



House of Commons – House of Lords

Council for Education in the Commonwealth

Sri Lanka

60 Years of Educational Progress and Challenge

Chair: Tim Boswell MP

Dr. Harsha Aturupane

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Discussant: **Prof Angela Little**,
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In the presence of

HE Mr. Justice Nihal Jayasinghe

High Commissioner of Sri Lanka

Monday 17th. November, 4.30 p.m.
1 Parliament Street, Room C, Westminster
(just off Parliament Square, joining to Whitehall)

All Welcome

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Sri Lanka and its education

Sri Lanka has been one of the success stories in terms of education. Sixty years after independence, its adult literacy rate is over 90 per cent, its net enrolment ratio for primary education is close to 100 per cent, its gross secondary enrolment rate is over 80 per cent –with a slight preponderance of girls- and something over 15 per cent of the relevant age group enjoy tertiary education.

Yet 40 per cent of Sri Lanka's people live on less than £1.00 per day and the national income per capita –in Purchasing Power Parity terms- is just over \$4,500 (as compared with \$34,000 for the UK).

How has the country managed its educational achievements in the face of not only relatively low economic development, but also violent ethnic conflicts? What lessons does it offer other countries on their way to EFA? What challenges remain in taking its education forward?

Dr. Harsha Aturupane is the lead author of the World Bank's most recent research on Sri Lanka's education, while Prof. Angela Little has researched, published and advised on the country's education for some 30 years.