

PURASH KANPUR HARIDAS NANDI MAHAVIDYALAYA



Anti-Ragging Policy

Introduction

Ragging is a disturbing reality in the Higher Educational Institutions of our country. Even if ragging has claimed hundreds of innocent lives and has ruined the careers of thousands of bright students over the years, the practice is still continued by many as a way of ‘familiarization’ and an ‘initiation into the real world’ for young college-goers.

Meaning and definition of ragging

The Supreme Court defined ragging in the Vishwa Jagriti matter (1999) as, ‘Any disorderly conduct whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness any other student, indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in a fresher or a junior student or asking the students to do any act or perform something which such student will not in the ordinary course and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of a fresher or a junior student.’ (Raghavan Committee Report, 2007, para. 3.19).

Other organisations/bodies working in this field have also attempted to define ragging, the variety of definitions being reflective of differences in perspective and interpretation. In 2007, the Committee of Consultants to Raghavan Committee considered ragging ‘neither a means of familiarization nor an introduction with freshers, but a form of psychopathic behaviour and a reflection of deviant personalities.

Further, ragging reproduces the entrenched power configurations prevalent in civil society' (Raghavan Committee Report, 2007).

According to the UGC Regulation on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Institutions, 2009, ragging constitutes one or more of any of the following acts:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) Indulging in rowdy or undisciplined 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.
- (iii) 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, torment or embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such fresher or any other student.
- (iv) Any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student or a fresher.
- (v) Exploiting the services of a fresher or any other student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students.
- (vi) Any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a fresher or any other student by students
- (vii) 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;
- (viii) Any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, posts, or public insults would also include deriving perverted pleasure, and vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to fresher or any other student.

(ix) Any act of physical or mental abuse (including bullying and exclusion) targeted at another student (fresher or otherwise) on the ground of colour, race, religion, caste, ethnicity, gender (including transgender), sexual orientation, appearance, nationality, regional origins, linguistic identity, place of birth, place of residence or economic background.

Magnitude and variety of the problem

A large number of cases of ragging have been reported that led to major and minor injuries to students, including incidents leading to hospitalization and causing permanent disability. Many cases reportedly involved sexual abuse of freshers. Furthermore, some cases of ragging led to serious group clashes, protests, strikes and violence between students. Drugs and alcohol abuse and forced smoking were noted in few cases while other cases involved caste, region or religion as determining factors.

Analysis of media reports indicates high percentages of incidents from Engineering and Medical Colleges. Hostels and paying guest accommodation for students seem to be the breeding ground for ragging as many such cases were reported from residential places located in and around the campus area.

State measures against ragging

It was in the late 70s in the aftermath of the death of two freshers in a Regional Engineering College that the Government of India for the first time issued a notification banning ragging in the country.

The anti-ragging campaign got an impetus in 1999 when the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in response to a PIL filed by the Vishwa Jagriti Mission, asked the University Grants Commission (UGC) to issue guidelines to universities to curb ragging. The UGC formed a four-member committee under Prof K.P.S. Unny, Registrar of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, to examine and submit a report on

ragging. In their recommendations, the Unny Committee put forward a Prohibition, Prevention and Punishment proposal i.e. prohibition by law, prevention by guidelines and punishment if the prohibition and punishment do not work. They recommended that central and state governments should enact laws against ragging. They suggested punishments ranging from cancellation of admission to a monetary fine of up to Rs. 25,000 and rigorous imprisonment of up to three years. The Committee also recommended various measures to be undertaken for sensitisation against ragging and highlighted the need for incentivizing wardens and students for their good conduct and anti-ragging activities. It was also suggested that institutions failing to curb ragging should be disaffiliated.

In 2006, the issue of ragging was once again brought to the forefront when the Supreme Court expressed its disappointment in the implementation of its previous guidelines and constituted another committee under Dr R K Raghavan, Director CBI, to suggest means and methods to prevent ragging; to suggest possible action that can be taken against persons indulging in ragging, and to suggest possible action against institutions that fail to curb ragging. The committee made several important observations. It noted that ragging has many aspects, including psychological, social, political, economic and cultural, and that it adversely impacts the standards of higher education. It is considered ragging as our failure to inculcate human values from the schooling stage. The Committee made some strong recommendations to curb ragging.

