



PEARL's New Executive Director

Washington D.C.; August 16, 2021 – It gives me great pleasure to introduce Archana Ravichandradeva as PEARL's next Executive Director. Archana previously served as a Senior Advocacy Officer for PEARL, leading our advocacy efforts in Canada.

I first met Archana at a meeting with the Foreign Affairs Minister for Canada in the summer of 2019, and I was immediately impressed by her eloquence and persistence in advocating for the families of the disappeared. I had recently read [media coverage](#) about her work with the "Counting the Dead" campaign to identify those killed in the war, and I recognized the same fierce commitment to justice for Sri Lanka's genocide that drives PEARL's work.

Archana has been involved in Tamil activism since 2011, contributing to a variety of Tamil organizations before finding a home in PEARL. Archana's passion and commitment to the Tamil cause is what led her to pursue a career in law and a leadership role in PEARL.

It has been my privilege and joy to have led PEARL for the past 16 years. PEARL embodies the highest ideals of the Tamil community: its strength, its resilience, and its unswerving commitment to the Tamil nation. Working with a small team of advocates across the globe, we have accomplished so much more than I could have imagined! We helped establish an [international investigation](#) into Sri Lanka's mass atrocities; we supported the first-ever [sanctions](#) against a Sri Lankan army chief (whom we helped file a [U.S. lawsuit](#) against nearly a decade prior); and we released groundbreaking [research](#) on key human rights issues, such as the militarization of the Tamil homeland and the government's obstacles to memorialization.

I am incredibly proud of PEARL and the force it has become today, with a global team of staff, volunteers, and supporters across countries, professions, and generations. None of this would have been possible without the commitment of our volunteers, who kindly give their lunch breaks, evenings, and weekends to PEARL's work; the strategic guidance of our Board of Directors; and the generosity of our donors. Thank you all for your abiding commitment to our shared cause.

I am not leaving PEARL just yet and instead will be shifting to PEARL's Board of Directors. I am excited to introduce Archana to you all at a virtual event in mid-September – keep an eye out for details.

Please join me in welcoming Archana!

In Solidarity,
Tasha Manoranjan