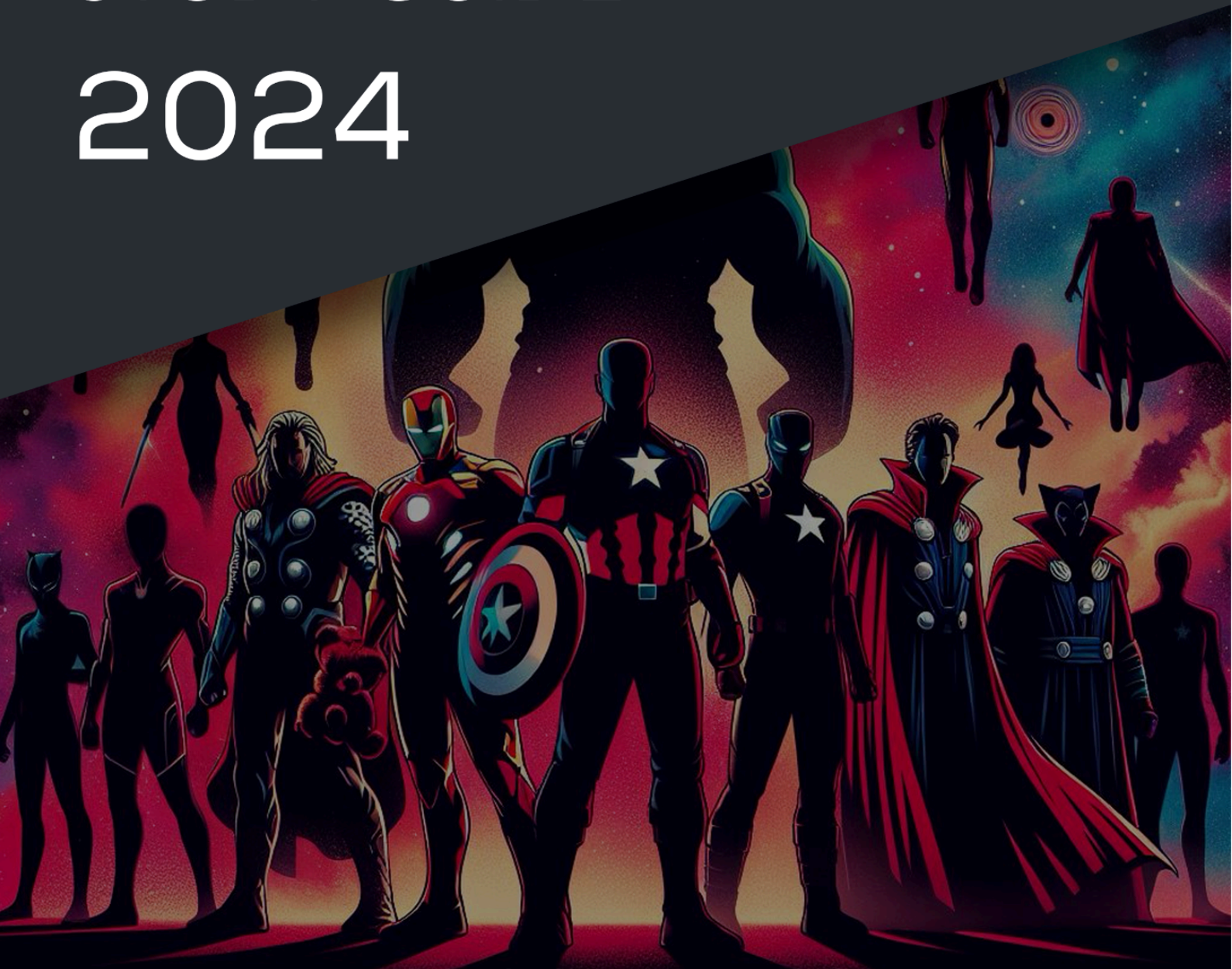




MCUC

STUDY GUIDE

2024



COLOMBO MODEL UNITED NATIONS

2024

Committee Overview

Committee Mandate

The MCUC is a body overseeing the matters of the Marvel cinematic universe, ranging from;

- Conflict resolution involving superhumans, acting as a diplomatic entity to resolve disputes that transcend national borders,
- Security measures to regional and otherworldly threats
- Humanitarian issues such as metahuman rights and the ethical guidelines surrounding the creation and use of superhuman abilities.

It is made up of states, representatives of organisations and representatives of alien races. Each member state abides by their own set of legislation, and the interests of each member state are represented by their respective governing bodies.

The MCUC has been elected to help bring order to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. In order to carry out this role, it is granted the ability to make all resolutions and decisions made within the council to be legally binding. Therefore, all member parties would have to integrate such decisions into their own constitutions to abide by the rulings made by the council; failure to do so would result in potential repercussions decided upon by the members of the Council.

