

මගේ අංකය  
எனது இல.  
My No.

ඔබේ අංකය  
உமது இல.  
Your No.



දිනය  
திகதி  
Date.

2019.05.21

ශ්‍රී ලංකා මානව හිමිකම් කොමිෂන් සභාව  
இலங்கை மனித உரிமைகள் ஆணைக்குழு  
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

By Fax

Secretary,  
Judicial Service Commission Secretariat  
Hulftsdorp Street  
Colombo.

**Re: Denial of Access to Women Due to Their Attire**

The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka has received several complaints from women that they were prevented from entering court premises and courthouses in the last two weeks. We are extremely concerned to receive these complaints and write to urge you to ensure that no one is denied entry to court premises and courthouses unless they contravene the law.

As you are aware, Emergency Regulations 32A prohibits people from wearing anything that conceal the full face in public places. The purpose of the Regulation is to ensure that there is no hindrance to the "identification of a person".

However, the Commission has received complaints to the effect that even litigants who were attired in a manner that conforms to the Emergency Regulations have been denied access to court premises and courthouses by the security personnel at the entrance.

Prevention of access to court premises and courthouses is tantamount to prevention of access to justice and equal protection of the law guaranteed by our Constitution.

We urge you to take immediate steps to ensure that all persons who comply with the prohibition contained in Regulation 32A are granted access to all court premises and courthouses. Further, we request you to remind all those who deny access to such persons that disciplinary action will follow in such instances. We also urge you to provide clear guidelines to all institutions under your purview about the types of attire that are NOT prohibited so as to facilitate this process.

We are annexing a pictorial depiction of the different types of prohibited and permissible head-gear that could be displayed prominently on court premises.

Dr. N. D. Udagama

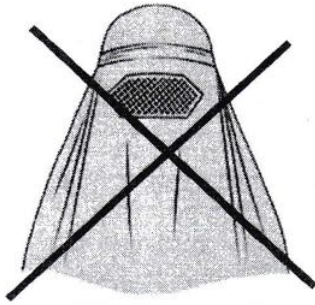
Chairperson

Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka

Chairperson,

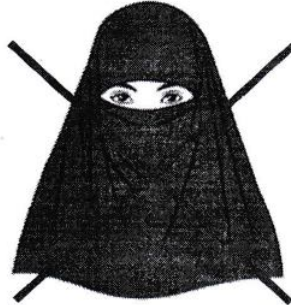
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka.

## Head covering worn by Muslim women



**Burqa**

Covers the head and the body and has a grill which hides the eyes.



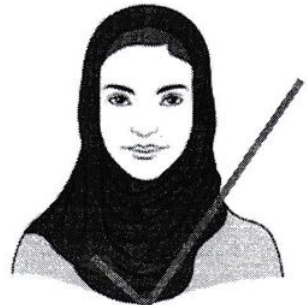
**Niqab**

A veil that entirely covers a person, including the mouth and the nose. It has a small opening for the eyes.



**Chador**

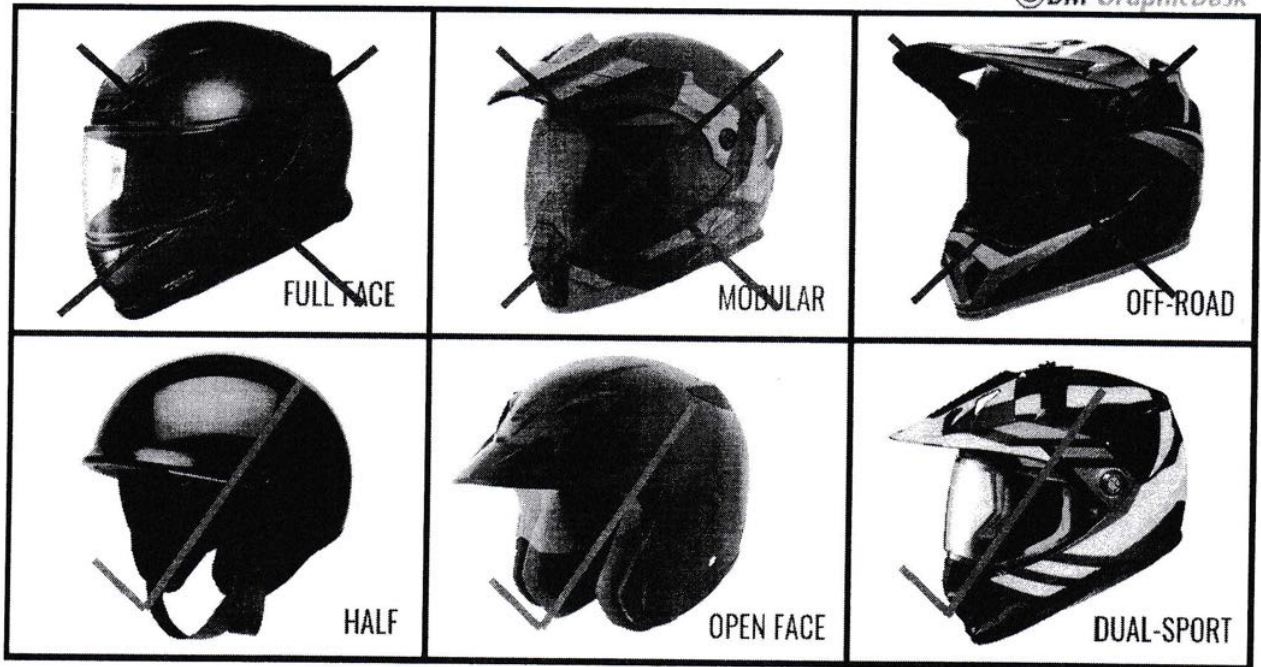
Full body cloak revealing eyes or face.



**Hijab**

A Hijab is a headscarf not a veil. Hides the hair, ears, and neck. Only the oval shape of the face is visible.

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Banned	Not banned
Burqa	Chadors
Niqab	Hijabs
Fullface	Half
Modular	Openface
Off-road	Dual-Sport

