****

**Sri Lanka**

As always our conference call wants to be a point of convergence of a family spread all over the world, called to ‘living in the rifts’ that threaten it. Today in a special way, our hearts turn to our dear friends in Sri Lanka, crushed by the incomprehensible violence that shook the whole nation last Easter Sunday... The following message came to us from Suchith, who is a peace activist and has created a network that promotes interreligious dialogue.

Suchith: Dear Friends from Focolare, I write to you as we here, in Sri Lanka are mourning the loss of our people due to the recent attacks on Easter Sunday in our beautiful Island. We are shocked, saddened and shaken up by these unprecedented events. Our first priority has been to care for and support the victims and their families. We are trying to support each other across the communities. Following the attacks many of us responded, many stepped out to donate blood, help victims and donate relief and medical supplies. We are now in the process of supporting each other in our final farewells to those who we have lost. […]

By standing together Sri Lankans of Christian, Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic and other various spiritual and cultural backgrounds, we are saying to those who impose terror upon us that we will not let them succeed in their aims. […]

These events occurred when we in Sri Lanka were about to commemorate 10 years since the end of the 26 year long armed conflict. As a society we had many wounds yet to be healed from the past experience, but now we feel wounded again. But I believe that the Sri Lankan people are strong and resilient, we will work together to heal ourselves and our society over time. […]

Our main appeal to you is not for donations. Our appeal is for your time and commitment. Time and commitment to strengthen your work in your own communities to build bridges of understanding across divides, to intensify moderate voices and to stand for non-violence. […]

Thank you for your solidarity with us here in Sri Lanka in these difficult times. […]