



ANTI-RAGGING POLICY

1. Preamble:

In adherence to the directives issued by the Honorable Supreme Court and in alignment with the regulations established by the Central Government and the University Grants Commission (UGC) aimed at the prevention and eradication of ragging, PRIST Deemed-to-be University has developed the following Anti-Ragging Policy. This policy is designed to safeguard the physical and psychological well-being of all students. The Vice Chancellor holds the ultimate responsibility for the enforcement of this policy, though he/she may designate another University official as the Nodal Officer/Chairperson for anti-ragging activities, who shall be empowered to oversee the operational implementation of these regulations.

2. Objectives:

The objective of this policy is to prohibit, prevent, and eliminate any conduct by students that constitutes ragging.

3. What constitutes Ragging

Ragging is defined by the following behaviors:

- a) Any verbal, written, or physical action by a student or group of students that involves teasing, mistreating, or handling a fresher or any other student with rudeness.
- b) Participation in disorderly or disruptive activities by any student or group of students that causes annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm, or instills fear or apprehension in any fresher or other student.
- c) Coercing a student into performing actions they would not ordinarily do, resulting in feelings of shame, torment, or embarrassment, thereby adversely affecting their physical or mental well-being.
- d) Actions by senior students that obstruct, disrupt, or disturb the regular academic activities of any other student or fresher.
- e) Exploiting a fresher or any other student to complete academic tasks assigned to an individual or group of students.



f) Engaging in financial extortion or imposing undue financial burdens on a fresher or any other student.

g) Physical abuse, including sexual abuse, homosexual assaults, stripping, compelling obscene or lewd acts, making inappropriate gestures, causing bodily harm, or posing any other threat to health or safety, including verbal abuse through spoken words, emails, posts, or public insults.

h) Any action that negatively affects the mental health and self-confidence of a fresher or any other student, whether or not there is an intention to derive sadistic pleasure or to assert power, authority, or superiority.

4. Measures for prohibition of ragging at the University level

The University is obligated to comply with the following UGC directives:

a) The University, including all its entities such as schools, departments, constituent units, study centers, and premises—whether academic or residential—along with all modes of transportation used by students, must adopt a zero-tolerance approach to any reported incidents of ragging. All necessary measures, as outlined in these regulations, must be implemented to eradicate ragging both within and outside the University.

b) The University is mandated to take appropriate action, in accordance with UGC regulations, against individuals found guilty of engaging in or facilitating ragging, whether actively or passively, or conspiring to promote ragging.

5. Measures for prevention of ragging at the University level

a) The University shall implement the following steps regarding the admission and registration of students:

i. The University shall clearly state, in all its admission-related communications (electronic, audio-visual, print, or otherwise), that ragging is strictly prohibited and that any individual found guilty of ragging, or abetting it, will be subject to severe penalties as per the established rules and applicable laws.

ii. The admission brochure, instruction booklet, or prospectus, whether in print or electronic format, must prominently display this warning, along with details of the consequences.



iii. Students shall be provided with the contact numbers of the Anti-Ragging Helpline and key University officials, including but not limited to Deans/Directors and members of the Anti-Ragging Committee.

iv. An undertaking, as stipulated in the UGC rules, must be signed by both the applicant and their parents, acknowledging the anti-ragging policy. The accommodation provided to freshers will be closely monitored by wardens, security personnel, and other University staff. Before the commencement of the academic session, the Vice Chancellor shall convene a meeting with relevant stakeholders, including Hostel Wardens, Directors, student representatives, parents/guardians (where feasible), faculty, administration, and police (if deemed necessary), to discuss preventive measures and identify those involved in or abetting ragging.

v. The University shall raise awareness of the dehumanizing effects of ragging by prominently displaying posters detailing the applicable penal laws and University regulations regarding ragging. These posters shall be placed on notice boards in hostels and other buildings, as well as in areas where students frequently gather and locations vulnerable to ragging incidents.

vi. The University shall identify, properly illuminate, and closely monitor all locations known to be susceptible to ragging incidents. Security shall be intensified in these areas, particularly during vulnerable periods at the start of the academic session, with patrols conducted by the Anti-Ragging Committee and volunteers as needed.

vii. The University may engage professional counselors to provide counseling services to freshers and other students before and during the academic year.

viii. Upon the arrival of senior students, orientation programs shall be organized, including:

a. Joint sensitization and counseling sessions for both freshers and seniors, conducted by a professional counselor.

b. A joint orientation program addressed by the Vice Chancellor and the Anti-Ragging Committee.

c. Large-scale cultural, sports, and other activities to facilitate interaction between freshers and seniors, under the supervision of faculty members.

