



Faculty of Graduate Studies

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**SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF ELDERS
IN SRI LANKA:
A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements of the Degree of Master of Laws in

International Law

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ABSTRACT

The global phenomenon of population aging presents a multifaceted challenge that underscores the need for robust legal frameworks to protect the rights of elderly individuals. Sri Lanka, at the forefront of this demographic transition, faces significant complexities arising from an increasingly aging population. In this context, it is crucial to assess the effectiveness of Sri Lanka's legal framework, including constitutional provisions, the Protection of the Rights of Elders Act, No. 09 of 2000 (PREA), its subsequent amendments, and related policies and institutional mechanisms.

This research aims to evaluate the adequacy of these domestic legal instruments in safeguarding the rights of individuals aged 60 and above. By conducting a comparative analysis with international legal norms and the legal system of India, the study seeks to identify gaps and challenges in the protection of elderly rights within Sri Lanka. Key areas of focus include the accessibility of healthcare services, the assurance of financial security, and the facilitation of equitable access to justice for elderly individuals.

The research will assess the implementation status of existing laws and the level of social awareness surrounding elder rights. This evaluation aims to highlight areas that are in need of reform. Through a comprehensive appraisal of Sri Lanka's legal landscape, the study intends to propose actionable recommendations to enhance the existing framework, aligning it more closely with international standards and addressing the evolving needs of the aging population.

Ultimately, this research seeks to contribute meaningfully to the discourse on elder rights protection, promoting the development of more robust legal mechanisms that can better safeguard the rights and dignity of elderly individuals in Sri Lanka.

Keywords: Elders, Health, Security, Justice