

# **A Critical Examination of the Data Protection Landscape in Sri Lanka: Identifying Challenges and Opportunities for Legal Reforms**

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The main goal of data protection and privacy regulations is to protect your data from unauthorized third parties' unauthorized access and theft. Although the phrases "data protection" and "privacy" are sometimes used interchangeably, these two standards differ significantly. Data protection offers measures and regulations that may be used to limit interdependence, whereas data privacy deals with the right to access data. Laws governing data protection and privacy have never been more crucial than they are now. Data security and privacy guarantee that data is protected against unauthorized third parties' illegal access and theft of the same. Data loss, theft, or corruption may be avoided with the use of a comprehensive data protection policy. It is clear that as information and communication technology advances daily, privacy concerns or dangers against people's personal data also grow. A government's need to implement appropriate privacy and data protection laws and regulations cannot be ignored at any time. It was noted as a significant legal gap in Sri Lanka as until very recently, there was no distinct legislation to address data protection and privacy. There are now a number of different laws that may be used to control certain areas of data protection and privacy in addition to the Personal Data Protection Act No. 09 of 2022. The purpose of this study is to determine if Sri Lanka's current legislative framework for data protection and privacy is sufficient and functional. This will be accomplished by contrasting Sri Lanka's legislative system with those of the UK and Singapore, two nations renowned for being leaders in the fields of data protection and privacy. The researcher's ultimate objective is to support efforts to ensure Sri Lankan citizens' right to privacy and data protection.

**Keywords:** Data protection, Privacy, Information Communications Technology, Personal data