



5-11 June 2022

Sri Lanka is still grappling with the COVID-19 pandemic. Coupled with certain policy changes, the impact of the pandemic has severely damaged the economy and there is now a shortage of essential goods, with long queues to buy the basics. Christian pastors and ministry workers are among those suffering loss of income.

Meanwhile religious intolerance continues to infect the country as well. Christians and Muslims are the primary targets because they are viewed as a threat by some in the Sinhalese Buddhist community, who consider themselves protectors of the land. Find out more at csw.org.uk/srilanka

Sunday 5 June

‘Surely God is my help; the Lord is the one who sustains me.’ (Psalm 54:4)

Pray this verse over the people of Sri Lanka in the midst of the pandemic. May God sustain those who are sick and provide practical help to all who are struggling to make ends meet.

Monday 6 June

‘Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.’ (Daniel 2:20-21) Pray that Sri Lanka’s leaders will act wisely to develop policies that serve the good of all the people.

Tuesday 7 June

The Sri Lankan government has pledged to reform the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) many times before, but so far has failed to turn words into action. Pray that the PTA will no longer allow long-term detention without trial, and will not be used to target minorities.

Wednesday 8 June

Hejaaz Hizbullah was detained without trial from April 2020 to February 2022, when he was released under strict bail conditions. He was the first lawyer to be arrested under the PTA, having been targeted for defending Muslim minorities suffering human rights violations. Pray for the trumped-up charges to be dropped so that he can return to advocating for those experiencing injustice.

Thursday 9 June

Next week marks eight years since anti-Muslim riots broke out in Aluthgama and Beruwala, leaving at least four dead, 80 injured and 10,000 displaced. Pray for healing for all who were touched by the violence, which swept through homes, shops, mosques and even a nursery.

Friday 10 June

The main perpetrators of the 2014 riots were members of a Buddhist national group known as Bodu Bala Sena (Buddhist Power Force). Pray that those responsible for inciting the violence will reflect on their actions and resolve to seek peace rather than oppression.

Saturday 11 June

Thank you, Father, that you are the God who heals. We pray for physical healing amid the ongoing pandemic and for the emotional healing of all who are bereaved or traumatised by human rights abuses. Bring healing where there is division so that each religious community can live in peace with one another. Amen.