

Dear Student,

A Message from the Vice-Chancellor

As you are aware, we were compelled to suspend academic activities at the university for several weeks due to the tragic incidents that took place on Easter Sunday April 21, 2019. We are now ready to recommence academic activities and bring back normalcy as soon as possible.

As you come back to the University, you may notice that there are certain new security procedures have been initiated on university premises. We have done so on the instructions we have received from the Presidential Secretariat, the University Grants Commission, the Ministry of City Planning, Water Supply & Higher Education and the National Security Establishments considering the National Security as the overarching criteria. Please note that we are taking these measures to ensure the security and safety of the entire university community. We will be reviewing the situation as required and we are hopeful that many of these measures will be temporary. We ask that you cooperate with us in this regard at this challenging time for our country.

I understand that many of you may have fears about returning to the university. You may feel that so many things have changed and that you cannot trust anybody or that we have to regard each other with fear or suspicion. While this may be a normal reaction to the kind of horrific events that we experienced, at the same time, we cannot let fear influence the way we treat each other. The vast majority of people in our country are peace-loving and tolerant. We should not allow a few extremists make us think any differently.

At the same time, I wish to remind you that the OUSL, as any other university in the country is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious community. I believe this is one of our greatest strengths. Each culture and community contributes something unique and special to our identity, whether it's our language, rituals, food or dress. This is something we can be truly proud of.

At this moment, when there are fears and suspicions around us, we should strengthen our relationships with each other and make full use of the diversity within the OUSL to further our understanding of each other. We can set an example to the rest of the country on how to celebrate diversity and be strengthened by it rather than to let it divide us.

I appeal to you to reach out to each other in friendship even more than you have done before. I ask you especially, to reach out to those most unlike yourself and to increase your understanding of those who are different from you. This is what will help us to heal and move forward as a united nation.

After the tragic incidents of Easter Sunday, many Sri Lankans spoke out about the importance of not letting terrorists define who we are and to divide us. We have been through difficult times in

this country and none of us want a return to those dark times. Ensuring that no one in our university community feels marginalised, excluded or discriminated is one of the most important steps we can take in moving forward. I appeal to you to ensure that you do everything in your ability to help and support each other as we do our best to recover from those tragic events. This may not be easy as there are many forces that try to divide us, to foster intolerance and disunity. The university will take steps to facilitate discussion, awareness and dialogue on some of these issues. We also encourage the student community to initiate activities and conversations that will strengthen relationships between all the different communities within the university. We also ask you to be vigilant at all times to safeguard and protect each other with dignity and understanding. Once again, I appeal to you to make sure that no one in the university feels threatened, discriminated or excluded. If you have any concerns in this regard, please raise them immediately with the relevant authorities.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss further, or you are concerned about any of these issues, we encourage you to talk to the faculty members, student counsellors or our counselling unit.

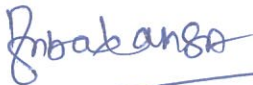
Following are some of the measures we have taken to ensure the security and safety of the entire university community. These measures are applicable to the Central Campus and the Regional and Study Centres of the University. Many of these measures are applicable to staff, students and visitors of the university.

- All students shall carry the Student Record Book, with the National Identity Card at all times within the University premises
- Student Record Book with the National Identity Card must be produced upon entry to the University and upon request by any official of the University while within the University premises
- Only Gate Nos. 1, 3 & 4 shall be used for pedestrian movements
- Only Gate Nos. 3 & 4 shall be used for vehicular movements
- Gate No 2 will be closed until further notice
- All vehicles entering the University shall be strictly checked at the Gates by the Security.
- Bags of all persons entering the University shall be strictly checked by the Security Officers.
- All forms of full-face covers that hinder the identification of a person shall not be permitted within the University premises.

- University Gates will be closed by 8.30 p.m. All persons should vacate the premises by 8.30 p.m.
- University will comply with the instructions to install additional security measures by installing additional CCTV cameras where necessary as per the University approved CCTV policy.
- Bags and other materials should not be left unattended at any time.
- No items belonging to the students should be left behind the University when students leave the University.
- Vehicles (including motor cycles) shall be parked on designated parking areas only.
- Owners shall leave the name and the contact number on the vehicle including motor cycles when it is parked within the University premises.
- All visitors to the University should obtain a visitor's pass from the Gate Nos. 1, 3 & 4 in exchange of the National Identity Card (NICs). NICs would be returned when the visitor's pass is surrendered when leaving the university premises.

I request the cooperation of all the students in implementing these security measures for the safety of all.

Yours sincerely



Prof SA Ariadurai

Vice-Chancellor

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