



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

COMMISSION CIRCULAR NO. 14 / 2022

No. 20, Ward Place
Colombo 07

04th October 2022

Vice Chancellors of Universities

Rectors of Campuses

Directors of Institutes

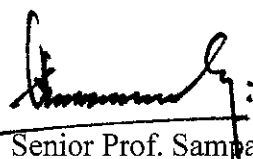
Open and Equitable Access Policy for All Students in Higher Educational Institutions/Institutes

It was observed that unacceptable activities/ behaviors have been reported at several Higher Educational Institutions/Institutes, as a result, cohort of students have infringed fundamental rights of other students. Recently, such offensive activities have led to closure of the Faculties / Universities disrupting the academic activities of thousands of undergraduates.

The University Grants Commission being the regulator of the Universities established under the Universities Act decided to advice **to firmly adhere to the “open access policy” for all students of Universities** by ensuring commitment to uphold, protect and foster the legitimate rights of all university students without prejudice. As such, **all duly registered students** of each university **without any discrimination should have the right to use all facilities provided for students** such as canteens, sports and recreation facilities, library and other common facilities irrespective of their gender, race, religion, seniority of students, or any other bases of diversity and the Department or the Faculty they belong.

You are hereby informed to **communicate all students and the staff members** that **denial of such access to anyone** through any mode of communication (implying, verbally or in writing including communications by text messages, social media posts etc) **could be an act amounting to violation of the fundamental rights and such an act could be an offence punishable** under the Prohibition of Ragging and Other Forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act, No. 20 of 1998.

The University authorities have a responsibility to mitigate/eradicate/ investigate at all times such illegal activities committed by any individual or a group of students by initiating immediate actions against those violators. Further, once detected/ reported, such incidents should be dealt with the university disciplinary code and severe incidents shall be brought before the public law of the country as appropriate.



Senior Prof. Sampath Amaratunge

Chairman

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 5. Secretary of the /UGC
 6. Registrars of Universities
 7. Deans of Faculties
 8. Accountant /UGC
 9. Bursars of Universities
 10. Librarians/ SAL/ AL of the Higher Educational Institutions/ Institutes
 11. Deputy Registrars Snr. Asst. Registrars /Ass. Registrars of Campuses/ Institutes
 12. Deputy Bursars/ Snr. Asst. Bursars / Asst. Bursars of Campuses/ Institutes
 13. Internal Auditor/UGC
 14. Govt. Audit Superintendents of Universities
 15. Snr. Asst. Int. Auditors of HEIs
 16. Secretaries of Trade Unions
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