



St Berchmans College

Founded 1922

AUTONOMOUS | College with Potential for Excellence | Reaccredited by NAAC with A Grade

Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala
Changanassery, Kottayam, Kerala, India-686101

Anti – Ragging Policy

Volume	II
Responsible Executive	Convener, Anti – Ragging Cell, St. Berchmans College
Responsible Office	Anti – Ragging Cell and Office of the Principal, St. Berchmans College
Date Issued	November 2020
Date Last Revised	November 2022

1. Statement of Policy

Ragging is a disturbing reality in the higher education system of our country. Despite the fact that over the years ragging has claimed hundreds of innocent lives and has ruined careers of thousands of bright students, the practice is still perceived by many as a way of ‘familiarization’ and an ‘initiation into the real world’ for young college-going students. This policy envisages to curb the act of ragging in any form in the campus and its premises.

2. Scope of the Policy

Ragging constitutes one or more of any of the following acts:

- Any conduct by any student or students whether by words spoken or written or by an act which has the effect of teasing, treating or handling with rudeness a fresher or any other student.
- Indulging in rowdy or undisciplined activities by any student or students which causes or is likely to cause annoyance, hardship, physical or psychological harm or to raise fear or apprehension thereof in any fresher or any other student.
- Asking any student to do any act which such student will not in the ordinary course do and which has the effect of causing or generating a sense of shame, or torment or

embarrassment so as to adversely affect the physique or psyche of such fresher or any other student.

- Any act by a senior student that prevents, disrupts or disturbs the regular academic activity of any other student or a fresher.
- Exploiting the services of a fresher or any other student for completing the academic tasks assigned to an individual or a group of students.
- Any act of financial extortion or forceful expenditure burden put on a fresher or any other student by students.
- Any act of physical abuse including all variants of it: sexual abuse, homosexual assaults, stripping, forcing obscene and lewd acts, gestures, causing bodily harm or any other danger to health or person.
- Any act or abuse by spoken words, emails, post, public insults which would also include deriving perverted pleasure, vicarious or sadistic thrill from actively or passively participating in the discomfiture to fresher or any other student.
- Any act that affects the mental health and self-confidence of a fresher or any other student.
- Any act of physical or mental abuse (including bullying and exclusion) targeted at another student (fresher or otherwise) on the ground of colour, race, religion, caste, ethnicity, gender (including transgender) sexual orientation, appearance, nationality, regional origins, linguistic identity, place of birth, place of residence or economic background (Third Amendment 2016) with or without an intent to derive a sadistic pleasure or showing off power, authority or superiority by a student over any fresher or any other student.

3. Objectives

The objective of this policy is to prohibit, prevent and eliminate the scourge of ragging in our campus and its premises.

4. Individuals and entities affected by this Policy

All students of St Berchmans College will come under the purview of this policy.

5. Role & Responsibilities

The college shall take different measures to ensure that ragging in any form is deterred in the campus.

- College will not permit or condone any reported incident of ragging in any form; and shall take all necessary and required measures, including but not limited to the regulations under this policy, to achieve the objective of eliminating ragging, within the institution or outside.
- College shall take action in accordance with the regulations under this policy against those found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging, actively or passively, or being part of a conspiracy to promote ragging.
- Every public declaration of intent by the college in any electronic, audio visual or print or any other media, for admission of students to any course of study shall expressly provide that ragging is totally prohibited in the institution, and anyone found guilty of ragging and/or abetting ragging, whether actively or passively, or being a part of a conspiracy to promote ragging, is liable to be punished in accordance with these regulations as well as under the provisions of any penal law for the time being in force.
- The telephone numbers of all the important functionaries in the institution, including but not limited to the Head of the institution, faculty members, members of the Anti-Ragging Committees and Anti-Ragging Squads, District and Sub- Divisional authorities, Wardens of hostels, and other functionaries or authorities where relevant, shall be published in the brochure of admission/instruction booklet or the prospectus.
- The application for admission, enrolment or registration must be accompanied by an Anti-Ragging affidavit signed by a student in a prescribed format and another Anti Ragging Affidavit signed by a Parent/Guardian.
- Any distress message received at the Anti-Ragging Cell shall be simultaneously relayed to the Head of the Institution, the Warden of the Hostels, the Nodal Officer of the affiliating University, if the incident reported has taken place in an institution affiliated to a University, the concerned District authorities and if so required, the District Magistrate, and the Superintendent of Police
- On receipt of the recommendation of the Anti-Ragging Committee or on receipt of any information concerning any reported incident of ragging, the Head of institution shall immediately determine if a case under the penal laws is made out and if so, either on his own or through a member of the Anti-Ragging Committee authorised by him in this behalf, proceed to file a First Information Report (FIR), within twenty four hours of

receipt of such information or recommendation, with the police and local authorities, under the appropriate penal provisions.

- The Anti – Ragging Committee shall maintain an appropriate data base to be created out of affidavits, affirmed by each student and his/her parents/guardians and stored electronically by the institution, either on its or through an agency to be designated by it; and such database shall also function as a record of ragging complaints received, and the status of the action taken thereon.

6. Disciplinary Action

College shall punish a student found guilty of ragging after following the procedure and in the manner prescribed here in under:

- The Anti-Ragging Committee of the institution shall take an appropriate decision, in regard to punishment or otherwise, depending on the facts of each incident of ragging and nature and gravity of the incident of ragging established.
- Depending on the nature and gravity of the guilt established, the Anti-Ragging Committee may recommend the principal to award, one or more of the following punishments, to those found guilty, namely;
 - a) Suspension from attending classes and academic privileges.
 - b) Withholding/ withdrawing scholarship/ fellowship and other benefits.
 - c) Debarring from appearing in any test/ examination or other evaluation process.
 - d) Withholding results
 - e) Debarring from representing the institution in any regional, national or international meet, tournament, youth festival, etc.
 - f) Suspension/ expulsion from the hostel.
 - g) Cancellation of admission.
 - h) Rustication from the institution for period ranging from one to four semesters.
 - i) Expulsion from the institution and consequent debarring from admission to any other institution for a specified period.
- Provided that where the persons committing or abetting the act of ragging are not identified, the college shall resort to collective punishment.

- An appeal against the order of punishment by the principal of the college shall lie to the Vice-Chancellor of the University.
- sWhere in the opinion of the appointing authority, a lapse is attributable to any member of the faculty or staff of the institution, in the matter of reporting or taking prompt action to prevent an incident of ragging or who display an apathetic or insensitive attitude towards complaints of ragging, or who fail to take timely steps, whether required under these Regulations or otherwise, to prevent an incident or incidents of ragging, then such authority shall initiate departmental disciplinary action, in accordance with the prescribed procedure of the institution, against such member of the faulty or staff. Provided that where such lapse is attributable to the Head of the institution, the authority designated to appoint such Head shall take such departmental disciplinary action and such action shall be without prejudice to any action that may be taken under the penal laws for abetment of ragging for failure to take timely steps in the prevention of ragging or punishing any student found guilty of ragging.

7. Approval & Review Details

Approval Authority:

Manager, St. Berchmans College, Changanacherry

Officer In charge:

Convener, Anti – Ragging Cell, St. Berchmans College

Approved on: November 2022

Next Review Date: November 2024

8. Feedback:

Stake holders may provide feedback about this document by e-mailing to IQAC.