



Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations  
Human Rights Council – Universal Periodical Review  
Sri Lanka, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012

Madam President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Sri Lanka led by H.E. ...

The National Report highlights Sri Lanka's multi-ethnic, multi-religious, multi-lingual and multi-cultural character as well as the significant work made to promote and protect peace and human rights in the country. My Delegation appreciates Sri Lanka's accomplishments and improvements in the areas of post-conflict management, demining, development, prevention of violence and poverty reduction, among others. However some additional effort needs to be done and we encourage Sri Lanka to continue the reconciliation and reconstruction process, for example, by allowing humanitarian organizations access to work in formerly conflict-affected areas.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations for consideration by Sri Lanka:

- To take measures to guarantee full protection of children's human rights by rehabilitating the ex-combatants and eliminating and reducing, among others, child trafficking, child sexual abuse and violence against children.
- To ensure legal ownership and return or restitution of houses and lands to internally displaced persons, according to international standards.
- To promote national reconciliation taking into account and protecting Sri Lanka's ethnic and religious pluralism, ensuring that all religious denominations are granted equal treatment and enjoy their fundamental rights.
- To accelerate the improvement of the judicial, police, military and prison systems in line with international human rights standards and to investigate all allegations of extrajudicial summary or arbitrary killings and enforced disappearances and follow up according to justice requirements.