



Date: 04/08/2025

**MAHARASHTRA NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY, CHHATRAPATI
SAMBHAJINAGAR**

(The University established under Act No. VI of 2014 by the State Legislature of Maharashtra)

To,

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor,

Maharashtra National Law University,

Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar

Subject: Systemic, Outrageous, and Unconstitutional Violations of Student Rights and University Governance: Urgent Attention Required

This formal complaint is submitted in good faith, borne out of a relentless pursuit of justice and a steadfast commitment to upholding the constitutional values and fundamental human dignity enshrined in the Constitution of India. The issues raised herein transcend mere administrative shortcomings; they represent recurring, systemic, and egregious breaches of both legal mandates and moral responsibilities that the institution owes to every student under its care.

This submission is grounded on an extensive review of over 150 official responses (kindly refer to “**Annexure A**”), supplemented by numerous unofficial communications and observations that collectively corroborate the pervasive and unresolved nature of these concerns. Such a substantial evidentiary foundation underscores the urgent need for immediate and comprehensive corrective action.

This complaint, therefore, calls upon the governing bodies to act decisively to restore faith, ensure compliance with constitutional and statutory obligations, and safeguard the welfare, dignity, and academic environment for all students without any further delay.

I. Tyranny of Arbitrary and Autocratic Administration

a. The university administration enforces a system of governance that is antithetical to all notions of democracy and participatory decision-making. Fundamental decisions governing academic schedules, living arrangements, dress codes, and personal movement are taken unilaterally, without rationale, transparency, or engagement with stakeholders most affected. The imposition of such top-down rules, devoid of consultation or even opportunity for reasoned dissent, undermines both the legal and moral legitimacy of the administration and violates Article 14 (equality before law), Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of expression), and Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty) of the Constitution.

b. The conflation of academic and administrative powers is manifest, where faculty members arrogate to themselves sweeping disciplinary and administrative control in addition to teaching duties. This egregious conflict of interest extinguishes oversight, dilutes accountability, and



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offends the fundamental principles of natural justice (*audi alteram partem*), thereby jeopardizing both unbiased administration and academic integrity.

c. No mechanism whatsoever is provided for genuine student participation, representation, or oversight. The absence of student councils, elected bodies, or empowered grievance forums amounts to wholesale disenfranchisement of the student community and stands in direct conflict with the internationally accepted norms governing university autonomy and self-governance.

II. Deprivation of Academic Freedom and the Right to Holistic Development

a. The university has abandoned the longstanding semester scheme of four-month academic terms followed mandatorily by a two-month internship break, a structure that has existed since its inception. This scheme played a crucial role in securing pre-placement offers for senior batches. Students enrolled with the **legitimate expectation** that all semesters would follow this four-month duration and have planned their internships and future careers accordingly. The discontinuation of this policy is unjust to those who relied on this framework in good faith and undermines academic integrity and fair career planning. Immediate restoration of the original semester scheme is demanded to uphold these essential rights and expectations.

b. Extended, inflexible academic schedules running from morning until evening are enforced with no regard to student health, rest, co-curricular engagement, or self-study. The resulting exhaustion, lack of pedagogical value, and absence of student-centered learning constitute an assault on the right to education as recognized both under constitutional mandates and as a human right.

c. Project deadlines, curriculum changes, and internal assessments are implemented arbitrarily, leaving students little room for planning or meaningful academic pursuit. Neglect of quality instruction and devaluation of independent thought is rampant, denying students the intellectual climate necessary to shape professional futures.

d. The failure to provide adequate, transparent support for internships, moots, and placements further compounds the deprivation, excluding students from opportunities offered as a matter of right in similarly placed national law universities. Also, there is no adequate mechanism to support students in their moot preparation and publishing of the research papers, inactive Research and Development Cell adds up to this burden even more.

e. The undersigned note a critical shortage of qualified faculty, severely limiting academic expansion and curriculum diversity. This shortage forces a few instructors to teach multiple subjects repeatedly, especially affecting the B.B.A.LL.B. (Hons.) Batch. Such practices



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compromise educational quality, overburden faculty, and reduce subject expertise available to students.

