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From appointing hostel manager to modifying panels, campuses take guard against ragging

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KOLKATA: From creating a separate post, like hostel manager, to restructuring anti-ragging committees and squads according to UGC guidelines, universities and colleges have been taking measures to tackle ragging or any harassment on campus after a fresher at Jadavpur University died in a fall from a hostel balcony, tormented and hounded by seniors.

WHAT UGC GUIDELINES SAY

> Every institute should have an anti-ragging committee and a smaller body, called anti-ragging squad

> The committee will be headed by the head of the institute

 The committee must have representatives of civil and police administration, local media, NGOs involved in youth activities

> The committee should also have representatives of institute faculty members, parents, freshers, senior students and non-teaching staff



A board decrying ragging was put up at JU after the death of a fresher in August

The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences has created a post of a hostel manager to look after the welfare of students. Vice-chancellor Nirmal Kanti Chakrabarti said, "We have created the hostel manager's post so that a person is dedicated to look after the welfare of students and redress grievances of boarders. He also acts as a bridge between students and the administration and lets the authority know about problems faced by boarders." Chakrabarti added they had considered hiring an experienced hospitality management professional for the post. The university has also restructured its anti-ragging squad and committee by adding a media representative, a representative from the local body and an NGO, as prescribed by UGC guidelines.

Principal of Maulana Azad College Subhasis Dutta said the college had a zero-tolerance policy towards ragging on campus and hostel. "Our anti-ragging committee has teachers, convenors of the hostel committee and a

parent as members. We are restructuring it by adding other members, as mentioned by the UGC. We will rope in our alumni, who are in the media, local administration and police to strengthen the committee. There will be external members as well," added Dutta.

Maharaja Manindra Chandra College recently formed an anti-ragging committee following instructions from the higher education department, said principal Manturam Samanta. "At the moment, the committee comprises mostly internal members. But we will add external members, like a media representative, a social worker and others," he added.

Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Government College is also modifying its anti-ragging committee by adding representatives of the local administration, police, media, NGO, counselling professional and guardian. Asutosh College principal Manas Kabi said an anti-ragging cell, with teachers as members, already existed but they would include others on the panel. Scottish Church College vice-principal Supratim Das said, "Our anti-ragging committee was formed years ago according to UGC guidelines. Members of media, NGO, local administration and others help add different perspectives and conduct fair probes."