

TWAN

ANNUAL REPORT-1994



TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NEWHAM) U.K.
தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கம் (நியூஹாம்) யூ.கே

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யுவ வநு வாழ்த்துக்கள்

தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கம் (நியூஹாம்) ஐ.ரா.
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தலைவர் உரை

என் இனிய தமிழ் பேசும் மக்களுக்கு!

மலரும் 'யுவ' வருடம் நறுமணம் பரப்பி, நம்மவர் வாழ்விலும் புத்தொளி ஏற்ற வேண்டுமென இறைவனை வேண்டி வாழ்த்துகின்றேன்.

கடந்த ஒன்பது வருடங்களாக ஒவ்வொரு வருடமும், எமது சித்திரைப் புதுவருடப் பிறப்பினையொட்டித் தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கத்தினரால் கலை இரவு நடாத்தப்படுவது வழக்கம். இம்முறையும் இக்கலை இரவு 29.04.95 அன்று நடைபெறுவதை இட்டுப் பெருமகிழ்ச்சி அடைகிறேன்.

தாய்நாட்டை விட்டு அந்நிய நாடொன்றில் வாழ்ந்துகொண்டு தம் மக்களது தேவைகளைத் திறம்படச் செய்துகொண்டும், தமது கலை, கலாசாரத்தை மறவாது மனத்திருத்தி, அதற்காகக் கலாசார விழாவினை நடாத்தி வருவதும், எல்லோராலும் போற்றிப் பாராட்டவேண்டிய விடையமாகும்.

ஒரு சங்கத்தினை உருவாக்கி அதனை நிர்வகிப்பது என்பது சுலபமான விடயமல்ல. சங்கத்தின் வளர்ச்சிக்கு நிதிதான் முக்கிய காரணி. எமது சங்கத்திற்குக் கிடைக்கும் மானிய உதவிகள் மிகக் குறைவு. இருப்பினும் கிடைக்கும் உதவியுடன், உன்னத சேவையை எம் மக்களுக்கு செய்வதில் பெருமையடைகிறோம்.

கடந்த ஆவணி மாதம் முதல், எமது சங்கமானது ஒரு பதிவு செய்யப்பட்ட *Company Limited* ஆக இயங்குகிறது. இதன் வளர்ச்சி மேன்மேலும் வளர்ந்து நல்ல முறையில் நம் மக்களுக்கு சேவை செய்ய, தமிழ் மக்களாகிய எல்லோரும் இணைந்து செயற்பட வேண்டும் என வேண்டி, மீண்டும் ஒரு தடவை புத்தாண்டு வாழ்த்துக்களை தெரிவித்து விடைபெறுகிறேன்.

திருமதி கா சண்முகவடிவேல்

தலைவர்
10.04.1995

OM MURUGA



இலண்டன் ஸ்ரீ முருகன் கோயில்

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18.04.1995

தலைவர்

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மனோ பार्க்

லண்டன் கி12

அன்புடையீர்

விரலாற்றுச் சிறப்புடைய இங்கிலாந்து நாட்டின்கண் வாழ்கின்ற தமிழ் மக்களின் பல்வேறு நல்லெண்ணங்களை நிறைவேற்றுகமாக அரும்பெரும் சமூக நலத்தொண்டாற்றிவரும் 'தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்க'த்தின் புத்தாண்டு கலாசார நிகழ்ச்சி நடைபெறுவது அறிந்து மகிழ்ச்சி அடைகிறோம்.

காலத்தின் கட்டாயத்தினால் இடம்பெயர்ந்து வாழ்ந்தாலும் நமது மொழி, சமூக, சமய, கலாசார உணர்வுகளை மனதில் பதித்து வாழும் நம் மக்களுக்கு பல்வேறு வகைகளிலும் சேவைபுரிந்து வரும் தமிழர் நலன்புரி சங்கத்தின் புத்தாண்டு விழா சிறப்புறவும் சேவைகள் தொடர்ந்து, நல்ல நோக்கங்கள் ஈடேறி, தமிழ் மக்கள் பயன்பெறவும் வேண்டி லண்டன் ஸ்ரீமுருகப் பெருமானை வணங்கி வாழ்த்துகின்றோம்.

இங்ஙனம்

சீ. சம்பத்குமார்

தலைவர்

SECRETARY'S REPORT

1. Annual General Meeting held on 12.6.94 at the Froud Centre

(A) Lunch and Registration

Lunch was served to the general members from 12.00 to 1.00 PM. Soon after lunch the members did their registration and the meeting commenced at 1.30 PM.

(B) Minutes of the AGM 1994

Agenda

- a. Apologies
- b. TWAN Chairperson's Address
- c. Election of Chairperson for the AGM
- d. Secretary's Report
- e. Public Relations Officer's Report
- f. Treasurer's Report/Approval of Audited Accounts
- g. Appointment of Auditors
- h. Proposal re Setting up of a new Company and applying for Charitable status under the same name as that of the existing Association.
- i. Approval of Memorandum and Articles of Association of the new Company.
- j. Approval of the first Directors of the Company and the Company Secretary nominated by the present Management Committee.
- k. Resolution to wind up the existing unincorporated Association on a specified date.
- l. Resolution to prepare the final accounts of the existing Association as at that date and to have the accounts audited.
- m. Resolution to transfer the Assets of the existing Association to the new Company.
- n. Any other Business.

a. Apologies:

Kuruparan, Vidya, Vasanthi (the last two were said to be on their way to the meeting) Kumaran and Kesavan. Kumaran and Kesavan had informed that they would be arriving a bit late for the meeting.

b. Chairperson's Address

The Chairperson to TWAN, Mrs Shanmugavadivel, welcomed the gathering and called for

the election of Chairperson for the meeting.

Mrs Balasingham was proposed by Mr Asokan and seconded by Miss Muthucumarasamy. Mrs Balasingham was unanimously elected as the Chair.

c. Chair to the Meeting

Mrs Balasingham thanked the gathering for having elected her to chair the meeting. She requested the members to give their cooperation to run the meeting smoothly. She then went on to conduct the meeting.

d. Annual Report from the Secretary

1. The year 1993/94 had been quite successful. It was due to greater unity and understanding among members. Monthly meetings were conducted peacefully and everybody contributed towards decision making on important and vital matters of the Association, which were aimed at improving the services of our organisation.

2. It appears that there are still some individuals who are inclined at bringing disrepute to TWAN and would wish its closure. To this end, they are in the act of writing petitions, spreading rumours, false propaganda, making anonymous phone calls and threats. TWAN prefer to ignore the actions of such people as our objectives are not to respond to such ill minded people, but to give the best of our services to the Tamil people and the community.

3. The office is functioning smoothly. Daily, people come with immigration problems, housing problems, benefit problems, etc. They are all attended to properly by our current worker Mr Pathmanaba Iyer. Previously Mrs Loganathan left us after giving her valuable service. The services of both Mr and Mrs Loganathan will always be remembered. Miss Tharmini was another worker who worked for some time with Mrs Loganathan. She left us after giving out her dedicated service. Mrs Anusiya Pulendran worked with us for some time. She too came to work for us at a difficult time when we needed someone to run the office. Mr Janarathanan will be dealing later with the current developments of the advisory service to people.

4. Office Premises

Our Office becomes crowded when there are many clients around, and when some trainees too are in. Space is a real problem. TWAN needed the ground floor of the building too very badly. Unfortunately, we could not push it through as there was uncertainty about funding at that time.

5. Newsletter

Following the Management Committee's decision, TWAN agreed to fund for the publication of a newsletter compiled by TIC under the guidance of Mr V Varadakumar. This newsletter gives the updates of the happenings in Sri Lanka. It serves as a useful source of evidence in asylum appeal cases presented to special adjudicators. This newsletter provides consolation and hope to the refugees who are subject to severe mental agony because of their uncertainty of their future.

6. Annual Activities

Refugees Day Trip 94, Community gathering at the end of year which falls during Christmas season and Cultural Programme 94 were worked out well. There were fairly good gathering at both the Day Trip and the end of year get - together. However, with regard to the Cultural Programme 94, unlike the previous years, the turn up was poor. This is due to the day being Sunday. It is thought Saturday would have been a suitable day. Sunday had to be chosen as the hall bookings were not available for Saturday during that period.

7. Constitution

There are some areas in the Constitution of TWAN, which needed change to make it more workable. A revision of the Constitution was needed in order to be able to register TWAN as a Company Limited by Guarantee with charitable status. Therefore, the Constitution is redrafted. Copies of the draft Constitution was sent to all members along with the notice of the AGM. I hope, all of you would have gone through it and observed the changes.

Moreover, the Constitution comprises of a Memorandum of Association and the Articles of Association. Memorandum of the Association sets out the aims and objectives of the Organisation while Articles of Association refer to how the Organisation is going to function.

In applying for Charitable Status, the Charity Commissioner would expect the Constitution be laid out in a certain manner and include cer-

tain matters. The present Constitution has been redrafted to suit our Organisation as well as to satisfy the Charity Commissioner.

Main Changes in the new Constitution

(1) The Management Committee is to be replaced by a Board Of Directors and the number of Directors would be reduced to 10 instead of the present 22 which is considered to be too high and time consuming which consequently leaves ineffectiveness and delay.

(2) A third of the Directors may choose to remain in office without seeking re-election, while the rest will have to seek re-election or allow for new faces to be elected in place.

The Management Committee had nominated ten persons from among the 22 members of the Management Committee for the position of Directors to the new Company that is to be formed shortly. There was no other nominations from any members of TWAN. Therefore, the names of those ten persons are put forward to you for your approval. They are:

Mr Ramachandran
Mr Gajendrakumaran
Mrs Shanmugavadivel
Mr Kirubaharan
Mr Panneerchelvan
Mrs Balasingham
Mr Chandradas
Mr Asokan
Mr Sivaranjan
Mr Janarthanan

e. Project Report by Public Relations Officer

Mr Janarthanan, the Public Relations Officer, submitted the Project Report for 1994, which consists of services provided by TWAN to the community, the user group problems, challenges, current development of the appeal act and welfare benefits.

(Please see Project Report for details)

f. Treasurer's Report/Approval of Audited Accounts

Treasurer Mr Asokan submitted the audited income and expenditure statements along with balance sheet for 1994 and Auditor's approval statement.

Treasurer's Report was accepted by the members.

g. Appointment of Auditors

Beckwith Blake Kaye Chartered Accounts are

appointed again as this year's auditors.

h. Proposal re Setting up of new Company and applying for Charitable Status

Lengthy discussions and clarifications on this matter was expressed from the members. Interpretations were given when necessary. Finally, the proposal was unanimously approved.

i. Approval of Memorandum and Articles of Association of the new Company.

The draft copy of the above document was sent to every member to enable them to read it beforehand. Some mention of this Memorandum and Articles of Association has been made earlier in this report.

The members approved unanimously the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the new Company.

j. Approval of the first Directors of the Company and the Company Secretary nominated by the present Management Committee.

Management Committee nominated ten people to the new Board of Directors. Their names appear under important changes mentioned earlier. This whole team of ten Directors was approved unanimously by the general members.

k. Resolution to wind up the existing unincorporated Association on a specified date

In accordance with the Companies Act, resolution was passed to wind up the existing Association as from the date the Association becomes a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Resolution to prepare the final accounts of the existing Association as at that date and to have the accounts audited.

This resolution too was passed and the final audited accounts will be prepared for the period until the existing Association ceases to be unincorporated.

m. Resolution to transfer the assets of the existing Association to the new Company

This resolution too was passed by the general members.

n. A.O.B.

None

The 9th Annual General Meeting came to a successful ending at 4.30 PM.

