

DEMANDS ON BEHALF OF GNLU STUDENT COMMUNITY

We, the students of Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar, are writing to formally place before the University our immediate and collective demands concerning the present health, safety, sanitation, medical, food, water and living conditions on campus. At this stage, students require clear action rather than temporary assurances. We therefore demand that the following measures be undertaken within clearly communicated timelines, with permanent solutions to the underlying problems and transparent communication regarding their implementation.

Our demands are set out below:

1. Accountability

The University must establish clear accountability for the continued failure to adequately address the health, safety, sanitation, food, water and medical concerns raised by students. The responsible authorities, departments and service providers must be identified for each issue, and there must be a clear record of the action taken, the person or authority responsible, the timeline for resolution and the present status of implementation. Where negligence, failure to perform assigned responsibilities or repeated lapses are found, appropriate accountability must follow.

2. Independent Health and Safety Audit

An immediate independent audit of the University's hostel water, food, sanitation, sewage, medical and living conditions by qualified external experts.

3. Regular Public Reporting

A properly constituted committee must prepare **weekly or fortnightly reports** concerning water quality, food safety, waste disposal, sanitation, medical facilities and general living conditions. The findings must be shared with all students periodically.

4. Independent Water Testing

Comprehensive microbiological testing of drinking and tap water, including testing for *E. coli* and other relevant pathogens, with complete reports made available to students. Additionally, an open-end communication must be maintained in regards to the same.

5. Immediate Water Infrastructure

Adequate RO/filter facilities must be installed and maintained across all hostel floors, including the third floor of Shishya Bhawan. Maintenance protocols must be made transparent.

6. Medical Infrastructure

The Medical Centre must be adequately staffed and equipped with essential medicines, first-aid supplies, emergency equipment and experienced nursing personnel. **At present, only one person is reportedly stationed with the ambulance for 24-hour coverage, which is inadequate for the number of students on campus, while the overall availability of medical staff is also very limited.** Students must not be left waiting for prolonged periods for medical assistance, particularly in emergency situations. We therefore demand **adequate 24×7 medical staffing, sufficient trained personnel with the ambulance, and a clear maximum response time for medical emergencies**, so that immediate medical assistance is available whenever required. The feasibility of establishing a medical facility within or immediately adjacent to the hostel premises must also be examined to ensure timely access to medical care.

7. Restoration of a Fair Medical Exemption Mechanism

Medical exemptions must be restored through a transparent, medically determined system that accommodates students who are genuinely unfit to attend classes or examinations, without making hospitalisation the sole criterion.

8. Independent Mess Inspection

Regular external inspection of mess facilities, kitchens, storage areas and food-preparation practices, with documented reports and accountability for repeated violations.

9. Immediate Sewage and Sanitation Repairs

All sewage leaks, foul-smelling drainage points and other sanitation hazards must be permanently repaired, rather than temporarily contained.

10. Comprehensive Mosquito and Vector Control

Regular vector-control measures must be implemented across all hostel premises, including washrooms and other identified breeding areas, with monitoring of their effectiveness.

11. Formal communication

The University must ensure formal, timely and transparent communication with students regarding all decisions, actions and measures being taken in relation to the present health, safety and living conditions. All commitments, proposed solutions, timelines and updates must be communicated through official written channels rather than informal or verbal assurances, so that students have clarity regarding the steps being taken and their implementation.

11. Interim Academic Relief

In view of the present health, sanitation and living conditions on campus, students cannot reasonably be expected to continue attending regular offline classes until the necessary corrective measures are completed.

Accordingly, we demand that:

- i. **Offline classes be temporarily suspended** while the immediate concerns are being addressed. If the University requires less than one week to implement the necessary measures, classes should remain suspended during that period.
- ii. If the resolution of the concerns is likely to take **more than one week**, students must be provided with the option of attending **online classes** so that academic activities can continue without requiring students to remain in the present campus environment.
- iii. **All internal assessments, internal examinations, presentations, viva-voce, submissions and other academic requirements falling during this period should either be conducted online or appropriately rescheduled** until students can safely return to campus.
- iv. No student should suffer any **loss of attendance, internal marks, academic opportunity or other academic disadvantage** because they are unable to attend offline classes due to the prevailing health and living conditions.
- v. Considering that the **end-semester examinations are only approximately three weeks away**, the University must ensure that students are able to complete their academic requirements without being compelled to compromise their health and safety.
- vi. **Medical exemptions should not be structured in a manner that requires a sick student to return to physical classes immediately before an examination. A reasonable and advance mechanism must be provided for students seeking medical exemption from examinations.** Students who are medically unfit to appear for an examination should not be required to run from one authority to another or complete the exemption process immediately before the examination. The procedure, required documents and timeline for submitting a medical exemption must be clearly communicated in advance, with sufficient time provided to students to submit the necessary documents and obtain approval. **No student who is genuinely unwell should**

be made to suffer additional physical or administrative hardship merely to establish their medical exemption at the last moment.

- vii. **Offline classes and physical internal assessments should resume only after the University's corrective measures have been substantially completed and the campus is restored to a safe, hygienic and liveable condition.**
- viii. The University should issue a **written academic plan** specifying the arrangements for online classes, internal assessments, attendance, submissions, medical exemptions and other academic requirements until offline classes can safely resume.

12. Written Action Plan

The University must publish a written action plan specifying, for every identified issue:

The problem → proposed solution → responsible authority → deadline → status of implementation → grievance redressal mechanisms.

This statement is not a demand for temporary relief or isolated corrective measures. It is a demand for a **safe, hygienic, medically adequate and accountable residential environment.**

We call upon the University administration to treat these concerns with the seriousness and urgency they warrant, to engage with student representatives transparently, and to undertake immediate, verifiable and permanent corrective measures.

The health, safety and dignity of students cannot be treated as secondary administrative concerns. They are fundamental conditions of a functioning educational institution.

Unless our demands are substantially fulfilled and permanent, effective solutions are implemented, we will not be in a position to resume regular offline classes or participate in activities requiring our physical presence on campus. We cannot continue attending classes or engaging in campus activities while the fundamental concerns relating to our health, food, water, sanitation, medical facilities and living conditions remain unresolved. Offline classes and physical campus activities should resume only once the necessary corrective measures have been implemented and a safe, hygienic and genuinely liveable campus has been restored.

**Issued collectively by the students of
Gujarat National Law University, Gandhinagar.**