

**“ADEQUACY OF NATIONAL SECURITY LAWS OF  
SRILANKA TO ENCOUNTER RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM”**

**Comparative analysis with United States legal system**

**by**

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**The thesis submitted to**

**GENERAL SIR JOHN KOTELAWALA DEFENCE UNIVERSITY  
SRI LANKA**

**In partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of the degree  
of**

**MASTER OF LAWS**

**Submission: 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

## ABSTRACT

This research work carried out to testify whether the existing national security laws regime in Sri Lanka is capable to apprehend the crime of religious extremism. In order to have pure capability assessment the legal regime of the United State of America was considered for comparative evaluation with prevailing selected Sri Lankan laws. For the research evaluation three prime National Security laws such as Public Security Ordinance, Prevention of Terrorism Act and Penal Code have been considered from the Sri Lanka and in contrast from United State of America, the Patriot Act and the International Religious Freedom Act have been considered. All legislation considered from both countries were selected based on the nexus and the nature of frequent application for combat against the religious extremism in both countries in contemporary period. At the research it was found that selected national security legislation in both countries are not provided specific definition or outline to designate the crime of religious extremism. However, it was perceived that literal articulation given to residual offences in the statutes by way of expressed terms facilitates to extract the offence of religious extremism per say. As per the research findings it was revealed that national security law regime of Sr Lanka has confined only to the domestic platform of the country's National security aspects and National Security laws of United State have focused both domestic and beyond the territory to achieve their National Security objectives. Hence, it seems that under strategical point of view, laws of the United States much ahead than the Sri Lankan regime and seems more resourceful to acquire United States National security objectives on penalizing religious extremism. Thus, this research observes that existing National Security law of Sri Lanka need to be overhauled and need create more conducive flat form to function the National security strategies in line with the legal frame work.

**Key Words:** *religious extremism, National Security, National Security law*