

## WGHR Welcomes India's Vote on Sri Lanka Resolution at the UN Human Rights Council

The Working Group on Human Rights New Delhi welcomes India's support for the Sri Lanka resolution at the UN Human Rights Council. The decision to call on Sri Lanka to account for egregious violations during the last days of its long civil conflict indicates a significant departure from India's traditional stances.

India's vote in favour of the Sri Lanka resolution at the UN Human Rights Council is a significant and welcome departure. Such a move indicates that India is recognising its role and responsibility in the international community regarding the need for human rights accountability wherever human rights violations occur.

India's willingness to uphold the need for human rights accountability wherever human rights violations occur, despite regional sensitivities, sets it apart and is commensurate with India's growing stature in the international community. It signifies a bold new readiness to assume the responsibility that comes with being a leader in the region.

The vote on this resolution was a test of credibility, in front of the international community, for India on whether it stood for human rights, justice and accountability. Having passed this stern test India is now well placed to play the intermediary role between the supportive actions of the international community demanding accountability and a positive Sri Lankan response to these demands.

India's moral stance in favour of human rights should not be considered 'against' the government of Sri Lanka but rather be viewed as a further step in its assistance to that country aimed at cementing peace and assuring justice to all those scarred by the recent conflict.

WGHR welcomes India's vote in favour of the resolution and hopes that the monitoring by the international community will bring justice for the embattled people of Sri Lanka.

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