

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA
FACULTY OF LAW
MASTER OF LAWS DEGREE EXAMINATION – 2016/17
GENDER JUSTICE AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS LAW
(Three hours)

Total No. of Questions: 04

Answer question No.1 and any two other questions only.

(Candidates will be penalized for illegible handwriting.)

1. Violations of rights of women and girls in many countries have been remedied to some extent through intervention of progressive policies and laws, reducing the discriminations and disadvantages they experience. However, they are yet to achieve substantive equality in some areas.

Identify the areas where such equality still needs to be achieved, and analyze the reasons for the continued violation of their rights to equality and non-discrimination. Citing international standards, propose reforms to the areas where policy makers need to focus on enabling women and girls realize substantive equality.

2. Violence against women and girls raises human rights issues, requiring a legal system to respond, adopting comprehensive legislative measures and to provide an administrative framework, thereby such violence is identified as a violation of human rights and provided for effective protection and compensation to the victim.

Drawing from internationally recognized guiding principles on legislation dealing with violence against women, state whether the Domestic Violence Act of Sri Lanka adheres to such principles. You may support your answer with examples drawn from other jurisdictions.

3. Women's economic empowerment is a crucial element in achieving gender equality, and sustainable development. Central to the challenges that needs to be addressed is gender discrimination in the world of work. Referring to international labour standards, identify, if any, discriminatory Sri Lankan labour policy / laws / regulations / practices, etc. and analyze how gender mainstreaming of them would lead to attaining the goals of substantive gender equality and sustainable development.

4. Women's empowerment in the political sphere has a meaning that goes beyond simply promoting women's participation in political activities. It must be built on the basis of a transformative and inclusive approach, within a framework founded on democratic governance, human rights and gender justice. Gender parity in political decision-making process will be realized if progressive gender agenda, backed by all the necessary stakeholders, is adopted and vigorously pursued upon.

In light of the above statement, state the laws and mechanisms adopted in two jurisdictions of your choice, and explain their success or otherwise in achieving women's full and effective participation at all levels of decision-making process in the political sphere.