



07th May 2019

Dear

The horrific attacks that took place on Easter Sunday continue to remind us of the scourge of terrorism. I am sure your thoughts must have been with the many innocent victims and their grieving families.

In the wake of the tragedy, the mainstream media has been winning points for responsible reporting of the events and its handling of follow-up stories and investigations. The media has a major role to play in revealing the truth of what happened whilst also ensuring that national interests are safeguarded.

Inevitably there have to be references to religion and ethnicity in our coverages but it must be borne in mind that the ultimate goal of the perpetrators of terrorist violence is to trigger ethno-religious disharmony.

Some concerns expressed by the Muslim community, for instance, are that discoveries of forged ID cards/passports / cartridges/ shotguns etc which may be part of usual criminal activity are, by innuendo, made to look as if they are part of a plot by Muslim extremist elements.

In these testing times, it would be good if editors/ publishers can explain to staff the need to adhere to the Editors' Code (attached herewith) to maintain media freedom WITH social responsibility as is our theme in the Colombo Declaration and not give an opportunity for censorship to raise its head.

Sincerely,

Kumar Nadesan
Chairman
Sri Lanka Press Institute