



12 August 2022

STATEMENT OF CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF SRI LANKA

LAWASIA's objectives include the promotion of the administration of justice, the protection of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law within Asia and the Pacific region.

On 20 May 2022, LAWASIA issued a *Statement of Support for the Bar Association of Sri Lanka*, setting out its position and concerns in relation to the unfolding situation in Sri Lanka and the important role played by the Bar Association of Sri Lanka (BASL). LAWASIA expresses its continued support of the BASL and acknowledges their role in safeguarding and promoting the Rule of Law in Sri Lanka.

LAWASIA reiterates its concern relating to reports of intimidation against protesters and an incident where there had been a use of force to disperse those who had occupied the Country's Presidential Secretariat and the immediate surrounding area. We have also received reports that several leaders of these protests have been arrested. We recognise that the right to peacefully protest is a fundamental democratic freedom and efforts to stifle protest through harassment and arrests is an aberration of justice, the rule of law and human rights.

LAWASIA continues to closely monitor the developments taking place in Sri Lanka and stands with the BASL in carrying out its vital role and function in the promotion of the administration of justice, the protection of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law, which are guiding objectives of LAWASIA.

The Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA)