

Friday 13, May 2022

**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



A Public Statement On The Continuing Crisis Situation In Sri Lanka

Sarvodaya Movement strongly condemns the coordinated mob attacks occurred on Monday, 09th May 2022 upon the peaceful protestors near the Prime Minister's Residence (Temple Trees) as well as the Galle Face Green (main protest site). Followed by those incidents, the damage caused to life and property throughout the country is immeasurable. For over a month, Youth and Public were carrying out peaceful, non-violent, and unique protests at the said main sites as well as in the main cities around the island demanding change to the political establishment. This novel movement is a key milestone of our country's social and political trajectory led by youth which inspired the public from all walks of life to join hands with them for a common cause.

In solidarity with the Civil Society and diverse Professional Bodies we call upon the law enforcement agencies to implement necessary action to bring all perpetrators of violence under the full extent of law. The Public and the victims of violence are eagerly anticipating justice and it is a key demand that the rule of law is established to restore public trust as well as to transition to much required normalcy.

In alignment with our Public Health mandate (Suwodaya), Sarvodaya has been providing first aid and medical care at the Galle Face Green with a team of committed Volunteer Doctors since the inception of the peoples protests. Since then, our services have been expanded as we have partnered with other Humanitarian Organisations, Volunteer Doctors, and Volunteer Counsellors. Apart from first aid and medical care, our psychological first aid team provides services to those who require psychological interventions (first-aid approach).

We must not forget the most vulnerable and marginalised communities who face severe hardships at this critical juncture. In that regard, several national level Sarvodaya initiatives have been launched to ensure social protection with a special focus on ensuring food security. 'We Are One', 'Feed for love Sri Lanka' and 'Manu Dam Derana' are some of our initiatives. We would also remind you to take care of each other, your families, neighbours, fellow community members both physically and mentally during these troubling times.

Guided by Sarvodaya's purpose we welcome the youth, public, communities and stakeholders to come forward in building a just, sustainable and a compassionate social order. We believe, personal transformation as well as communal transformation plays a critical role in re-imagining solutions to our present day political and governance crisis. Let us all get together actively to re-build our nation which we all call home. Let us gather in unison with our Youth to resolve the unprecedented challenges and it is time we hear them with patience, treat them as equal partners with much vigour to change the political discourse of our nation for them and the future generations to come.

In solidarity to awaken All !

**Dr Vinya Ariyaratne
Hony. President**