

May 3, 2019

Senator Charles Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Sri Lankan Children

Dear Senator Schumer:

I hope this letter finds you well.

I recently met with members of Staten Island's Sri Lankan community, who are, as you might well imagine, devastated and shocked by the horrific terrorist attacks perpetrated against innocents in their homeland on Easter Sunday.

Since Staten Island has the largest number of Sri Lankan immigrants in the entire country, I was anxious to hear what we might be able to do to ease their suffering; how our government might be able to assist them. It was brought to my attention that the bombings, which killed approximately 290 people, have left in its wake an unknown number of orphans.

Members of the Sri Lankan community expressed to me, selflessly and with good will, their willingness to adopt some number of these children. However, they are ignorant as to the process, as am I, and discouraged at the amount of time it might take to follow normal procedures for adoption.

My idea is to work with you to address this situation by doing whatever is possible to expedite the legal issues, so that these suffering young boys and girls might be given a safe, secure and peaceful life here in America, here in New York, which they so horribly suffered to deserve. I don't know what can or cannot be done, but I do know that something should be.

Thank you for your kind attention, and I look forward to hearing from you as soon as is practical.

Sincerely,



James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island

