



## UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

COMMISSION CIRCULAR NO. 01/2025

No. 20, Ward Place,  
Colombo 07.

February 24, 2025

Vice-Chancellors of Universities  
Rectors of Campuses  
Directors of Institutes

**DEVELOPING A SURVIVOR SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR STUDENT SAFETY AND WELL-BEING: ENSURING GENDER EQUITY IN HOSTEL REGULATIONS AND SAFETY OF NEW ENTRANTS.**

It is with grave concern that the University Grants Commission notes that university hostels continue to be a key location in which new entrants are harassed, bullied, and abused by senior students. The UGC has received several complaints regarding the hardships faced by new entrants within hostel premises including direct physical harm, mental abuse, verbal harassment, and sleep deprivation. Moreover, it has come to the attention of the Commission that some universities have taken administrative decisions on formal and informal arrangements that apply hostel rules, such as hostel curfews, to male and female hostels differently. It is noted that, such arrangements violate the principle of equity in access to academic activities of all students. This was revealed during stakeholder meetings conducted by the UGC as a part of the initiative to develop a Survivor Support System for victims of ragging and Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

Therefore, the Commission at its 1138<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 09<sup>th</sup> January 2025 granted concurrence to implementing recommendations made during the said stakeholder meetings to ensure the safety and well-being of all students, including new entrants. As part of a series of directives to implement a Survivor Support System, the Commission at its 1140<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 05<sup>th</sup> February 2025 approved the issuance of the first set of directives.

As such, all Vice Chancellors are hereby directed to adhere to the following guidelines and to take actions to revisit and amend the relevant by-laws as required:

1. All rules related to hostels, including hostel curfews and/or other restrictions, as determined by the by-laws of the university, should be uniform for students of all genders, and should enable all students to engage in academic activities fully without any prejudice to their gender.

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2. All universities are required to establish hostels dedicated only to new entrants wherever resources permit and give priority to housing new entrants together and limiting the access that senior students have to hostels where new entrants reside.

Please take actions accordingly.



**Senior Prof. Kapila Seneviratne**  
Chairman

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