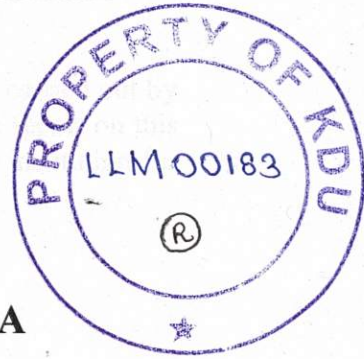


**LEGALIZING OF PROSTITUTION IN SRI LANKA:  
LESSONS FROM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
AND GERMANY**

I hereby declare that the work described in this dissertation was done by me under the guidance of the supervisors mentioned herein and I certify that the work has not been submitted in whole or in part for any other degree or diploma.

by



**PARAGODA GAMAGE DULANI ACHALA**

Date: 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023

*The Dissertation submitted to*

**GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE  
UNIVERSITY**

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## ABSTRACT

### LEGALIZING OF PROSTITUTION IN SRI LANKA: LESSONS FROM UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND GERMANY

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This research makes an effort to investigate issues surrounding prostitution in Sri Lanka, including violations of sex workers' fundamental rights, health issues, social stigma, regulation, and attitudes. This will help in achieving the systematic approach and demonstrate the inadequacy of the current legal framework to address such issues. The criminalization and legalization of sex work practices in the USA and Germany have been studied to determine the benefits and drawbacks of such policies and to determine if legalization is a workable solution to the problems associated with prostitution in Sri Lanka. This research has been developed through a library-based critical assessment of the literature that heavily relies on primary and secondary legal sources in addition to unstructured and informal interviews. This study demonstrates that the growth of sex work has made it challenging to manage and regulate sex work, and the extent to which prostitution is governed by the state is still up for dispute. The results of this study indicate all three policy regimes legalization, decriminalization, and criminalization have problems of their own, and that the competence of the law enforcement agencies is crucial to the success of these policies. The conflicting opinions presented throughout the interviews provide insight into whether legalization may be adopted in social, cultural, political, religious, and moral settings. This research concludes that any change to the status quo regarding the regulation of prostitution in Sri Lanka requires careful consideration of the social, legal, economic, and moral contexts in which such policies will be implemented, in addition to the merits of alternative policies adopted in other jurisdictions. Because society's willingness is an important deciding element in altering Sri Lanka's prostitution laws, legalization has been recommended as a long-term solution.

**Key Words:** Prostitution, Legalization, Systemic approach, Sri Lanka, USA & Germany