The Council also has control over the many bodies within the MCU, such as the GRC, and is able to make rulings regarding them. Furthermore the Council has the ability to create organisations, as well as carry out military interventions of its own. However, members of the Council must consider diplomatic means of resolution before using military tactics.

Practice Debate 1 follows a UNHCR mandate in campaigning for the protection of refugee rights. Practice Debate 2 follows a GA1 mandate, dealing with disarmament and security threats. The Conference topic follows a GA6 mandate in promoting the progressive development of international law.

Agenda

Practice Debate 1: The GRC's efforts to reverse the impact of the Blip and other large-scale events

Practice Debate 2: The proliferation of paramilitary and terrorist syndicates with special emphasis on the need for disarmament and mitigation

Conference: Constructing an international convention on the jurisdiction of metahumans with emphasis on involvement in conflict

Country Profiles

1. Principality of Madripoor- Located in maritime Southeast Asia, Madripoor has obtained a reputation for its lawlessness, and for being a diplomatic safe haven for outlaws and offenders due to its lax extradition laws. It is presided over by the 'Power

Broker,' a fugitive of the US government that founded an anti-nationalist movement, the 'Flag Smashers' against the GRC. Being an economic hotspot, the country opts for a transactional policy of commerce and self-preservation rather than diplomatic engagement.

2. Kingdom of Wakanda- An isolationist nation known for its advanced technology, particularly its deposits of vibranium. Its focal priorities are the protection of internal development and the security of its people.
3. Stark Industries- an American global aerospace, defense and private security company aimed at manufacturing smarter weapons and developing clean energy. They often collaborated with the UN on various initiatives related to peacekeeping, disaster relief or sustainable development, and in the 1940's, collaborated with the US government on project rebirth.
4. Former Sokovia- With a history of political turmoil and instability, Sokovia became home to a HYDRA underground compound in which the organisation would conduct experiments that led to the creation of destructive weapons. The bombing in the city of Novi Grad orchestrated by the US military and the Battle of Sokovia were factors that invigorated the ratification of the Sokovia Accords.
5. Asgard- Having a reputation of being peacekeepers of the nine realms, Asgard serves as home to the Gods, many of whom possess superhuman abilities and is governed by a strict monarchy that oversees all policies and decisions. It is protected by formidable warriors and owns powerful technologies and artefacts for defence and warfare.
6. Quiet Council of Krakoa- The governing body of the mutant-exclusive nation of Krakoa. Given its role as a sanctuary for mutants, Krakoa advocates for mutant rights and the promotion of mutant interests. Its capabilities and status as a mutant nation raise questions about its role in international security and defence arrangements.
7. The Skrull Council- Representatives of the Skrulls, an expansionist civilisation that possesses the ability to shapeshift. In the aftermath of the Kree- Skrull war, the Skrulls were displaced and dispersed across the galaxy. The Council was responsible for finding a new home planet for these refugees.
8. The Confederacy- A coalition of alien races that have formed an alliance for mutual benefit, with the shared objective of protection from extraterrestrial threats.
9. Representative of the Kree- The Kree are a militaristic race ruled by a fascist empire. They are skilled in genetic engineering and are responsible for the creation of Inhumans.
10. S.H.I.E.L.D- Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement, and Logistics Division; is an extra-governmental espionage and law enforcement agency focused on counter-terrorism and intelligence gathering. They focus on capacity-building initiatives surrounding non-proliferation, cybersecurity and other transnational threats.

11. S.W.O.R.D- Sentient World Observation and Response Department- an extra-governmental intelligence agency dedicated to protecting Earth from extraterrestrial and extra-dimensional threats

Message from the Head Table:

Delegates will be expected to be well-versed in both political discourse in the current status quo and Marvel history, drawing parallels and inventing solutions that will be versatile in both Marvel and the real world. We urge delegates to find nuanced arguments and solutions by researching past failures of real countries in handling the refugee crisis, terrorist organizations and issues of accountability, and to apply them to the context being discussed. We promptly discourage delegates from straying from the topics of discussion related to MUN, as this will compromise the quality of the debate. While we hope delegates enjoy being in the shoes of superheroes, we must maintain diplomacy and decorum, engaging in meaningful dialogue and formulating a comprehensive resolution.

We hope this study guide will serve as a foundation and guide into the thinking process behind each topic.

We urge delegates not to research using solely material from Marvel, as this will result in tunnel vision - narrowing the scope of discussion. Instead, examine the predicaments and dilemmas in real humanitarian conflicts and crises and assess the solutions utilised in those situations. Application and identification of flaws and solutions used in the real world will indicate to the chairs that a delegate is well-researched.