III. Invasive Supervision, Surveillance, and Unlawful Violations of Privacy

a. The administration including the cleaning staffs, security personnel, medical staffs and etc., normalizes highly intrusive night-time hostel inspections (10 pm to 04 am, as per the last selective inspection), unauthorized entries into students' private residential rooms including breaking of cupboards, seeing each piece of clothes and personal belongings, and routine violation of privacy without cause or consent. Searches of personal effects are conducted without any standard operating procedure, oversight, or legal basis. This conduct is in flagrant violation of the constitutional right to privacy as recognized by the Supreme Court in "*Justice K.S. Puttaswamy (Retd.) & Anr vs Union of India and Ors*".

b. Refusal to codify or enforce any protocol to protect against such invasions amounts to deliberate disregard of human dignity, procedural safeguards, and the safe space which a residential institution is legally and ethically bound to protect.

IV. Draconian Restriction of Liberty and Gendered Discrimination

a. There is a notable inconsistency and lack of transparency in the mechanism employed by the girls' hostel warden for granting outpasses. The arbitrary and irregular calling procedures result in confusion, delays, and undue restrictions on the movement of female students, thereby undermining their autonomy and causing unnecessary distress.

b. Curfew policies are weaponized to curtail fundamental freedoms of movement within the campus, with stricter and arbitrary enforcement upon female students, in total absence of reasoned justification. This not only perpetuates gender discrimination, contrary to Articles 14 and 15, but further infantilizes adult students under a patently unconstitutional paternalism.

c. The bar on movement within hostel and campus after an early "in-time" stands as a direct affront to autonomy and liberty guaranteed by Article 21, and is devoid of any rational nexus to legitimate aims of campus safety.

V. Deplorable Living Conditions, Mess Hygiene, and Negligent Maintenance

a. The provision of basic facilities falls beneath any conceivable legal, moral, or health standard. Mess food is consistently unhygienic, unfit for consumption, and has resulted in repeated health complaints; authorities have failed to institute any external quality check or put in place student-involved oversight of catering contracts. Insects, foreign objects are now a part of our daily meal, usage of low-grade products remains the another concerning issue.



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b. Hostel conditions are abysmal: lifts remain non-functional, water supply is inconsistent or contaminated in case of Drinking Water, laundry and drying facilities are lacking, and pest infestations are rampant. These failures amount to constructive negligence and endanger the health and well-being of all residents. Was

c. Buildings and paths remain unsafe, unlit, or unfinished, with students exposed routinely to physical hazards that can result in injury or worse, resulting in an actionable breach of duty of care.

d. The washrooms on campus remain unhygienic, poorly maintained, and inadequately ventilated, resulting in a pervasive, deadly smell and unhygienic conditions. This neglect poses serious health hazards to students, including an alarming rise in fungal infections and other related health concerns. Immediate and effective cleaning protocols, proper ventilation, and regular maintenance are urgently required to safeguard the health and well-being of the student community.

VI. Systematic Erosion of Transparency, Accountability, and Due Process

a. Policies, whether pertaining to uniforms, curfew timings, examinations, or inspections, are promulgated and altered without notice, public rationale, or record. This absence of due process and formal notification mechanisms violates the doctrine of legitimate expectation and erodes all trust in university administration. This is in lieu of the appointment of Student Affairs Co-Ordinator, as no student(s) were consulted before the appointment and neither was involved in the selection procedure of the same, lack of specific jurisdiction and power adds up to the burden of the students, as the authority for the same acts on his “**WHIMS AND FANCIES**”.

b. Misinformation and arbitrary communication with parents, including calls at unreasonable hours and the wilful withholding or distortion of facts, inflict psychological harm on students, undermine their dignity as adults, and violate the principles of procedural fairness, parental autonomy, and informed consent.

VII. Non-Existent Healthcare and Emergency Response Mechanisms

a. The university’s neglect in providing a 24/7 accessible health centre, stocked with medicines and rapid-emergency response (such as timely ambulance service), constitutes grave endangerment of student health, and stands in contempt of binding obligations under public health statutes and the right to life and bodily integrity. Lack of medicines and other necessary health equipment adds up to the existing distress of the students.



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b. Medical complaints are regularly dismissed or unmet, subjecting students to avoidable distress, and trauma, and making the very concept of a residential university both unsafe and legally indefensible.