Laws against Ragging

- The Tripura educational institutions (prevention of ragging) act, 1990
- Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997
- Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1997
- The Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1998
- The Assam Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1998

Maharashtra Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1999

West Bengal Prohibition of Ragging in Educational Institutions Act 2000

The Himachal Pradesh Educational Institutions (Prohibition of Ragging) Act, 2009

UP Prohibition of Ragging in Educational Institutions Bill, 2010

The Goa Prohibition of Ragging (Amendment) Bill, 2010

Jammu and Kashmir Prohibition of Ragging Act, 2011

UGC Regulation on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009

West Bengal Prohibition of Ragging in the Higher Educational Institutions in the State of West Bengal, 2023

These regulations are to be followed mandatorily by all Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs).

Measures for the prohibition of ragging

UGC has established The National Anti-Ragging Help Line 24x7 Toll Free number **1800-180-5522** in 12 languages for helping victims of ragging.

The UGC has developed an Anti-Ragging Website - <https://www.antiragging.in/>. The Portal contains the record of registered complaints received and the status of the action taken thereon.

Videos on Anti ragging are available on the UGC website.

Punishments

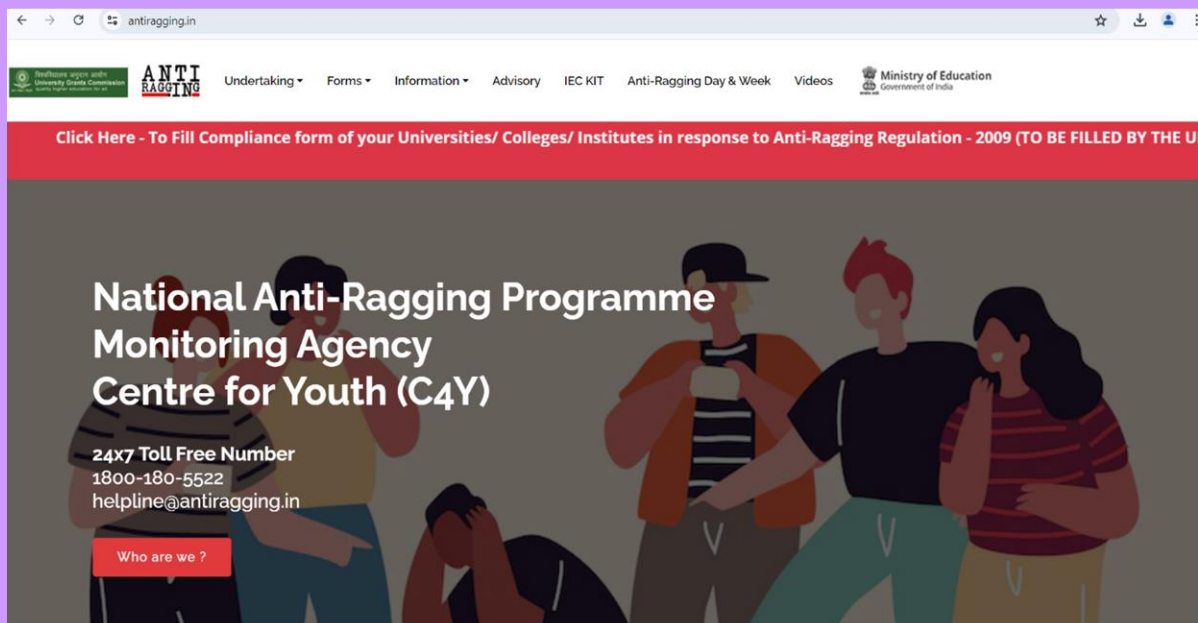
According to the UGC Regulation on Curbing the Menace of Ragging in Higher Educational Institutions, 2009, depending on the nature and gravity of the guilt established by the Anti-Ragging Squad, those found guilty may be awarded one or more of the following punishments, namely;

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

UGC has revised procedure to file online Anti Ragging Affidavit by the students on UGC anti-ragging portal. A student will submit her/his details on either of the two designated web sites, namely, www.antiragging.in and www.amanmovement.org and register themselves.

