



2 March 2015

Maithripala Sirisena  
President of Sri Lanka  
Parliament of Sri Lanka  
c/- Sri Lankan High Commission  
61 Hampton Circuit  
YARRALUMLA ACT 2600

Dear Maithripala Sirisena

On behalf of Australian Quakers I congratulate you on your election as President. We join many around the world in expressing the hope that Sri Lanka will fulfil its great potential as a democratic country.

We are impressed by your public commitment to principles of freedom, the rule of law, civilian control of the military forces, and the importance of a strong civil society.

Many Quakers from different parts of the world, including Australia, have links with Sri Lanka, and since the 1980s Quakers have been part of the movement for building peace there through the British Quaker Peace and Social Witness, and more recently the Nonviolent Peaceforce (based in USA).

In Australia our national peace committee has held confidential meetings in recent years to enable members of the Diaspora to share stories and concerns. As a result of these meetings we are aware of the deeply felt distress at the failure to address adequately the tragic legacy of the civil war and the violations of human rights that have occurred on all sides.

We believe that the international community will support you and your government in taking positive initiatives to restore trust and build confidence in the future.

In peace

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julian Robertson".

Julian Robertson  
Presiding Clerk  
Australia Yearly Meeting

**Australia Yearly Meeting**

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