2. Election of Office Bearers at the First Meeting of the Directors after the AGM

During the first meeting of the new Board of Directors Mr Chandradas was elected as the Company Secretary.

The new Office Bearers of the Company are as follows:

Mrs Shanmugavadivel	Chair
Mr Ramachandran	Vice Chair
Mr Chandradas	Secretary
Mr Panneerchelvan	Assistant Secretary
Mr Asokan	Treasurer
Mr Gajendrakumaran	Assistant Treasurer
Mr Janarthanan	Public Relations Officer
Mrs Balasingham	Spokesperson

Mr V Janarthanan withdrew from the post of Public Relations Officer at the end of July 1994 while he remained as one of the Company Directors.

Mr Asokan left the Organisation towards the end of 1994 and the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer posts were taken over by Mr Gajendrakumaran and Mr Kirubakaran respectively. Mr Uthayakumar was appointed as Director to fill the vacant position that arose because of Mr Asokan's resignation.

TWAN extend their sincere gratitude to Mr Asokan for the valuable services rendered by him since inception .

3. Administrative and Management Changes in 1994

a. Company Registration

TWAN was incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 as a private company and became a Private Limited Company as from 26th August 1994. The Company Registration Number is 2962857.

b. Change of Treasurer

Mr Asokan resigned as Director and Treasurer on 28th September 1994. Following this Mr Gajendrakumaran was appointed as Treasurer.

c. Training in Fund Raising

Under the auspices of the City Parochial Foun-

dation, a training session for fund raising was organised for the Directors. Mr Chris Zeilinsky conducted the training programme. These were on two Sundays; 23.10.94 and 27.11.94. Most of the Directors participated in both the sessions and the training programme was quite useful.

TWAN owes its sincere thanks to Mr Chris Zeilinsky.

4. FUTURE OF TWAN

TWAN commenced their services with volunteers in November 1986 and through their services to the local community gained recognition and trust both within the Community and the Newham Council. This resulted in substantial funding from the Newham Council two years back. However, due to the difficulties TWAN faced in meeting the Council's criteria, TWAN do not receive any major funding from the Council at present. Despite this setback, TWAN is able to continue their services with smaller funding from Charitable Trusts. However, TWAN is increasingly facing hardships due to limited grants and look forward to some major funding in late 1995.

ASIAN MELA

TWAN arranged Mrs Pathmini Gunaseelan and her dance group for a dance recital at the Asian Mela 1994. Our members who are mainly refu-

gees turned up in large numbers on this occasion to watch performances of artistes from our Asian cultural background.

REFUGEE CENTRE

TWAN participated in the historic opening of the Refugee Centre at 728, Romford Road, Manor Park, by the Worsipful Mayoress of Newham on 16th February 1995. TWAN have been allocated an Office space at this Centre. This Office would serve as an additional place to carry out our documentary activities. Volunteers and trainees are running the place, however presently TWAN is not in a position to retain a paid worker at this Office as we have not got the necessary funds for this purpose.

STAR SOUND RADIO

Star Sound Radio was given temporary licence for four weeks by the Radio Authority in February 1995. TWAN was invited by Star Sound Radio to present one hour Tamil programmes on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Light and Karnatic music, news in Tamil and programmes on our culture were presented by TWAN. We are requesting the Radio Authority to grant licence to Star Sound Radio on a continued basis that refugees who have difficulties in understanding English could be educated better in their language while benefiting from other programmes.

RENGAN N.DEVARAJAN

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PROJECT REPORT

IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM CASE WORK

IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM (APPEALS) ACT 1993

Before this act, 98% of Shri Lankans were granted Exceptional Leave to Remain (E.L.R.). But, after this act, 84% of the applications made by asylum seekers from Shri Lanka were refused. These figures reflect the threat faced by the Tamil Community and the mental sufferings undergone by them. As a community organisation, Tamil Welfare Association (Newham) U.K. (TWAN) has to face the problem of sharing the responsibility of dealing with legal and immigration issues in particular and providing them the much needed moral support.

With the implementation of the new act, Exceptional Leave to Remain in the United Kingdom is virtually suspended. Temporary Admission (IS-96) is being granted along with Standard Acknowledgment Letter (SAL) to asylum seeker. Over 1500 Tamil refugees have applied for asylum since the new Act and 72 to 75% of the applications have been refused. The appeal made to the High Court of 3 test cases were heard by a panel of 3 judges and they came to a decision not to send back Sri Lankan refugees and to reconsider the decision as the situation was not suitable for return yet. They had recommended the granting of E.L.R. After this decision, the Asylum applications are stagnating.

Method of Asylum Claiming

a. Port of Entry.

Asylum seekers, on arrival at an airport or a seaport, make their claim for political asylum on meeting an Immigration Officer or any other officer. It is this type of case TWAN deal with very often. Asylum seekers on arrival do contact TWAN on their own or through their friends or relatives in the United Kingdom. TWAN provide initial advice at this stage over the phone and subsequently assist in obtaining their release and also follow up with completing their asylum applications. Asylum seekers are also represented at Immigration at various stages.

b. In-Country Claim

This method applies to persons who having already entered the United Kingdom as a student or a visitor or by other means and later make their claim for political asylum at the Home

Office. The Asylum Screening Unit of the Home Office obtain their finger prints followed by an interview when an immigration officer will try to establish the identity of the asylum seeker with regard to his name, date of birth, nationality, address of residence in the U.K., proof of his/her nationality, the address of residence etc. After this interview the officer would try to find out the method of entry to the United Kingdom of the applicant. If the applicant is not in possession of valid travel documents, they would try to find out as to what happened to those documents. They also would try to find out who made arrangements for the passage and other details. After these formalities GEN 32 document will be issued along with GEN 28 (Self Completion Asylum Questionnaire). The applicant will be requested to attend an interview within four weeks along with the Self Completion Asylum Questionnaire duly completed. On receipt of these forms Standard Acknowledgment Letter, valid generally for a period of six months, will be issued to the Asylum seeker. Within the period of 6 months asylum application is processed and if they are not satisfied with the application they would call the applicant and convey their refusal. If the officer has not reached any decision they will renew the SAL document and the Temporary Admission letter. Whoever fails to comply with the above procedure his/her application gets rejected and are informed accordingly.

2. Illegal Entry

People entered the United Kingdom on student visa, visit visa or business visa etc. who are unable to satisfy the requirements of their visits to the country will have their entry clearance rejected and removal order issued. At this stage they claim political asylum. After the new asylum law the applicant cannot change his status of entry and hence arrangements are made to deport the applicant. Asylum seeker leaves his/her country on this pretext as he/she has no other means of entering this country, so we feel it is not proper to deport the applicant without considering his asylum application.

If women who come to this country state at the port of entry or in the processes of their asylum applications that they entered the country with the intention of marrying or to join their boy friend, their cases are being rejected on the ground that their purpose of entry is not for seek-

ing asylum. They are being asked to return and enter with the proper visa (family reunion/marriage settlement). If the purpose of the visit is to claim political asylum it is advisable to stick to it without changing to any other status (marriage/student) without proper consultation.

3. Third Country Arrival

When a person is unable to take a direct flight to U.K. he/she comes through various other countries along with the agent. He/she fails to seek asylum at these countries since he/she may not be aware that he/she can seek asylum in those countries. Also he/she is under the control of the agent, and he/she may not have met any Immigration officials. When he arrives in UK the Immigration Officials have reasons to believe that he has passed through a different country, they try to deport him/her to that country.

Case (1)

When Mr. K came from Shri Lanka and applied for Asylum at the airport, his application was not accepted as he was seen along with passengers arrived from Holland and he was about to be deported. TWAN appealed against the deportation and the Adjudication Officer informed that he cannot be deported without proper evidence that he had come from Holland and requested to consider his application here.

Case (2)

When Mr. R came from Shri Lanka and sought asylum at Terminal 2, the Immigration Officer told the applicant that the Jacket and the pair of shoes he was wearing were of Italian make and that he had come from Italy. The applicant argued that he was wearing a Citizen wrist watch made in Japan that he could very well be told that he had come from Japan. After a heated argument the Immigration Officer decided to consider his application here.

4. Immigration and Interviews

a. Proforma Interview

This is the first and preliminary interview faced by the asylum seeker at the Airport. He will be questioned about his /her name, identity, travel documents, passage to UK, purpose of his/her travel and reasons for claiming political asylum.

According to UN Convention if the applicant has a well founded fear of persecution in his Country by the Government or by Government forces his case can be considered. If the applicant informs at the interview that he had been

persecuted by the rival group his application may not be considered and liable for deportation. At the interview the applicant should also inform the sufferings he had undergone at the hands of the Government and/or the armed forces. On two occasions the Immigration Officers had refused the intervention of TWAN to help the applicant stating that there was no precedent. TWAN feels that if the interview is held genuinely; there is no necessity to forbid anybody from looking after the interest of the applicant. We feel the presence of a representative at the interview will strengthen the morale of the applicant.

b. Political Asylum Questionnaire (PAQ)

This is the second interview faced by the applicant after his arrival. This may take place within a few days. It may take 3 to 4 hours when asylum seekers have to answer about 70 questions. At this interview the applicant should provide in detail all evidences he/she has got in support of the claim for persecution and without contradicting the statement he gave at the first interview. Through experience we feel that the information furnished by some are not accurate. At this stage before the 1993 Asylum act E.L.R is granted to the applicant. After 1993 Asylum act most of the cases are being rejected and as the previous deportation orders are not being carried out the applications are stagnating.

c. Self Completion Questionnaire (GEN 28)

This is the questionnaire issued to incountry applicants which should be completed and submitted within 4 weeks. If the application is not submitted within 4 weeks their cases will be rejected. According to records available at TWAN there are 6 cases under this category.

Mrs. T went to the Home Office regarding her asylum application and she was informed that she did not appear for an interview even though she was notified, and as such her application was refused. TWAN intervened and found that the Home Office letter was addressed erroneously to No. 4 instead of No. 44. Representations were made to the higher authorities. The refusal order was subsequently withdrawn. After submitting the questionnaire the applicant will be summoned for an interview within a few months. At the interview if the applicant contradicts the particulars submitted in the questionnaire his application may be rejected on the grounds that he had given a false declaration.

d. Application Upgrading Interview

This interview is for people on ELR or on tem-

porary admission and made representations to obtain full Asylum status. Some people on ELR or on temporary admissions have made representations to strengthen their case and after an interview their ELR or temporary admission has been cancelled and refusal notice issued. There are about 3 such cases and we strongly recommend not to send any upgrading applications without proper consultation.

5 Reasons for Refusal after 1993 Asylum Act

CREDIBILITY

- a. Contradicting statements at different interviews.
- b. Failure of continuity in the statement.
- c. Inaccurate information.
- d. Failure to furnish adequate information on arrival.
- e. Revealing disbelieve information/statement.
- f. Seeking asylum in two countries.

FAILURE WITHOUT REASONABLE EXPLANATION.

- a. Failure to attend interviews
- b. Failure to cooperate without answering questions
- c. Failure to hand over the self completion questionnaire (GEN 28) within the specified time.
- d. Failure to give finger prints
- e. Failure to seek asylum at the time of entry

FALSE REPRESENTATION.

- a. Making use of the documents of other individuals
- b. When the applicant destroys his passport on his own discretion and then seek asylum, the Immigration officers feel that he is deliberately hiding the truth.
- c. According to UN Convention it is accepted that it was not safe for an asylum seeker to travel on his own passport due to fear of persecution but the immigration officers insist on the personal travel documents. TWAN feels that it is not correct.

