

# Health in the Firing Line

*The impact of war on health and human rights in Sri Lanka*

Thursday 23rd April 2009  
Henry Wellcome Auditorium

9:00 Registration, tea and coffee

9:30 Welcome

*Dr Suppiah Ratneswaren, GP and director of Tamil Information Centre*

## Health in North-East Sri Lanka

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Chair – Ms Marion Birch, director of Medact

9:40 Health in North-East Sri Lanka

*Mr John Mahoney, UK National Counterpart for Mental Health and former WHO consultant in Sri Lanka*

10:00 Mental Health and Psychological Effects of War

*Dr Anula Nikapotha & Professor Rachel Tribe, University of East London*

10:20 Psychological needs of Tamil refugees in London: The refugee council approach

*Mr Andrew Keefe, Refugee Council*

10:40 Maps in the Sand: Investigating health and human rights in Sri Lanka

*Mr Vairamuttu Varadakumar, Executive Secretary, Tamil Information Centre*

11:00 Discussion

11:20 Tea and coffee break

## The current humanitarian crisis in the Vanni region

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Chair – Ms Frances Harrison, former BBC correspondent

11:40 The current crisis: access to food and medicine

*Ms Urmila Paramarajah, MSc, medical student, University of Glasgow*

12:00 The role of the international community in responding to the crisis

*Dr Jonathan Goodhand, Senior Lecture, School of Oriental and African Studies*

12:20 Discussion

12:50 Closing remarks

*Mr Pathman Ratnasar, retd ENT surgeon & director of Tamil Information Centre*

13:00 Lunch