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**PROPOSING AN EFFECTIVE DATA PROTECTION  
REGIME IN SRI LANKA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SRI  
LANKA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPEAN UNION**

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## **ABSTRACT**

# **PROPOSING AN EFFECTIVE DATA PROTECTION REGIME IN SRI LANKA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SRI LANKA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND EUROPE**

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As a result of the development of information and communication technology, the world has become closely connected and the physical boundaries of the countries are divinizing. The technology has rapidly developed as an emerging trend. Moreover, the risk of personal data is exacerbated by complexities of technology advances and their impact on society. Technology and its developments bring a new set of challenges on the personal data. Countries that use technology without an effective data protection regime have created a lens that allows them to fast and easily access their personal data and information in cyberspace. Today, the advancements of digitalization have also affected the Sri Lankan economy. Therefore, Sri Lanka must have an environment in which it can maintain close ties with the world economy while protecting its identity as well as its individual rights.

This research specifically examines whether Sri Lanka has an adequate legal framework to protect data in the face of digitalization. The research is mainly focused to comparative study with the legal frameworks of the United Kingdom and the European Union. The research in this study is based on qualitative approach as main research methodology and forces addressing key questions of What, Why, and How. The research mainly carried out as the library-based desk research and primary, secondary sources will be used extensively.

This research has clearly identified the need to avoid the threat to privacy of personal data due to insecure information technology, and has observed that the issues is being addressed positively in many international legal instruments, as well as in the United Kingdom and the European Union. Overall, this research shows that Sri Lanka lags several steps behind in terms of data protection legal regime. There is no legally valid instrument regarding the protection of personal data in the Sri Lankan Legal System. Accordingly, this research recommends that the introduction of the right to privacy as a constitutional right, as data protection is linked to the right to privacy. Proposals are being made to legislate for the protection of data, including provisions in line with international law and fair practice, following the lessons of the United Kingdom and the European Union laws. This will enable the country to reap the most rewarding results of digitalization.

**KEY WORDS:** Data Protection, Sri Lankan Law, GDPR, UK, EU