

GOOD CITIZENSHIP:

Rights and Duties



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OUTLINE

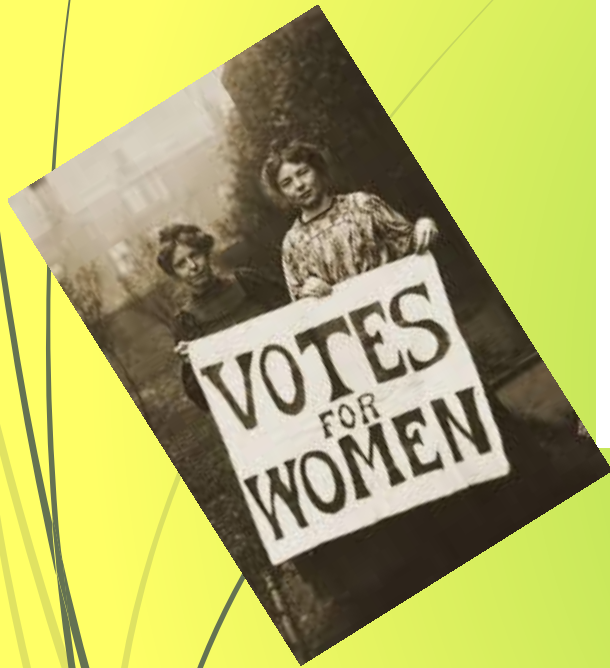
- ▶ Who is a Citizen
 - ▶ Rights of Citizens
 - ▶ Duties and Responsibilities
 - ▶ Qualities of a good citizen
- ▶ Some specific issues relevant to you
 - ▶ Academic Honesty
 - ▶ Discipline
 - ▶ Ragging
 - ▶ Professional ethics

WHO IS A CITIZEN?

- Part of a group/community
- Have legal, political, social and economic and cultural rights within that group
- Have duties and responsibilities



RIGHTS! RIGHTS! RIGHTS!



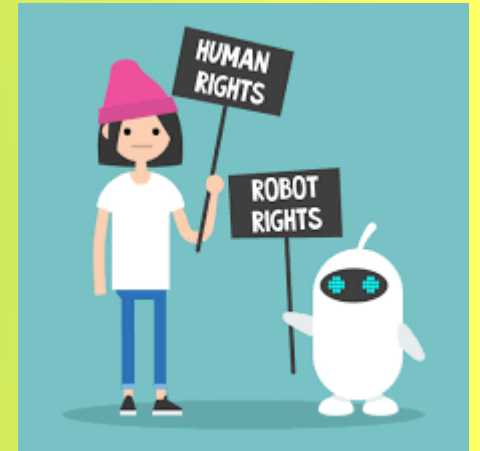
Activity – Guess the Right





HUMAN RIGHTS

- You get them because you are human irrespective of race, religion, gender etc
- Universal – possessed equally by everyone
- Inalienable – cannot be taken away
- Justification – they are the fundamental prerequisites for each human being to lead a minimally good life (for eg: freedom from torture etc)





- The burden of protecting these falls more on state institutions, but every person also has a duty to protect human rights of others
- The main documents – Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

Civil and Political Rights –

- Include freedom of speech, Freedom of religion and conscience, freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, etc



➤ Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- include right to education, fair and just conditions of work, an adequate standard of living, the highest attainable standard of health, social security



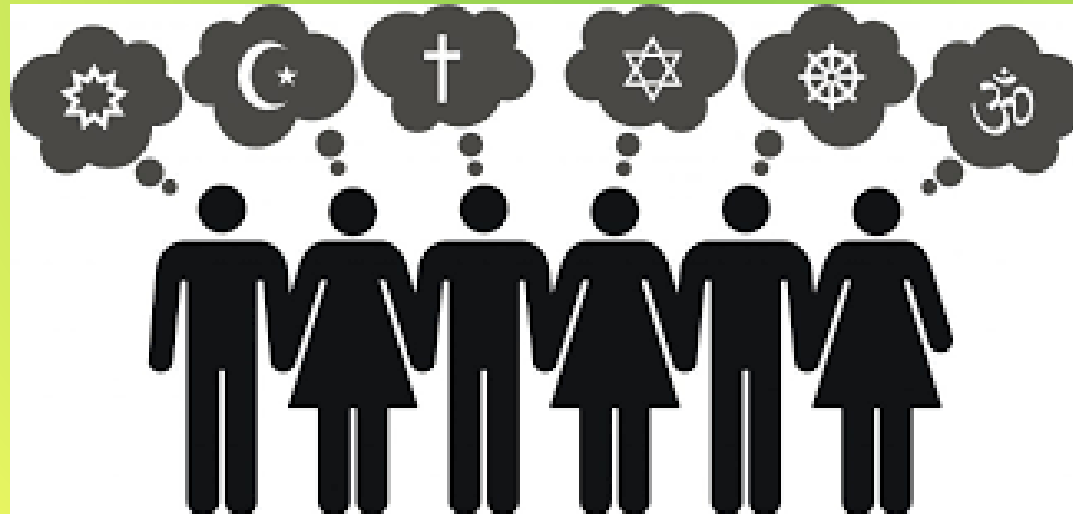
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

