



Seventh Decision on Standing

1. In this decision, I provide my reasons for granting two applications by the Human Rights Coalition (“HRC”): an application permitting a former member, the Uyghur Rights Advocacy Project (“URAP”), to rejoin the HRC, and an application seeking to add an additional member, the Tamil Rights Group (“TRG”), to the HRC.

Background – URAP

2. The URAP was a member of the HRC when the HRC was granted Party standing in the factual and policy phases of the Inquiry.

3. By email dated January 31, 2024, the HRC advised that URAP had decided to withdraw from the HRC effective immediately.

4. In my *Fifth Decision on Standing*, I amended the HRC’s grant of standing to recognize URAP’s withdrawal. The HRC’s grant of standing was otherwise unaffected.

Background – TRG

5. By email dated May 1, 2024, the HRC advised the Commission that the TRG sought to join the HRC.

6. The TRG describes itself as an organization working to “achieve justice and accountability for Eelam Tamils”. The TRG has stated that its membership includes “victims, activists, practitioners, and experts from home and diaspora Tamil communities”.

Decision

7. As I noted in my *Decision on Standing*, there is no single diaspora community experience, and a diversity of perspectives may help the Commission understand how these communities are targeted by foreign states and non-state actors. One need not look further than the experiences shared by diaspora community members during the Commission's Stage 1 hearings to see that this is true.

8. The Commission has heard that the Uyghur community in Canada is particularly vulnerable to foreign interference. The URAP's members are well-positioned to educate the Commission on the lived experiences of Uyghur Canadians as they pertain to foreign interference, including the forms that foreign interference takes in respect of this community, the impacts of foreign interference on this community, and gaps that may exist in the current protections offered for community members. The Commission has already benefitted from URAP's participation in the Stage 1 hearings.

9. There is currently no Participant representing the Tamil diaspora community in Canada. The TRG would bring similar perspectives from the Tamil Canadian community to the Commission.

10. I note that the HRC has not provided an explanation for the late application to add to its membership. That being said, I have still considered the application. The timing of this application will not, in my view, cause prejudice to the Commission or other Participants. I note, in particular, that adding URAP or the TRG as members of the HRC would not alter the HRC's procedural rights, nor would it impact the rights of any other Participant.

11. I have previously found that the HRC established a proper basis for Party status in the factual phase of the Inquiry and in the policy phase of the Inquiry. Permitting the URAP and the TRG to rejoin the HRC will enhance the HRC's necessary contribution to the Inquiry by expanding the perspectives that the HRC brings to the Commission.

12. I therefore expand the HRC's grant of standing to recognize URAP and the TRG as members of the HRC.

Signed

Commissioner Marie-Josée Hogue

May 28, 2024