d. In hostels, the Warden shall address all students and may request assistance from junior faculty members as resident tutors on a temporary basis.



freshers. Freshers are encouraged to dine with hostel residents to instill confidence among

The University shall establish appropriate committees, including course-in-charge, student advisors, wardens, and senior students, to actively monitor, promote, and regulate healthy interactions between freshers, junior students, and senior students.

ix. Freshers or any other student(s) who are victims or witnesses of ragging incidents shall be encouraged to report such occurrences. The identity of informants shall be protected and they shall not face any adverse consequences for reporting incidents.

x. Upon arrival, freshers shall be divided into small groups and assigned to a faculty member who will interact individually with each member to ascertain any problems or difficulties they may be facing and provide the necessary assistance.

xi. The assigned faculty member shall coordinate with hostel wardens to conduct surprise visits to the rooms where the freshers in their group are housed and maintain a diary of these interactions.

xii. Freshers shall, as far as possible, be housed in a separate hostel block. Where this is not feasible, the University shall ensure strict monitoring of senior students' access to the accommodation provided to freshers, with close supervision by wardens, security personnel, and other staff.

xiii. The University shall maintain round-the-clock vigilance in hostel premises to prevent ragging incidents after class hours.

xiv. It is the responsibility of the parents/guardians of freshers to promptly report any instances of ragging to the Vice Chancellor.

xv. Every student must inform the University of their place of residence if they live outside the campus while pursuing their course of study.

6. Committees for prevention of Ragging at the University level

The University shall take the following measures in relation to student admission and registration:

- i. The University shall publicly declare its policy through various media platforms (electronic, audio-visual, print) to admit students to any course of study, explicitly



- stating that ragging is strictly prohibited. It should be clearly communicated that any individual found guilty of ragging, whether actively or passively involved, or engaged in any conspiracy to promote ragging, will be subject to penalties in accordance with the rules and applicable laws.
- ii. Students shall be provided with contact information for the Anti-Ragging Helpline and key personnel within the University, including Deans/Directors and members of the Anti-Ragging Committee.
 - iii. An undertaking, as per UGC rules, must be completed and signed by both the applicant and their parents. Accommodation for freshers shall be closely monitored by wardens, security personnel, and other University staff. Prior to the start of the academic session, the Vice Chancellor shall convene a meeting with relevant stakeholders to discuss preventive measures and identify and punish those involved in or abetting ragging.
 - iv. The University shall prominently display posters depicting the relevant penal laws and University regulations on ragging. These posters shall be placed on notice boards in hostels, other buildings, and areas where students frequently gather, as well as in locations known to be vulnerable to ragging incidents.
 - v. The University shall identify, illuminate, and closely monitor areas susceptible to ragging incidents, with increased security presence in these areas during vulnerable periods.
 - vi. The University shall utilize vacation periods before the start of the academic year to conduct anti-ragging campaigns through posters, leaflets, and other appropriate means.
 - vii. The University may engage professional counselors to provide counseling to freshers and other students before and during the academic year.
 - viii. Orientation programs for both freshers and senior students shall be organized, including joint sensitization sessions by professional counselors, addresses by the Vice Chancellor and the Anti-Ragging Committee, and large-scale cultural and sports activities to facilitate interaction between freshers and seniors under the supervision of faculty members.
 - ix. Students, whether victims or witnesses of ragging incidents, shall be encouraged to report such occurrences. The University shall ensure the protection of informants' identities and shield them from any adverse consequences.



- x. Upon arrival, freshers shall be divided into small groups and assigned a faculty member who will interact individually with each member to address any problems or difficulties they may face and provide necessary assistance.
- xi. Faculty members assigned to freshers shall coordinate with hostel wardens to conduct surprise visits to rooms where freshers are housed and maintain a diary of interactions.
- xii. Freshers shall, as far as possible, be housed in a separate hostel block. In cases where this is not feasible, the University shall enforce strict monitoring of senior students' access to fresher accommodations, with close supervision by wardens, security personnel, and other staff.
- xiii. The University shall ensure round-the-clock vigilance in hostel premises to prevent ragging incidents after class hours.
- xiv. Parents/guardians of freshers have a duty to promptly report any ragging incidents to the Vice Chancellor.
- xv. Every student is required to inform the University of their residence if they live outside the campus during their course of study.

