



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Bhathiya and Santhush new charity patrons for Helplanka will support children in Sri Lanka**

The Sri Lankan pop world threw their weight firmly behind Helplanka, a UK based Charity helping children across Sri Lanka, with top group Bhathiya and Santhush agreeing to be official patrons of the charity in Sri Lanka.

The group will be visiting some of Helplanka's childrens' projects in Sri Lanka and will also perform at charity concerts to raise money for a mobile library to benefit thousands of children across the island. B&S will be supported by several other artistes including Iraj Ranidu and Ashanthi at Helplanka's Independanz charity concert in London on February 3 2007 to celebrate Sri Lanka's Independence Day.

Santhush, commenting on the initiative, said "We are really looking forward to supporting the work of Helplanka and are keen to help children in Sri Lanka through education. We are very excited about coming to London for the concert to help raise funds."

Sam Goonetillake, Chief Executive of Helplanka, at a recent meeting in Colombo with the duo said " I want to thank Bhathiya and Santhush for kindly helping us to reach vulnerable children through the medium of music where we hope to bring some happiness to Sri Lankan children. Having the support of B&S will certainly assist our work in Sri Lanka and in the UK."

**Ends**

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**ABOUT HELPLANKA**

HelpLanka is a charity (Reg no 1110306) which was formed in January 2005 to specifically help children affected by the tsunami. Chief Executive, Sam Goonetillake and 6 other Trustees, all Sri Lankan living in the UK, have sent aid to affected areas and have started a programme of educational assistance and rebuilding.

For further information, please visit: [www.help Lanka.co.uk](http://www.help Lanka.co.uk)