

PUBLIC NOTICE

EXPERT COMMITTEE FOR RECOMMENDING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES FOR PREVENTING BLACK MAGIC, SORCERY AND INHUMAN EVIL PRACTICES IN KERALA

(Constituted under G.O.(Rt) No. 3899/2025/Home dated 12th November 2025)

INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC AND STAKEHOLDERS TO SUBMIT VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS

1. BACKGROUND AND CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE

The Government of Kerala, in pursuance of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in WP(C) No. 33093 of 2022 filed by Kerala Yukthivadi Sangham, and acting on the advice of the Hon'ble Advocate General, has constituted an Expert Committee vide G.O.(Rt) No. 3899/2025/Home dated 12th November 2025.

The Expert Committee has been constituted to examine all relevant aspects of enacting legislation to prohibit and prevent the practice of black magic, sorcery, and other harmful, inhuman, evil, and superstitious practices in the State of Kerala.

The Committee comprises the following members:

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Role
1.	Shri K. Sasidharan Nair, Vice-Chairman, Kerala Law Reforms Commission; Former Law Secretary and District Judge	Member
2.	Shri Jacob Punnoose, IPS (Retd.), Former Director General of Police	Member

Adv. M. K. Sakkeer, Chairman of the Kerala State Waqf Board, who was originally a member of the Committee, has since resigned.

2. MANDATE OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee has been mandated to:

- Examine all relevant social, legal, and constitutional dimensions of the proposed legislation;
- Analyse similar laws enacted by other States of India;
- Study existing provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Kerala Police Act, and other allied laws that already address certain aspects of the issue;

- Take into account the draft Bill earlier prepared by the Law Reforms Commission headed by Hon'ble Mr. Justice K. T. Thomas; and
- Submit the Expert Committee's views and recommendations to the Government of Kerala to facilitate the preparation of a draft Bill for consideration of the Government.

3. HARMFUL PRACTICES LISTED BY THE COMMITTEE(PROVISIONAL)

As part of its preliminary work, the Expert Committee has listed 34 items of harmful practices (Provisional)classified under three categories as follows:

Category A — Severe Harmful Practices (Items 1–10)

Practices involving grave bodily harm, sexual offences, and life-threatening acts, including human sacrifice, grave physical torture, sexual assault under the pretext of ritual, trafficking, and denial of essential medical treatment.

Category B — Moderate Harmful Practices (Items 11–22)

Practices involving physical harm, coercion, and degrading treatment, including forced exorcism, witch-branding, abuse of women based on superstition, forced abandonment of dependants, and unlawful confinement.

Category C — Regulatory and Financial Harmful Practices (Items 23–34)

Practices involving fraud, deception, economic exploitation, and digital manipulation, including extortion by supernatural threat, sale of fake 'blessed' objects, and operation of digital platforms promoting prohibited services.

The provisional list of 34 listed harmful practices is published on the official website of the Kerala Law Reforms Commission and is available for public reference.

4. INVITATION FOR PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Important Notice: This exercise is purely consultative. No draft legislation is currently under circulation.

The Committee's mandate is to assist the Government by formulating informed, evidence-based, and constitutionally sound recommendations.

The Committee hereby invites written views, experiences and suggestions from all sections of society, including:

- Members of the public and civil society organisations
- Religious bodies, faith communities, and cultural organisations
- Legal professionals, academics, and researchers

- Medical professionals, psychologists, and social workers
- Women's rights groups and child welfare organisations
- Media organisations and digital platforms
- Non-Governmental Organisations working in the fields of social reform and human rights

5. MATTERS ON WHICH FEEDBACK IS INVITED

Stakeholders/Public are encouraged to address, among other things, the following:

1. Personal experiences or awareness of harmful practices carried out in the name of superstition, black magic, or sorcery, and their social and economic impact on victims.
2. Adequacy or otherwise of existing legal provisions in addressing such harmful practices.
3. Suggestions on the scope, content, definitions, and safeguards to be incorporated in the proposed legislation.
4. Views on balancing the prohibition of harmful practices with the protection of genuine religious belief, cultural traditions, and constitutional rights, particularly under Articles 14, 19, 21, and 25 of the Constitution of India.
5. Experience with enforcement challenges and suggestions for effective implementation mechanisms.
6. Any other matter considered relevant to the Committee's mandate.

6. HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR VIEWS

Submissions may be made in English or Malayalam. Responses may be submitted on or before [27/04/2026] through the following channels:

By Email:

[lawreformskerala@gmail.com]

By Post:

The Member

Kerala Law Reforms Commission,
TC 25/2450 CSI building,
3rd Floor, Puthenchantha,
Thiruvananthapuram - 695001
0471-2478788

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c/o Kerala Law Reforms Commission
Thiruvananthapuram – 695 001, Kerala

Stakeholders/Public are requested to provide their full name, address, and contact details. Organisations submitting views are requested to furnish their registration details.

Confidentiality: The identity of the persons/Organizations will be treated with appropriate sensitivity and those who wish their identity to remain confidential are requested to state so clearly in their submission.

7. IMPORTANT CLARIFICATION

This public consultation does not constitute a legislative process and does not, by itself, commit the Government of Kerala to any particular course of legislative action. Nothing in this invitation shall be construed as an interference with bona fide religious practice, cultural traditions, or as pre-judging any matter currently before any court of law. The Committee shall examine all submissions in accordance with its mandate and in conformity with the fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution of India.

Sd/-

Shri K. Sasidharan Nair

Vice-Chairman, Kerala Law Reforms Commission

Former Law Secretary and District Judge

Member, Expert Committee

Sd/-

Shri Jacob Punnoose, IPS (Retd.)

Former Director General of Police

Member, Expert Committee

This Notice is published on the official website of the Kerala Law Reforms Commission.

Website: www.klrc.kerala.gov.in | Helpline: [To be notified]

Kerala Law Reforms Commission, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 001