7. Action to be taken by the Vice Chancellor

Upon receiving a recommendation from the Anti-Ragging Committee or any information concerning a reported incident of ragging, the Vice Chancellor will swiftly evaluate the need for action under relevant penal laws. If action is deemed necessary, the Vice Chancellor, either directly or through a designated member of the Anti-Ragging Committee, will ensure that a First Information Report (FIR) is filed with the police and local authorities within twenty-four hours. This FIR will be registered under the appropriate penal provisions covering various offenses related to ragging, which may include, but are not limited to, abetment, conspiracy, unlawful assembly, rioting, public nuisance, violation of decency and morality, physical harm or injury, wrongful restraint, unlawful confinement, criminal force, assault, sexual offenses, extortion, criminal trespass, property offenses, and criminal intimidation. The university will also conduct its own investigation and take necessary actions without waiting for police or local authorities to act.

- i. Abetment of ragging;
- ii. Conspiracy to commit ragging;
- iii. Participation in unlawful assembly and rioting during ragging;
- iv. Public nuisance created during ragging;
- v. Violation of decency and morality through ragging;



- vi. Causing physical harm or injury;
- vii. Wrongful restraint;
- viii. Unlawful confinement;
- ix. Use of criminal force;
- x. Assault, sexual offenses, or unnatural offenses;
- xi. Extortion;
- xii. Criminal trespass;
- xiii. Property offenses;
- xiv. Criminal intimidation;
- xv. Attempt to commit any of the aforementioned offenses against the victim(s);
- xvi. Threat to commit any of the aforementioned offenses against the victim(s);
- xvii. Infliction of physical or psychological humiliation;
- xviii. Any other offenses falling within the definition of ragging.

Additionally, the University will carry out its own investigation and take necessary measures independently, without waiting for action from the police or local authorities. These remedial actions will be initiated and completed promptly, within a period of seven days to one month from the date the ragging incident is reported, depending on the severity and nature of the grievance. This ensures that appropriate steps are taken swiftly to address the issue, providing timely resolution and maintaining a safe and secure environment for all students.

8. Responsibilities of the Commission

- i) Any distress call received by the Anti-Ragging Helpline shall be promptly communicated to the Vice Chancellor, the Hostel Warden, and, if necessary, the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police. Furthermore, this information will be made available online in real-time, accessible to both the media and the public.
- ii) Upon receiving information from the Anti-Ragging Helpline, the Vice Chancellor is obligated to take immediate action.
- iii) To facilitate communication with the Anti-Ragging Helpline, the University shall permit unrestricted access to mobile phones and public phones within hostels and campus areas, except in designated restricted zones such as classrooms, seminar halls, libraries, and other areas deemed necessary by the University.
- iv) The Committee must be reconstituted every two years.



v) The Committee shall convene twice a year to review its position and address any issues, or it shall meet immediately on the day a grievance is received or within the next two days, depending on the nature of the grievance. The implementation of the reservation policy may be overseen by the aforementioned Committee. The Committee's validity is for a period of two years.

vi) Depending on the nature of the grievance received, the Committee must resolve the issue within a timeframe of 3 to 15 days.

9. Administrative action in the event of ragging

The University will enforce disciplinary measures against any student found guilty of ragging, following the procedure outlined below:

i. The Anti-Ragging Committee shall determine the appropriate punishment, taking into account the circumstances of each incident and the severity of the ragging, as assessed by the recommendations of the Anti-Ragging Committee.

ii. Based on the severity of the offense established by the Anti-Ragging Committee, one or more of the following penalties may be imposed on the guilty parties:

- a) Suspension from attending classes and loss of academic privileges.
- b) Withholding or revocation of scholarships, fellowships, and other benefits.
- c) Ban on participation in tests, exams, or other evaluation processes.
- d) Withholding of academic results.
- e) Prohibition from representing the University in regional, national, or international events.
- f) Suspension or expulsion from the hostel.
- g) Cancellation of admission.
- h) Rustication from the University for a period of one to four semesters.
- i) Expulsion from the University and prohibition from admission to any other university for a specified period.

iii. Any appeal against the decision of the Anti-Ragging Committee may be submitted to the Vice Chancellor.

b) Should the appointing authority find that a faculty or staff member of the University is responsible for failing to report or take timely action to prevent ragging incidents, demonstrates



apathy or insensitivity toward complaints of ragging, or neglects to take necessary preventive measures as required by these rules or otherwise, the authority shall initiate a departmental inquiry in accordance with the University's prescribed procedures. If the lapse is attributable to the Vice Chancellor, the designated appointing authority for that position shall take appropriate action.

10. Review & Evaluation:

The Board of Management (BoM) shall periodically review and evaluate the anti-ragging policy to ensure it effectively meets its intended goals and objectives. This revised policy was approved during the 31st BoM meeting held on 22nd June 2018.



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