



# SRI LANKA COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS

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18<sup>th</sup> August 2021

## **Press statement regarding human sexuality and mental illness**

It has come to our notice that certain individuals conducting training programmes on mental health are spreading erroneous messages on sexual behaviour.

The Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists would like to categorically state that we do not endorse the view that homosexuality is due to a disease of the mind or body.

Modern day psychiatrists do not identify or diagnose homosexuality as a mental illness or treat it as such. This myth that homosexuality is a mental illness is not in keeping with the evidence based science practiced by our membership.

According to modern day medical knowledge and social values the lifestyle choices of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) community are to be respected and not discriminated against.

We would like to strongly urge the authorities to change article 365 of the penal code which states that homosexuality is a criminal act. This archaic law should be abolished and homosexuality decriminalized in Sri Lanka.

- Sri Lanka College of Psychiatrists