National Identity Cards, birth certificates, and such other documents of Tamil people from North and East would provide details of places of birth, addresses and it becomes impossible to travel with such documents. They may be arrested as they can be identified as persons from North and East and taken to detention camps in Shri Lanka.

The Home Secretary takes the view that a section of the Tamil community could live outside the North and East Sri Lanka it is safe for the

applicant as well to live in those areas and requests to go and live in those areas. TWAN feels that it is not correct as there is no guarantee for the safety of Tamil people in those areas.

Visit to Country of Origin

a. If a person on ELR visits his country, on his return to U.K. his ELR is being cancelled or he is treated as a new entrant.

b. If there is sufficient evidence that a person with ELR has a good relationship with the High Commission of his Country in the U.K. or if he has any involvement in pro government activities with his country, he is liable for deportation by the Home office. There are only few cases of this nature.

Group Claim

If an asylum seeker submits his asylum application on the grounds that he was harassed by the various militant groups and by government, the Immigration officers view that under U.N. Convention his application cannot be considered favourably and suggest the applicant to inform his government. His application is rejected and action taken to deport the applicant. The asylum seeker should highlight the sufferings he had undergone at the hands of the Government Security Forces rather than the militant groups. TWAN is of opinion that it is unfair to deport on the grounds that the applicant was harassed by the militant group, as the militant groups were emerged as a result of the harassment of the Government. When the government is unable to find a solution to the ethnic problem, there is no use of complaining to the government about the activities of the militant groups.

There are instances where an ethnic group as a whole was granted either asylum or Exceptional Leave to Remain. Kurds and Sri Lankans are two such groups where Exceptional Leave to remain was granted until recently. However, this situation has changed since July 1993. Merits of individual claims are considered at present even for their grant of ELR.

Further, there could well be some 'bogus' asylum seekers. Such cases will be there in any society. However, Home Office appear to dismiss the majority genuine refugees as 'bogus'. TWAN hopes that the Home Office will give a second thought on this issue.

Tamil Immigrant Detainees

As regards to the detention of immigrants, there

is no change in the procedure after the 1993 Asylum Act and action is being taken according to the 1971 Immigration Act even though several pressure groups requested for various changes in the law.

- a. Reasons for the detention should be made available in writing and should be available for reference.
- b. Reason for the detention should be informed to the asylum seeker in his language.
- c. Provision is to be made for the detainee to contact any individual or organisation and get any assistance without restriction.
- d. There should be no restriction for any community to contact the detainee as he/she could be consoled and can be relieved from his/her mental agony.
- e. Period of detention should be informed to the detainee and provision is to be made to make appeal if detention is prolonged or if it is unreasonable.
- f. Detainees should not be detained in a prison. The prison officers are liable to treat the detainees as prisoners as they have been trained accordingly.
- g. Recreation and educational facilities to be provided for long term detainees as it will relieve their mental strain and keep them fit.

CRITERIA FOR DETENTION

- a. Is there any evidence of previous absconding from detention?
- b. Is there any evidence of previous failure to comply with conditions of temporary admission/release or bail?
- c. Has the subject shown a blatant disregard for immigration laws (e.g. entry in breach of a deportation order, attempted or actual clandestine entry)?
- d. Has the subject attempted to gain entry by presenting forged documentation.
- e. Is there a previous history of complying with the requirements of the immigration control - e.g. by applying for a visa, further leave etc.?

CANPS FIELD HOUSE DETENTION - OXFORD

About 20 long term detainees are housed at this centre.

HASLAR HOLDING CENTRE GOSPORT

This centre is situated about 110 miles from London and is used to house long term detainees. There are about 10 Tamil detainees at this centre. This centre is similar to a prison and supervised by prison officers. The visiting hours to this centre is between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm and

it takes about 30 minutes before formalities are over before a detainee is met. The centre is too far from London and visitors find it difficult to reach in time and sometime they are sent back without meeting the detainees. We appreciate the recreation and educational facilities provided at this Centre. One of the detainees Mr. R was released from this centre after a period of 3 months without any pre-arrangement. He was given money to purchase a ticket and requested to leave. He got stranded as he did not know the place as well as English language. Home office had sent his temporary admission letter to one of his friends. TWAN feels that it will be better if pre arrangements are made before the release of detainees.

CANTEBURY HM REMAND CENTRE AND ROCHESTER IN KENT

This centre is used for detaining people who come through Dover and there are about 10 Tamils. The rules and regulations at this centre is similar to that of a prison. It becomes difficult to attend to incoming calls from Rochester centre and fax messages sent to detainees are not handed over; only messages are conveyed. There are facilities available for craft work and education which is appreciated.

HARMONDSWORTH AND QUEENS BUILDING DETENTION CENTRES

These centres are close to the airport and is used for short term detainees. There are some detainees at present and it may vary from time to time. We have mentioned about these centres in our previous annual reports.

State Benefit and Asylum Seekers

We feel that benefits should be paid to asylum seekers from the date of their arrival. There may be a few days delay in submitting his claim to the Benefit Office as he has to attend to the requirements of the Home Office and obtain the necessary documents. According to our records the SAL document is causing the delay in obtaining the benefits. There is a delay of 3 to 4 months to consider asylum applications of the in-country applicants as they have to face 3 to 4 interviews before SAL document is issued. At the Stansted airport SAL documents are not issued to Tamil refugees even though they produce sufficient documents regarding their identity. SAL documents issued at Stansted airport and at Terminal 4 are being withdrawn from the Asylum seeker when his application is refused. After withdrawing the SAL document the benefit office is informed of this and the benefit is stopped for the asylum seeker. We had made representations to the Benefit Office and at

present they are releasing payments. TWAN feels the withdrawal of the SAL document from the applicant is wrong as this is the only identity available with the applicant. During September 1994 Benefit Office was informed to accept any other form of identity if SAL document was not available with the applicant and to make payment of benefits. If payment of benefits are refused by the benefit office applicants are requested to contact TWAN. In this connection reference is requested to Item 4025, 4030 and 4031 of the B.A. guidance to income support staff which clarifies the situation regarding SAL document.

HOUSING BENEFIT

After the implementation of 1993 Immigration and Asylum (Appeals) Act Asylum seekers are being deprived of finding accommodation in local authority housing schemes. Before this Act some asylum seekers were accommodated in abandoned and unoccupied houses of the Councils. These houses were decorated by the asylum seekers and were occupied as they have to pay lower rent and to avoid harassment of private land lords. After this Act asylum seekers are forced to find accommodation in private houses, hotels and bed and breakfast with high rents. The government monitored the payment of housing benefits to asylum seekers by local authorities for a period and found that it had overspent. The Government made a ceiling and informed that they will not rebate the full cost of housing benefit paid by local authorities. The local authorities had challenged this ceiling of housing benefit in the court of law and a favourable decision had been made. According to the Homeless Person Act local authorities should provide accommodation for homeless people under any circumstances. They cannot avoid the responsibility of providing accommodation to the homeless due to the ceiling of housing benefit.

There is a delay of 3 to 4 months in the issue of SAL documents to the applicants by the Home Office and without the SAL document, housing benefits will not be paid. The Home Office requests the applicant to provide the tenancy agreement/landlord letter for proof of address of permanent residence to issue the SAL document. The landlords are reluctant to rent their houses to refugees as there is a delay in payment of rent and their expected rent may not be paid by the Housing Benefit Office. TWAN has to intervene to convince the landlords in regard to the delay in payment and represent the applicant in various offices to avoid delays.

Case (1)

Mr. S was sharing a room with his friend from

1.2.94 who was claiming housing benefit in a rented house. After three months when his friend vacated the room he was staying alone and the landlord requested to pay the rent. Mr S applied for housing benefit and his claim was refused on the grounds that he has stayed without claiming housing benefit for the previous months and no tenancy agreement was available for that period. Housing benefit office also informed that he had stayed with his relatives during this period without claiming ; therefore no payment can now be made. TWAN intervened and the decision is still pending. TWAN has send a reminder in February 1995.

Case (2)

Mrs. P is a recent asylum seeker. She immediately made the housing benefit and social security benefit applications. During October 1994 East Ham North Housing Benefit Office requested a proof regarding receipt of social security benefits. The delay in submitting the proof was due to the delay in receiving the SAL document from the Home Office. Even after submitting the necessary proof the Housing Benefit Office has not made any payment. On 17.2.95 TWAN contacted the Housing Benefit Office and they informed that action was being taken and payment would be made within a week.

BENEFIT AND HABITUAL RESIDENCE

The income related Benefits Schemes (Miscellaneous Amendments) No. 3 Regulations 1994 has come into force with effect from 1.8.94. This was introduced to deprive E.C nationals from obtaining any benefits who come in search of employment to this Country. Due to this amendment immigrants including those having the British nationality are affected. If they enter the country after a period of more than 6 months of their departure, they are faced with the threat of losing their benefits. However, a refugee or a person with exceptional leave to remain are not affected by this amendment.

The main criteria for establishing habitual residence are:

1. Where is the person's centre of interests?
2. Stable employment.
3. Nature of occupation.
4. Length and continuity of residence in the U.K.
5. Why did the claimant come to the UK?
6. What are the claimant's intentions?

The main criteria for passing the habitual residence test are:

1. A person who has been temporarily laid off

and who is seeking work with the same employer.

2. A person who has voluntarily given up work in order to take up vocational training linked to the previous job.

3. Has become involuntarily unemployed and must do retraining because of the job market.

4. A person who has stopped working because of permanent incapacity, and who is entitled to a UK invalidity benefit because of an industrial injury or disease, or has lived in the UK for more than 2 years or whose spouse is British.

5. A person who has retired on or after the pension age and who was employed in the UK for the 12 months prior to retirement, or has lived in the UK for more than 3 years or whose spouse is a British national.

There are 3 cases available under the above category.

Mr.A was a refugee from Shri Lanka who was granted nationality of an E.C country. As per Rome treaty he came to UK in order to seek employment as he was unemployed and he had experience in working in English language. He applied for benefits and has been refused. TWAN intervened and action is pending.

Supplementary Classes

Children of refugees are unable to cope up with the standard of education in this country due to the different languages and various other different curriculum followed in this country. The standard of the children was monitored and found that their inability to cope up was due to the fact that some of the parents were unable to coach them as they are not aware of the system and due to interruption of studies in their country. This problem was discussed with some of the teachers of different schools and they informed that they were unable to pay more attention to these students as they have about 40 to 45 students in one class. Hence, we conduct supplementary classes for G.C.E. A/L, GCSE and other secondary levels at Little Ilford Centre on Wednesdays and Fridays and at TWAN with the help of the parents. Sometimes classes are conducted at Froud Centre and we thank them for allowing us to use these premises without any payment. No funds are obtained from any funding bodies for this purpose. We are making efforts to obtain financial assistance from Education Department for this project. The classes are conducted by qualified and trained teachers from different schools. Most of the teachers are Tamil speaking.

Refugees and Health

Shri Lankans are able to take treatment in their

country from Private Hospitals if they can afford their medical bills and those who are unable to meet their medical expenses can go for treatment in Government Hospitals without prior appointment but by waiting in a queue. The system prevailing in this Country is different and Shri Lankan refugees are facing difficulties in meeting their health needs. They are not aware that they should get themselves registered with G.Ps. Even if they are advised they do not attend to it as they are not aware of the consequences. Some G.Ps are even reluctant to enrol refugees. After getting registered if they need treatment they should make an appointment with the G.P. to consult him which may take few days or even weeks. It is not possible to purchase any medicines at the Pharmacy without prescriptions. This is relatively easy back in Shri Lanka. They are also unable to explain their sickness to the G.P. due to language problem and take proper treatment. A survey was carried out along with the College of Health on behalf of the Newham Health Authority and it revealed that Shri Lankan refugees are suffering from depression due to the communal troubles faced by them and displacement of relatives. They came to this country with the expectation of leading a safe and a peaceful life but when they find it is not possible they become mentally affected. They face several interviews at Home Office and at various other places and are uncertain of their future which also contributes to their depression.