VIII. Suppression of Expression, Assembly, and Democratic Dissent

a. There is a documented, systemic pattern of suppressing criticism, protest, and peaceful student assembly through intimidation, arbitrary disciplinary action, and surveillance and later deductions in the internal assessment marks. This is a gross violation of both the right to freedom of speech and the right to peaceful assembly under Articles 19(1)(a) and (b).

IX. Hostility, Abuse, and Unaccountable Staff Behaviour

a. Hostel and support staff are routinely disrespectful, derisive, and abusive in their language and conduct, with students and even parents subjected to humiliation, insult, and bureaucratic denial. No grievance redressal mechanism exists to hold misbehaving staff accountable, breeding an entrenched culture of impunity and institutional hostility.

X. Violation of Parental, Family, and Local Student Rights

a. University policies restrict legitimate parental visits and local student access, compelling unnecessary authorizations and harassment in violation of natural justice, the right to family life, and the principle of equal citizenship within the academic community, this is done indirectly by not allowing the parents the proper seating or visitor's area for proper seating arrangements.

b. Taken collectively, the above constitute a systematic violation of the most basic fundamental rights: equality, liberty, privacy, dignity, participation, and personal security. The culture of secrecy, intimidation, and unreasoned authority is antithetical not only to constitutional governance but to the very fact of civilized education.



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PRAYER FOR RELIEF

In light of the grave and systemic violations detailed herein, and in pursuit of restoring constitutionally guaranteed rights, dignity, and welfare of all students, the undersigned respectfully pray for the following immediate and binding reliefs, each to take effect without delay:

I. Faculty Members (including teaching staff) Must Be Immediately Removed from All Administrative Positions. The conflation of academic authority and administrative disciplinary power must end forthwith. Faculty members shall no longer wield administrative or disciplinary roles that place them in positions of oversight or control over students' residential, welfare, or non-academic matters. This demand is critical to preventing conflicts of interest, safeguarding impartial academic evaluation, and restoring trust between students and the faculty body.

II. The undersigned respectfully demand the restoration of the earlier semester scheme, in which each semester lasted four months followed mandatorily by a two-month internship break a system that has been in place since the university's inception. This established structure has directly contributed to the successful pre-placement offers received by our senior batches. **When we chose to enroll, it was a legitimate expectation that all semesters would adhere to this four-month duration.** Furthermore, many students have planned their internships and future careers based on this policy, and any deviation now would be fundamentally unjust to those who relied on this framework in good faith. Restoring this scheme is essential to uphold fairness, academic integrity, and the career prospects of current and future students.

III. Parents or guardians shall only be contacted during reasonable daytime hours, with exceptions strictly limited to bona fide emergencies. All communications concerning disciplinary, academic, or welfare matters must be conducted with prior notice to the student and include their involvement, except in urgent situations. To safeguard student autonomy, respect family privacy, and prevent unnecessary distress, parents should not be summoned to the campus in person; instead, any required meetings with parents must be arranged virtually at a time convenient for them. This protocol ensures a compassionate, transparent, and respectful approach to parental engagement.

IV. The institution must establish a clear, standardized, and documented protocol for outpass requests and approvals in the girls' hostel. This procedure should include a fixed timetable for submission and processing of outpasses, transparent criteria for approval, and a digital or written system to track and communicate decisions promptly to students. The process



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must respect students' privacy, ensure fairness, and provide a grievance redressal mechanism to resolve any disputes efficiently.

V. All intrusive inspections, entries, and searches of student rooms or premises must be strictly prohibited after 10:00 PM. Only officially authorized and properly trained personnel may conduct any room checks and strictly under well-defined emergency circumstances. The sanctity and privacy of student living spaces must be preserved to uphold fundamental rights to dignity, security, and personal liberty. For conducting an inspection in the said premise, the Chief Warden shall be accompanied by the Batch Warden, and on one else and a prior information for the same shall be shared with the students along with the approval sought from the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor.

VI. The institution should revise the current exhaustive class schedule from 9 AM–5:30 PM to a balanced timetable, such as 8 or 9 AM–1 or 2 PM. This is essential to promote effective learning, mental health, and allow sufficient time for self-study and extracurricular activities. Law students in their preparatory stage need substantial hours outside class—typically 3 to 5 hours daily—for legal research, case preparation, moot courts, and internships. Such rigorous daily dedication is necessary to build skills for varied law careers including advocacy, judiciary, corporate law, and academia, all of which demand long hours and commitment. A shorter, focused timetable will better support students' academic growth, professional readiness, and well-being. This change should be implemented with student and faculty consultation to balance academic rigor and holistic development.

