

**A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE ABORTION  
LAW IN SRI LANKA**

I hereby declare that the work described in this dissertation has been prepared under the supervision of the supervisors listed below, and that it has not been submitted in whole or in part to any other university or institution for the award of any degree or diploma.

**By**

**H.H.P FERNANDO**



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## ABSTRACT

Abortion is the removal of the fetus from the womb of the mother preventing its growth as a child. Sri Lanka which was a colony of the British adopted its strict laws and regulations preventing abortion. Though Sri Lankan law has stayed unchanged on the subject, many other nations' ideas and laws have evolved in response to changing circumstances. Abortion is prohibited under Sri Lankan legislation per Sections 303 to 306 of the Penal Code. There has been no alteration in the clause dealing with abortion since the introduction of the Penal Code of Ceylon in 1883. However, in recent decades, there has been a greater focus on abortion legislation, and initiatives to modify Sri Lankan laws have been attempted. The effort of the former cabinet document on modifying abortion law has brought this matter ahead. With recent developments in abortion, it finds that many governments throughout the world allow abortion for religious reasons. But it is critical to strike a balance between allowing access to terminate abortion for legitimate instances while also ensuring that the law is not being exploited. This is because everyone should be treated equally irrespective of factors such as gender. The most important research methodologies utilized in this study were both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. The main objective of the research study is to investigate whether Sri Lanka's current abortion law provides effective protection, and if not, how the law should be amended, with a focus on neighboring India and UK. The research uses the jurisdictions of the United Kingdom and India for the comparison with the intention of identifying gaps in Sri Lankan abortion law. Simultaneously, the historical foundations and context of the abortion law would also be briefly explored.