TWAN is attending to the Immigration and other benefits of the refugees as soon as they arrive. Action is being taken by us with the Medical Foundation For The Care Of Victims of Torture in respect of refugees who arrive with injuries sustained by them in their country. A report is also obtained in regard to the injuries to support the Asylum claim of the refugee. We are even helping refugees who are hospitalised and without any relatives or friend, by visiting them and looking after their needs. TWAN is also looking after disabled and mentally handicapped refugees by visiting them and attending to their needs. They also contact TWAN over the phone in case of emergency.

Elderly Project

This project is meant to provide assistance in different forms to old people. It becomes very difficult to find accommodation with other people as they are already pressurized by their own commitments. They are unable to be with their relatives for long period due to their health and other social reasons. We have made arrangements with the Eastwards Trust Ltd. to accommodate old people.

Social Services Department has granted £656.75 for the transport costs and volunteers entravelling expenses of the elderly people who are to be taken on a trip. A group of 28 elderly and 15 carers were taken on a two days trip to Lake District on 4.3.95 and 5.3.95. They were taken to various places of interest and accommodated in a care home for the night. All of them enjoyed this trip.

TWAN thanks the Department of Social Services for this grant.

Youths and Sports Project

This project is for the young refugees to keep them fitter by involving in sporting activities. A Sports Club had been formed by TWAN but it is managed independently with the support of TWAN. At present there are about 50 members in the sports club and they make use of the Little Ilford School premises for their cricket practice. They have played cricket matches against various teams.

TWAN received a Sports grant of £470.00 in 1994 for the purchase cricket equipments from the London Borough of Newham Leisure Services Department.

Children Project

During the past TWAN was running Holiday/After school project for the children successfully. However during the last two years TWAN was unable to continue this project due to the failure of getting grants from the Local Authority Play Section. This year we have made an application for the grant and hope to resume this project. This project gives an advantage for the children of the refugees who are unable to socialize with the other children and facing difficulties.

We also organised a Christmas Party for the small children at St. Pauls Church and about 25 to 30 children participated.

This year presents were donated by Community Links for the children and were distributed to over 100 children on Christmas day with the help of volunteers.

We thank the Community Links for the generous donation of gift items for distribution to children of refugees.

Social Project

A group of 112 people were taken in 2 coaches on a summer trip to Swan Age Sea side on a day trip and they enjoyed the trip. We also organised a Christmas Party for the community people on 14th of December 1994 and about 110 people participated. Refreshments were served and were entertained with music and various other amusements.

Art Workshop and Exhibition

An Art Exhibition was held on Saturday and Sunday, the 4th and 5th February 1995, at the Froud Centre, Manor Park, E12 from 1.00PM to 7.00PM each day.

The Exhibition was part of a workshop conducted by Mr K Krishnarajah, one of the leading artists/painters in the Tamil Community in the United Kingdom. Over 20 youths, both males and females, attended a total of 30 hours of Art Workshop, spread over 15 days between October 94 and February 95 at the Little Ilford Centre and the Froud Centre. The Exhibition was opened by Councillor Ronald Manley who praised the effort and the exhibition.

The Art Workshop and the Exhibition was funded by the Leisure Services Department who gave us a grant of £1000.00P towards this project. We thank the Leisure Services Department of the Newham Council for the grant and Mr K Krishnarajah who conducted the Art Workshop and organised the Exhibition.

Tamil New Year Cultural Programme

TWAN had been conducting an Annual Cultural Programme for the past 8 years. Last year about 125 people participated in this event. Tamil Cultural Programmes were organised and about 50 children took part in the events. This was held at East Ham Town Hall on Sunday 17.4.94 and the Chief Guest was M.E.P Mr Alf Lomas. He delivered a speech appreciating the cultural programmes and explained the problems faced by ethnic minorities and refugees in European countries and the steps taken by them. Local M.P. Mr Stephen Timms was also present and informed the assistance given by the Local Council for refugees and wished a Happy New Year for the Tamil Community .



CHRISTMAS PARTY 1994



AGM 1994



Tamil Welfare Assoc

Pre

A Cultu

at Langdon School Hall, Lo

Progr

WELCOME SPEECH

By the Chairperson of TWAN

ORCHESTRA

By Students of Smt. Rudrani Balakrishnan
London Sri Murugan Temple

VEENA

Thaamharah Mahendrayogam
Amuthavaneer Anpananthar
Rajenny Sivaganam
Umaiyal Ganeshalingam
Rathika Ratha
Abiramy Linganandhan
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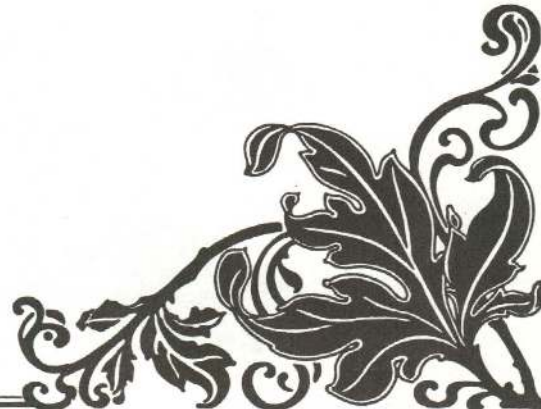
Evangeline Peter
Sivadarshini Ganeshalingam
Arany Neminathan
Vasantha Mahendrayogam
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Annual Night

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BHARATHANATYAM

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Abirami Raguwaran
Bhanuja Balakrishnan
Dharshi Jawaharatnam
Jeyanthy Masilamany
Janani Ranjan
Karthika Sithamparanathan
Laksini Panchalingam
Luksana Satkunarajan
Nesha Viveganathan
Rathanika Kumar
Shalini Ranjan
Sumaiya Lebbe
Sugani Wignarajah
Sivaneer Tharmalingam

INTERVAL

MUSICAL FEATURE

By "RAGHAS" Music Group





ELDERLY PROJECT 1994

No Easy Way for Asylum Refugees must know where they are heading

Refugees are not a new phenomenon. There have always been refugees and there will always be as long as there is no respect for human rights and freedom of movement. People motivated by fear will continue to cross international borders in search of sanctuary and inevitably become strangers in foreign lands. Whether they would be accepted and given the required protection has become increasingly doubtful.

After the second World War, Europe in particular was anxious to avoid any repetition of the global tragedy it had experienced. Europe felt the need to make democratic institutions safe against dictatorship or communism. The rationale was that economic integration and cooperation [a common market for European goods and services with an environment to facilitate the functioning of business and industry without any bureaucratic administrative hurdles by separate Western European national governments] would mitigate against the likelihood of future wars on European soil. The new environment was also intended to create rise in living standards and growth in employment to ensure social stability and to preserve basic human rights. Such an environment illustrates clearly that there were strong political as well as economic motivating factors behind the shaping of modern Europe - A Europe meant for Europeans.

The popular notion that Europe is "open for business" best summarises the promotional approach employed by the European governments. Whether this notion of the free movement of labour, goods and services is meant to all citizens of Europe is a different question. The indications are that the rights of European citizens do not in the main apply to black Europe-

ans including refugees and asylum seekers. It is also true to say that outside the United Kingdom legal protection against racial discrimination is almost non-existent. Thus, lack of comparable legislation in Europe means that refugees and asylum seekers have no redress in law against acts of discrimination and racism.

It is with these in mind that we ought to view the question of making a claim for political asylum in an EC member country.

The issues of immigration, asylum and refugees continue to remain at the top of the agenda in the European community. The problem for the Europe without internal borders is "how to close" it against immigrants and refugees from the Third World. Immigration is also viewed as a law and order issue with the link made between black people, refugees, crime, drug trafficking and terrorism. The United Kingdom, however, intends to maintain its border controls at the ports of entry and has taken a leading role to improve police and internal security cooperation and harmonising systems and procedures. This has restricted applications from people who have passed through safe countries and resulted in increasing number of third country removals, including Tamil asylum seekers.

It is important to be aware that a number of changes in European immigration law have come about through inter-governmental agreements made secretly. These changes have profound impact on refugees and asylum seekers. The most prominent example of British harmonising policy with Europe is the notorious and Immigration and Asylum (Appeals) Act 1993. This legislation is designed to be transferable between member states, and the protocols and implementational agreements

have been worked out to ensure administrative compatibility. The impact of this legislation has been strongly felt by Tamil asylum seekers coming to Britain after 26 July 1993.

It is important to be aware that the law on asylum was amended by the Asylum and Immigration Appeals Act 1993. This has introduced a new system in dealing with applications for asylum. Asylum had only been mentioned almost as an afterthought in the earlier immigration rules. But now, there is a separate procedure and list of factors which the specialist Asylum Division at the Home Office must take into account when considering asylum applications, and a separate system of appeals against refusal of asylum. Because, the system is new, it is particularly important for refugees to get advice and representation in dealing with asylum applications. This means the refugees must also take efforts to understand the changes and become more aware of the system, where to get good advice and become equally responsible in making a good representation on behalf of their claim for asylum.

We must be aware that the definition for asylum is very restrictive and could cause danger to asylum-seekers if not perceived correctly. The UN Convention only defines a refugee but does not define asylum. The convention definition does not include many important situations, for example, a state of disturbance or civil war. There are also no internationally agreed standards or procedures in deciding who falls within the UN definition. This has resulted in governments who are signatories to the Convention and Protocol choosing their own criteria to decide whether people seeking asylum qualify and what standard of proof is necessary.

There is also no internationally agreed definition for the phrase "well-founded fear". But generally it has been accepted that it means "serious possibility" or "reasonable degree of likelihood". But, here again it is up to the Home office to decide, using subjective and objective criteria, whether this has been demonstrated adequately by the applicant. The standard of proof of course is on the balance of probabilities. - that it is more likely than not that the person would be in danger of persecution if sent back. It is also important to be aware that the Home Office also independently collects detailed information about the country situation through its consulate and contacts and uses such informations when considering applications to ensure that the applicant's story fits in with its findings. Refugees are required to satisfy the Home Office that they have a genuine fear for their safety if returned. This is not only applicable to new arrivals, but also for those who have

been granted limited stay, namely 'exceptional leave to remain' (ELR). It is always important to provide as much evidence as possible to substantiate that fear - "well - founded fear". If one cannot provide any evidence or proof to substantiate that fear, it would lead to allowing the Home Office to make assessment of the person's credibility. This has resulted in large number of applications being refused by the Home Office.

It is also important to be aware that refugees are required to show that the persecution they face falls within one of the reasons listed in the UN definition, namely, race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion. In the case of Tamil asylum seekers, they should satisfy the Home Office about their views and the danger in which these would place them if they return. Refugees must be aware that danger of criminal attacks, violence or the bombardment of their towns or villages by security forces do not fit into the terms of the convention and therefore their asylum claim for having a well - founded fear of returning for these reasons would be refused.

It is also important to be aware that people may be excluded from the definition of a refugee, if they have committed "a crime against peace, a war crime, a crime against humanity or a serious non - political crime or have been guilty of acts contrary to the purpose and principle of the UN" and they can be refused asylum on these grounds and removed.

