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The Hon. Speaker,
Parliament of Sri Lanka,
Sri Jayewardenepura Kotte.
11th July 2022

Dear Sir,

Appeal to protect the rights of citizens and to facilitate a peaceful transition of power.

We as the **Collective for Reform** that represents diverse groups of professionals, trade unions, civil society organizations, religious leaders, retired public officials, academics, experts and citizens thank you for confirming that the President will resign on 13th July, 2022. We welcome the decision of the President responding to the call for his resignation and that of his administration. We also note the message conveyed by the Prime Minister that he too will resign to ensure the continuation of the Government including the safety of all citizens, in line with the recommendation of the Party Leaders to make way for an All-Party Government.

At this unique and critical moment in the history of the nation, where both the President and the Prime Minister have indicated their intention to resign in the midst of a national crisis, we acknowledge the important role granted by the Constitution to the Speaker of the Parliament. Therefore, we appeal to you to fulfill such role with utmost integrity and bravery, upholding the independence of your position and ensuring a lawful, peaceful and smooth transition of power, in a transparent and accountable manner.

Therefore, our appeal to you is to immediately summon the Parliament, assume the office of the President for a short period as an interim President until the Parliament elects a President, ensure that all constitutional steps are taken to expeditiously transfer power to an interim all-party government with a Prime Minister having the majority support of the Parliament and ensure that a time-bound road-map is provided by the interim government to address critical economic issues and restore normalcy until general elections are held.

In addition, we request your special attention towards the safety and wellbeing of our citizens who have taken much effort amidst the hardships and gathered in various places of the country, including at the Presidential Secretariat, Presidential Residence and the Temple Tress, to exercise their

constitutionally guaranteed right to express their dissent and convey their demands to those in Governance. We urge you to understand the tremendous pressure faced by the people and respect their right to peacefully protest and to ensure that all protestors, as well as the media are protected at all times.

We strongly condemn the violence unleashed on protestors and on certain media personnel on the 9th of July, as well as the torching of the private residence of the Prime Minister and appeal to you to take steps to ensure restraint by the Police, while taking speedy action towards the transition of power, to prevent further provocation of the suffering citizens.

We, as the **Collective for Reform**, while standing in solidarity with the people, pledge to offer our cooperation and expertise towards all genuine efforts to initiate and carry forward the most needed reform agenda of this nation.

Thank you.

Collective for Reforms