



## Sri Lanka Reconciliation Forum Sydney

### **Sri Lanka Reconciliation Forum (SLRF) Sydney calls for a free and nonviolent parliamentary election and continuation of democratic progress**

The Sri Lanka Reconciliation Forum Sydney, being a group of Australians of Sri Lankan origin living in Australia, believe that the future of Sri Lanka should primarily be determined by those living in Sri Lanka. Thus we see our role only as aiding those movements working towards progressive and democratic change in Sri Lanka.

In this regard we welcomed the smooth, peaceful and democratic transition of power following the Presidential Election in January. We particularly welcomed the highest degree of professional integrity with which the Election Commissioner and other public servants conducted themselves to ensure that the will of the people, democratically expressed, was upheld.

We welcome that in the last eight months, fundamental issues such as good-governance and the excessive centralisation of power have become part of the national debate. We hope that this positive trend will continue and national debates will continue to concentrate more on issues of policy rather than personalities. Particularly as we believe that the rule of law, good governance, transparency, and free debate on practical policies are vital for reconciliation and nation building.

We welcome the calling of parliamentary elections, and call upon;

- all political parties and candidates, that reconciliation and peace in Sri Lanka is dependent on greater political, economic and social equality and equity within the Sri Lankan society and hence to refrain from any provocation of violence, making unrealistic promises and inflaming racial and ethnic hatred that would impact adversely on justice and equality.
- the Election Commissioner's office and all other government departments connected to the elections, to continue their duties with the same integrity with which they carried them out during the presidential elections.
- the police and other law enforcement authorities to act in a nonpartisan manner ensure the safety of all candidates, supporters and voters, in addition to ensuring that the elections are conducted in a fair and safe environment and that the new election laws are strictly observed.
- the media, particularly the state media, to give equal voice to all candidates and political parties, report objectively the developments during the campaign and the elections and when providing analysis.

- the voters and civil society groups to be vigilant, take a stand against corrupt practices, engage in an analysis of recent events since the Presidential Elections of 8<sup>th</sup> January and discern the important policy issues at the present time.

The Sri Lanka Reconciliation Forum fervently hopes that the people of Sri Lanka would grasp this opportunity to enable democratic governance to gather momentum, leading towards genuine and permanent reconciliation in our beloved motherland.

Political Strand  
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