

Weight of political and economic pressure in Lanka hard to bear, destabilising, isolating, and frightening — Commonwealth Secretary General

Commonwealth Secretary General, Rt Hon Patricia Scotland KC, has pledged the Commonwealth Secretariat's full support to Sri Lanka as the country navigates difficult challenges.

Speaking at an event in Colombo, on Friday, the Commonwealth Secretary General said she arrived in Sri Lanka to let every Sri Lankan know that they are not alone while the island nation continues to feel the weight of political and economic pressure.

"I know that Sri Lanka continues to feel the weight of

political and economic pressure. The pressure can be hard to bear. It can be destabilizing, isolating, and frightening, and I am here because I want every Sri Lankan to know that you are not alone in the nature of the challenges you face. You are part of this special precious Commonwealth family," Scotland said, addressing the Inaugural Lecture for Geopolitical Cartographers.

The Secretary General, Scotland, is in Sri Lanka at the invitation of the government to attend the celebration events for the 75th Independence Day, in

Colombo, marking the significant anniversary.

The Secretary General gave a lecture at ocean think-tank, the Geopolitical Cartographer, on the Commonwealth's role in facing 'Polycrisis' — the term given to the current set of linked factors causing global instability.

The Geopolitical Cartographer was held under the patronage of President Ranil Wickremesinghe at the Colombo City Centre.

Speaking further, the Secretary General said Sri Lanka was not alone in facing the fallout from a host of interconnected global pressures, like spiraling costs, energy shortages and the effects of climate change.

Nevertheless, the Commonwealth as a collective of 56 countries, is working together to lend support and help member states work towards a more prosperous, sustainable and secure future for all, she said.

"As a family we have responsibility for one another. A duty to each other, shared love and a shared journey and you are not alone, like the challenges you face."

She added: "Where we can face the challenges of the world as a family we build proud, connected nations: each with the confidence to stand tall, but each with the perspective to know that we are at our best when we work together."

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have been forwarded for further investigations and legal

police. By the end of last year, 254

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"We are certainly not opposed to the devolution of power. However, we cannot under any circumstances support an agenda that may cause chaos," National

hand. Those who quit the SLPP parliamentary group, too, have strongly opposed the full implementation of the