

## **ANTI RAGGING CELL**

In pursuance to the Judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India dated 8.5.2009 in Civil Appeal No. 887/2009, the University Grants Commission has framed "UGC Regulations on curbing the menace of ragging in higher educational institutions, 2009", and these were notified on 17th June, 2009 and are in force. UGC has made it mandatory for all institutions to incorporate in their prospectus the directions of the Government regarding prohibition and consequences of ragging. UGC reminds all Universities every year before the start of the academic session through public notices, UGC website and letters to Universities to ensure strict compliance of anti ragging measures. All students/parents are required to submit anti ragging related affidavits to the institutions at the time of admission. The Commission has included a specific condition in the sanction letter in respect of any financial assistance or grants-in-aid to any institution under any of the general or special schemes of the Commission that the institution has complied with the anti-ragging measures.

A nationwide toll free anti ragging helpline 1800-180-5522 has been established which can be accessed by students in distress owing to ragging related incidents. The helpline has been established with Call Centre facilities in 12 languages, viz. English, Hindi and regional languages (Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Punjabi, Marathi, Oriya, Assamese, Gujarati and Bengali), for helping victims of ragging besides facilitating effective action in respect of such incidents. The Helpline directly receives complaints from the complainant/victim of ragging. The same is forwarded by the Helpline to the respective institutions and the local administration (SHO & SP) for taking necessary corrective action. On receipt of complaints about ragging, the UGC seeks the action taken report from the concerned institutions.

A video film on anti ragging developed by CEC has been uploaded on UGC website and all universities have been asked to give wide publicity amongst students, staff, other stakeholders and colleges under their jurisdiction.

Ragging has ruined countless innocent lives and careers. In order to eradicate it, Hon'ble Supreme Court in Civil Appeal No. 887 of 2009, passed the judgement wherein

guidelines were issued for setting up of a Central Crisis Hotline and Anti-Ragging database.

In accordance with the orders, UGC (University Grants Commission), Govt. of India has developed a web portal. This portal contains:

1. Affidavits confirmed by each student and his/her parents or guardians, which will then be stored electronically and will contain the details of each student.

2. Record of registered complaints received and the status of the action taken.

The aim of the portal is to eliminate ragging in all its forms from universities, deemed universities and other higher educational institutions in the country. This will be achieved by preventing its occurrence and punishing those who indulge in ragging, in accordance with the Supreme Court Regulations.

A tripartite agreement between UGC, Ed.CIL and M/s Planet E-Com Solutions Pvt. Ltd. has been signed for the development of an anti ragging web portal.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide Civil Appeal No. 887 of 2009 in its judgement dated 8.5.2009 had constituted a Committee comprising of psychiatrists/mental health specialists etc. to ascertain the psychological impact of ragging on students and recommend urgent and mandatory mental health measures to be implemented in Schools, Colleges and all educational and vocational institutions, so as to avoid the occurrence of ragging.

An Anti Ragging Cell is functioning in UGC to coordinate the various anti ragging measures. All complaints regarding alleged ragging incidents received in UGC are being promptly attended to and action taken is sought from the institutions concerned. In case the institutions fail to take action on the reported ragging incidents, punitive action as per Regulations is initiated against such institutions.

#### **SUMMARY OF UGC REGULATIONS ON CURBING THE MENACE OF RAGGING IN HIGHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, 2009.**

1. **PREAMBLE:** In view of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 8.05.2009 and in consideration of the determination of the Central Government and the University Grants Commission to prohibit, prevent and eliminate the scourge of ragging.

2. **OBJECTIVE:** To eliminate ragging in all its forms from universities, deemed universities and other higher educational institutions in the country by prohibiting it

under these Regulations, preventing its occurrence and punishing those who indulge in ragging as provided for in these Regulations and the appropriate law in force.

