

Sri Lankan Terror Attacks: Advice to the Education Sector

Background

You will all be aware of the multiple terror attacks that took place in Sri Lanka on Easter Sunday and the ongoing investigations to identify those involved. You will also have seen an announcement from the Sri Lankan authorities that at least one of the bombers was allegedly linked to a university in the UK.

We are aware that there are a number of fatalities with links to the education sector. There are large numbers of people injured and many still missing. Full details of all those affected are still unknown, but it is likely that some of these will be from the UK and linked to schools, universities and other educational establishments in your regions; either as staff or students.

1. Immediate Advice

For anyone with any immediate concerns about family or friends in Sri Lanka please direct them to:

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Emergency Contact Number: 020 7008 1500.

The following pages also give detail on the current situation and are regularly updated:

FCO Sri Lanka travel advice: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/sri-lanka>

FCO 'What to do if you're affected by a crisis overseas' advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/sri-lanka>

The Victims of Terrorism Unit at the Home Office [victims of terrorism page](#), includes access to support services, including mental health and other medical services. It also gives advice on handling request from the media.

For specific advice and support for parents, children and teachers affected by terrorism:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-children-parents-and-teachers-victims-of-terrorism/additional-advice-and-support-for-parents-children-and-teachers>

The following support and resources may be of specific assistance to educators (safeguarding leads and teachers) with discussions about terrorist attacks:

The PSHE Association Frameworks

Secondary: <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/generic-framework-discussing-terrorist-attack>

Primary: <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/discussing-terrorist-attack-children-primary>

Educate Against Hate

<https://educateagainsthate.com/blog/posts/help-young-people-understand-terrorist-attacks/>

NSPCC

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/what-we-do/news-opinion/supporting-children-worried-about-terrorism/>

If you need advice on where to get further help, **the Department for Education Counter Extremism Helpline 020 7340 7264** and is open from 9am-5pm Monday – Friday.