



# YOU CAN SAY NO TO RAGGING

How the Law Protects you from Ragging and Violence in  
Educational Institutions

Are you a student or staff member of,

- A private/state university
- A pirivena
- A tertiary, vocational or advanced technical institution
- A college of education or a government training college
- A government/assisted/unaided school,



***THEN, THIS IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION:***

Ragging is considered one of the most serious crimes in Sri Lanka and therefore can be non-bailable. Any person who commits or encourages ragging can be arrested without a warrant of arrest.

**What is RAGGING?**

Any act which causes serious bodily or mental injury to any student or member of the staff of an educational institute

**OR**

Occupying by force any premises under the management and control of an educational institution or damaging properties which are under the management and control of an educational institution is considered an offence under ragging.

## **What is the “ANTI-RAGGING ACT”?**

Prohibition of Ragging and other Forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act, No. 20 of 1998

## **Who are the CRIMINALS Under This Act?**

Any person who carries out or participates in ragging within or outside an educational institution will be guilty of this

## **Who are the VICTIMS Under This Act?**

Any student or staff member of an educational institution who faces any of the following forms of degrading and inhuman treatment:

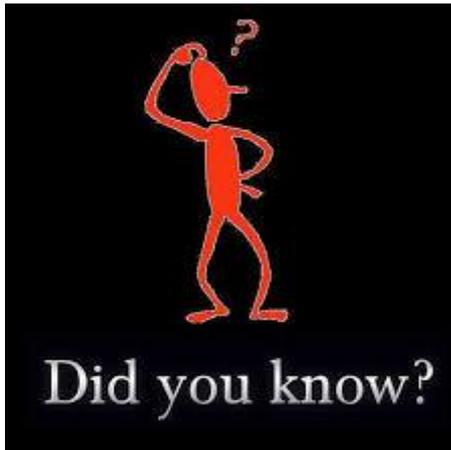
- Threats (verbally or in written form) to cause injury to reputation or property to create fear.
- Threats to cause injury to reputation or property of any other close person to create fear.
- Controlling and restricting the freedom and movement within any premises which is under the management and control of a higher educational institution.
- Illegal obstruction to hinder access to or exit from certain places within the premises.

## **Punishments given for OFFENDERS**

Trials and appeals under the anti-ragging act are given priority in courts. Depending on the degree of offense committed the courts can give out the following punishments:

- Expulsion or dismissal of the offender from the educational institution (if he/she is a student or a member of the staff)
- Imprisonment up to 10 years
- Monetary compensation to the victims





**There is an act that protects VICTIMS AND WITNESSES of ragging:**

Assistance to and Protection of Victims of Crimes and Witnesses Act, No. 4 of 2015

### **Who is a WITNESS?**

Someone who has provided/can provide key information to a legal authority in support of a past/ongoing/future investigation or court case. A witness can be someone who enters the investigation or inquiry at any stage of its proceedings. The information provided can be in the form of a written document or a verbal statement.

### **How does this act PROTECT victims and witnesses?**

- Provides help and protection to victims and witnesses of the crime
- Helps victims to get compensation from the offenders
- Helps to obtain redress (restitution, rehabilitation, compensation, reparation)
- Sets out the duties and responsibilities of the law and higher officials towards promoting and protecting the rights and entitlements of victims and witnesses

### **What are the RIGHTS AND ENTITLEMENTS of VICTIMS?**

- To be treated equally and fairly and with respect to the dignity and privacy of the victim
- To get quick, fair and suitable redress for the harm, damage or loss suffered as a result of being a victim
- To be protected from any form of harm (threats, intimidations, reprisals)
- To get medical treatment (physical or psychological) for any injury or harm suffered due to being a victim
- To present either orally or in writing a complaint regarding the offense, to have it recorded by a police officer and have it investigated impartially by the relevant authorities
- To be represented by an attorney at law during the investigation
- To attend all judicial and quasi-judicial proceeding related to the crime, obtain information about it and receive monetary assistance or facilities to them if needed

### **What are the ENTITLEMENTS of WITNESSES?**

- Will not be harassed, intimidated, coerced or violated during or after the proceedings due to providing information, making statements during investigations, providing testimonies in court in relation to a crime/offence.
- To receive protection against potential threats, harm, intimidation or retaliation for being a witness

# **If you are a victim of ragging or a witness, you are entitled to obtain protection!!!**

## **Whom can you seek ASSISTANCE from?**

### 1) National Authority for the Protection of Victims of crime and witnesses

- Protects victims and witnesses of a crime and ensures that their rights and entitlements are secured.
- Takes any required action to ensure the smooth process of conducting an investigation or an inquiry into an alleged or imminent violation of a right or entitlement of a victim or witness of a crime.
- More information at: <https://moj.gov.lk>

### 2) Victims of Crime and Witnesses Assistance and Protection Division

- Provides assistance and protection to victims of crime and witnesses against potential and existing threats, harms and retaliations.
- Carries out investigations regarding crimes against victims of crime and witnesses

*If you face threats, harms and retaliations, or feel the possibility of such, you can formally request admission to the “Victims of Crime and Witnesses Assistance and Protection Programme” maintained by Victims of Crime and Witnesses Assistance and Protection Division.*

**You can make the request to any of the following authorities:**

- National Authority for The Protection of Victims of Crime and Witnesses
- Victims of Crime and Witnesses Assistance and Protection Division
- A court before which the relevant judicial proceedings took place, are taking place or are scheduled to take place.
- The Commissions (The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, The Commission to Investigate Bribery or Corruptions, Investigations Commissions or a Special President’s Commission of Inquiry or any other Commission appointed under the Commission of Inquiry Act.)
- OIC of any police station



**Depending on the need, the “Victims of Crime and Witnesses Assistance and Protection Programme” can provide you:**

- Security, including for your property
- Temporary accommodation
- Permanent re-location with your consent
- Temporary or permanent employment
- Re-identification
- Measures to stop media institutions and other persons from disclosing information about your identity and testimony to the public
- Or any other security measure deemed necessary

**HOWEVER, the assistance and protection granted to you shall be discontinued if you:**

- Abuse the assistance or protection granted
- Provide false information or testimony
- Act against the terms of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) entered into with the authority which provided the assistance or protection.

**REMEMBER THAT YOU HAVE A RIGHT  
TO LEARN IN A SAFE ENVIRONMENT!!!**