It is also wrong to assume that Exceptional Leave to Remain would qualify for automatic renewal at the end of their leave period. People on ELR must be aware that this status is given outside the Immigration rules, where the Home Office feels that conditions are such in the applicant's country of origin that he or she ought not to be returned there. The people on ELR are considered as people who do not need international protection and their stay depends entirely on the discretion of the Secretary of State. As such there is no right of appeal against the refusal of Exceptional Leave.

We must be aware that the image of refugees has changed since the end of the cold war. The asylum debate in Western Countries relates to numbers and not on human rights issues. Fear of being overwhelmed by numbers has become the motivating force behind policy rather than the desire to receive the victims of human rights abuses. In this climate, the task of persuading the governments to stick to their obligations under 1951 UN Convention will be extremely hard and without refugee participation, it is impossible.

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PERIOD FROM 1ST APRIL 1994 TO 25TH AUGUST 1994**

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Subscription		132
L B N Grant		-
Other Grants		5,000
Donations and Well-wishers	2,241	
Special Events	2,142	
Bank interest received	61	
	<u>4,444</u>	
Less: Building Development Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>4,444</u>
		9,576
 LESS: EXPENDITURE		
Rent and Rates	2,601	
Salaries and Wages	5,506	
Printing, Postage and Stationery	1,707	
Insurance	374	
Light and Heat	328	
Telephone and Fax	643	
Cultural activity expenses	2,015	
Summer trip expenses	730	
Repairs, renewals and maintenance	18	
Alarm and security expenses	217	
Meeting expenses	208	
General expenses	27	
Accountancy fees	658	
Audit fees	200	
Bank charges	81	
Depreciation	<u>1,695</u>	
		<u>17,008</u>
Excess of Expenditure over Income for the period		<u>(7,432)</u>

**TAMIL WELFARE ASSOCIATION (NEWHAM) U.K.
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 25TH AUGUST 1994**

FIXED ASSETS	Costs	Depreciation	Net Book
	£	£	Value
			£
As at 1.04.94	16,943	8,826	8,117
Depreciation charge for the period	<u>-</u>	<u>1,695</u>	<u>1,695</u>
As at 25.08.94	<u>16,943</u>	<u>10,521</u>	6,422
 CURRENT ASSETS			
Bank and Cash balances		21,188	
Debtors and prepayments		<u>374</u>	
		21,562	
 LESS: CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and accruals		<u>2,043</u>	
			<u>19,519</u>
			<u>25,941</u>
 REPRESENTED BY:			
Accumulated Funds brought forward			14,542
Excess of Expenditure over Income for the period			<u>(7,432)</u>
			7,110
Building Development Fund			<u>18,831</u>
Accumulated Funds as at 28.08.94			<u>25,941</u>

AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF TWAN

We have audited the financial statements on pages 26 and 27 in accordance with auditing standards.

In our opinion the financial statements, which have been prepared under the historical cost convention, give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association at 25 August 1994 and the results for the period 1 April 1994 to 25 August 1994 in accordance with the information and explanation supplied.

Beckwith Blake Kaye
Chartered Accountants
2nd floor
315-317 Ballards Lane
Finchley
London N12 8LY

DECLARATION BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF TWAN

We approve the above accounts and confirm that we have made available all relevant records and information for their preparation.



P CHANDRADAS
SECRETARY

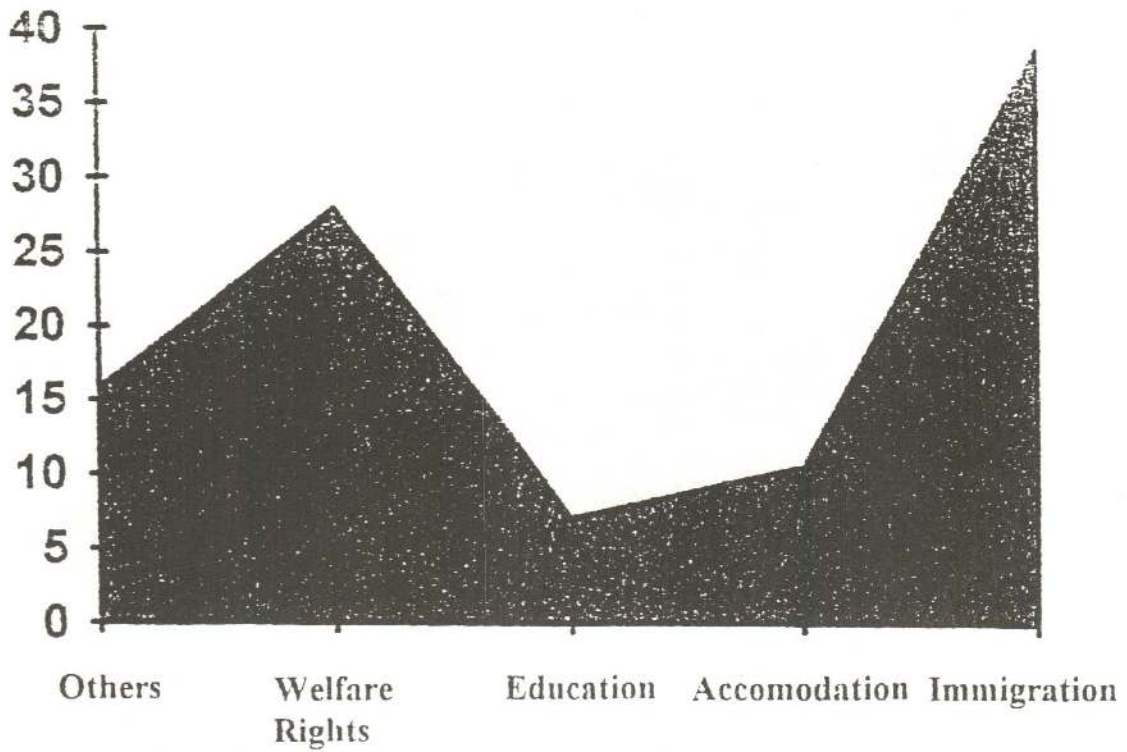
for and behalf of TWAN Management Committee

Note:
The audited period is from 1 April 1994 to 25 August 1994.
This is because our Association became a
Company Limited by Guarantee
on 26 August 1994.
Hence, the next audit will be for the period
26 August 1994 to 31 December 1995.

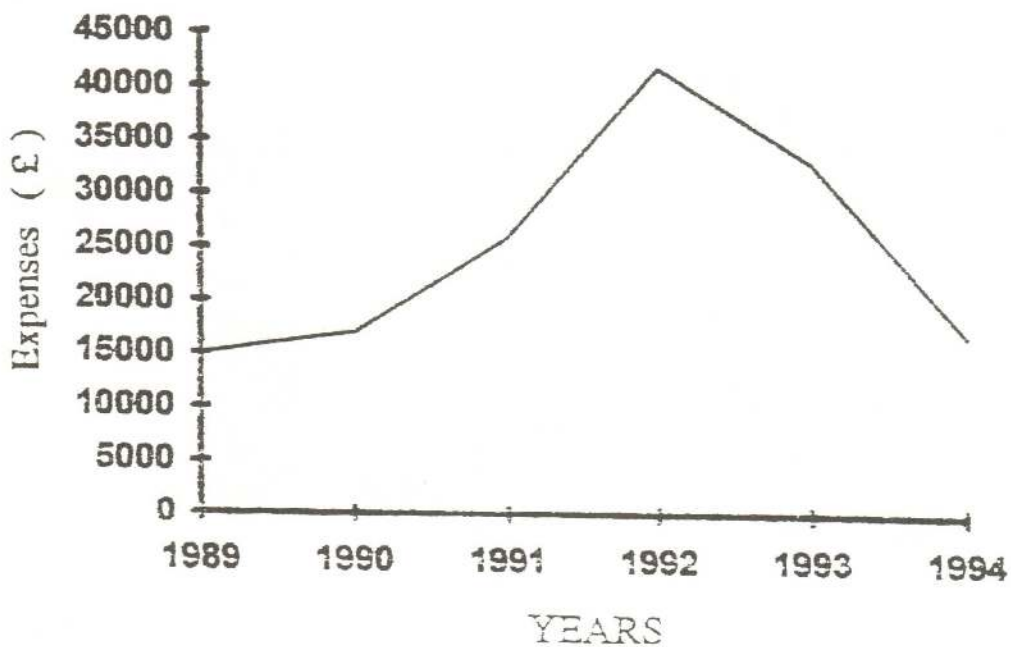


An Art Exhibition was held on Saturday and Sunday, the 4th and 5th February 1995, at the Froud Centre, Manor Park, E12. and the workshop was held at Little Ilford Centre and the Froud Centre. The Exhibition was opened by Councillor Ronald Manley. These were organised by TWAN and funded by Newham Leisure Services Department.

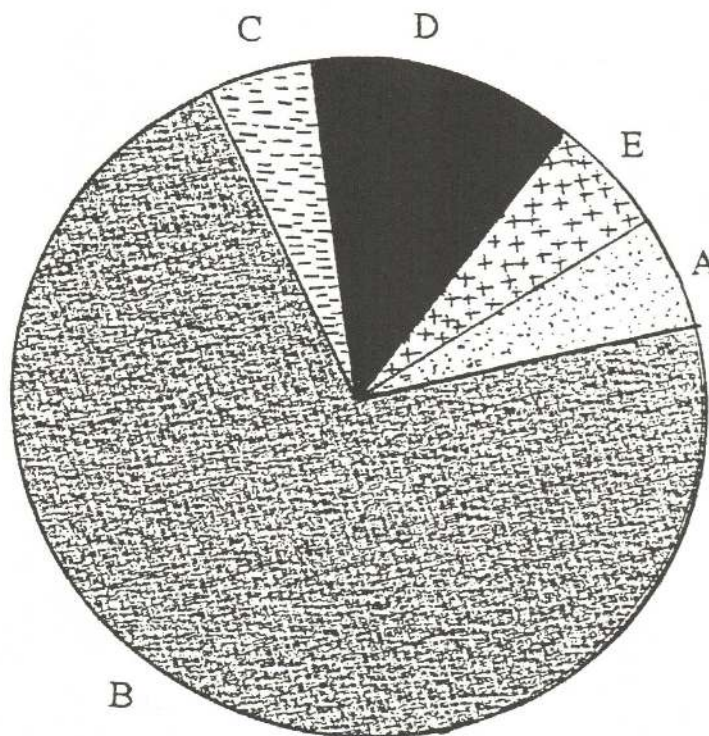
Analysis of services provided by TWAN 1994 - 1995



Yearly Expenses Incurred

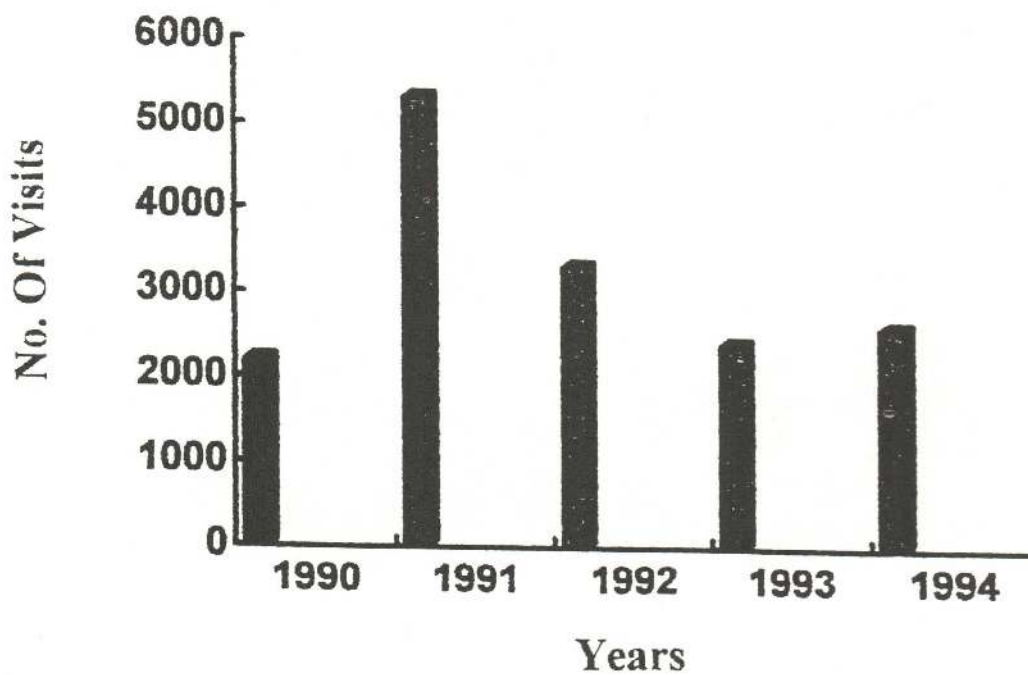


Analysis of Expenditure Year 1994



- A. Volunteer expenses, Transport & Travelling
- B. Office administration
- C. Professional charges
- D. Cultural activity
- E. Maintenance

People Received Services From TWAN





CULTURAL PROGRAM 1994



SUMMER TRIP 1994



TWAN SPORTS CLUB

என்னை நினைத்து...

