

5 May 2020

Sent to the Chief Secretary, OSD to KCR, KTR, Principal Health Secretary

Dear Sirs,

Please find **below and attached herewith an Open Letter in Telugu and English from over a 100 civil society activists**, requesting the Telangana Government to ensure that we as a state and society, come out of the 'Markaz illusions', stop the needless focus on the 'Markaz returnees' and instead undertake concrete issues that would help reduce communalization of the covid 19 pandemic as well as secure health of all our people.

Some of our concrete demands are as follows:

1. TS government should immediately de-link COVID in Telangana from Markaz returnees; recognize that such propaganda leads to hatred, ignorance and discrimination and risk for others from the disease. They should put a stop to it.
2. State must broaden and increase testing in Telangana in line with ICMR suggestions. Testing should be provided for those with Corona symptoms. Information about testing numbers and protocols should be made available to the public.
3. PPE should be provided in adequate numbers to the health care workers on the frontline. Public health care system should be strengthened. Serious attempts should be made to reduce fears and panic about isolation and quarantine facilities.
4. A helpline with volunteers from doctors, medical students and others should immediately be set up to offer support to all those in quarantine facilities and COVID patients and the help of civil society should be taken where necessary to set it up and maintain it.

The full letter and list of signatories is below

We look forward to concrete actions from the state government in this regard at the earliest and are willing to co-operate as always, in public interest.

Thanking you,

Sajaya, Suneetha, Tejaswini and Meera

(On behalf of signatories)