

Commission of Inquiry Into and Report on the Conversion of Sri
Lankan Buddhists into other religious faiths appointed by the All
Ceylon Buddhist Congress.

NOTICE CALLING FOR REPRESENTATION

The Commission Comprise of the following members

1. Mr.Kalubowilage Sarath Gunathilake (Formerly High Court Judge)
2. Dr.Ariyaratna Lankachandra (Formerly Director Of Education)
3. Dr.Pannadasa Gardiye Punchihewa (Formerly CCS)
4. Mr.Herbert Gamini Gunawardane (Formerly Senior Deputy Inspector General of Police)
5. Mr.Disanayake Mudiyanseelage Jayathilake Disanayake (Formerly Director Of Education)
6. Mr.Somaratne Kariyawasam (Formerly Commissioner of Buddhist Affairs)
7. Mr.Budagoda Arachchige Don Alfred Wijewardana (Formerly Senior Superintendent of Police)
8. Mrs.Kathriartchige Srimathie Chitra Wijesekara (Formerly SLEAS)
9. Mrs.Karuna De Silva (Formerly Company Directress)

The above commission is appointed to inquire into and to report on the following,

1. Ascertain information enabling to identify the general structure and operational mechanism of organizations engaged directly or indirectly in converting Sri Lankan Buddhists to other religious faiths.
2. Ascertain the sources of funding of such organization.

3. To investigate into the disbursement of financial and other assistance by these organizations to achieve the set goals of these organizations in the fields of pre-school education, collegiate education, education, tertiary education or any other academic institution.

4. Is there any evidence to support the contention that funds received from foreign sources by legalized charitable organizations, foreign religious organization, non-governmental organizations, voluntary bodies incorporated in Sri Lanka or by promoters of board of Investment projects are surreptitiously diverted for purposes linked to conversion of Buddhists to other religions.

5. Ascertain whether promotional prospects or achievements or any other gains have been deprived to any one employed in any government department, corporation, government owned other undertaking or private sector or non government organization on the basis of one being Buddhist by faith. Similarly whether there has been any occasion where any Buddhist has been induced by offer of employment, promotional prospects or other inducements if he changes the religion.

6. What are the popular strategies employed to attract unsuspecting people to other religions for conversion in urban and rural locations.

7. Is there evidence to support the view that some relief workers both local and foreign who offered to help out the victims of the December 2004 Tsunami disaster made use of that opportunity to convert Buddhists.

8. Is there evidence to suggest that a concerted effort is under way by some media Institutions to distract people particularly the youth from observing traditional cultural ethos, and to undermine the country's distinctive Buddhist identity with ulterior objective of creating a mind set conducive to religious conversions.

9. Are there certain locations or religion which are considered relatively more conducive for conversion. If so what are their dominant characteristics.

10. Is there evidence to show a growing tendency that lack of interest or concern on the part of some sections of the Maha Sangha about mundane matters of the laity to seek help from fundamentalists or any other religion which eventually lead to conversions .

11. Is there evidence to suggest that conversions have caused disunity and dissension in the family or society.

12. On the data available the commission to _____ compile a list of conversions from Buddhism _____ to any other religions made during the past _____ years under the following heads./ District / _____ Male / Female / Children under 18 years of _____ age / religion.

13. Whether any persons who were converted had _____ reverted to Buddhism. If so reason for such _____ reversions.

14. To ascertain and report generally on above _____ matters in relation to conversion of person by _____ fraudulent and unethical means.

15. To ascertain on matters not covered by para 1 _____ to 14 but relevant to conversions by fraudulent _____ and unethical means.

16. Recommendations regarding matters referred to under para 1 to 15.

€Ven. Maha Sangha, Buddhist organizations or other organizations, member of the general public who wish to submit written submissions, are kindly requested to do so by 25th July 2006.

€In the event of any witness / organization making written submission, requesting the Commission not to disclose his/ its identity to the public, the Commission guaranties such non-disclosure.

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Jaliya Nammuni Nanda G. Kaluthanthri

Joint Secretaries to the Commission

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