



## 2020 Sri Lankan Parliamentary Elections COVID-19 Code of Conduct for Election Observers

We, election monitoring organizations planning to observe the 2020 parliamentary elections, realize the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic and our responsibility to help contain the spread of the disease.

Election observers are an integral part of a democratic and transparent electoral process, and this remains true during the unprecedented situation we are currently facing. We remain committed to the highest standards set by international and regional instruments for our line of work.

We want, however, to ensure that election observation takes place in the safest possible manner and does not adversely impact voters, polling staff, or other electoral stakeholders. Therefore, we have jointly prepared the following guidelines, to be implemented throughout our respective election observation activities:

1. Our organizations are committed to following COVID-19 policies implemented by health authorities, the Election Commission of Sri Lanka, and other government agencies. We will ensure that our staff members and volunteers behave accordingly, and will keep them periodically updated.
2. We will prioritize online forms of communication, to limit as much as possible the need for in-person meetings.
3. Our staff members and volunteers will be instructed to maintain a social distance of at least one meter at all times. We will make the necessary arrangements to avoid physical contact as much as possible.
4. Our staff members and volunteers will be instructed to wash their hands regularly and thoroughly with soap or hand sanitizer.
5. Our staff members and volunteers will be required to wear face masks in public and provided guidance on how to wear one properly.
6. We will instruct our staff members and volunteers to limit their use of public transportation as much as possible. Private vehicles will be disinfected before and after use.
7. Our staff members and volunteers will be mandated to keep a daily journal of their activities, including places visited and persons met, to provide health authorities with the information needed for contact tracing, should it be necessary.
8. We will strive to provide staff members and volunteers with adequate health insurance coverage. Their health situation will also be regularly monitored with the help of health professionals, and any person experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 will be required to self-isolate.

Endorsers:

- Asian Network for Free and Fair Elections (ANFREL)
- Campaign for Free & Fair Elections (CaFFE)
- Center for Monitoring Election Violence (CMEV)
- Mothers & Daughters of Lanka (MDL)
- Movement for Free and Fair Elections (MFFE)
- National Polls Observation Centre (NPOC)
- People's Action for Free and Fair Elections (PAFFREL)

## COVID-19 Pledge for Election Observers

1. I will follow COVID-19 policies implemented by health authorities, the Election Commission of Sri Lanka, and other government agencies.
2. I will follow COVID-19 guidelines issued by my organization.
3. I understand that I have to maintain a social distance of at least one meter at all times. I will avoid physical contact as much as possible.
4. I will wash my hands regularly and thoroughly with soap or hand sanitizer.
5. I will wear a face mask in public and was provided guidance on how to wear one properly. I understand that I will be denied entry into polling centers, counting centers, or other facilities if I don't wear the required protective equipment.
6. I will limit my use of public transportation as much as possible.
7. I will regularly update my organization about my health situation. I understand that I need to self-isolate if I experience symptoms of COVID-19.
8. I will keep a daily journal of my activities, including places visited and persons met. I understand that this information must be provided to health authorities for contact tracing purposes, should it be necessary. However, I will not disclose the content of my interviews as an election observer.
9. I will not misuse the identification card issued by my organization.

I hereby acknowledge the COVID-19 Code of Conduct for Election Observers and accept to follow it for as long as deemed necessary by my organization.

Name:

Date:

Signature:

*Note: Organizations can use the template above as they see fit to ensure the compliance of their staff members and volunteers with the COVID-19 Code of Conduct for Election Observers.*