

Revised Terms of Reference for the Standing Committee on Gender Equity / Equality University Grants Commission

Preamble

The UGC, empowered by section 4(2) of the Universities Act No. 16 of 1978, as and when required appoints Standing Committees for specific purposes, consisting of such members and with such powers, duties and functions as may be determined by the Commission. The Chair of the Standing Committee shall be a member of the Commission. The Standing Committee will also constitute of a Co - Chair who is the Director, CGEE/UGC, a subject expert in gender equity/equality.

Purpose of the UGC Standing Committee on Gender Equity/Equality

The Standing Committee on Gender Equity / Equality in Higher Education is mandated to:

- Promote gender equity / equality in Sri Lankan State Universities by providing support to develop policy directions by the UGC on establishing gender-sensitive university cultures that minimize inequalities.
- Assist in creating university environments that accommodate diversity and allow students and university staff (academic / administrative / support) to pursue their study/work without oppression and discrimination, while experiencing equal opportunities.

Functions of the UGC Standing Committee on Gender Equity/Equality

- ❖ To formulate policies on gender equity / equality and take measures to ensure gender mainstreaming in Sri Lankan state universities and at the University Grants Commission,
- ❖ To review UGC policies and programs from a perspective of gender equity/equality,
- ❖ To oversee the functioning of the Centre for Gender Equity / Equality at the University Grants Commission,
- ❖ To establish and maintain a parallel / alternative redress mechanism for sexual and gender-based violence in Sri Lankan universities,

- ❖ To provide expertise on university curricula and research with regards to gender and contribute to other gender related inputs to higher education and the academic community.

Membership

- ❖ A Commission member and Director/CGEE, as Co-Chairs of the Standing Committee
- ❖ Deputy Directors of the CGEE, as members of the Standing Committee
- ❖ Secretary to Standing committee, nominated by the UGC from among the permanent administrative staff of the UGC
- ❖ Recognized subject experts on gender equity / equality nominated by the Vice Chancellors of the 17 state universities and approved by the UGC.