

29 April 2022

IN SOLIDARITY

UAF A&P LAUNCHES URGENT GRANTS FOR SRI LANKA

Urgent Action Fund Asia and Pacific is deeply concerned about the spiralling political, economic and humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka. Women and non-binary human rights defenders are in a precarious situation, among vulnerable communities, due to sky rocketing food and fuel prices, shortages of food, electricity, fuel and transport facilities; scarcity of drugs, and medical equipment. We have already identified and allocated resources to support Sri Lankan women and non-binary human rights defenders in need of support with grants for their security, well-being and resilience.

As of April 25, there have been 355 protests of varying scales around the country by different social groups according to [Watchdog's protest tracker](#), including protests by carpenters in Moratuwa, private bus drivers in Anuradhapura, fisherfolk in Galle and Ambalantota, health workers in the hospitals of Kandy, Kegalle and Mullaitivu. The demands of the protestors asking for basic necessities illustrates frustration regarding the political situation, with demands growing louder for the resignation of the President and other lawmakers.

We are keeping track of this distressing situation. As with years of surveillance, intimidation and harassment faced by human rights defenders, protestors too are facing a similar situation with politically-motivated campaigns to discredit their motivations for protest. Several women activists in these struggles that are regularly being investigated or summoned to the Terrorism Investigation Division (TID) for inquiry.

To ensure we are receptive and in solidarity with women and non-binary defenders of Sri Lanka, we commit to the following actions:

- We will prioritise support for Sri Lankan women and non-binary activists and defenders, especially from marginalised communities, for the next three months.
- We commit to rallying support and resources from the global community of philanthropy to support Sri Lankans during times of major need.
- We seek donors, both individuals and organisations, to support our efforts to raise resources and ensure the safety of women and non binary human rights defenders in

Sri Lanka by donating at <https://donorbox.org/support-women-and-non-binary-human-right-defenders-of-sri-lanka> To apply for urgent grants, please take this short [eligibility assessment quiz](#), and follow the link offered to lodge an application on our secure grants database. To know more about our grants, please refer to, https://www.uafanp.org/our_grants; or write to us at info@uafanp.org

If you would like to know more about whats happening in Sri Lanka, see [this](#) and [this](#).