

Project Proposal

**Bridging the Gap
between
Self-Determination and
Sovereignty**

Centre for Just Peace and Democracy

In collaboration with

Berghof Foundation for Conflict Studies



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Project proposal for the discourse on “Bridging the Gap between Self-Determination and Sovereignty”

Proposed Project

In a fresh attempt to resolve the political conflict that has bedevilled Sri Lanka from the time of decolonization in 1947, and more particularly, to put an end to the armed conflict of the past twenty-five years, the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE came forward to sign a Cease-Fire Agreement (CFA) in 2002. It was based on the recognition of, *inter alia*, the following facts: the existence of territories under the control of the LTTE that were not under the control of the State; the existence of the armed wing as well as the political wing of the LTTE; mutual respect for these facts without encroachment or infringement.

It has been observed by experts both in Sri Lanka and the international community that the conflict has the potential to be resolved by reconceptualising sovereignty and restructuring the Sri Lankan state.

In this context, the CJPD seeks to undertake a research project to study avenues available to bridge the gap between sovereignty and self-determination. This will include exploring concepts, strategies and roadmaps, which helped to break the deadlock in countries like Serbia/Montenegro, Sudan, Indonesia/ Aceh, Bosnia, East Timor, Bougainville and Cyprus

Aim

CJPD aims to publish a collection of research papers on the subject with the aim of

Drawing lessons from successful instances where the gap between sovereignty and self-determinations have been addressed.

Studying how these lessons can be applied in the context of the situation in the island of Sri Lanka between the ‘de jure’ and the ‘de facto’ entities.

Objectives

To enable (with specific reference to the conflict in Sri Lanka)

The formulation of models that by incorporating the measures that may help bridge the competing demands of sovereignty and self determination.

The conditional and progressive transfer of sovereignty from the state to the de facto state.

Anticipated Outcome

A contribution towards increased understanding of multiple peaceful trajectories for sovereignty / self-determination based conflicts and generating suggestions for a way forward to resolve the conflict in Sri Lanka in a creative and amicable manner. The publication aspires to enrich the wider discourse on the different facets of International intervention in Sri Lanka.