



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

**Comparative analysis with United States legal system**

**by**

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## ABSTRACT

This thesis project was carried out to test whether the existing national security law regime in Sri Lanka is capable of apprehending the crime of religious extremism. In order to have a pure capability assessment, the legal regime of the United States of America was considered for comparative evaluation with prevailing Sri Lankan laws. For the research evaluation, three prime national security laws such as the Public Security Ordinance, the Prevention of Terrorism Act, and the Penal Code have been considered from Sri Lanka, and in contrast, from the United States of America, the Patriot Act and the International Religious Freedom Act have been considered. All the legislation from both countries considered was chosen based on the nexus and nature of their frequent application to combating religious extremism in both countries in the modern period. In the research, it was found that selected national security legislations in both countries do not provide a specific definition or outline to designate the crime of religious extremism. However, it was perceived that the literal articulation given to residual offences in the statutes by way of expressed terms enabled one to extract the offence of religious extremism per se. As per the research findings, it was revealed that the national security law regime of Sri Lanka has confined itself only to the domestic platform of the country's national security aspects, whereas the national security laws of the United States have focused on both the domestic and beyond the territory to achieve their national security objectives. Hence, it seems that from a strategic point of view, the laws of the United States are much ahead of the Sri Lankan regime and seem more resourceful in achieving United States national security objectives in penalising religious extremism. Thus, this research concludes that Sri Lanka's existing national security law requires revision and require a more conducive framework in order to implement national security strategies in accordance with the legal framework.

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