

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KERALA AT ERNAKULAM
PRESENT
THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE MR. NITIN JAMDAR
&
THE HONOURABLE MR.JUSTICE C. JAYACHANDRAN

Thursday, the 27th day of March 2025 / 6th Chaithra, 1947
WP(C) NO. 8600 OF 2025(S)

PETITIONER:

KERALA STATE LEGAL SERVICES AUTHORITY(KELSA),
REPRESENTED BY ITS MEMBER SECRETARY,DR. MOHIT C.S.,
AGED 54 YEARS, S/O LATE SRI.K.CHAKRAPANI,
NIYAMA SAHAYA BHAVAN, HIGH COURT CAMPUS,
ERNAKULAM, PIN - 682031

RESPONDENTS:

1. GOVERNMENT OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY THE CHIEF SECRETARY,
SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695001
2. DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION, REPRESENTED BY
ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,GOVERNMENT OF KERALA,
JAGATHI, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. , PIN - 695033
3. DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD, REPRESENTED BY
ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY,GOVERNMENT OF KERALA,
DIRECTORATE OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT,
POOJAPPURA, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM , PIN - 695012
4. DEPARTMENT OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES DEVELOPMENT,
REPRESENTED BY ITS PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA,
VIKAS BHAVAN, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM , PIN - 695033
5. DIRECTORATE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION, REPRESENTED BY ITS DIRECTOR,
MEDICAL COLLEGE P.O, AAKULAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695011

6. OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EDUCATION, REPRESENTED BY
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EDUCATION, GOVERNMENT OF KERALA,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM , PIN - 695014.

7. ALL INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION, REPRESENTED BY
ITS CHAIRMAN, NELSON MANDELA MARG, VASANT KUNJ,
NEW DELHI, PIN - 110067

8. DIRECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE/STATE POLICE CHIEF,
STATE POLICE HEADQUARTERS, VELLAYAMBALAM,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695010

9. BAR COUNCIL OF KERALA, REPRESENTED BY ITS SECRETARY,
CAMPUS ERNAKULAM, BAR COUNCIL BHAVAN, HIGH COURT RD,
KOCHI, KERALA , PIN - 682031

10. KERALA STATE COMMISSION FOR PROTECTION OF CHILD RIGHTS,
REPRESENTED BY ITS CHAIRMAN, KERALA UNIVERSITY P O,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA , PIN - 695034

ADDL. R11 IMPEADED SUO MOTU

11. THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION, REPRESENTED BY CHAIRMAN,
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG, NEW DELHI – 110002
ADDL.R11 IS IMPEADED SUO MOTU AS PER ORDER DATED 05.03.2025
IN WP(C) 8600/25.

ADDL. R12 IMPEADED

12. THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
HOME DEPARTMENT, SECRETARIAT, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, 695001

ADDL.R12 IS IMPEADED AS PER ORDER DATED 27.03.2025 IN IA 6/25 IN WP(C) 8600/25

P.T.O

Writ petition (civil) praying inter alia that in the circumstances stated in the affidavit filed along with the WP(C) the High Court be pleased to direct respondents 2, 5, 6, 7 and 9 to give details of the steps taken by them as per UGC Regulations , 2009 to prevent and combat ragging in educational institutions in the State.

This petition again coming on for admission upon perusing the petition and the affidavit filed in support of WP(C), this Court's order dated 19/03/2025 and upon hearing the arguments of Ms.A.PARVATHI MENON, Advocate for the petitioner, SRI.K.P.HARISH,SENIOR GOVERNMENT PLEADER,for R1 to R6,R8and R12, SRI.Sajith Kumar V, STANDING COUNSEL for R7, SRI.BRIJESH MOHAN, ADVOCATE for R9, SRI.THOUFEEK AHAMED, STANDING COUNSEL for R10, SRI.S.KRISHNAMOORTHY, STANDING COUNSEL for R11 and of Ms. NISHA GEORGE, Advocate and SRI.C.L.ANT0, the court passed the following:



NITIN JAMDAR, C. J. & C. JAYACHANDRAN, J.

