

*For Immediate Release*

*23 April 2019*

**Inter-Denominational Statement by Christians in Jaffna on the Easter Sunday Attacks**

Easter is celebrated as a day of hope, life and end to violence. But this Easter day has been marred by violence and death on a large scale. We categorically condemn the brutal Easter Sunday 2019 attacks on churches and hotels around Sri Lanka. We convey our deepest sympathies and stand in solidarity with the families who have lost loved ones, those injured and all those who have been traumatised and made distraught by the attacks.

Even as we mourn those killed on Easter Sunday, we remember all those in the country that were lost during the war that ended ten years ago. In looking back at our tragic past, we also confront our own ambivalence to our attitude to violence and aggression towards our so-called enemies. Never again should we waver in rejecting the violence of any actor that takes innocent lives.

In condemning the Easter Sunday attacks, we resolve to put 'life' before any agenda. We appeal to all our fellow citizens to stand for a life for all communities that is free from fear, repression and violence. We will never place any responsibility on our brothers and sisters of any community for the dastardly and cruel acts of a few.

We must reject all those who seek social, economic, religious and political gain from this tragedy. We call for patience and peace as the truth about these heinous crimes emerges and justice is served. We demand measures to ensure the protection of vulnerable communities so that there are no riots or acts of violence against any particular community.

Our grief is never a call for retribution. Our grief is a call for coexistence.

**Signatories:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
1. The Ven. Fr. Samuel J. Ponniah	Archdeacon of Jaffna, Church of Ceylon (Anglican Church)
2. The Very Rev. Fr. P. J. Jebaratnam	Vicar General Catholic Church
3. The Rev. Dr. K. J. Arulrajah	Superintendent Minister – Methodist Church
4. The Rev. J. E. Jeyaseelan	Roman Catholic Church
5. The Rev. Dr. Vincent Patrick, OMI	Catholic Church
6. The Rev. S. S. Jebachelvan	Area Dean of Jaffna – Anglican Church
7. The Rev. N. J. Gnanaponrajah	Principal – St. John’s College, Jaffna
8. The Rev. M. Jude Sutharshan	Christian Theological Seminary, Chunnakam
9. The Rev. Jason J. Selvaraja	Assembly of God, Chavakachcheri
	Colombo Theological Seminary – Jaffna Study Centre
10. The Rev. P. Thevamithran	C. S. I. Church, Jaffna Diocese
	Vice Principal - Jaffna College
11. The Rev. Jurinesz Shadrach	Chaplain – St. John’s College Jaffna
	Curate - St. John the Baptist Church, Jaffna
12. The Rev. Johnson Nishanth	Fellowship of Christian Churches Organisations of Jaffna
13. The Rev. T. Robert Sasikaran	Methodist Church
14. The Rev. Selvarajah Jenö	Calvary Full Gospel Church
15. The Rev. J. Antony Suthakar	Church of the American Ceylon Mission
16. The Rev. Fr. S. D. P. Selvan	St. Mary’s Church (Anglican), Kopay
17. The Rev. John Atputhamany	Holy Emmanuel Church, Urumpirai (Anglican)
18. The Rev. V. P. K. Rajah	Senior Pastor - Assembly of God, Kondavil
19. The Rev. Mathipalan	Victory Life Church
20. The Rev. P. Gunavathany	Anglican Church
21. Prof. S. R. H. Hoole	Election Commission
	Member of the Anglican Standing Committee
22. Prof. J. P. Jeyadevan	Dean – Faculty of Science, University of Jaffna
23. Dr. Ahilan Kadirgamar	Senior Lecturer, University of Jaffna
24. Ms. Vasuki Rajasingham	Principal – Nuffield School for the Deaf and Blind, Kaithady
25. Mrs. D. Thuseetharan	Chundikuli Girl’s College, Jaffna
26. Ms. S. Rajini	Chundikuli Girl’s College, Jaffna
27. Mr. V. S. B. Thuseetharan	Vice Principal – St. John’s College, Jaffna
	Member - St. John the Baptist Church, Jaffna
28. Mr. A. H. Gnanarajan	Vice Principal – St. John’s College, Jaffna
	Member - St. John the Baptist Church, Jaffna
29. Mr. S. Joseph Bala	HUDEC-CARITAS, Jaffna
30. Mr. K. Thiruvampalam	Methodist Church, Jaffna
	President – Rural People’s Strength
31. Mr. V. Kumanan	St. John’s College, Jaffna
32. Mr. C. A. Aravinthan	St. John’s College, Jaffna
33. Mr. N. Devabalan	Foursquare Gospel
34. Mr. S. J. Robert	Our Lady of Refuge, Jaffna
35. Mr. Suren Tambyrajah	Methodist Church
36. Mr. J. S. Leonard	St. Benedict’s Church, Jaffna
37. Mr. D. Cyril Thanarajan	Anglican
38. Mr. L. R. Terranzov	Roman Catholic