

Voice of Shakthi Thursday 21 September 2000

It is a matter for deep regret that our community broadcasters seem to waste so much time in propagating the views of extremist Sri Lankan [parties](#) such as the LTTE and Sihala Urumaya. We have now come to the ludicrous situation where the Sihala Urumaya has even started advertising over our airwaves! In retaliation, another group supporting the People's Alliance has paid for advertisements of their own. So what happens now?

Will we be bombarded by political messages from other parties as well? And if so, what relevance can they have on Sri Lankans living in Australia and, more importantly, on the political situation in Sri Lanka?

Living as we do in the comparative safety of Australia, what right do we have to dictate to the people in Sri Lanka about their political destiny? Has our comparative affluence distorted us to such an extent that we can arrogantly propagate the views of obscure, extremist groups as the saviours of the motherland we have left behind?

But our focus is on the people who run these radio programs. Are they so blinded by their self-importance, by their twisted desire to prove their so-called patriotism, that they have forgotten the aims and objectives of Australian community [radio](#)?

No self-respecting [broadcasting](#) station in Australia, commercial or national, will broadcast political messages of the sort we hear on the Sinhala and English programs these days. Nor will they condone the type of messages they put out, either through paid advertisements or [interviews](#), which has so little relevance to multicultural Australia.

Where are the debates and discussions on the national issues which should engage us in this, our adopted land? Not a whimper on the recently concluded World Economic Forum, the injustices perpetrated on the Aborigines, the narrow-minded views of the Australian Government on UN Committees.

Instead, advertisements and interviews by [speakers](#) who can make Pauline Hanson lick her lips on how right she is about the ethnics of this country, the ones who, she says, owe no loyalty to this country which gives them their livelihood, a passport which will help them to get out of trouble when they are in their homelands, and seek to push forward their own narrow, selfish agendas so that they can be regarded as figures of substance in the Sri Lankan community in Australia.

Their least concern we think, despite their pious proclamations, is the the poor, suffering masses of Sri Lanka.