



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

COMMISSION CIRCULAR NO. 06/2025

No. 20, Ward Place,
Colombo 07.

July 09, 2025

Vice-Chancellors of Universities
Rectors of Campuses
Directors of Institutes

CIRCULAR ON INCORPORATION OF THE COURSE "LEARNING TO LIVE WITH DIVERSITY" INTO UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE ORIENTATION PROGRAMMES

This is with reference to the letter sent to Vice-Chancellors regarding the implementation of the course titled "Learning to Live with Diversity" at state universities in 2022/2023.

The University Grants Commission at its 1145th meeting held on 23rd April 2025 has decided to direct all universities to incorporate the course "Learning to Live with Diversity", as appropriate and sufficiently into undergraduate orientation programmes across all state universities. This initiative is based on research conducted by the Center for Gender Equity & Equality on ragging and sexual and gender-based violence in universities.

This course contains 15 lessons (Annex-I) that focus on various forms of diversity present within university communities. It covers key areas such as gender diversity, social identity, inclusion, ethics, and non-violent behaviour, and is designed for undergraduates, as well as academic and non-academic staff. Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions have been successfully completed at all 17 universities.

All universities are requested to integrate the course content as appropriate and sufficiently into their orientation programmes with immediate effect.

Please take action accordingly.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kapila Seneviratne". The signature is fluid and includes a small circle with a cross-like mark below it.

Senior Prof. Kapila Seneviratne
Chairman

- Copies:
1. Secretary/Ministry of Education, Higher Education and Vocational Education
 2. Vice-Chairman/UGC
 3. Members of the UGC
 4. Secretary/UGC
 5. Registrars of Universities
 6. Deans of Faculties
 7. Accountant/UGC
 8. Bursars of Universities
 9. Librarians/SAL/AL of the Higher Educational Institutions /Institutes
 10. Deputy Registrars/ Snr. Asst. Registrars/Asst. Registrars of Campuses/Institutes
 11. Deputy Bursars/Snr. Asst. Bursars/ Asst. Bursars of Campuses/Institutes
 12. Internal Auditor/UGC
 13. Chairman's Office/UGC
 14. Govt. Audit Superintendents of Universities
 15. Snr. Asst. Int. Auditors of HEIs
 16. Secretaries of Trade Unions
 17. Auditor-General

File No. UGC/CGEE/PO_D-01

Annex - I

Part number	Lesson	Activity Prompt
Introduction	1. Introduction to Learning to live with diversity a. Introduction to the course b. Introduction to diversity and inclusion	Interpreting an image
Part 1	2. Introduction to gender diversity	Songs that depict gender stereotypes “Konde Bandala Ape Putha” and “Mihikatha Nalawala”
	3. Gender in society	Video clip of Meghan Markle addressing the UN
	4. Bodies and rights to the body	Video clips on consent and body image
	5. Sexual identities	Interview with Bhoomi Harendran Film clip from “Funny Boy”
	6. Individual differences: Neurodiversity and different abilities	Video clips on ‘who I am’ and ‘Human Neurodiversity Should Be Celebrated, Not Treated as a Disorder’
Part II	7. Class and caste identities	Film clip from “Paangshu”
	8. Language as identity	Regi Siriwardena’s poem “Colonial Cameo”
	9. Mobility: Between the rural and the urban environments	Clips from the tele drama “Thanamalwila Kollek”
	10. Ethno-religious identities and diversity	The song “Enjoy Enjami” and “Nube Amma”
	11. Accessibility across the digital divide	A group projection of a future university

Part III	12. Organisational power and politics	Writing a short description of an individual experience of a power related issue within personal relationship
Part IV	13. Non-violent behaviour and affirmative interventions	TED Talk by Jamila Raqib on “non-violent resistance”
	14. Spiritual experiences, ethics and diversity	Video clips on Yoga and Tai Chi
	15. Living with diversity: your perspective	Song on identity and individual uniqueness “Mongoliyanuwane”