



STATEMENT OF PAX CHRISTI-ASIA PACIFIC ON THE SRI-LANKA BOMBINGS

Pax Christi Asia Pacific grieves the lives lost in the multiple suicide bombing attacks in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday, 21 April 2019.

Claimed to have been carried out by the National Thowheeth Jama'ath, with aid from international militants, the bombings have killed more than 250 innocent people including children, with roughly 500 others wounded. The attacks struck three Christian churches and four hotels in the cities of Colombo, Negombo and Batticaloa.

Pax Christi Asia-Pacific condemns these attacks of terror that victimize innocent civilians and violate the sacred dignity of life and creation. We have expressed the same in a statement issued last month when attacks were made at mosques in Christchurch. Terror attacks run counter to values promoted and upheld by major religious traditions. These faith traditions teach the values of nonviolence, love, reconciliation and human solidarity. Religious traditions, whether Christianity, Islam or Buddhism, are essentially pathways to peace. None of them promotes killing, and, hence, it is incomprehensible that groups and individuals indiscriminately kill because of religion.

Violence will never bring a lasting peace. We call upon perpetrators of violence, whether in Sri Lanka or Christchurch, and elsewhere, to understand that peace for all everywhere comes from honorable, nonviolent relationships among all peoples and with all of creation. It is founded in the recognition of the essential dignity of all and our duty of care for all. To reach peace, we must live peace founded in these principles.