



STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY TO THE PEOPLE OF SRI LANKA

As a global fellowship of Diaconia Managers, we stand in special solidarity with the Christians of Sri Lanka who have been attacked in this vicious way while celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the pivotal moment in the faith journey for all Christians.

The targeting of churches in this manner is an attack on religious peace and harmony and on the social and cultural fabric of the nation, which has long struggled to uphold principles of religious harmony and diversity. Such acts of violence undermine the sanctity of life and constitute a sacrilege in many senses. Even as we cry out against this sacrilege, we resolutely affirm in the spirit of the love of Christ, that violence, hatred and death will not have the last word.

Our thoughts and prayers are with our members of the ICDM global fellowship, our fellows of the Roman Catholic Church, the Government of the Republic of Sri Lanka and all Sri Lankans during this tragic time to remain united and strong.

A fitting tribute to the memories of those who lost their lives in sacred spaces of peace and refuge is for us all to live out the difficult task of demonstrating that the power of peace and love are far greater than the power of violence. Jesus Christ our risen Lord says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)"

May these words become all the more true to those who cope with the aftermath of these attacks. May they offer to all of us hope and healing.

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