

2020 OTA EVENTS



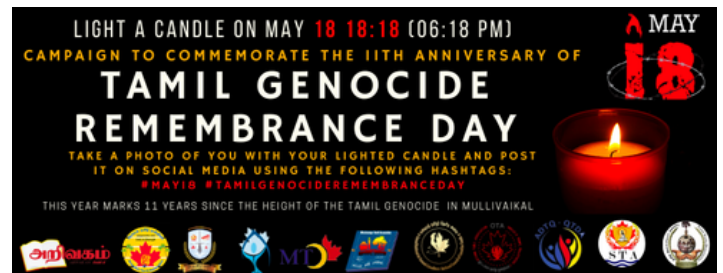
TAMIL HERITAGE MONTH GALA

The Tamil Heritage Month Gala celebrates Tamil culture while recognizing the Tamil Genocide, and discussing the actions needed to be taken to receive justice. The night is filled with traditional performances, as well as speeches from honorary members of parliament and community members.

This year's keynote speech was given by Professor Ramu Manivannan. He is a well-known academic researcher in political science and an author of many human rights publications. As head of the Department of Politics and Public Administration of the University of Madras, he has published volumes of papers and especially on the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Sri Lankan government and its authorities. Among others, he has authored the book "Sri Lanka: Hiding the Elephant" Documenting War Crimes, Crimes against humanity and Genocide."

TAMIL GENOCIDE REMEMBRANCE DAY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Tamil Genocide Remembrance Day event was held virtually, where members of the community were asked to take a picture of themselves lighting a candle, to honour the fallen soldiers and recognize the Tamil Genocide.



Thiyaki Thileepan Memorial Food Drive

In Tamil Eelam, on Sep 15, 1987, Thiyaki Thileepan who was on hunger strike for 12 days highlighting the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka accord requested setting up an interim council and 5 requests (release of political prisoners, stopping colonization, and withdrawal of Sri Lankan army and police from schools and villages) hoping that India would listen and agree. However, he died on September 26, 1987.

In Honor of Thileepan, the Ottawa Tamil Association plans to collect nonperishable food items in September's second and third week and hand them over to the Ottawa Food Bank as part of the Thiyaki Thileepan memorial Food Drive effort by the Tamil Civic Action initiative.

