

Centre for Gender Equity and Equality (CGEE), University of Jaffna
Essay Competition on Eliminating Violence against Women

Guidelines and Rules

Preamble

Violence against women and girls, one of the most widespread, persistent, and devastating human rights violations in today's world, remains unreported, mainly due to the impunity, silence, stigma, and shame surrounding it. In general terms, it manifests itself in physical, sexual, and psychological forms encompassing. Since 2020, COVID-19 has touched our lives in nearly every way. As isolation has begun, reports of all forms of violence against women and girls, particularly domestic violence, begin to rise. Ending violence against women is the responsibility of everyone. International days and weeks are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and celebrate and reinforce humanity's achievements. In this regard, 25th Nov. is officially designated as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Centre for Gender Equity and Equality (CGEE), the University of Jaffna, in collaboration with OfERR Ceylon, has organized an essay competition to increase awareness and understanding and help in reducing the violence against women and designate the international day for the elimination of violence against women among the academic, administrative (academic supporting) staff and student community of the University of Jaffna.

Structure of the Essay Competition:

The Competition is divided into two sections: Staff and student divisions. The staff division includes all the academic and administrative (academic supporting) staff working at Jaffna. The student division includes students registered for any undergraduate course at the University of Jaffna.

A Google Form will be circulated to apply for participation in the Competition. All the applicants who send the application for the Competition will be called for the competition face to face at the University of Jaffna.

Rules and mechanics

- The panel of judges will provide five titles related to violence against women and elimination of violence, cybercrime and gender violence, and forms of gender violence at the universities at the Competition venue in three languages (Tamil, English, and Sinhala).
- The essays can be written in Tamil, Sinhalese, or English, and three winners will be selected from each division in all three languages.
- The contestants will be given two (2) hours to develop the composition and write the essay.
- The contestants will be provided A4 sheets with the assigned number duly signed by the supervisor. They are prohibited from writing their names and the faculty they are representing.
- No printed materials, electronic gadgets, or storage devices shall be utilized.
- The contestant has to provide their national identity card to prove their identity.
- Each contestant will be assigned a unique registration number.
- The result of the Competition will be posted on the website of the CGEE immediately after the judges/evaluators have finished rating the contestants' essays.
- The judges' decision is final.
- Members of the CGEE/UOJ are INELIGIBLE to participate in this Competition.

Criteria for judging

<p>Content (Relevance to the theme, Comprehensiveness, Originality, Insights)</p> <p>1. <i>Relevance to the theme</i> – connection, the significance of the issue being discussed</p> <p>2. <i>Comprehensiveness</i>–how complete and detailed the writer's exposition of the topic.</p> <p>3. <i>Originality</i> – uniqueness, novelty, and authenticity of ideas.</p> <p>4. <i>Insights</i> – a fresh way of looking at things, critical view of the subject</p>	50%
<p>Organization (Clarity of Thoughts, Creativity, Unity, and Consistency)</p> <p>1. <i>Clarity of Thoughts</i> – use of simple and appropriate words to convey ideas or issues.</p> <p>2. <i>Creativity</i> – the use of appropriate devices and expressions in the exposition of the subject.</p> <p>3. <i>Unity and Consistency</i> – ability to highlight the focal point</p>	30%
<p>Mechanics (Punctuation, Spelling, Capitalization, Grammar) - the correct use of punctuation, capitalization, and grammar</p>	20%
Total	100%

Prizes

CGEE and OfERR Ceylon will honour the winner from staff and students' divisions, respectively, with trophies (the Competition winner, First Runner Up, Second Runner Up, and Consolation Prizes depending upon the number of entries). All participants will be awarded a certificate of participation by the CGEE /UOJ. Names of the winners and their essays will be published on CGEE and OfERR Ceylon's website during the third week of December 2021.

OfERR Ceylon, an organization for Elangai Refugees Rehabilitation, has agreed to offer 50,000 LKR to facilitate this Competition.

Time framework

Google form activation: **15th Nov. 2021**

Deadline for submission: 29th Nov. **2021**

Essay competition: 30th Nov. **2021**

Health regulations

All the required health regulations for conducting a face-to-face writing competition during the pandemic will be strictly followed by the members of the CGEE, Uoj.