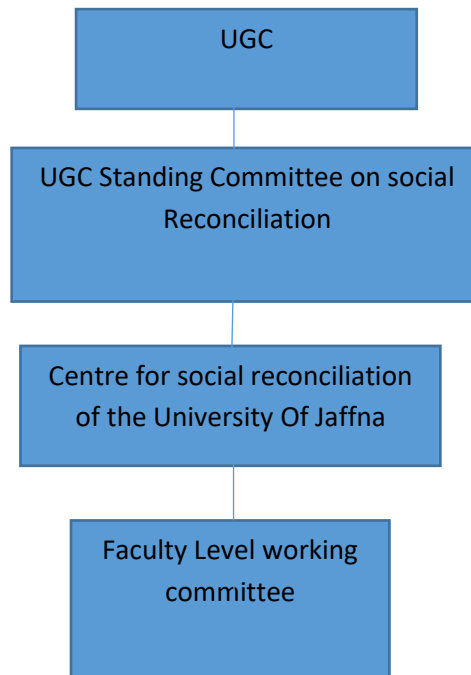


**POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR CENTRE FOR SOCIAL RECONCILIATION,
UNIVERSITY OF JAFFNA**

1 Background

Universities play a key role in developing harmony and cohesion among the community. As all the universities in the country cater students and staff from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds, the need to start the reconciliation at the universities and then creating a network with the community is essential. University Grants Commission (UGC) has recognized this and realized that without addressing these deep rooted inequalities and inequities within the system, Sri Lankan universities cannot genuinely consider themselves to be centres of academic excellence. This also will curb the goal of the government of Sri Lanka to make the country as an education hub of the region. Therefore, the UGC has initiated to establishing centres for social reconciliation at the universities in December 2021 by the commission circular 10/2021. The centers are managed by the universities and monitored by the UGC Standing Committee on social reconciliation. The management structure of the centers is given below;



2 Commitment of University of Jaffna

University of Jaffna is committed to promote equality and justice to all the stakeholders by promoting harmony and cohesion. The university is committed to support and promote the activities of the Centre for social reconciliation.

3 Policy Framework

The policy seeks to create a framework that will assist the university to establish the Centre for social reconciliation and increasing capacity building, research output and other activities related to social reconciliation.

3.1 Scope of the Policy

The policy establishes the basis for University of Jaffna in cooperation with the Government, UGC and society at large to promote social reconciliation.

This policy applies to all members of the university (hereafter called as University community) , including students, employees (permanently or regularly or temporarily employed), visitors, any service providers such as transport, accommodation, catering, sanitation etc., studying, living, visiting, conducting business or collaboration, or having any official capacity at the university.

3.2 Policy Vision

A university promoting and practicing social harmony and cohesion

3.3 Policy Mission

To enable the university community to practice and engage in social reconciliation activities within and outside the university

4 Specific objectives of the policy:

- Establish social reconciliation center in the university
- Promote and practice social reconciliation activities
- Contribute to the knowledge gap in social reconciliation in post-war dynamics through active engagement in research
- Dissemination of research findings to wider audience
- Create network with the other national universities and community-based organization to work on social reconciliation
- Promote social harmony among the stakeholders
- Sensitize university community on the importance of social reconciliation
- Promote curricular and co-curricular activities related to social reconciliation

5 Creation of the Social Reconciliation Centre

To meet this University of Jaffna shall:

- Seek approval for the positioning of the Social Reconciliation Centre by Senate and Council
- Establish the Social Reconciliation Centre with adequate space and staff
- Implement Resource Mobilization Strategy to enable the Centre to access resources

- Social Reconciliation Centre will organize regular meetings once in every two months to assess progress, monitor and evaluate the Social Reconciliation Centre's Programme, consider implementation strategies and develop sustainable strategies

6 Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability for Social Reconciliation

6.1 Responsibility for Implementation of Social Reconciliation

All individuals of university community and all those who are associated with University of Jaffna have the responsibility to adhere to the policy.

Council

As the Governing Authority of University of Jaffna, the Council is responsible for ensuring that University of Jaffna fulfils its legal and financial responsibilities for promoting Social Reconciliation and eliminating any forms of discrimination. In order to fulfill this, Council needs to receive bi-annual progress report through the Vice Chancellor on the monitoring and implementation of this policy to ensure that the policy is being operationalized. The Council discharges its responsibility through the management structures of University of Jaffna if necessary.

The Vice-Chancellor

The Vice-Chancellor is responsible for ensuring that the policy is effectively implemented and that staff are aware of their responsibilities, accountability, and training needs; ensuring that appropriate action is taken against staff or students who violate the policy.

Deans of Faculties and Heads of Departments

They are responsible for the implementation of the policy within their areas of responsibilities. This involves allowing the Social Reconciliation Centre to publicize the policy and institute strategic actions and procedures into practice; making sure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities and receive support and training in carrying out their duties.

6.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

Effective institutional arrangement for monitoring and evaluation are key components for achieving the objectives of the policy. This can only be achieved by instituting an effective mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the system to ensure adherence to this policy.

6.3 Institutional and Regulatory Frameworks

The implementation of the Social Reconciliation Policy requires a well coordinated and guided institutional framework to translate goals, objectives and strategies into action programmes at all levels of the university functions. The implementation of the policy will therefore be operationalized through the existing University bodies such as Senate and Council on policy matters.

7. Composition of the Social Reconciliation Center

The Social Reconciliation Centre shall consist of the following members in the management committee, who shall hold office for a period of three years with effect from the date of appointment.

- A director: A Senior academic appointed by the Vice Chancellor
- An academic staff from each faculty as a representative nominated by the Deans
- Two student representatives from each faculty considering the gender balance nominated by the Deans
- Two senate nominees among the academic staff
- Two outside experts who work on social reconciliation shall be nominated by the senate

7.1 Responsibility of the director

- The Director shall function under the directive of the Vice Chancellor
- The Director represents the Social Reconciliation Center at the standing committee of the UGC
- The Director shall call and convene the meetings
- The Director shall get prior approval from the management committee for initiatives and activities of the Social Reconciliation Center
- The Director is expected to find additional financial sources and apply for them
- The Director should be the major contact point of the Social Reconciliation Center

7.2 Faculty level operational committees

Each faculty shall have an operational committee comprised with the faculty representative in the management committee being the chairperson. The operational committee shall consist of a maximum of three staff members and 10 students.

The main responsibility of this committee is to liaise with the management committee in formulating and conducting activities related to the social reconciliation.