

**Diane Desilva**

**“Search for Common Ground”  
A Workshop on the Prospects for Peace in Sri Lanka**

The workshop “ Search for Common Ground” will endeavour to provide a brief background to the conflict in Sri Lanka from a Sinhalese as well as a Tamil perspective. It will then go on to place it in a theoretical framework and explore some of the obstacles and possibilities for a sustainable and lasting peace in Sri Lanka.

The presentations will be strengthened by grassroots insights into the current situation on the ground today, as Norway mediates between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to bring an end to almost two decades of war.

- Background to the conflict from a Sinhalese perspective
- Background to the conflict from a Tamil perspective
- The Nature of Peace – What will make the peace process last?
- Insights on what is happening on the ground at the moment, blockages, issues and prospects

This will be an open, interactive discussion with opportunities for questions from the audience in order to stimulate thinking.

The Workshop on the 15th July will be repeated on the 16<sup>th</sup> July. On the first day the above will be presented with a time for questions and discussions. On the 16<sup>th</sup> July, the workshop will be repeated, with an opportunity also to discuss some of the issues that emerged on the previous day.