The plight of humanity is in your hands. Research well, and we look forward to seeing you all!

PRACTICE DEBATE 1:

The GRC's efforts to reverse the impact of the Blip and other large-scale events

Background

According to a statistical estimate released by the United Nations in collaboration with the World Bank, there were at least 3,797,000,000 persons reported dead or missing on Earth alone. The snap erased all lifeforms, including the microorganisms in the bodies of the survivors of the Snap. Over a five-year period, the world fell into a state of chaos and societal collapse, with many countries losing control over their national borders, abandoning them altogether, and subsequently adhering to a one-world government.

The Global Repatriation Council (GRC) is an international council founded in 2023 with the aim of allocating resources towards assisting refugees displaced by Blip. It is mainly responsible for managing resources for the refugees who were displaced by the return (i.e. reactivating citizenship, social security, and healthcare), as the Blip caused mass hysteria and confusion among the world's population who had grown familiar with the new status quo.

The return of the victims led to the displacement of poor economic migrants who lost their jobs and were evicted from their new homes by either local governments or their original owners from before the Blip, and many people lost everything, leading to the creation of overpopulated refugee communities in many parts of Asia, Europe, and North America who were taken care by GRC personnel.

One main solution proposed was the Patch Act: A plan to deport refugees back to their home nations. However, there were many reservations about the act and flaws in the mechanisms of the act, as well as facing backlash from the General public, directly leading to the creation of the Flag Smashers: a terrorist organisation that carried out an attack, kidnapping representatives and raising a conflict.

There was severe disillusionment and a lack of faith in the GRC due to the impacts of its efforts. Delegates will need to consider mechanisms to regain public support, and you are encouraged to consider the claims and demands of the public as well as their foreign/organisational policy when creating solutions, taking inspiration from other real-world solutions to solve the problem of refugees and upholding the principles of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. However, delegates are expected to expand upon the definition of refugee status, taking into consideration the diverse situations faced by them.

Furthermore, delegates are expected to consider the effectiveness of possible mechanisms of mitigation in order to prevent future large-scale as well as resilience development.

Lastly, delegates need to decide upon the future of the GRC, regarding changes to, or replacement of the GRC, for the effective fulfilment of its role as well as the consideration of the One World Model proposed by the Flag Smashers.

Case studies

Under international human rights law, the principle of non-refoulement guarantees that no one should be returned to a country where they would face torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and other irreparable harm. This principle applies to all migrants at all times, irrespective of migration status.

The principle of non-refoulement is essential in international law and is a pillar of the right of asylum. This is further supported by the Geneva Conventions of 1951.

In recent years, there has been an uptick in the number of Anti-migrant walls being built in order to reduce the influx of ‘third-state nationals.’ The United States, in particular, has regularly chosen to return asylum seekers from Mexico, civilians fleeing political instability, cartel violence and corruption without allowing them to file an application for international protection. This type of expulsion is contrary to Union and international law.

The forcible relocation of refugees, as suggested by the ‘Patch Act’ leaves Member States with more questions than answers: how will the GRC manage the refoulement of stateless persons such as Ukrainians internally displaced by the unfolding Russia-Ukraine conflict, or refugees from Sub-Saharan Africa fleeing environmental disaster, civil unrest, and concomitant abuse of Human Rights?

The Syrian crisis remains the largest displacement crisis in the world, with over 12 million Syrians displaced. The February 2023 earthquakes further exacerbated the situation, affecting around 8.8 million people and destroying homes and vital infrastructure. Refugee-hosting countries, which have shown incredible hospitality for over a decade, are suffering from layers of crises, which has led to an increasingly challenging protection environment with heightened pressures for refugees to return to their country of origin.

This makes resettlement a complex matter and mandates the need for international cooperation and aid to address the issue.

PRACTICE DEBATE 2:

The proliferation of paramilitary and terrorist syndicates with special emphasis on the need for disarmament and mitigation

Background

Hail Hydra! Immortal Hydra! We shall never be destroyed! Cut off a limb, and two more shall take its place! We serve none but the master- as the world shall soon serve us!

In the Marvel Universe, the threats of terrorism loom large and pose significant challenges to global security and stability. These terrorist organisations range from radicalised factions within established societies to extraterrestrial entities with agendas that transcend planetary boundaries. Motivations for their actions vary; They may be political, from the fascism promoted by HYDRA in their need to establish a totalitarian state; or ideological, as with Advanced Idea Mechanics (A.I.M.), a group in pursuit of profit and a technological revolution without ethical constraints. Driven by a desire for power, revenge, or a warped sense of justice, these syndicates employ violence, coercion and fear to fuel their objectives, often targeting civilian populations, engaging in cyber-warfare, or utilising weapons of mass destruction.

