



**STATEMENT OF THE RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION
OF THE
WORLD EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE**

For Immediate Release

April 26, 2019

Easter Sunday Attacks Targeting Churches and Luxury Hotels in Sri Lanka

The World Evangelical Alliance, Religious Liberty Commission (WEA RLC) is deeply distraught and condemns in the strongest terms the Easter Sunday (21 April) terrorist attacks in Sri Lanka targeting the Zion church in Batticaloa, St. Sebastian's church in Katana, St. Anthony's church in Kochchikade and leading luxury hotels in Colombo. Furthermore, it was reported that explosions in Dehiwala and Dematagoda resulted in several deaths, including that of police officials. According to reports, the death toll currently stands at 253 with 500 more injured.

The WEA RLC stands in solidarity with the victims of the Easter Sunday attacks and against these brutal and barbaric acts of hate. Moreover, the WEA RLC implores all Sri Lankans to remain calm and in constant vigilance during these troubled times. We call upon all Christians to pray for those affected in the attacks and actively support efforts to restore peace in the country.

"It is indeed sad that these attacks were carried out on a day when Christians were celebrating the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many died on their knees praying and some worshipping the Lord," said Godfrey Yogarajah, the Executive Director of the WEA

RLC. "We urge the Government of Sri Lanka to ensure the security of churches and bring all the perpetrators of these heinous crimes to justice," he added.

ENDS.

26.04.2019.