

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE 2016

SCOT was formed in September 1977 as an umbrella organisation of Tamil associations that existed in the UK at that time, with the primary objective of ensuring poverty alleviation and social uplifting of Tamils in Sri Lanka. This was subsequently extended to give humanitarian assistance to Tamils affected in ethnic violence, natural disasters and other circumstances, and who are often left neglected.

In furtherance of its primary objective, and in addition thereto, SCOT has endeavoured to

- provide or improve educational opportunities for poor children,
- support housing the homeless and rehabilitating displaced people,
- create economic advancement by financial assistance to self-employment projects.

This service to Tamils in Sri Lanka was discharged despite the hostile environment.

The funding policy of the association has always been to keep with the needs and priorities of Tamils in Sri Lanka and working with non-governmental organisations close to these communities, in order to bring relief to the affected people of these areas. Procedures were set up and followed in maintaining standards in all aspects of transparency and accountability to the satisfaction of members and public.

Action was taken by investigation and assessment of applications for assistance, to ensure that funds allocated reached only deserving causes and they were properly utilised by these recipients. Pragmatic and prudent

STANDING COMMITTEE OF TAMIL SPEAKING PEOPLE

management of projects were carried out by receiving feedback from beneficiaries in relation to progress. The strong financial standing of SCOT enabled it to meet the demands.

SCOT has been strictly non-political, but has successfully accommodated all views and survived over the years. In addition to the pioneering humanitarian service to Tamils in Sri Lanka, SCOT has also always taken up issues relating to Human Rights affecting Tamils in Sri Lanka. Due to the firm stand taken to keep politics out, SCOT has been able to champion the cause of Tamils without being stigmatised.

The policies and procedures formulated and implemented from the beginning have stood the test of time, not only guiding the organisation to the present stage, but also maintaining its integrity. During the entire period of its existence, the organisation has pursued its objectives with vigorous commitment to the cause and rigorous compliance of the policy guidelines enshrined in the constitution.

**Dr. Gnana Sankaralingam
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