



Honoring Meruba Sivaselvachandran

Washington D.C.; February 25, 2021 — PEARL was devastated to learn of the death of our beloved member Meruba Sivaselvachandran last week.

We want to extend our deepest sympathies and love to Meruba's family and friends.

Meruba joined PEARL's legal team last year, after reaching out to explore opportunities through the University of Toronto's International Human Rights Program. We spoke with her for the first time last February, and remember how eager she was to learn and contribute to our work. We were thrilled when her application with the International Human Rights Program was successful, and she was able to work with us full-time over the summer.

Meruba was truly a joy to work with and contributed to several important projects, including creating resources about Black July, researching opportunities for accountability, and supporting our advocacy efforts with the UN. She was always eager to learn and help, asking thoughtful questions that pushed our Legal Director, Anji Manivannan, to revisit legal analyses. When her studies resumed in the fall, she continued to support our work researching human rights treaty bodies and helped with both our fall volunteer orientation and anti-oppression training.

Meruba was a smart and passionate member of our team with whom we often discussed her bright future ahead. She was also our first legal intern, and our experience with her inspired us to formalize a legal team that has since expanded beyond the US and Canada to include Belgium and Australia. This is just a fraction of the legacy she leaves behind.

Meruba cared deeply about the issues faced by Tamils and eagerly contributed her skills and talents to help our people. Many of us saw our younger selves in her passion and enthusiasm for our struggle.

Meruba was an integral member of our PEARL family and we are devastated. She will be deeply missed and always remembered.