



## Statement of Regret & Call for Dialogue

The last weeks we have witnessed a lot of damages incurred on monuments & statues in the Netherlands and elsewhere in the World as a sign of protest. In Amsterdam the statue of Mahatma Gandhi was defaced, similar to the attacks on statues of politicians or historic personalities elsewhere.

GOPIO the Netherlands regrets these damages as they reflect a point in time which can be a source for dialogue instead of demanding attention by destruction or other types of violence.

We feel that dialogue is only possible in a peaceful line of thought and that violence causes more “damage” to the objective of the “Coloured Life Matters” movements everywhere. It deflects us from the real theme in society, which is the embedded phenomenon of discrimination. We therefore promote practical forms of dialogue for change & action instead of anonymous & violent escalation.

As an independent & international Diaspora association we will join forces & align for an Action plan for change in various levels of society and not isolate ourselves in protest movements only. It is the root cause of our establishment to promote dialogue and advocacy to implement change by peaceful interactions to oppose discrimination in society.

On behalf of the National Board of GOPIO the Netherlands,

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GOPIO Intl. is a non-partisan, non-sectarian global diaspora organization with chapters in several countries, actively promoting the interests of people of Indian origin worldwide by monitoring and addressing current critical issues of concern, and by enhancing cooperation and communication between groups of Indians living in various countries. For more information and/or questions please contact GOPIO the Netherlands: [info@gopioholland.nl](mailto:info@gopioholland.nl).

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