என்னை நினைத்து
ஏங்குவதை நிறுத்திவிடு

என்னருமை காதலனே
ஏன் இந்தக் கோலம் கொண்டாய்
என் முடிவு தெரிந்திருந்தும்
ஏன் இன்னும் ஏக்கமய்யா?

என்னை நினைத்து
ஏங்குவதை நிறுத்திவிடு

கருத்தறியா வயதில்
கருத்தரித்த காதல்
காலம் முழுதும் வாழவில்லை
கலங்காதே கடந்துசெல் - என்னை.....

இழந்தவை இழந்தவைதான்
இருப்பதை வைத்து இனிமைகொள்
இனிவரும் பொழுதுகளை
இன்பமுடன் வாழ்ந்திடு - என்னை

என்னுடைய நினைவுகள்
மேற்கில் மறையட்டும்
கிழக்கில் உதயமாகும்
உன் புதிய வாழ்வை தேடு - என்னை...

வண்ணாத்திப் பூச்சியாய்
பறந்து செல்
உனக்காக எத்தனையோ - புதிய
மலர்கள் காத்துக்கிடக்கின்றன - என்னை...

நாளை நீ படைக்கும் வரலாற்றில்
நிச்சயம் நான் கலந்திருப்பேன்
எதிர்காலம் உனக்காக நீண்டு கிடக்கையில்
என்னை நினைத்து எதிர்காலத்தை
வீணாக்காதே - என்னை...

சைக்கிள் கடையில் நின்று
சைகை காட்டியதும்
சந்தியில் நின்று
சைட் அடித்ததும்

பண்டிதரின் வகுப்பிலே
பம்பல் அடித்ததும்
கவிதை எழுதி
காதல் வளர்த்ததையும்
கனவு என்று மறந்து விடு - என்னை...

பாதியிலே விட்டுச்செல்லும்
பாதகியை மன்னித்துவிடு
பாதை ஒன்றை அமைத்து நீயும்
புதுப்பயனம் அதை தொடர்ந்து விடு - என்னை...

தேர்த்திருவிழாவில் நீ
தேடி வந்து பார்த்ததுவும்
தேவையில்லாதாகிப் போச்சு
தேதி எனக்கு தந்தாச்சு - என்னை...

ஆயிரம் மைல்களுக்கப்பால்
அங்கு நீ இருந்தாலும்
என்னை நினைத்து ஏங்குவதாய்
எனக்கு இறுதிச் சேதி வந்ததையா - என்னை...

அன்பரசி இல்லை நீ
பண்பரசி என்றாய் - எனக்கு
ஆயுள் குறைவு என்று
அன்று உனக்கு தெரியாது - என்னை...

உன்னுடைய நினைவுகள்
என்னுடன் வாழுது
கலங்காதே கண்ணு
காலம் தந்த கோலம் இது - என்னை...

எமனின் வரவிற்காய் - நாட்களை
எண்ணிக் காத்திருக்கும்
என்னை மறந்து விடு
என்னை நினைத்து
ஏங்குவதை நிறுத்தி விடு

அகத் தீரு(ந்து)ம் புகள் நூள்

எனது மக்களையும்
எனது தேசத்தையும்
எண்ணிப் பார்க்கின்றேன்

எங்கள் மண்ணும்
எங்கள் உறவும்
எதையும் மிஞ்சும்
ஏற்றம் பெற்றவை

மண்ணில் இருந்து
பர தேசம் வந்தோம்-எம்
கண்ணில் காணவில்லை
களிப்பான ஒளியதனை

உண்ண உணவில்லை
உடுக்க உடையில்லை
படிக்க பள்ளியில்லை
படுத்துறங்க பாயுமில்லை

உரிமைக்கோ உணர்வில்லை
உயற்கும் உத்தரவாதமில்லை
இவையனைத்தும் இல்லையென்று
இங்கிலாந்தை நாடிவந்தோம்

தவித்துவந்த தமிழர்தனை
தரக்கேடாய் நடத்துகின்றார்
அறுமாசம்தான் அனுமதியாம்
அவசரமாய்திரும்பிப் போகட்டாம்

தமிழர்சிலர் இங்கும் கூட
சிறைதனிலே வாடுகின்றார்கள்
நாட்கெடு கொடுக்கப்பட்டு
நம்மவர் நம் நாட்டிற்கும்

திருப்பி அனுப்பப்படுகின்றார்
“வெள்ளையனே வெளியேறு”
அன்று நாம் அடித்துரைத்தது
இன்று வெள்ளையன் கூறுவது
“தமிழன் என்று சொல்லடா
தரணியின்றி நில்லடா”
இடம்மாறிப்போன இதிகாசங்கள்

நாடுமில்லா வீடுமில்லா நாம்
நடுத்தெருவில் நின்றதும்
அன்னிய தேசம் இதில்
அகதி என முகவரித்ததும்

இன்றுடன் முடியட்டும்
இனியும் வேண்டாம்
இவ் இழிவான வாழ்க்கை

என் உடலில் வலுவிருக்கு
என் மனதில் துணிவிருக்கு
திரும்பிப் போவேன்
என் மண்ணுக்கு.

-துளசி

கல்யாண சந்தை

ஐயாறு முப்பது
ஆயினும்
அவள் இன்னும் கன்னியே
காரணம்
கல்யாணச் சந்தையில்
மாப்பிள்ளையின் விலையே.

- அருண்ராம்

சந்தர்ப்பவாத்

என்னவள் தான் என்று
சொன்னவள்
இடையினில்
கண்டனள் என்னவோ
தன்னவன் நானில்லையாம் என்று
கொண்டனள் எவனையோ தனதாக்கியினு.

- ராம்

காதலின் குற்றம்

நெற்றிக்கு பொட்டு வைத்தாய்
நிலவே நீ தொட்டு வைத்தாய்
நெஞ்சத்தை மட்டும் ஏன் விட்டுவைத்தாய்
என் காதலை மட்டுமேன் சுட்டுவைத்தாய்
கண்ணோரம் மை தீட்டுகின்றாய்
கண்ணாளன் எனை மட்டும் ஏன் வாட்டுகின்றாய்

உன் உதடுகள் மின்னுதடி சாயத்தில்
என் உள்ளமது உருகுதடி காயத்தில்
ஆயினும் கற்பனையில் கிடைத்த ஆகாயத்தில்
ஆயிரம் கவிதைகள் கிடைத்த ஆதாயத்தில்
வஞ்சி உந்தன் பளபளக்கும் பஞ்சவிரல்கள்
வாலிபத்தை வசந்தமாக்கும் பிஞ்சுவிரல்கள்

அந்த நகத்திற்கு கூட பூசுகிறாய் நீ பூச்சு
என்னிடத்தில் முகம் கொடுத்து பேச மறுக்கிறாய் பேச்சு
இனி நகத்தை சிவப்பாக்க சிவப்பு சாயம் தேடாதே
சிதைந்து போன இதயத்தில் சொட்டுதடி குருதி
ஆயிரம் தான் நான் சிந்தட்டும் இரத்தம்
அசைந்து கொடுக்கமாட்டது உன் சித்தம்.....
இது..... நான் காதலித்ததன் குற்றம்.

-முரா

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இலங்கையிலும் இந்தியாவிலிருந்தும் தருவிக்கப்பட்ட அத்தியாவசியப் பொருட்கள்,
அன்பளிப்புப் பொருட்கள், பத்திரிகைகள், சஞ்சிகைகள்,
ஒடியோக்கள், சீட்க்கள், மற்றும் பழைய புதிய வீடியோப் படங்கள் அனைத்தும் மலிவு விலையில்
மனநிறைவோடு பெற்றுக்கொள்ள நாடவேண்டிய நம்பிக்கையான ஸ்தாபனம்.

KSP SUPER FOODS

318 High Street North, Manor Park, London E12 6SA

Tel: 0181 471 7806, 0181 552 8053

KSP SUPER FOODS

447,449, Barking Road, East Ham London E6

Tel: 0181 503 5483

புகலிடம் கோருவோர் மீது புதிய அச்சுறுத்தல்கள்!

அரசின் புதிய நடவடிக்கைகள்:

- புகலிட விதிகளை இறுக்குகிறது
- புகலிட உரிமைகளை ஒடுக்குகிறது

1995 நவம்பர் மாதம் ஆரம்பமாகவிருக்கும் பாராளுமன்றக் கூட்டத்தொடரில் சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட விருக்கும் பிரேரணைகளைப் பற்றிய சென்ற மார்ச் மாத மத்தியில் தேசியப் பத்திரிகைகளில் வெளியாகியுள்ள செய்திகள், மக்கள் மத்தியில் பெரும் மனக்கிலேசத்தை ஏற்படுத்தியுள்ளன. அவற்றில் பின்வரும் பிரேரணைகள் பிரதானமானவையாகும்.

■ புகலிடம் கோரிய சிலருக்கு வாய்மொழி மனு கோரும் உரிமையை மறுப்பதாகும். ஆதாரமற்றது என்று நிராகரிக்கப்பட்ட விண்ணப்பதாரர்கள் நடுவர் முன்னிலையிலான விசாரணைக்கு மனு செய்யுமிடத்து, முன்னர் போல, (அநேகமாக, சட்டப் பிரதிநிதி ஒருவர் உதவியுடன்) வாய்மொழி மூலம் கோர முடியாது. மாறாக, அவர்கள் தமது மனுவை இனிமேல் எழுத்து மூலம் சமர்ப்பிக்க வேண்டும்.

