

## **Government Arts and Science College, Sendamangalam**

### **ORDINANCE ON STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND NTF COMPLIANCE**

*(As per directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India and recommendations of the National Task Force on Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention)*

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**Ordinance No.: 1 / Year: 2025**

#### **Title**

**Ordinance on Student Mental Health, Safety, Well-Being and Institutional Mechanisms in Compliance with National Task Force (NTF) Guidelines**

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#### **Preamble**

Whereas the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has constituted a **National Task Force (NTF)** to address issues relating to **student mental health, well-being, prevention of suicides, and institutional accountability in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**;

And whereas it is the responsibility of all Government Colleges to ensure a **safe, inclusive, non-discriminatory and supportive academic environment** for students;

And whereas the Government Arts Colleges in Tamil Nadu are required to comply with the directions of the **University Grants Commission (UGC), Directorate of Collegiate Education, Tamil Nadu**, and the **Hon'ble Supreme Court of India**;

Now therefore, this Ordinance is hereby framed and adopted to establish institutional mechanisms, policies, and procedures in alignment with the **National Task Force (NTF)** recommendations.

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#### **1. Short Title and Commencement**

1. This Ordinance shall be called "**Ordinance on Student Mental Health, Well-Being and NTF Compliance**".
2. It shall come into force with effect from the date of its approval by the College Committee / Competent Authority.

3. This Ordinance shall apply to **all students, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and administrative personnel** of the College.
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## 2. Objectives

The objectives of this Ordinance are:

- a. To promote **mental health, emotional well-being and resilience** among students.
  - b. To prevent incidents of **student distress, self-harm and suicide**.
  - c. To establish **structured institutional mechanisms** for early identification and support.
  - d. To ensure **timely grievance redressal, inclusivity and non-discrimination**.
  - e. To ensure compliance with **NTF, UGC and Government of Tamil Nadu directives**.
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## 3. Establishment of Student Support and Wellness Cell (SSWC)

1. The College shall constitute a **Student Support and Wellness Cell (SSWC)**.
  2. The SSWC shall consist of:
    - The Principal – Chairperson
    - One senior faculty member (Convener)
    - One trained counsellor / psychologist (full-time or part-time)
    - Two faculty members
    - One non-teaching staff member
    - One student representative (where appropriate)
  3. The SSWC shall meet at least **once every semester** and as and when required.
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## 4. Counselling and Mental Health Support

1. The College shall provide **confidential counselling services** to students.
  2. Counselling may be provided through:
    - Appointed counsellors
    - Tie-ups with Government hospitals / mental health professionals
  3. Students seeking support shall not face any **academic penalty or stigma**.
  4. Emergency referral mechanisms shall be established for **high-risk cases**.
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## 5. Early Identification and Faculty Responsibility

1. Teaching and non-teaching staff shall act as **gatekeepers** to identify students showing signs of distress.

2. Faculty members shall:
    - Maintain a supportive classroom environment
    - Refer students discreetly to the SSWC when required
  3. Periodic **capacity-building and sensitisation programmes** shall be conducted for staff.
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## 6. Strengthening Existing Statutory Committees

The following committees shall function in coordination with the SSWC:

- a. **Anti-Ragging Committee and Squad**
- b. **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)**
- c. **Student Grievance Redressal Committee**
- d. **SC / ST / OBC / Minority / Differently-Abled Student Support Cells**

All complaints shall be addressed **promptly, confidentially and fairly**.

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## 7. Grievance Redressal and Confidentiality

1. Students may submit grievances **in person or through written/online modes**.
  2. Strict confidentiality shall be maintained in all cases.
  3. Retaliation against complainants is strictly prohibited.
  4. Time-bound resolution shall be ensured as per applicable regulations.
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## 8. Awareness and Preventive Measures

The College shall:

- a. Conduct **mental health awareness programmes** during student induction and throughout the academic year.
  - b. Organise workshops on **stress management, life skills and coping strategies**.
  - c. Display information on **help lines, counselling services and emergency contacts** prominently on campus.
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## 9. Data Maintenance and Reporting

1. The College shall maintain records relating to:
  - Counselling services provided
  - Grievances received and resolved

- Awareness programmes conducted
  - 2. Any incident of **student suicide or serious self-harm** shall be reported immediately to:
    - Directorate of Collegiate Education, Tamil Nadu
    - Other authorities as per Government / Court directions
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## 10. Duties of Students

Students shall:

- a. Respect fellow students, faculty and staff.
  - b. Refrain from ragging, harassment, discrimination or abusive behaviour.
  - c. Seek help without hesitation when experiencing distress.
  - d. Cooperate with institutional support mechanisms.
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## 11. Compliance and Review

- 1. This Ordinance shall be reviewed **annually** or as directed by higher authorities.
  - 2. Amendments may be made to align with updated **NTF / UGC / Government guidelines**.
  - 3. Non-compliance with this Ordinance shall invite appropriate disciplinary action.
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## 12. Saving Clause

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be contrary to:

- UGC Regulations
  - Government of Tamil Nadu Orders
  - Directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India
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**By Order of the College Committee / Principal**

**Principal**

Government Arts and Science College, Sendamangalam

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_