

Health in the Firing Line

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

9.00 am - 1.00 pm

Thursday 23rd April 2009

Henry Wellcome Auditorium

Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, London. NW1 2BE

'Health in the Firing Line' is a conference examining the direct and indirect burden on health caused by over 20 years of civil war in Sri Lanka and the present humanitarian crisis in Vanni. This seminar brings together health-care professionals and human rights workers who have experience of working in Sri Lanka. *Enduring War and Health Inequality in Sri Lanka*, a report by Tamil Information Centre, will be discussed and released. The conference and the report will be useful for human rights activists, non-governmental organisations, health-care professionals and those interested in the public health effects of war.



Tickets are free and include lunch, but please book in advance or email conference@tamilinfo.org

www.tamilinfo.org/healthinthefiringline

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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

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

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