

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF LAW

DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS IN PRIVATE AND COMPARATIVE LAW- 2023/24

SEMESTER I END EXAMINATION

Gender <sup>and</sup> ~~Justice and Women's Rights~~ Law – TLLM 1139

(Three Hours)

Total number of questions: 04

Answer **THREE (03)** questions and no more  
(Candidates will be penalized for illegible handwriting)

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1. A number of twentieth century law reform (both statutory and judicial) has been influenced by feminist legal theories. Select one such law reform from Sri Lanka or elsewhere.
  - a) Analysing the pre-reform and post-reform implications of the law in terms of the rights of women, explain the specific feminist legal theory that in your opinion, has influenced the reform of the law. (75% of the total mark)
  - b) Do you think the outcomes would have been better had a different theory been used to reform the specific law? Elaborate your analysis citing judicial pronouncements / real-life examples / statistics / any other relevant material. (25% of the total mark)

(20 Marks)

2. Broad theoretical assumptions about constitutionally recognized principles of equality do not hold true with regard to women in some spheres due to various socio-legal-institutional barriers. Focusing on the relevant principles and policies that are recognized in the Sri Lankan Constitution, critically analyze three (3) such barriers, which in your opinion hinder Sri Lankan women's enjoyment of equality and non-discrimination **either** accessing justice **or** in the world of work.

(20 Marks)

3. The CEDAW Convention reiterates and expands the universally acknowledged entitlement of women to equality within the family. Appraise, comparing with one (01) other jurisdiction, the measures adopted by Sri Lanka to guarantee substantive equality for women in respect of economic dimensions of family relations.

(20 Marks)

4. "...when women can fully exercise their rights, they are in a better position to provide for, and advocate on behalf of, their children."

Jonathan Todres, 'Women's Rights and Children's Rights: A Partnership with Benefits for Both', 10 Cardozo Women's Law Journal 603 (2004) p.611

Critically analyse, in light of the above statement, how children are benefitted when their mothers' rights are protected. Substantiate your answer with relevant domestic and international standards and authorities and cite examples where necessary.

(20 Marks)

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