மனுச்செய்யும் பாதுகாப்பீடானது, 'ஆதாரமற்றது' என்று நிராகரிக்கப்பட்ட மனுதாரர்களைப் பொறுத்த வரையில் ஏனையவர்களைவிட இவர்களுக்கு மிக முக்கியமானதாகும். நிர்வாக அதிகாரிகள் வழங்கும் தீர்ப்பின் அடிப்படையிலேயே இம்மாதிரியானவர்களின் புகலிடக் கோரிக்கைகள் நிராகரிக்கப்படுகின்றன. இத்தீர்ப்பிற்கு எவ்விதமான சட்டபூர்வமான நடைமுறையும் இல்லை. புகலிடம் கோருபவர் தான் வந்தி றங்கிய துறைமுகத்தில் அல்லது விமான நிலையத்தில் - வந்து சேர்ந்த ஒரு சில மணித்தியாலங்களுக்குள் - எந்தவொரு ஆலோசகருடனும் கலந்தாலோசிப்பதற்கு முன்னர் - பெருங்குழப்பத்திலும் பீதியிலும் உள்ள நிலைமையில் சீருடை அதிகாரிகளைத் தவிர வேறு எவருடனும் பேசிக்கொள்ளமுடியாத நிலையில் - புகலிடம் கோருபவர்கள் கூறும் வாக்கு மூலங்களை வைத்தே இம்மாதிரித் தீர்ப்புகள் வழங்கப்படுகின்றன. கூறவேண்டிய முக்கியமான விடை

யங்கள் சொல்லப்படாமல் விடுபட்டுப்போகிற சந்தர்ப்பங்கள், இத்தகைய சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் மிக அதிகமாக உள்ளன. இம்மாதிரி நிலைமைகளில் மனு சமர்ப்பிக்கும் உரிமை மிகவும் அவசியமானதாகும்.

நாட்டுக்குள் வந்த பின்னர் மனுக்கோரும் உரிமையானது, 1993ஆம் ஆண்டுச் சட்டத்தின் பிரகாரமே புகலிடங்கோரும் சகலருக்கும் விஸ்தரிக்கப்பட்டது. அதற்கு முதல் 'விசா' பெற்று இங்கிலாந்திற்குள் நுழைந்து புகலிடங்கோரியவர்களுக்கு மட்டுமே, மனுக்கோரும் உரிமை வழங்கப்பட்டிருந்தது. புகலிடங்கோருபவரின் கோரிக்கைகளைப் பூரணமாகச் செவிமடுக்கும், மனுச் செய்யும் உரிமையை அகற்றியமை, வந்துகுவியும் மனுக்களின் நெருக்குவாரத்திலிருந்து ஓரளவு மீள்வதற்குமே என்பதில் ஐயம் எதுவுமில்லை.

■ பிரச்சினையில்லாத நாடுகள் என்றொரு பட்டியலைத் தயாரித்து விட்டு, பிரஸ்தாப நாடுகளைச் சேர்ந்த பிரஜைகள் புகலிடங்கோரும் சந்தர்ப்பத்தில், அவை 'போதுமான ஆதாரமற்றவை' என்று முன்னுமானத்தின் பேரில் நிராகரித்தல், இங்கு புகலிட மனுக்கள் போதுமான பரிசீலனை எதுவும் மேற்கொள்ளப்படாத நிலையிலேயே நிராகரிக்கப்படுகின்றன.

1951ஆம் ஆண்டின் ஐக்கிய நாடுகள் ஒப்பந்த மரபின்படி புகலிடங்கோரும் ஒவ்வொருவரினது மனுவையும் தனிப்பட பரிசீலிப்பதென்பது இங்கிலாந்தின் கடமையாகும். சில நாடுகளில் மனித உரிமைகள் பாதுகாப்பானது இங்கிலாந்தோடு ஒத்து நோக்கத்தளவு பேணப்பட்டாலும், இந்தப் பட்டியலுக்குள் வந்துசேர முடியாத நாடுகள் கூடச் சிறந்த நாடுகளின் பட்டியலுக்குள் வந்துவிடக்கூடிய ஆபத்

துக்களுண்டு. இம்மாதிரி நாடுகளின் பட்டியலைத் தயாரிக்கும்போது, தவறுகள் எதுவும் நேராமல் பார்த்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். ஜேர்மனியில் இந்நாடுகளின் பட்டியலைப் பாராளுமன்றமே நுணுக்கமாகப் பரிசீலனை செய்கிறது.

மனித உரிமை மீறல்கள் மோசமாக இடம்பெறும் பல நாடுகளைச் சேர்ந்த பிரஜைகளின் மனுக்கள்கூட தற்போது இங்கிலாந்தில் நூற்றுக்கு நூறு வீதம் அல்லது நூறு வீதத்திற்கு சற்றே குறைவான அளவில் நிராகரிக்கப்பட்டு விடுகின்றன. அங்கோலா, பெனின், கமறூன், இந்தியா, நைஜீரியா பாகிஸ்தான், சியராலியோன், இலங்கை, ஷெயர் ஆகிய நாடுகள் இவற்றில் சிலவாகும். இந்நாடுகளில் வாழும் கணிசமான பிரஜைகளுக்கு மனித உரிமைகள் அவ்வளவுதானும் உத்தரவாதப்படுத்தப்படவில்லை. மனுக்கள் நிராகரிக்கப்படும் விதமானது அந்நாடுகளில் நிலவும் பாதுகாப்புத் தன்மைக்கு ஒரு குறியீடாக அமையமாட்டாது.

இங்கிலாந்திற்கு வரும் வழியில் வேறு ஏதேனும் நாடுகளைக் கடந்து வந்திருந்தால் அந்நாடுகளுக்குத் திருப்பியனுப்பும் முறையில் 'முன்றாவது நாடு' என்ற விதிப்பிரகாரம் நாடொன்றின் பட்டியலைத் தயாரித்தல்.

இந்த 'முன்றாவது நாடு' என்ற விதிப்பிரயோகம் பாரதூரமானதாகும். புகலிடம் கோரியவர் இதன் பிரகாரம் எந்த நாட்டிற்கு அனுப்பப்படுகிறாரோ அந்த நாடு அவருக்கு ஐ.நா ஒப்பந்த மரபின் கீழ் பாதுகாப்பு வழங்கும் என்பதற்கு எந்த உத்தரவாதமும் கிடையாது.

புகலிடம் கோருபவர்கள் கணிசமான அளவில் வந்துகொண்டிருக்கும் நாடுகளில் விசா வழங்குவதன் மீது மிகுந்த கட்டுப்பாடுகளை மேற்கொள்ளாதல்: அரசாங்கம் இதனைப் பாதுகாப்பானதாகக் கருதுகிறது. ஆனால் விசா பெறுவதில் நிலவும் கடுமையான கெடுபிடுகள் அபாய நிலைமைகளிலிருந்து தப்புவதை மேலும் கஷ்டமாக்குவதுடன் பேராபத்திற்கும் இட்டுச் செல்வதாக உள்ளது. புகலிட மனுக்கள் அதிகமாக வந்து குவியும் காலப்பகுதியில் இம்மாதிரி விசா பெறுவதில் கடுமையான விதிமுறைகள் கடைபிடிக்கப்பட்டுள்ளன. பல சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் மனித உரிமை மீறல் பிரச்சினைகள் மிக உச்சமாக இருந்த இடங்களிலேயே இம்மாதிரி விசா கெடுபிடுகள் மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டன. 1980களில் ஈரானியர்களுக்கும், மனுச் 1985இல் இலங்கைத் தமிழர்க்கும் 1990இல் துருக்கியில் குர்திஸ் இனத் தவர்க்கும், 1992இல் பொஸ்னியார்களுக்கும் இவ்வாண்டின் முற்பகுதியில் சியராலியோன்வாசிகளுக்கும் இம்மாதிரி நிலைமையே ஏற்பட்டது.

இம்முறை அநீதியானதாகும்; இது தெரிந்த தெடுத்துச் சிலரைத் தவிக்கப்பார்க்கிறது. ஆபத்தை எதிர்நோக்கி நிற்கும் பலரால் இம்மாதிரி நிலைமைகளில் விசா பெற்றுக்கொள்வது என்பது மிகவும் இயலாதாகி விடுகிறது. நிற்கதியான நிலையில் புகலிடங்கள் தேடி ஓடுபவர்கள் விசா இல்லாமலேயே பய

னிக்க முனைகிறார்கள். இம்மாதிரி சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் போதுமான ஆவனங்கள் இல்லாமல் பயனிகளை ஏற்றும் விமானங்களின் மீது அரசாங்கம் அபராதம் விதிக்கின்றது.

விசாக்களும், கப்பல்கள், விமானங்களில் தகுந்த ஆவனங்கள் இல்லாத பயனிகளை ஏற்றி வருதலில் உள்ள பொறுப்புகளும் (விதிக்கப்படும் அபராதம்) புகலிடம் கோரி இங்கிலாந்திற்குள் வருபவர்களை தடுத்து நிறுத்தும் இங்கிலாந்தின் வலிமையான ஆயுதங்களாக உள்ளன.

உள்நோக்கம் என்ன?

1993ஆம் ஆண்டின் குடிவரவு மற்றும் புகலிட (மனுக்கள்) சட்டம் இயற்றப்பட்ட இரண்டு வருட காலத்திற்குள் இப்புதிய கட்டுப்பாடுகளை அரசு கொண்டுவர முனைந்திருப்பது, அரசாங்கம் இந்தச் சட்டத்தால் திருப்தியடையவில்லை என்பதையே காட்டுகிறது. இந்த 1993ஆம் ஆண்டுச் சட்டமானது 1990களின் ஆரம்பத்தில் வந்து குவிந்த புகலிட விண்ணப்பங்களின் எண்ணிக்கையைக் கட்டுப்படுத்துவது என்பது என்ற சிந்தனையிலேயே உருவானது. ஆனால், புகலிட விண்ணப்பங்கள் குறைந்தபாடாயில்லை. மாறாக, 1994ஆம் ஆண்டில் இத்தொகை கணிசமான அதிகரிப்பையும் காட்டியது. இப்பிரச்சினை தொடர்பாக பல்வேறு தீர்மானங்கள் நடைமுறைக்கு வந்தபோதும் புகலிட விண்ணப்பங்களின் அதிகமான எண்ணிக்கையும், மனு கோருதலும் நீண்டகாலத்தை எடுத்ததுடன் இறுதி முடிவைப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ள மிக நீண்ட கால அவகாசத்தை எடுத்தது.

■ புகலிடம் கோருவோருக்கான வருமானப்படி போன்ற சலுகைகள் குறைக்கப்பட்டன. ஏற்கனவே வழங்கப்பட்டு வந்ததில் 90 அளவிலேயே தற்போது இச்சலுகைகள் வழங்கப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. சமூக சேமநல வசதிகளை இவ்வாறு குறைத்து வழங்குவதன் மூலம், உலகெங்கிலும் இருந்து இங்கிலாந்திற்குள் வந்து புகலிடம் கோர நினைப்பவர்களின் மத்தியில் மனத் தளர்வினை ஏற்படுத்துவதே நோக்கம் என நம்பப்படுகிறது.

■ தொழில் வழங்குவோர் தமது ஊழியர்கள் தொடர்பான குடிவரவு அந்தஸ்தினைக் கவனத்திற் கொள்ளுமாறு வலியுறுத்தல். புகலிடங்கோருவோரின் மனுக்கள் மீது முடிவு எடுப்பதற்காக மேலதிகமான அதிகாரிகளைப் புதிதாக நியமிக்கப்படுவர்.

■ புகலிடங்கோருவோரின் விண்ணப்பங்கள் தொடர்பாகக் கடுமையான விதிகளைக் கடைப்பிடிப்பதுவும், இங்கிலாந்தில் அவர்களுடைய வாழ்க்கையை மிகவும் நெருக்கடிக்குள்ளாக்குவதும் அதிகரித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும் அகதிகளின் எண்ணிக்கை தொடர்பான பிரச்சினைகளைக் கையாளுவதற்குரிய முறையான நடவடிக்கைகள் ஆகமாட்டாது என்று பிரித்தானிய அகதிகள் மன்றம் போன்ற அமைப்புகள் கூறுகின்றன.

