

Sufficiency of Existing Legislations to Prevent Cyber Harassment in Sri Lanka

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Cyber harassment is the term used to describe the use of the Internet to bully, harass, threaten, or maliciously embarrass a person. Though cyber harassment is a crime, Sri Lanka's legislation does not list cyber-bullying and harassment as a separate offence, but there are legal provisions which have been cited by legal experts and activists to charge perpetrators. This analysis divulges those numerous sections of Computer Crime Act No.24 of 2007 of Sri Lanka, Penal Code of 1883, Obscene Publications Ordinance No. 4 of 1927 and Prohibition of Ragging and Other Forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act No. 20 of 1998 have the potential to capture different categories of Cyber harassments like revenge pornography, sextortion, cyber-stalking, cyber-bullying. This research identified practical issues like lack of understanding on the applicability of these laws to harassment committed in the cyber space as well as confusions due to over lapping of laws and injustices instigated by having many applicable laws and lack of awareness in the law enforcement about the possibility of using these laws to prosecute cyber harassment in Sri Lanka. In conclusion, researchers intend to recommend a technical and legal revision of Statutes in Sri Lanka as to adopt a strong set of laws targeting cyber harassment primarily, without overlapping. Theoretical analysis of the research is conducted through qualitative data assembled through online based sources.

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