

## STATEMENT OF THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL OF SRI LANKA ON THE BOMB ATTACKS ON 'EASTER SUNDAY'

The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) along with her constituencies views the bomb attacks which began in the morning hours on 'Easter Sunday' 21 April 2019 with shock, disgust and horror.

The said attack targeting the 'faithful' at worship in Churches celebrating 'Easter Sunday' commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ and 'guests' in Hotels has claimed around 260 human lives and inflicting injuries to well over 400 men, women and children, including severe damages to property and buildings.

The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL) expresses its deep sorrow and sadness at the cruel and inhuman act and offers its condolences and prayers for the families of the bereaved and for speedy recovery of the 'injured'.

'Life', we believe is God-oriented and any attempt to destroy such right to life with violence by any person or group deserves outright condemnation as an act of brutal insanity and impervious to reason.

In the midst of destruction, terror and chaos that reigned, we commend the decisive action initiated by the State in maintaining law and order preventing further damage and suffering, and for the committed services of the 'health sector' in the care and treatment of the injured.

Finally, in the ensuing time of confusion and disaster and as we stand in solidarity with the afflicted, we also call upon all people to be calm and act with restraint, offering all support and assistance towards the investigations that are being carried out with necessary action there-to.

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2019

Signed:

Rev. Heshan De Silva, Chairperson of the National Christian Council of Sri Lanka, and

President, Sri Lanka Baptist Sangamaya

Rt. Rev. D.R. Canagasabey –Bishop of Colombo, Church of Ceylon, Diocese of Colombo

Rt. Rev. Keerthisiri Fernando – Bishop of the Church of Ceylon , Diocese of Kurunegala

Rev. Saman Perera President, Presbytery of Lanka

Rt. Rev. Dr. Daniel S. Thiagarajah, Bishop of Jaffna Diocese, Church of South India

Rev. Asiri P. Perera, President/Bishop, Methodist Church of Sri Lanka

Rev. Shirley Faber, President, Christian Reformed Church



Lft. Colonel Suresh Pawar , Territorial Commander, The Salvation Army

Rev. G. Nadarajah, President, Lanka Lutheran Church

Rev. Michael Dissanayake, General Superintendent and Chairman, Assemblies of God of Ceylon

Rev. Leslie Keegal, President, Church of the Four Square Gospel Church in Sri Lanka.

Rev. T. Thevanesan, President, Church of the American Ceylon Mission

Rev. Maxwell Doss, General Secretary, National Christian Council of Sri Lanka

The National Christian Council of Sri Lanka also represents:

Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Student Christian Movement (SCM) The Ceylon Bible Society Christian Literature Society Theological College of Lanka. Back to the Bible Broadcast Colombo Theological Seminary

Youth for Christ