CCA General Secretary's Statement condemning the devastating bomb blasts in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday

It is with great shock that we received the news of the terrorist attacks against three churches holding Easter services, and three hotels in Sri Lanka on Sunday 21 April 2019 killing 215 people and wounding more than 450.

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) condemns these horrific acts of violence which devastated hundreds of Sri Lankans on holy Easter Sunday. We share the grief of the families and the dear ones of those killed; we pray for the victims and their families.

The CCA believes that these heinous acts of terrorism are incompatible with the values of any religious teachings or moral values of a civilised society. Violent attacks such as these are aimed at undermining the unity and religious tolerance of the people of any nation which will only push to a situation of anarchy and negation of rule of law. The international community has the responsibility to make every effort to combat the scourge of terrorism and ensure peace and security in the world.

We urge the authorities in Sri Lanka to take strict actions against the perpetrators.

During this critical time in Sri Lanka, our thoughts are with the bereaved families and prayers with the injured. We stand in solidarity with the people of Sri Lanka especially the Christians who live amidst terror and fear. Let us pray to the Lord, Prince of Peace, for the victims of the terrorist attacks who are Sri Lankans as well as foreign nationals. May the divine grace transform the hearts of the perpetrators and grant the people of Sri Lanka God's abundant blessings to lead a peaceful coexistence in their communities.

Mathews George Chunakara General Secretary, CCA

21 April 2019