தேயவகள்

சிருகதை

கார்டீகம் கவிந்திருக்க கதிரவனின் அடையாளம் சிறிதுமில்லாமல் வானம் மய்யும் மந்தாரமுமாகக் காட்சியளித்தது. உண்டன் மாநகரம் பனிமுகரையில் மூழ்க்கிக்க வீடுகளில் குளிசுக்கு அடைக்கலம் தேடி, தீருக்கும் எல்லாவிதமான heaters ஐயும் போட்டு விட்டு, தீனிலும் ஏதாவது வெள்ளம் தர தீருக்கிறதா என்று யாத்த வண்ணம் பவிதிகள் குளிசுக்கு அஞ்சி தீருந்தார்கள்.

என்னதான் குளிர் என்றாலும் வேலைக்கு போவதை யட்டும் விட்டு முடியாதே சும்மா.....! என்று அலுத்துக் கொண்ட வண்ணம், அரவிந்தன் வீட்டிற்குள் துழைந்தான். தலையிலிருந்து கால் வரை எத்தனை போர்வைகள், தீந்த குளிரிலிருந்து உடையை மாடுகாக்க! அவற்றிலிருந்து வெளிவந்த மலர்கள் தீருக்கும் சுகம் தீருக்கிறதே! எத்தனை பெரிய சுதந்திரம் அது? தீந்த உண்டன் bus என்றதால் நேரத்திற்கு வந்திருக்கிறது? கையூழ் காலும் விநைத்து மூக்கை நிமிர்த்தி விவாழக் கொடுதரம் உறிஞ்சிக்கொண்டும் பட்டும் அவைத்தை எல்லாம் யிட. பிறகு சாவகாசமாக வந்து நிற்கும் தரளஜக் கண்டால் என்ன செய்தால் தீந்தக் கோயம் தீரும் என்றிருக்கும். சரிதான் என்று bus டு ஒதுமாதிரி ஏறி உடம்பைச் சூடாக்கி முடிய, வந்திறங்க வேண்டிய நிறுத்தம் வந்திருக்கும். பின் தீருக்கி 10 நிமிடம் நடந்து வீட்டுறிகள் வந்து சேருவதற்குள் மீண்டும் குளிரில் உடம்பு விநைத்துவிடும். வீட்டிற்குள் வந்தால் யட்டும் என்ன பிரியோசனம்? வெளிக் கும் உள்குக்கும் சும்மா ஒன்றும் பெரிய வித்தியாசம் தீருக்கப் போவதில்லை.

மவதில் தோன்றிய எரிச்சலை பின்னுக்குத் தள்ளி விட்டு உயாவறுப் போட்டு மயள கசைநறு போட்டால், வந்த அலுப்பும் தீர்வு. மீண்டும் உடம்பைச் சூடாக்கி கொள்ளவும் அந்த உதவாத சூன்வெய்யே உட்காந்து கொண்டான். தீவிசேவ்தான் எதை யாவது சமைத்துச் சாப்பிட்டாக வேண்டும். வரும் போது kebab தீவோ, kentuckyயிலோ எதையாவது வாங்கலாம் ஆனால் அந்த உதவச் சாப்பிடாத சாயாவெல்லாம் மாற்றத்திற்காக வேறுமாவால் ஒரு முறை சாப்பிடலாம். ஆனால் அதையே நாளாந்த உணவாக்க நாகுப் பெரிதாக தீடும் கொடுக்காது. சும்மாத்தான் நாகுத்தான் தீடும் கொடுத்தாலும் பொருளாதாரம் தீடும் கொடுக்காது. வெளியில் அதைச் சொல்ல முடியாது. சொல்லாது அவன் பக்க வாநக்களை யாரும் ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள போவதில்லை அவனுக்கென்ன? தீருகலாக petrol station தீல் வேலை செய்திறான். வீடே வாக்கிய போட்டான். ஆனால் கேட்டால் சும்மாத்தீருக்க

கணக்குப்பார்க்கிறான் என்பான். தீருதான் அவனுக்கு தெரிந்தவர்களின் முனுமுனுப்பு. ஆனால் அந்த முனு முனுப்பும் அவர்கள் யார்கையில் நியாயமானதே.

தீருக்கு எதுக்கு தீருவோ வீடு? பெரிய வாழ்க்கை வாழ போசாய்ந்தால் கஷ்டம் ததானே வேண்டும். கஷ்டம் வேண்டும் என்ற அவர்களின் எண்ணம் சரியானாலும், அவனைப் பொறுத்தவரை அவனொன்றும் போசாய் ம வில்லை. அவன் வீடு வாக்கியது கூட, அவனின் மிகச் சிறிய ஆசையே. ஆசை என்பதைவிட மிகபெரிய தேவை என்பதே அவன் எண்ணம். தீன்று தீந்த நாட்டில் அவனுள் அவன் போன்று தீருக்கையிலிருந்து அதற்களாக வந்த மற்றைய தீருகளுக்கும் பட்டும் அவைத்தை ஏன்? தெனால? என்ற எண்ணங்களின் அடியாயில் ஏற்பட்ட தேவையே வீடு வாக்குவதற்கும் காரணம். தீருத்தை கஷ்டம் தீரு ஒரு car கூட தன் வச திக்க வாக்காது குளிரிலும், மழையிலும் தீருகலாக உதவத்து வீடு வாக்கியிருக்கிறான் என்றால் அவன் வரையில் அது நியாயமானதே.

விவாழப் பொழுதில் அவன் மயம் தீருக்கையில் நின்று, எத்தனை தீருவ வாழ்க்கை! காசு என்பதன் அத்தமே தெரியாது, அவனுக்கு. சும்மா, சும்மாவிடம் எத்தனை காசிருந்ததா? தீருக்கையா? என்பதெல்லாம் அவனுக்குத் தெரியாது. தெரியவும் பெற்றோர்கள் அனுமதித்ததில்லை. நண்பர்களோடு அட்டை, கஷ்டாரி வாழ்க்கை என்று பொழுது எப் போதுமே னுடையாக தீருந்தது. அக்கு அவன் வாழ்ந்த வாழ்க்கைக்கும் தீரு அவன் வாழும் வாழ்க்கைக்கும் எவ்வளவு வித்தியாசம்.

பிரச்சனைக்குப் படித்து தேலீல் தீருக்க அவன் வரும் போது அவனுக்கென்று யாரும் தீருந்த நாட்டில் தீருக்கவில்லை. பனித்தியாவுத்திற்கு ஒரு மலுன் என்று ஒரு Garments factoryயில் எத்தனையோ கஷ்டம் தீருக்கை தேடிக்கொண்டான். காலை வேலைக்குப்போய் மாவை 5 மணிக்கு வேலை யால் வந்து, சமையல் என்ற பெயரில் தனக்குத் தெரிந்த எதையோ செய்து சாப்பிட்டுவிட்டு 7 மணிக்கு தீருக்கை வகுப்பிற்கு போனால் வர 9 மணியாகும். மீண்டும் மறுநாள் வேலைக்குப் போகவேண்டும் என்ற எண்ணத்தில் படுக்கைக்குப் போய்விடுவான்.

September தீல், தீருக்கையில் எடுத்த A/L Result ஐ வைத்துக்கொண்டு ஒருவாறு H.N.D.யில் துழைந்து கொண்டான். தொடக்கத்தில் பட்டம் நடந்து கொண்டிருக்கும்போதே என்ன யாம் படிக்கிறோம் என்று தெரியாது ஒரு குழிம், படிப்பாயாக, தீருந்த வெள்ளையர்களுடன் அவர்களின் புறக்கணிப்பையும் பொருட்படுத்தாது நன்மை வளர்த்துக்கொண்டு H.N.D. முடித்து, Degree தீருக்கையால் வகுப்பில் சேர்ந்து தீருக்கு வகுப்புகளை வேலையும், படிப்பும் என்று போராடிப் படிப்பை முடித்தும் ஒரு யாலும் தீருக்கை என்பது 2 வகுப்புகள் வேலை தேடிக்களைத்த பின்பு தான் தெரிந்தது.

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TWAN



The Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Maureen Knight J.P.

London Borough of Newham

Tamil Welfare Association (Newham) U.K.
33a Station Road
Manor Park London E12 5BP

6th April 1995

Dear Friends

It gives me the greatest pleasure to send my best wishes to you and your families on the occasion of the Tamil New Year.

I very much hope that the year ahead will be one in which the Tamil community in Newham will continue to grow and prosper and that the Tamil Welfare Association will also continue to develop and improve the range of services it provides which are so vital for the future of the community and its culture.

Once again my best wishes to you all.

yours sincerely

Maureen Knight

Maureen Knight
Mayor

வாழ்த்துகிறோம்

பவதன்னை வழியனுப்பி - மலரும்
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பல்லாயிரம் காலம் மானிடரெல்லாம்
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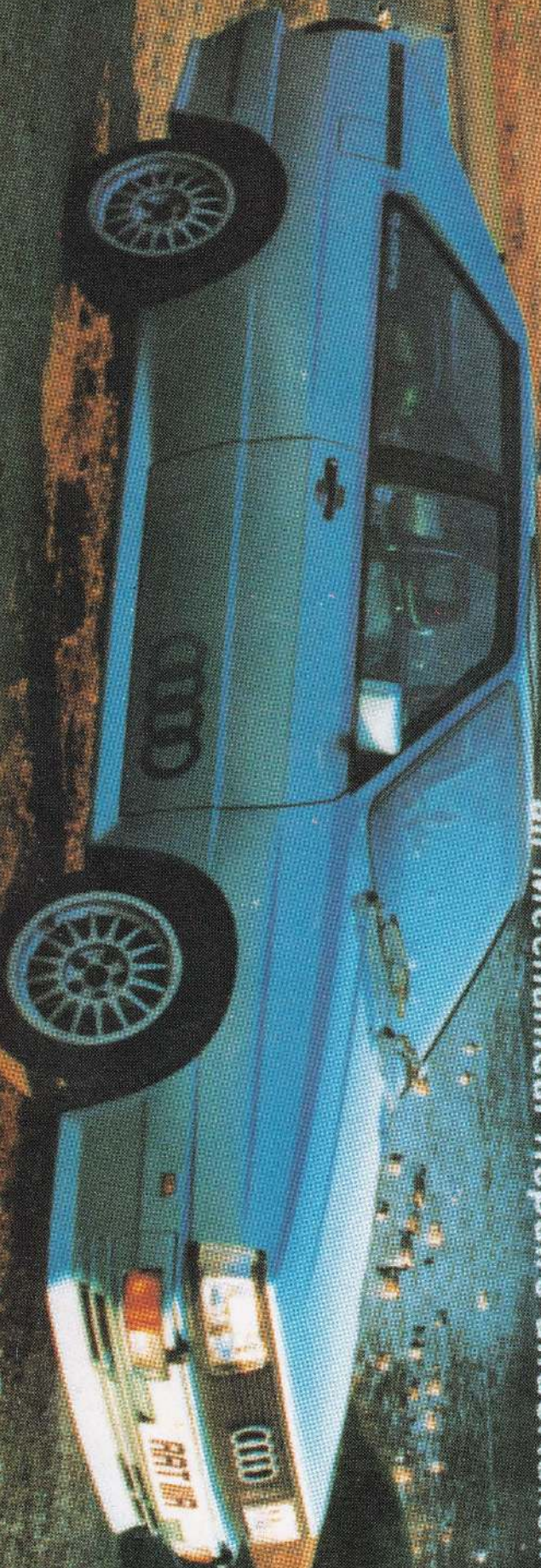
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