



பிர்த்தானிய சைவத் திருக்கோயில்கள் ஒன்றியம் THE FEDERATION OF SAIVA (HINDU) TEMPLES U.K

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LONDON SW19 8PU

SRI KANAGA DURKA AMMAN KOVIL
LONDON W13 9AE

HIGHGATEHILL MURUGAN TEMPLE
LONDON N65BA

SRI RAJARAJESWARI AMMAN TEMPLE
SURREY KT17 2NE

LONDON SVAN KOVIL
LONDON SE13 5ES

CRAWLEY SRI SWARNA KAMADCHI
AMMAN TEMPLE
WEST SUSSEX RH10 1TN

SRI KATPAGA VINAYAGAR TEMPLE
LONDON E17 4PX

ENFIELD NAGAPOOSHANI AMBAAL TEMPLE
81-85 CHURCH LANE EDMONTON
LONDON N9 9PZ

ARULMIGU SRI SIVAGAMI SAMETHA
LONDON E12 5AB

LONDON SRI SELVAVINAYAGAR TEMPLE
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SRI SITHI VINAYAGAR THEVASTHANAM
MIDDLESEX HA1 2TY

SHREE SAKTHY GHANAPATHY TEMPLE
SURREY CR7 7JU

EELA PATHEESWARAR TEMPLE
MIDDLESEX HA2 4AU

NEW MALDEN MURUGAN TEMPLE
SURREY KT3 4NE

SRI MERUPURAM MAHA PATHIRAGALI
AMMAN DEVASTHANAM
LONDON E17 4PX

COVENTRY SHREE MAHA SITHI
VINAYAGAR, COVENTRY CV14HT

LONDON SREE AYYAPPAN TEMPLE
MIDDLESEX HA3 5AR

EELA KANTHAN TEMPLE
COVENTRY CV8 6FC

LIVERPOOL GANESH TEMPLE
LIVERPOOL L31 8TN

SRI THURKKAJ AMMAN TEMPLE
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NG9 1QE

MEENAKSHI TEMPLE
BRACKS HR12 3BW

SRI KATPAGA VINAYAGAR TEMPLE
PORT TALBOT SA126HZ

21st July 2019

Public appeal to all concerned

We appeal to heads of all four religious faiths in Sri Lanka to take meaningful steps to arrest the ever progressing extremism of handful of their members. Interfaith hate, intolerance and politicisation of religious paths are seriously conflicting with core values of love, peace, tolerance and harmony promoted by all religions.

The Article 9 of the constitution of Sri Lanka enshrines foremost place for Buddhism and emphasize that State protect and foster the **teaching of Buddha**. Teaching of Buddha are four noble truths and the noble eightfold path and it contradicts with the hate driven extremism practiced by some monks with the support of politicians and hooligans.

Articles 10 and 14(1)(e) of the constitution provides minimum safeguards for every person to be entitled to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, including the freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice and that every citizen is entitled to the freedom, either by himself or in association with others, and either in public or in private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice or teaching. Extremism of few extremists Buddhist monks with the patronage of the state is undermining this very safeguarding provision in the constitution.

We are pained that core principles of peaceful practice and propagation of religions enshrined in the constitution is being blatantly undermined by the handful of extremists preachers in the very eyes of the government and its law enforcement agencies.

We note with considerable concern that extremist Buddhist monks are taking the law into their hands and undermining the very constitutional safeguards to illegally construct a Buddhist shrine by destroying a popular Hindu temple for Ganesha in the land owned by the Hindus in Kanniya in Trincomalee with the backing of exclusively Buddhist Archaeological Department.

Sincere intervention of Hinduism Minister Mano Ganeshan paved the way for the President to publicly admit unwarranted intrusion by the Buddhist monks and declare remedial measures to respond to the crisis. Whatever said, we have great doubt that the President's intervention will lead to a meaningful resolution as we consider it a knee jerk reaction for immediate crisis management like the unfulfilled public undertaking of the Prime Minister to deal with the crisis in Kalmunai within a month.

We also appeal to the Buddhist hierarchical Sangas representing around 6,000 Buddhist monasteries with approximately 15,000 monks to develop religious regulatory mechanisms to manage and discipline the straying monks to ensure Buddha's teachings are practiced in religious sense.

Yours Sincerely

M. Gopalakrishnan