

UNIVERSITY OF COLOMBO, SRI LANKA

FACULTY OF LAW

DEGREE OF MASTER OF LAWS (BY COURSEWORK) - 2024/25

2nd SEMESTER END EXAMINATION – 2025 (AUGUST)

TLLM 12313 – Law and Social Justice

(Three Hours)

Total number of questions: 04

Answer any Three questions

(Candidates will be penalized for illegible handwriting)

1. The right to information empowers citizens by ensuring transparency and accountability from their government. This access not only fosters informed public discourse but also enables individuals and communities to challenge injustices, thereby strengthening the foundations of democracy.

In light of the above statement, critically examine the role of the right to information as a tool for promoting social justice in democratic societies. Support your answer with relevant case law and statutory provisions.

(20 Marks)

2. "It is not uncommon for a person to assume that his or her race is fixed and predetermined. People often think of themselves as being born into a certain race: that their race is genetically determined and is therefore free of social, economic and cultural influence."

Jeffrey H. Rutherford, 'Reexamining Race and Racial Identity in the United States' (1997) 15 Law & Ineq 1at 2.

Do you agree with the above statement? Discuss with reference to the relevant theoretical framework on racial identity and law, supported by practical examples.

(20 Marks)

3. Analyze the relevant theories of equality and the adequacy of United Nations human rights law mechanisms designed to promote equality and to achieve social justice in contemporary societies. Candidates should support their arguments with references to relevant international instruments and case law.

(20 Marks)

4. Social movements have long served as powerful agents of legal transformation, challenging dominant power structures and redefining the scope and meaning of rights and justice. Critically analyze the role of social movements in shaping legal discourse and institutional reform with two suitable examples.

(20 Marks)