**3. WHAT CONSTITUTES RAGGING:** Ragging constitutes one or more of any of the following acts:

- a) Any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness a fresher or any other student.
- b) Indulging in rowdy or indisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any fresher or any other student.
- c) Asking any student to do any act which such student will not in the ordinary course do and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such fresher or any other student.
- d) Any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student or a fresher.
- e) Exploiting the services of a fresher or any other student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students.
- f) Any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a fresher or any other student by students
- g) Any act of physical abuse including all variants of it: sexual abuse, homosexual assaults, stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts, gestures, causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person;
- h) Any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, post, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to fresher or any other student.
- i) Any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of a fresher or any other student with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any fresher or any other student.

**4. MEASURES FOR PROHIBITION OF RAGGING:** There are a number of such measures at institution level, University Level, District level etc. Some of them that are important for students to know are as follows:

- ? No institution shall permit or condone any reported incident of ragging in any form; and all institutions shall take all necessary and required measures, including but not limited to the provisions of these Regulations, to achieve the objective of eliminating ragging, within the institution or outside.
- ? All institutions shall take action in accordance with these Regulations against those found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging, actively or passively, or being part of a conspiracy to promote ragging.
- ? Every public declaration of intent by any institution, in any electronic, audiovisual or print or any other media, for admission of students to any course of study shall expressly provide that ragging is totally prohibited in the institution, and anyone found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging, whether actively or passively, or being a part of a conspiracy to promote ragging, is liable to be punished in accordance with these Regulations as well as under the provisions of any penal law for the time being in force.
- ? The telephone numbers of the Anti-Ragging Helpline and all the important functionaries in the institution, including but not limited to the Head of the institution, faculty members, members of the Anti- Ragging Committees and Anti-Ragging Squads, District and Sub- Divisional authorities, Wardens of hostels, and other functionaries or authorities where relevant, shall be published in the brochure of admission/instruction booklet or the prospectus.
- ? The application for admission, enrolment or registration must be accompanied by an Anti Ragging affidavit signed by a student in a prescribed format and another Anti Ragging Affidavit signed by a Parent/Guardian. (Both these Affidavits can be downloaded from the Web )
- ? Any distress message received at the Anti-Ragging Helpline shall be simultaneously relayed to the Head of the Institution, the Warden of the Hostels, the Nodal Officer of the affiliating University, if the incident reported has taken place in an institution affiliated to a University, the concerned District authorities

and if so required, the District Magistrate, and the Superintendent of Police, and shall also be web enabled so as to be in the public domain simultaneously for the media and citizens to access it.

- ? On receipt of the recommendation of the Anti Ragging Squad or on receipt of any information concerning any reported incident of ragging, the Head of institution shall immediately determine if a case under the penal laws is made out and if so, either on his own or through a member of the Anti-Ragging Committee authorised by him in this behalf, proceed to file a First Information Report (FIR), within twenty four hours of receipt of such information or recommendation, with the police and local authorities, under the appropriate penal provisions.
- ? The Commission shall maintain an appropriate data base to be created out of affidavits, affirmed by each student and his/her parents/guardians and stored electronically by the institution, either on its or through an agency to be designated by it; and such database shall also function as a record of ragging complaints received, and the status of the action taken thereon.
- ? The Commission shall include a specific condition in the Utilization Certificate, in respect of any financial assistance or grants-in-aid to any institution under any of the general or special schemes of the Commission, that the institution has complied with the anti-ragging measures.
- ? Any incident of ragging in an institution shall adversely affect its accreditation, ranking or grading by NAAC or by any other authorized accreditation agencies while assessing the institution for accreditation, ranking or grading purposes.
- ? The Commission may accord priority in financial grants-in-aid to those institutions, otherwise eligible to receive grants under section 12B of the Act, which report a blemishless record in terms of there being no reported incident of ragging.

**5. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION IN THE EVENT OF RAGGING:** The institution shall punish a student found guilty of ragging after following the procedure and in the manner prescribed here in under:

- ? The Anti-Ragging Committee of the institution shall take an appropriate decision, in regard to punishment or otherwise, depending on the facts of each incident of

ragging and nature and gravity of the incident of ragging established in the recommendations of the Anti-Ragging Squad.

