



## **CPA Statement on the crisis in Sri Lanka and public outcry for ousting current regime.**

**4<sup>th</sup> April 2022, Colombo, Sri Lanka:** The Centre for Policy Alternatives (CPA)), firmly believes that the unprecedented current crisis is one of gross misgovernance and that to resolve it, the basic institutions of governance must be restored and strengthened, along with the credibility and legitimacy of government. The peaceful island-wide outpouring of public desperation despite the ham-fisted attempts of the regime to suppress dissent, has clearly failed. The message is coming out loud and clear that the President and the regime should go.

CPA believes that leadership is solidly underwritten by the legitimacy and credibility of those providing it; governance or government cannot be carried out through fear and defensiveness, callous disregard for the hardship and suffering of the people, the rank incapacity, glaring lack of expertise and the overarching rampant greed of those in office. There has to be change; there can be no impunity; the people clearly desire and demand it.

We call on parliament to act without delay in heeding the voice of the people. The entire Rajapaksha regime should resign and the executive presidency abolished. The latter institution is the major impediment to governance in Sri Lanka; it has allowed the former to bring the country to its knees.

In the meantime, the violations of the fundamental rights of the people to dissent, to free speech and association must be revoked and those violations that have taken place, thoroughly investigated and violators held to account. The laws of the land should be observed and implemented without fear or favour.

Things no doubt will get worse before they get better. However, if this is communicated clearly by people with credibility and action demonstrated about definite steps to commence recovery, the people will understand.