



13th April 2022

UNSW SRC extends its support to the Sri Lankan student and staff diaspora at UNSW

UNSW SRC recognises the economic crisis in Sri Lanka and calls on communities around the world to support the people of Sri Lanka through these uncertain political and economic times. We express our deepest concern over the actions of the Government of Sri Lanka which constitute as an act of harassment and intimidation.

The UNSW SRC and the UNSW SLSOC calls on international communities and the Australian government to support the UN human rights experts' call to urge "the Sri Lankan Government to guarantee the fundamental rights of peaceful assembly and of expression during peaceful protests, amid the country's severe economic crisis." The political regime is shrouded in nepotism, corruption, and authoritarianism. The excessive use of force, water cannons, teargas against civilians considering the protests, as well as the recent media blackout of social media platforms seriously infringes on the rights of the Sri Lankan people to protest in the wake of worsening economic conditions and the lack of safe access to fuel, electricity, medicines, and essential food items.

We call on the government to engage in open and constructive dialogue with the Sri Lankan people. As a student body, we also recognise the impact of this economic crisis on our students and members of the Sri Lankan diaspora. We reiterate the call of the UNHRC experts, "We urge the Sri Lankan Government to allow students, human rights defenders and others to protest in a peaceful manner, and to freely share their political views and express their discontent, both online and offline."

If you are a student affected by the crisis, please reach out and seek help by contacting the Mental Health Connect line here: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/mental-health-support>

You can also support the cause and donate to raise funds for resources here: <https://gofund.me/af321f2d>.

Join the UNSW Sri Lankan student's society (UNSW SLSOC) today to support them through this period of deep economic conflict: <https://www.facebook.com/UNSWSLSOC>

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