? The Anti-Ragging Committee may, depending on the nature and gravity of the guilt established by the Anti-Ragging Squad, award, to those found guilty, one or more of the following punishments, namely;

- ✍ Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges.
- ✍ Withholding/ withdrawing scholarship/ fellowship and other benefits.
- ✍ Debarring from appearing in any test/ examination or other evaluation process.
- ✍ Withholding results.
- ✍ Debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc.
- ✍ Suspension/ expulsion from the hostel.
- ✍ Cancellation of admission.
- ✍ Rustication from the institution for period ranging from one to four semesters.
- ✍ Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution for a specified period.

? Provided that where the persons committing or abetting the act of ragging are not identified, the institution shall resort to collective punishment.

? An appeal against the order of punishment by the Anti-Ragging Committee shall lie,

- ✍ in case of an order of an institution, affiliated to or constituent part, of a University, to the Vice-Chancellor of the University;
- ✍ in case of an order of a University, to its Chancellor.
- ✍ in case of an institution of national importance created by an Act of Parliament, to the Chairman or Chancellor of the institution, as the case may be.

? Where in the opinion of the appointing authority, a lapse is attributable to any member of the faculty or staff of the institution, in the matter of reporting or taking prompt action to prevent an incident of ragging or who display an apathetic or

insensitive attitude towards complaints of ragging, or who fail to take timely steps, whether required under these Regulations or otherwise, to prevent an incident or incidents of ragging, then such authority shall initiate departmental disciplinary action, in accordance with the prescribed procedure of the institution, against such member of the faculty or staff. Provided that where such lapse is attributable to the Head of the institution, the authority designated to appoint such Head shall take such departmental disciplinary action; and such action shall be without prejudice to any action that may be taken under the penal laws for abetment of ragging for failure to take timely steps in the prevention of ragging or punishing any student found guilty of ragging.

#### **ANTI RAGGING CELL GBCTE, THALASSERY**

The anti ragging cell of GBCTE, Thalassery was constituted under able leadership of Dr. MS Geetha, Principal, GBCTE, Thalassery. The other officials of the cell are:

Ms. Baby Choran	Co-convener
Dr. Joseph Kacharayil	Member
Dr. Santhosh Areekuzhiyil	Member
Mr. P Arunkumar	Member
Ms. Jasmin Joseph	Member
Mr. M.V. Seethanathan	Member

As the course of B.Ed and M.Ed are one year courses there is no threaten of ragging related incidents at GBCTE, Thalassery. Even then at the beginning of the course itself the cell informs the student teachers about ragging and its evil consequences. The students are notified about the consequences if anyone has indulged in ragging. The cell also enlightens the students about how to defend ragging. The cell organized different programmes, like talk, debate, seminar etc; to educate student teachers about the menace of ragging. In order to prevent ragging the following supportive specific measures also were provided:

- ? Do not feel that you are alone and helpless. We are all with you.
- ? Your Parents are there to help. Please do not feel that you will burden your parents. Talk to them freely and openly. If you are being ragged – it is not your fault. They understand that.

- ? UGC at the Ragging Prevention Program are ready to help. You can call any time on 1800 180 5522. It is a free phone. You can also send an E mail on [helpline@antiragging.in](mailto:helpline@antiragging.in).
- ? The College Administration is there to help – Please do not hesitate to ask for help. They will definitely help you. The local police and local administration is also there to help. Anybody can register a complaint of Ragging. It does not have to be only the victim. If you notice an incidence of Ragging you must inform the call centre. It is your duty to do so.
- ? You can also register a complaint of Ragging - Anonymously. You must however avoid this option because without knowing details it becomes difficult for the authorities to take any action. Complete confidentiality is assured.
- ? For knowing the progress of your complaint you can log on to the Anti Ragging Portal: [www.antiragging.in](http://www.antiragging.in) or visit [www.amanmovement.org](http://www.amanmovement.org).

The phone numbers of all the officials were provided to the students to keep in touch with. No complaints were registered in the academic year 2012-13