- The right to express one's opinions or ideas without any restraint, censorship or legal sanction
- Also recognized in our Constitution.
- May take different forms – spoken, written, drawings, printing, pictures, gestures, signs, cartoons, demonstrations, protests, dramas, plays, songs, role-plays, or any other modes.
- **BUT you have to use this right carefully – No hate speech, defamation, racial religious vilification**



Freedom of religion and conscience

- Freedom of religion and conscience is a fundamental human right that guarantees individuals the freedom to choose, practice, and manifest their religion or belief, as well as the freedom to hold and change their beliefs without interference. It encompasses both the freedom to have religious or non-religious beliefs and the freedom to act in accordance with those beliefs.



Freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

- The prohibition of torture and ill-treatment is a fundamental component of human dignity, integrity, and the respect for the inherent worth of every individual. Upholding this right is essential for the protection of human rights, the maintenance of the rule of law, and the promotion of a just and humane society.



RIGHT TO ASSEMBLY

- This is recognized as a fundamental right in Sri Lankan Constitution
- Freedom of Assembly can be used to express your views to the leaders or the authorities.
- However it should be conducted peacefully



FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS GUARANTEED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF SRI LANKA

- Freedom of thought, conscience and religion
- Freedom from torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
- Right to equality before the law and equal protection of law
- Right to non-discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, language, caste, sex, political opinion or place of birth
- Right to a fair trial etc.
- Right to information



RIGHTS HAVE LIMITS

- A few rights are 'absolute' - cannot be restricted in any event. Eg: Freedom from torture, inhuman and degrading treatment
- Others can be restricted for valid reasons – ex: right to religion, national security, public order, public health, public morality



**I THINK PEOPLE ARE TOO
CONCERNED WITH HUMAN RIGHTS**



**AND NOT CONCERNED ENOUGH
WITH HUMAN RESPONSIBILITIES**

People tend to forget their duties but remember their rights- *Indira Gandhi*

WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF A GOOD CITIZEN?

Obeying the law: A good citizen respects and abides by the laws of their country, understanding that laws are in place to maintain order and protect the rights and well-being of all individuals.

Respecting the rights of others: Good citizens recognize and respect the rights, freedoms, and dignity of others, regardless of their differences in race, religion, gender, or other characteristics.

DUTIES OF A GOOD CITIZEN? (Cont'd)

- **Voting and participating in civic activities:** Good citizens actively engage in the democratic process by voting in elections, staying informed about political issues, and participating in civic activities such as community organizations, volunteering, or engaging in public discourse.
- **Paying taxes:** Good citizens fulfill their obligation to contribute to the development and functioning of society by paying their taxes honestly and on time.

Respecting public property and the environment: Citizens should take care of public property, such as parks, libraries, and infrastructure, and act responsibly towards the environment by practicing sustainable behaviors and minimizing their ecological footprint.



Promoting tolerance and inclusivity: Good citizens embrace diversity, foster inclusivity, and work towards eliminating discrimination and prejudice within their communities.



Being informed and responsible: Good citizens strive to stay informed about current events, educate themselves on important issues, and critically evaluate information from reliable sources.



Contributing to the community: Good citizens actively contribute to the betterment of their community by volunteering, participating in community projects, or supporting local businesses.



WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES OF A GOOD CITIZEN?

- Honesty
- Integrity
- Responsibility
- Respectfulness
- Compassion
- Kindness
- Tolerance
- Courtesy
- Self-Discipline
- Moral Courage
- Love of Justice



Activity – ‘Be the Change You Want You Make’

BE THE
CHANGE
YOU WANT TO SEE IN THIS
WORLD.

-MAHATMA GANDHI

@Believeit

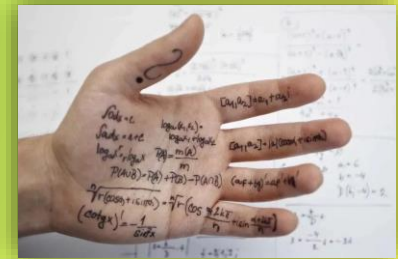
SOME SPECIFIC ISSUES RELEVANT TO YOU

- Academic honesty
- Discipline
- Ragging
- Right to assembly
- Freedom of expression
- Professional ethics

ACADEMIC HONESTY

- ▶ Exam misconduct – possession of unauthorized notes, copying or attempting to copy, impersonation etc. Refer SLIIT Rule Book.
- ▶ Plagiarism – copying from works of others and passing them off as yours, self-plagiarism (reproducing work that was submitted originally for some other module etc.)
- ▶ Contract cheating – purchasing written assignments etc, offering to do assignments for money

And many more



If found guilty – can be subject to a range of punishments – warning, failure of the assessment component, failure of the relevant module, suspension of studentship, termination of studentship etc.



