our limited resources, have a structured approach and focus on the issues that will make a difference. The strategy of SCOT going forward is to:

- prioritise Education, Employment and following on from there Empowerment, and
- pool resources by working with other organisations in the UK and abroad.

The first of our game-changing joint projects is to train 20 English teacher trainers by British council and using them to train 720 English teachers, in conjunction with EDFSL: provision of support to formulate the project and set up monitoring guidelines.

We have short-listed other projects in fisheries, IT, Co-operatives and retail. An example of such a project in fisheries includes working with another charity to resettle thousands of fisher folk back in their own lands following displacement by military occupation. North & East supplied 80% of the sea food in Sri Lanka until the early 80s. Several thousand fisher-folk families have been displaced since then, losing employment opportunities in fishing, associated work and above all their lands. This project will have a lasting impact on our people and rebuild traditional communities.

We need your help to execute the above strategy, help monitor projects, bring organisations together and to help access institutional funds. Please join us to make a lasting difference to our people.

Raj Rudran
Project Officer / Trustee
October 2018.

STANDING COMMITTEE OF TAMIL SPEAKING PEOPLE

GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS NOMINATION FORM 2018 /2019

Position:

Name of Member:

Address:

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Postcode:

Telephone No:

E-mail:

Signature:

Proposed by:

Address:

Signature:

Seconded by:

Address:

Signature:

Please note that the completed nomination forms should reach the Secretary by 11th November 2018

For SCOT use only

Date received:

Signature:

The candidate, proposer and seconder should be fully paid up members on 30 September, 2018