



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

lutheranworld.org

SRI LANKA: LWF CONDEMNS VIOLENCE, URGES RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO PROMOTE PEACE

LWF calls for protection of places of worship

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a communion of churches, continues to stand in solidarity with all those affected by the Easter Sunday attacks targeting Christian places of worship and hotels in Sri Lanka. The LWF is deeply disturbed by the despicable acts of violence, in which more than 350 people have been killed and hundreds more have been injured.

This is yet another act of violence that shows an appalling contempt for human life. Sadly, it also adds to the increasing attacks targeting people as they gather in their places of worship.

The LWF conveys its deepest condolences to the families and friends of those who have lost their lives and of those who have been injured. We pray for God's comfort upon them.

The Lutheran World Federation:

- Condemns unreservedly such acts of violence and rejects any justification for these atrocities.
- Condemns attacks on places of worship and violence against people based on their religious beliefs.

The Lutheran World Federation calls upon governments to:

- Guarantee and protect the rights of every person under their jurisdiction.
- Protect all places of worship as part of their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law.
- Swiftly address growing extremism as an imminent threat to lasting peace and co-existence in our increasingly multi-cultural and pluralistic societies.
- Reject any form of profiling, stigmatization or stereotyping of individuals or communities on the basis of their religion or belief.

The Lutheran World Federation calls upon religious leaders, including Christians, to:

- Address and publicly oppose hate speech and justification for any form of discrimination, violence and extremism.
- Continue engaging in the public space with a goal to seeking the common good and promoting equal protection and participation of all people.
- Actively oppose all instrumentalization of religious groups or beliefs to fuel conflict and fragmentation.

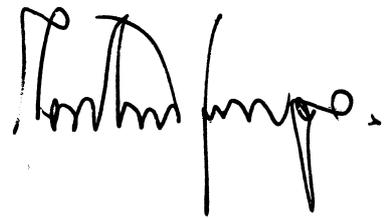
The feast of resurrection reminds us that violence and hatred won't have the last word. God speaks the last word, which is one of life and hope. Mindful of the different contexts of the Lutheran communion, including the LWF member church in Sri Lanka, the LWF affirms its unwavering commitment to promoting a public space that is inclusive and diverse, and where all people can live and work together towards just and peaceful societies.

The LWF calls upon its member churches to continue promoting, witnessing and building just and peaceful relations with their neighbors, including other religious communities.

As people of faith we are reminded that our message is one of peace and hope. Meeting his disciples who were still very confused by the violence and hatred they had witnessed, the risen Lord Jesus Christ announces to them again: *"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."* (John 20:21)



Archbishop Dr Panti Filibus Musa
President
The Lutheran World Federation



Rev. Dr Martin Junge
General Secretary
The Lutheran World Federation

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The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of 148 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 75 million Christians in 99 countries. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication and the various aspects of mission and development.