



கனடியத் தமிழர் தேசிய அவை
National Council of Canadian Tamils
Conseil National de Tamouls Canadien

Tamil Genocide Education Week May 12th – May 18th

In June 2020, Chair of TDSB, Robin Pilkey stated, “Genocide Education is known to help students better understand their rights as humans, both individually and as a society, and also provide them with the critical thinking skills needed to better understand racism and intolerance. In return, this prepares students to recognize, report and combat various forms of hate in their own surroundings. For this reason, we believe Genocide Education is critical in our fight against hate and discrimination.”

Article: Incorporating Genocide Education as Compulsory Learning

The Canada’s House of Commons has passed a unanimous motion in 2019 calling "the UN to establish an international independent investigation into allegations of Genocide against Tamils committed in Sri Lanka, including during the last phase of the armed conflict in 2009.” Another unanimous motion passed at the Canada’s House of Commons in 2022 recognize the genocide committed against Tamil people and declares that May 18th as Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day. May 18th has also been proclaimed as Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day at the City of Toronto and the City of Brampton.

The Tamil Genocide Education Week Act was unanimously voted by all parties at the Ontario Legislature and given royal assent by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Hon. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, in 2021. Through this bill, Ontarians will be educated about the Tamil Genocide while also supporting the healing for the community.

| Date | Activities |
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| Day 1 | <p>Trigger Warning: This lesson includes content related to murder, rape, physical violence and identity-based discrimination and harassment.</p> <p>Please see the package on information on Bill 104-Tamil Genocide Education Week</p> <p>Today, we will be discussing what is Genocide and briefly introduce the Tamil Genocide. Video Link: https://youtu.be/y9fiIsGnzdo (2:50)</p> |



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| | <p>Post Video Discussion Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What constitutes a Genocide?2. Can you think of a Genocide that has occurred in the past?3. What are the effects of Genocide on an individual? Community? Society?4. Why do you think it is important for us to talk about Genocide? <p>***Please Note: This video was made in 2022 and so refers as having been 13 years since the Tamil Genocide. It is now 14 years since the genocide***</p> |
| Day 2 | <p>Today's topic is looking into historical genocides and identifying similarities with the Tamil Genocide. Video Link: https://youtu.be/5ODqrKvcawU (12:34)</p> <p>Post Video Discussion Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are some similarities between the Holocaust and Tamil Genocide?2. The government of Sri Lanka has refused to endorse an independent international investigation into war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. They have stated they will conduct their own investigation. Do you think this investigation is credible? Why or why not?3. Are there any parallels you can think of in relation to events currently taking place around the world? |



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| Day 3 | <p>Today's topic is on trauma and intergenerational trauma of Tamil Genocide Survivors. * Please create a copy of the Jamboard File to use in your classroom. *</p> <p>1. Intro Using Jamboard Trauma and Intergenerational Trauma Pre-screening Discussion Questions: What is Trauma? Use examples to explain trauma Examples: Car Accidents, slipping on ice, and sports concussions. How do these examples lead to trauma? What are some effects of this trauma?</p> <p>2. Video Link: https://youtu.be/eG9arsSXxTM (2:42)</p> <p>3. Survivor Story: Anton Phillip Former Political prisoner and survivor of the Welikada Prison Massacre that took place during the Black July Anti-Tamil pogroms of 1983. Video Link: https://youtu.be/sAUFKZEJu0k (6:01)</p> |
| Day 4 | <p>Today's topic is on the advocacy work that is happening to seek justice and accountability for the Tamil Genocide.</p> <p>Video Link: https://youtu.be/cdkVLVtc7-M (6:59)</p> <p>Post video Discussion Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are some steps that the United Nations can take to support justice and accountability for the Tamil Genocide?2. What is one way you feel you can advocate for justice for those impacted by the Tamil Genocide? <p>Recent Update:</p> <p>In January 2023, Canada imposed sanctions on Sri Lanka's former presidents Mahinda Rajapaksa, and Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Sri Lankan army's Staff Sergeant Sunil Ratnayake and Lieutenant Commander Chandana Prasad Hettiarachchi, are few amongst the long list of criminals</p> |



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| | <p>with direct links to the war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed against the Tamil people.</p> <p>The sanctions prohibit persons in Canada and Canadians outside Canada from engaging in activity related to any property of these people or providing financial or related services to them. These individuals are inadmissible to Canada.</p> <p>***Please Note: This video refers to the current president as Gotabhaya Rajapaksa. He is no longer the President as he was forced to resign as a result of the country's economic crisis and his mismanagement of country affairs. ***</p> |
| Day 5 | <p>Today's topic is memorializing Genocide and taking a pledge. Please play the video and take the pledge (at the end) together as a class. Video Link: https://youtu.be/o1IXv2SsrKM (8:56)</p> <p>***Please Note: This video refers to the current president as Gotabhaya Rajapaksa, former Defence Secretary. He is no longer the President. Mahinda Rajapaksa is not the current Prime Minister. Both have been forced to step down due to the economic crisis in Sri Lanka.***</p> |