It is compulsory for each student and her/his Parent/Guardian to submit an online undertaking each academic year at any of these websites where the student is registered. She/he will confirm & agree that she/he will not engage in ragging in any form. The student will receive an E MAIL with his/her registration number and a web link. The student will forward the link to the E mail of the Nodal officer of her/his university/college.

Anti-Ragging Website of Government of India



Composition of the Committee of Anti-Ragging Cell

Functions and Responsibilities:

It ensures implementation of the provisions of Anti-ragging Regulations Act as well as the provisions of any law for the time being in force concerning ragging; and also, to monitor and oversee the performance of the Anti-ragging Squad in prevention of ragging in the institution.

In addition, it addresses the cases of ragging and ensures that no untoward incident happens to the freshers or any student.

It also receives affidavits of the students and their guardians as the beginning of each academic year as per the UGC Anti-Ragging Regulations.

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| Chairperson | Principal/ Teacher-in-Charge |
| Joint Convener | IQAC Coordinator & Prof. Swati Dey |

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| Members | All HODs All Teacher Representatives to Governing Body Non-teaching Representative to Governing Body Shri Tapas Chatterjee Smt. Mallika Mondal Shri Sukhen Ghosh GB Invited Students' Representative Officer-in-Charge, Penro PS |
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Composition of the Anti-Ragging Squad

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| <p>Functions and Responsibilities: Duty of the squad includes maintaining vigil, oversight and patrolling functions. It shall remain mobile, alert and active at all times. It can make surprise raids on places vulnerable to incidents and having the potential of ragging and shall be empowered to inspect such places. When required by the HOI as per the Anti-ragging regulations, the squad would undertake investigation for a ragging-related incident.</p> | |
| Chairperson | Principal/ Teacher-in-Charge |
| Joint Convener | Dr. Puspita Sengupta & Prof. Saranya Sen |
| Members | Librarian Teachers' Council Secretary Prof. Swati Dey Dr. Avijit Biswas Prof. Debanjan Seth Dr. Subhash Chandra Mondal Prof. Shreya Das Dr. Rubia Khatun Prof. Amit Boler Dr. Aditi Barua Prof. Nasim Akhtar Sarder Prof. Jayatra Mandal Prof. Amitava Ghosh Prof. Suvankar Laha Shri Saila Patra Shri Siddhartha Sankar Nayek |

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| | Shri Sukhen Ghosh |
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Nodal Officer for Anti-Ragging at Institution

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| Name | Prof. Shreya Das |
| Designation | Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science |
| Contact No. | 9641895089 |
| Mail Id | pkhnm.antiragging@gmail.com |

West Bengal Government Anti-Ragging Helpline

18003455678

The helpline is monitored by Kolkata Police and will be available 24x7. The Complaints received from outside the jurisdiction of Kolkata Police shall be addressed in the following manner:

Complaints received will be forwarded to the Local Police Station through Director General of Police Control Room via District Police Control Room with an intimation to the District Level Ragging Prevention Cell and the State Level Anti Ragging Committee notified vide No. 780-Edn (U) dated 14.08.2023, for follow up. An officer of the local Police Station shall immediately visit to the place of occurrence and take action as per provisions of the law. The Action Taken by the local Police Station shall be reported to the District Level Ragging Prevention Cell within 24 hours through Addl. SP (HQ)/ DCP (HQ) as the case may be. Simultaneously, the District Level Ragging Prevention shall seek Report from the concerned Institution on the basis of the complaint received from the Toll-Free Number. The Head of the Institution/ Registrar/ Director, as the case may be, shall submit the action taken report to the District Level Ragging Prevention Cell within 24 hours.

The District Level Ragging Prevention Cell shall place its report, based on the action taken report from the local Police Station and the concerned Institution, before District Level Anti-Ragging Committee, as notified vide No. 780-Edn (U) dated 14.08.2023, through the Additional District Magistrate of the concerned district, being the Member-Secretary of the District Level Anti-Ragging Committee for taking appropriate action.