

Prayer Diary: Sri Lanka

30 October-5 November 2022



Congregation in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka is experiencing a period of serious unrest. The present economic crisis – which has resulted in severe shortages of food, fuel and other basic essentials – has led to months of mass protests, with President Rajapaksa eventually giving in to calls for his resignation in July.

Tragically, in times of political uncertainty and economic turmoil, it is often those who are already on the margins of society that are most affected. Buddhist nationalists have long been inciting religious hatred and violence towards Christians and Muslims, and now these vulnerable faith groups face an even more challenging situation alongside their fellow citizens. The country is desperately in need of peace, stability and freedom for all.

Find out more at csw.org.uk/srilanka

Sunday 30 October

Sinhalese-Buddhist nationalism has been on the rise, with extremist groups spreading religious hatred and violence. Pray that the country's authorities would prosecute those who perpetrate these crimes, and that vulnerable faith communities would be properly protected.

Monday 31 October

Recently, many churches have experienced regular surveillance, allegedly on the grounds of national security or public health. Stand alongside these Christian communities in prayer today.

Tuesday 1 November

Social media is frequently used by Buddhist nationalists to spread religious intolerance. Anti-Muslim propaganda was particularly rife during the 2020 parliamentary elections, while hate speech against both Muslims and Christians increased during the COVID-19 lockdown. Pray that the country's media would seek to present the truth.

Wednesday 2 November

Today is the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists. Pray for Sri Lanka's reporters, who continue to experience arbitrary arrests and have faced increased pressure since the pandemic.

Thursday 3 November

Pray today for stability for the nation in the aftermath of the resignation of President Rajapaksa. Pray especially that the new government will deal effectively with the present crisis.

Friday 4 November

The ongoing economic crisis has caused severe shortages of food, fuel and other essentials. Marginalised communities, including religious and ethnic minorities, tend to be most affected. Pray that these vulnerable groups would have equal access to the support and care they need.

Saturday 5 November

Loving heavenly Father, we lift the nation of Sri Lanka to you today, asking for stability and security. Make a way for a new season of freedom and peace for citizens of all faiths. Amen.