

15<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**For the attention of all members of staff, undergraduate and postgraduate students and members of alumni associations of the University of Colombo**

On behalf of the University of Colombo (UoC), I thank each and every one of you for complying with the government's directive communicated through the Chairman, UGC since Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2020. At this point of time all hostels have been vacated and I am hopeful that our students are safe and sound in their own homes. Meanwhile the staff members on 24-hour duty to maintain the security and safety of our university are humbly saluted.

In this time of a worldwide crisis with respect to COVID-19 viral infection, we must as a responsible group be able to bear with the numerous postponements of study and examination schedules, sporting events, overseas travels and all pre-scheduled commitments by respecting the government directives.

In this difficult period of uncertainty, I seek your support in staying calm and for adopting the universal precautions as recommended by the Ministry of Health. Please follow the instructions posted on our website from time to time and feel free to contact us for any support you need. As a responsible group, it is best that the UoC community responds to the current situation by following evidence based instructions and responsible sources of information and refrain from panic situations with unwanted anxiety and distress.

To our students, your health and safety is our first priority. I am well aware that many of your plans and personal commitments are in complete disarray right now. Although the current period of closure is two weeks, we need to be prepared for further extensions if necessary. Hence, please do make use of the available web based learning and communication with your respective faculties and teachers and stay focused on your professional development. It is also an important time for us to reflect on the good things in life we often overlook due to work schedules and multiple commitments.

I take this opportunity to remind ourselves to consider the university fraternity as one family who can support each other and be a leading light for society.

Stay safe  
Stay calm  
Stay healthy

Thank you,

Yours truly

Chandrika Wijeyaratne  
Vice Chancellor  
University of Colombo