VII. To address the ineffective Student Coordinator role, the institution should conduct a comprehensive review involving **active student consultation to clearly define and publish the post's jurisdiction and responsibilities before any appointment.** The position should either be restructured with transparent powers or abolished in favor of democratically elected student representatives, with every student participating in the selection procedure through free and fair voting. Additionally, proper accountability mechanisms, regular reporting, grievance redressal systems, and capacity-building support must be instituted to ensure these representatives effectively and legitimately advocate for student welfare with full transparency.

VIII. It is a legitimate expectation of every student studying at a national law university paying a substantial fee ranging from approximately 3.5 to 4.5 lakhs per annum to receive at least one meaningful **internship opportunity during their course of internship period.** These internships should be available across reputed tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 law firms, corporate in-house legal departments, judicial internships with judges, and other prestigious legal environments. Providing such opportunities is essential not only as a part of academic training



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but also to ensure students gain practical exposure, build professional networks, and enhance career readiness, justifying the considerable financial and academic investment they make.

IX. The mandatory uniform requirement for attending classes should be abolished or made optional, recognizing university students as adults who deserve freedom of expression and personal comfort. Unlike school students, university attendees should not be bound by rigid uniforms, especially given the hot and humid climate of Chh. Sambhajanagar, which makes daily wearing and maintenance of uniforms impractical and uncomfortable. Expecting students to clean and manage uniforms daily is unreasonable and poses health concerns. Allowing climate-appropriate, comfortable clothing supports student well-being and dignity without compromising discipline or academic decorum, replacing strict uniforms with reasonable dress codes that respect individual choice.

X. Restoration of fully functional lifts in all hostels without further delay. The continuous non-functioning of lifts constitutes a severe accessibility and safety hazard. Immediate repair and maintenance must be undertaken to ensure all lifts operate reliably, protecting the welfare of all students, including those with disabilities or medical concerns.

XI. The library must have extended opening hours, ideally facilitating 24/7 access or suitably expanded timing, to enable adequate study, research, and academic rigor, consistent with standards of premier national law universities.

XII. Student movement within the campus and hostel premises after traditional curfew hours is imperative to accommodate group study, recreation, and personal activities in a safe environment. Curfew restrictions should be relaxed to at least 12:00 AM with appropriate security provisions on campus periphery.

XIII. Immediate change of mess contractor and establishment of an independent canteen with strict cleanliness and food safety standards. The current mess contract and management must be thoroughly reviewed and promptly replaced with a competent, reliable vendor who guarantees consistently high standards of food quality, hygiene, and nutrition. Alongside this, an independent canteen facility must be established, operated by a separate contractor entirely independent of the mess contractor or any of its partners, ensuring no remote or direct association between the two. This separation is essential to maintain fair operation, prevent conflicts of interest, and provide students with diverse, affordable, and nutritious food options. Additionally, independent and periodic food safety inspections conducted by certified external authorities must be instituted, with transparent reporting of compliance shared regularly with the student body.



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XIV. Implementation of robust cleaning protocols ensuring hygiene across all premises including hostels, washrooms, and campus facilities. Regular, scheduled, and verifiable cleaning must be enforced throughout all campus premises, with particular attention to residential washrooms which presently remain unhygienic and neglected. Pest control must also be routinely conducted to safeguard student health.

XV. Guaranteed availability of qualified medical professionals on-site 24/7, equipped with necessary supplies and ambulance facilities. A trained and responsive medical team must be present on campus round-the-clock, with adequate stocks of essential medicines and swift ambulance services. Timely and respectful medical care is a non-negotiable right of all residential students and critical for maintaining a safe academic environment.

XVI. Appointment of adequate faculty members to address academic expansion needs. Urgent recruitment of qualified faculty members must be initiated to fill existing vacancies and support academic expansion, ensuring that teaching quality and student-to-faculty ratios meet the standards of premier law educational institutions.

XVII. Proper and immediate allocation of sports grounds. Availability of adequate sport and recreational grounds is critical for students' physical well-being and extracurricular development. The institution must allocate a proper, accessible, and safe sports ground forthwith.

