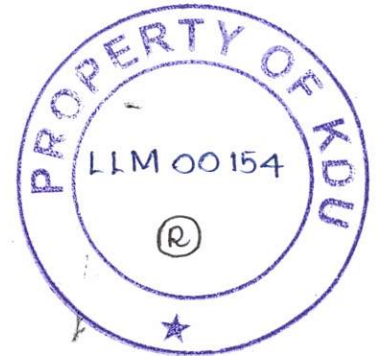


**LAW REFORMS TO MENTAL HEALTH LAWS IN
SRI LANKA:
A SELECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND CRIMINAL
JUSTICE ISSUES**



by

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**The Dissertation submitted to
GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE
UNIVERSITY
SRI LANKA**

In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree

of

Master of Laws

PERMANENT REFERENCE

14th August 2023

ABSTARCT

This thesis is concerned with determining whether Sri Lankan mental health law and its application in practice are in need of reform. Primarily under this thesis research objectives such as discussing the existing legal regime governing mental health law in Sri Lanka, examining the impact of current legal framework on mental health law in Sri Lanka, analyzing the problems in the interpretation and implementation of current mental health legislation, policy and draft mental health act in Sri Lanka and evaluating the national and international human rights standards and criminal law principles against which regulations should be measured and finally making recommendations to reform the mental health law in Sri Lanka will be discussed. In order to reach its objectives the thesis measures mental health legislations and criminal law that affect the mentally ill individual or offenders against international and local human rights standards. Mainly this study is dealt with the examining prevailing mental health law as against the measures identified by the developments of selected jurisdictions. Sri Lankan mental health law will be discussed under the Lunacy ordinance of 1873 and its amendments, draft mental health Act and mental health policy of 2017. In order to identifying the gap in current law developments of India will be taken as other jurisdiction and The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) will be taken in to consideration.

The significance of the study on law reforms to mental health laws in Sri Lanka is multi-fold. Firstly, it addresses human rights issues surrounding the treatment of individuals with mental illness. By examining the current mental health laws in Sri Lanka and proposing necessary reforms, this study can contribute to promoting and protecting the