**I. A. No. 6 of 2025
in
W. P. (C) No. 8600 of 2025
&
W. P. (C) No. 8600 of 2025**

Dated this the 27th day of March, 2025

ORDER

Heard Ms. A. Parvathi Menon, learned counsel appearing for the Petitioner, Mr. K.P. Harish, learned Senior Government Pleader, Mr. Thoufeek Ahamed, learned Standing Counsel for Respondent No. 10, Mr. S. Krishnamoorthy, learned Standing Counsel for Respondent No.11 and Mr. C. L. Anto, party-in-person sought to be impleaded.

2. The interlocutory application taken out for impleading the Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, is allowed.

3. Pursuant to our earlier direction, the State Government has constituted a working group by Government Order dated 25 March 2025, which reads thus:-

“GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Home Department - The Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1998 - Constitution of Multidisciplinary Working Group to draft the rules - Order dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in WP(C) No.8600/2025 - Complied with - Orders issued

HOME (M) DEPARTMENT

G.O:(Rt)No.973/2025/HOME

Dated Thiruvananthapuram, 25-03- 2025

Read: Order dated 05.03.2025 in WP(C) No.8600/2025 filed by Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KELSA) before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.

ORDER

The Kerala State Legal Services Authority (KeLSA) has filed Writ petition No.8600/2025, raising concerns about the increasing brutality of ragging in educational institutions. In considering the case, the Hon'ble Court has emphasized the need for a strong legal framework and effective implementation of the Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act, 1998 and the UGC Regulations of 2009. The Honourable High Court of Kerala, as per the order read above, has directed the State to constitute a multidisciplinary working group comprising ex-officio members and nominated experts from various fields to draft the rules and assess whether any amendments to the Kerala Prohibition of Ragging Act of 1998 are necessary.

Government have examined the matter in detail and hereby constitute multidisciplinary working group comprising the following members for the above purpose.

Chairman & Convenor

Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department

Members

- 1. Principal Secretary, Higher Education Department/a representative nominated by the Principal Secretary*
- 2. Principal Secretary, Health&FW Department / a representative nominated by the Principal Secretary*

3. Secretary, Social Justice Department / a representative nominated by the Secretary

4. Law Secretary / a representative nominated by Law Secretary

5. AS/JS/DS of Home Department

6. Representative nominated by the State Police Chief

7. Prof. Rajan Varghese, Member Secretary, Kerala State Higher Education Council, Thiruvananthapuram

8. Prof. N. K. Jayakumar, Former Vice Chancellor, National University of Advanced Legal Studies, Kochi.

9. Prof. K. S. Anilkumar, Registrar, Kerala University, Thiruvananthapuram.

10. Prof. Baby Shari P. A., Department of Psychology, Calicut University, Kozhikkode.

11. Dr. Arun B Nair, Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Govt. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram.

12. Adv. Vinodkumar Y., Section Officer (Rtd.) Kannur University.

The order dated 05.03.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court in WP(C) 8600/2025 is complied with accordingly.

(By order of the Governor)

*BISHWANATH SINHA
ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY"*

4. This working group should hold a preliminary meeting, in which a further plan of action can be decided. If inputs from any other fields are required, the Chairman of the working group can invite such officers / experts to attend the meeting. Chairman of the working group

will involve the representative of the Petitioner-Kerala State Legal Services Authority. The inputs sought to be given by the intervenors in writing be placed before the working group.

5. As per Clause 6 of the Government Order, a representative is to be nominated by the State Police Chief. Considering the gravity of the issue, the nomination should not be of an officer below the rank of Inspector General of Police.

6. So that the working group can hold its preliminary meeting and apprise us of the plan of action so decided, the hearing of the petition is deferred to 10 April 2025.



**Sd/-
NITIN JAMDAR
CHIEF JUSTICE**

**Sd/-
C. JAYACHANDRAN
JUDGE**

Eb