XVIII. We respectfully pray that the University authorities institute a transparent process for **providing timely financial support and requisite administrative approvals to the recognized student body for organizing cultural festivals, fresher events, and other student-led gatherings within the campus premises.** Such events are an integral part of university life, fostering inclusivity, promoting a vibrant campus culture, and strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation among diverse student cohorts. Ensuring institutional backing for these activities not only upholds the tradition of holistic university education but also contributes significantly to the emotional well-being and social development of all students.

XIX. It is further prayed that the administration revisits the current restrictions imposed on the use of the central student email group (students@mnlua.ac.in). **All students should be granted the ability to send mails to this address, ensuring free, peer-to-peer academic and cultural communication across batches. Moreover, it is requested that administrative and faculty email addresses be removed from this student-only mailing list,** preserving the integrity and privacy of student communications. Open and effective communication is fundamental to academic collaboration, mutual support, and the development of a cohesive student community.



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XX. We pray for the creation of a dedicated, independent body to address all disciplinary, academic, and welfare-related complaints. This forum must follow a clear and fair mechanism for receiving, processing, and resolving grievances, and must ensure that the concerned student(s) are kept regularly informed of the status and progress of their complaint through an **accessible and transparent tracking system**. All complaints should be disposed of promptly, and outcomes communicated in writing, thereby guaranteeing procedural fairness and restoring faith in institutional accountability.

XXI. Last but not the least, it is most respectfully prayed that **single rooms in the hostel be allotted to students**, given the clear and explicit provision in the hostel's original blueprint that the rooms have been constructed for single occupancy. Utilizing the hostel infrastructure as intended—according to its designated design—would significantly benefit the academic and personal growth of all students. Single rooms grant individuals greater privacy, autonomy, and a quiet environment conducive to focused study, rest, and overall well-being. Personal space is essential for fostering independence, respecting individual routines, and safeguarding mental health, all of which are fundamental to holistic student development within a rigorous academic setting. Prioritizing the fair and transparent allotment of single-occupancy rooms, as per the hostel's explicit construction plan and capacity, reaffirms the university's commitment to upholding modern, student-friendly living standards and directly enhances the quality of the residential and academic experience for every student.

We respectfully request that all individual and other concerns not mentioned in this complaint be directly heard by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor at the earliest possible opportunity. It is critical that these matters receive prompt attention and resolution to address students' needs effectively. We urge the Vice Chancellor to prioritize the formation of a dedicated and accountable forum that ensures timely hearing and resolution of grievances, thereby fostering an environment of transparency, responsiveness, and mutual trust between the administration and students.

NON-RESOLUTION CLAUSE: In the event these demands are not satisfactorily addressed within a reasonable timeframe, the student body reserve the right to initiate an indefinite peaceful sit-in and other forms of non-violent protest until these issues are comprehensively resolved.

Yours Sincerely,

Student Body,

Maharashtra National Law University,
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Annexure A

Summary Table Of Issue-Wise Response Count Based On 150+ Tentative Responses

<u>HEAD</u>	<u>SUB-HEAD</u>	<u>Responses (approx.)</u>
<u>Academic</u>	<u>Class timings</u>	<u>69</u>
	<u>Faculty quality & conduct</u>	<u>44</u>
	<u>Internship/placement</u>	<u>33</u>
	<u>Curriculum/electives</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>Admin & Governance</u>	<u>Centralisation/autocracy</u>	<u>43</u>
	<u>Grievance redressal</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Hostel & Campus</u>	<u>Mess food/water/hygiene</u>	<u>91</u>
	<u>Hostel maintenance</u>	<u>61</u>
	<u>Privacy/room checks</u>	<u>67</u>
	<u>Curfew/movement</u>	<u>75</u>
	<u>Hostel staff behaviour</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Infra & Facilities</u>	<u>Lifts/geysers/washrooms</u>	<u>55</u>
	<u>Wi-Fi/connectivity</u>	<u>29</u>



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<u>HEAD</u>	<u>SUB-HEAD</u>	<u>Responses (approx.)</u>
	<u>Sports/cultural/gym</u>	<u>48</u>
	<u>Library timings/access</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Student Rights</u>	<u>Uniform policy</u>	<u>53</u>
	<u>Parent notification/indep.</u>	<u>36</u>
<u>Health</u>	<u>Medical facilities</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>	<u>Localites/visitors/pathways</u>	<u>21</u>