DISCIPLINE

SLIIT Student Rule book prohibits certain behavior including the following

- ▶ Acts of dishonesty including fraud, deceit, deception in relation to the Institute or in relation to being a student of the Institute
- ▶ Accessing confidential information from the Institution which are not meant to be seen by students. Ex: Question Papers etc
- ▶ Disruption of/interference with, the academic, administrative, sporting, social or other activities of the Institute
- ▶ Violent, indecent, disorderly, threatening or offensive behavior or language whilst engaged in any Institute work, study or activity (whether expressed orally, in writing or electronically)
- ▶ Offensive/improper language/behavior on grounds of religion, race, ethnicity etc so as to violate another person's dignity
- ▶ Harassment including ragging
- ▶ Sexual misconduct

and many more

- ▶ **If found guilty of violations, can face severe punishments ranging from a severe warning to *expulsion* from the Institute.**

RAGGING

- **Prohibition of Ragging and Other Forms of Violence in Educational Institutions Act No. 20 of 1998.**
- The Act defined 'ragging' as any type of behaviour which causes or is likely to cause physical or psychological injury, fear or mental pain in an undergraduate or a member of staff of educational institutes

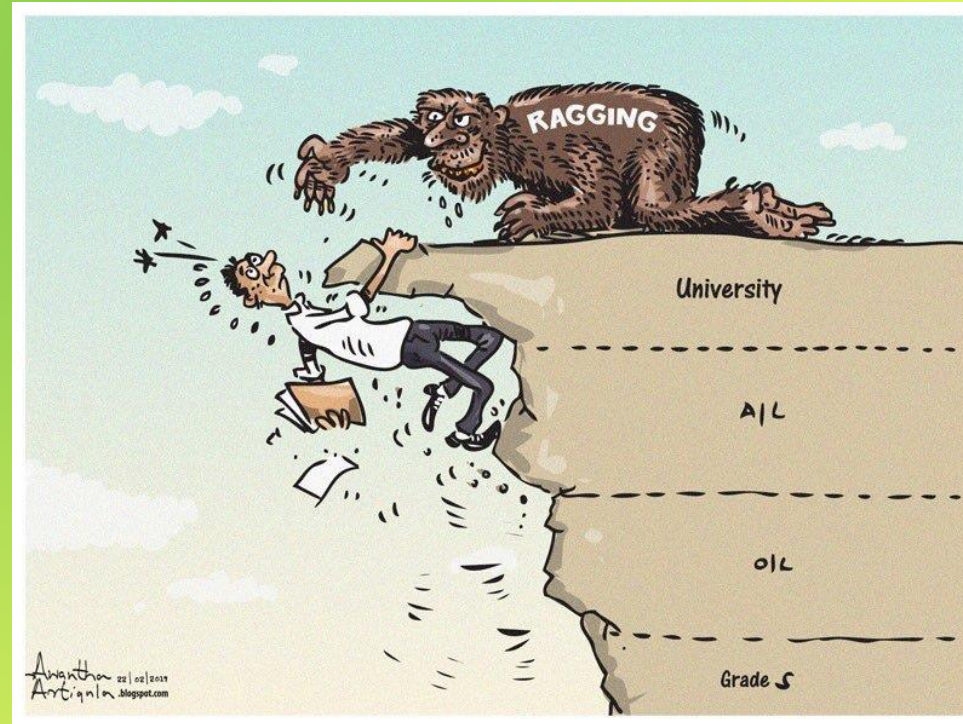
If found guilty of ragging and other offences under the Act, you can face harsh punishment including imprisonment upto 10 years.



IF ANY INCIDENTS OF RAGGING TAKES PLACE



- Report to the Student Affairs/academic or administrative staff member



PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

- Standards of acceptable behavior expected from people engaging in a certain profession. Eg: Hippocratic Oath undertaken by medical students
- Ethics common to most professions - integrity, honesty, transparency, respectfulness towards the job, confidentiality, objectivity, nonmaleficence (causing no intentional harm), justice, loyalty





Activity – Act it Out

- ▶ In your groups, act out a situation where a human right is violated
- ▶ You get 3 mins to act
- ▶ The audience to guess what right is violated



Thank You !