

**STRENGTHENING THE LAW RELATING TO CHILD  
ABUSE IN SRI LANKA:**

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH THE UNITED  
KINGDOM**

I hereby declare that the work on this dissertation was exclusively carried out by me under the guidance of supervisor given below and I certify that the report on this work has not been submitted in whole in or in part to any other institution for another degree or Diploma



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*The dissertation Submitted to*

**FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE  
UNIVERSITY,**

**SRI LANKA**

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

**Master of Laws**

**09<sup>th</sup> of August 2024**

## ABSTRACT

According to the Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 20, 1989, a child means “ every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier”. Child abuse remains a significant concern in Sri Lanka, necessitating robust legal frameworks to ensure the protection and welfare of children. This research examines the current state of child abuse laws in Sri Lanka, identifying gaps and weaknesses in the existing legal and institutional mechanisms. By conducting a comparative analysis with the United Kingdom, which has well-established child protection laws and systems, this study aims to propose recommendations for strengthening Sri Lanka’s legislative approach to child protection. This research was conducted primarily as a qualitative research. In conducting this research, secondary legal sources such as statutes, case law, textbooks, articles, and electronic databases were used. The research focuses on key aspects such as mandatory reporting, the roles and responsibilities of child protection authorities, judicial processes, and victim support mechanisms. The comparative analysis reveals significant differences in the legislative approaches and implementation strategies of the two countries, offering valuable insights for reform. Recommendations for Sri Lanka include adopting stringent mandatory reporting laws, enhancing the capacity of child protection agencies, improving judicial handling of child abuse cases, and establishing comprehensive support systems for victims. The findings underscore the necessity of a holistic and multi-faceted strategy to reform child abuse laws in Sri Lanka, aiming to create a safer and more protective environment for children.

**Keywords:** Child abuse, Child protection, Sri Lanka, Legal framework