The development of ‘Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems’ or LAWS by these extremist groups is another problem member states must grapple with. Organisations such as A.I.M have manufactured advanced robots with surveillance technology, cybernetic enhancements, and energy-based firearms such as plasma cannons, ion blasters and laser rifles. The use of Artificial Intelligence has further enabled them to counteract security measures and sustain prolonged campaigns of terror. However, corporations such as Stark Industries are also known for their production of LAWS, from Jericho missiles to drones.

Developments in the discourse surrounding LAWS include the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), which aims to prohibit or restrict the use of certain types of weapons that may be deemed excessively injurious or have indiscriminate effects. Additionally, the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS and ‘the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots’ have called for a pre-emptive ban or moratorium on weapons that can engage targets without human intervention.

At present, there are no official resolutions in the UN banning the use of LAWS, but the moral concerns with machines making life-and-death decisions, and the possible escalation of conflicts are real challenges that the global community cannot sweep under the rug. Therefore, discussions of disarmament and regulation are necessary to ensure that the deployment of LAWS is consistent with international humanitarian law and ethical standards.

In combating violent extremism, governments must also undermine political indoctrination, and find mechanisms to rehabilitate those employed and manipulated by such enterprises such as the ‘Black Widows’- trained in the Red Room Academy; a program that engineered female assassins. The World Security Council was also corrupted by HYDRA operatives, this led to the launching of Project Insight, with the purpose of eliminating humans who posed possible threats.

Paramilitary Organizations can be defined as, *an organised group of individuals that operates like a military force that may engage in armed conflict, political violence, or other activities in support of or opposition to established governments.*

However, the classification and criteria for defining paramilitary groups such as the Avengers and distinguishing them from other armed entities are slightly ambiguous. The Avengers Initiative, consisting of a team of enhanced and skilled individuals, was designed to defend Earth from imminent global threats beyond the warfighting capability of conventional armed forces. As seen through incidents such as the mass casualties in the Battle of Sokovia or the Lagos Catastrophe, questions of accountability keep rising when they are involved in armed conflict. Furthermore, we must examine the role of states in supporting and enabling paramilitary activities, and evaluate the normalisation of immunity provided by government contracts and SOFAs for paramilitary forces in the eyes of both domestic and international doctrines of law. The question is- how and will members of these groups be penalised and held accountable for their extrajudicial executions and forced displacements?

Notable Conventions

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1997)

The Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects

The Martens Clause and the Laws of Armed Conflict

The 1949 Geneva Conventions

The Arms Trade Treaty

International Code of Private Security (2010)

CONFERENCE:

Constructing an international convention on the jurisdiction of metahumans with emphasis on involvement in conflict

Background

In the absence of definition or rules over metahumans, a convention to decide the jurisdiction of metahumans is yet to be created. Issues that are key in understanding how metahumans should be legally handled include:

- Accountability
 - For metahumans
 - Actions against metahumans
- Classification
- Degrees of autonomy
- Socioeconomic ramifications

The Sokovia Accords were developed as an international agreement to address these concerns and hold superheroes accountable for their actions. The accord aimed to create a governing body, known as the Avengers' Oversight Panel, composed of representatives from different nations. This panel would be responsible for monitoring and controlling superhero activities, ensuring that their actions align with international law and respect national sovereignty.

Considering that the MCU's definition of metahumans and the laws under which they function are non-existent, delegates are encouraged to evolve from the Sokovia Accords and expand further considering other issues faced by metahumans in the Marvel universe, such as a socio-economic stance, as well as considering the autonomy of metahumans and their subsequent classification.

Case studies

The events leading up to the Sokovia Accords involved a series of incidents that raised questions about the limits of superhero power and the potential consequences of unchecked actions. These incidents included the Battle of New York, the fall of S.H.I.E.L.D., and the destruction of Sokovia. Each event amplified the public's concerns about the accountability and collateral damage caused by superheroes.

The Battle of New York, showcased the immense destructive capabilities of both superheroes and the threats they face. The fall of S.H.I.E.L.D. exposed the potential for corruption and abuse within organisations responsible for superhero oversight. Finally, the destruction of Sokovia demonstrated the need for stricter regulation and prevention of catastrophic incidents.

These events, along with public opinion and political pressure, led to the drafting and implementation of the Sokovia Accords. The accords aimed to strike a balance between allowing superheroes to continue their vital role in protecting the world and ensuring that their actions are subject to oversight and accountability.

However, the Sokovia Accords sparked significant controversy within the superhero community. Some superheroes, led by Captain America, viewed the accords as an infringement on personal freedoms and a potential tool for political manipulation. They believed that the ability to act independently and respond quickly to threats was essential in protecting innocent lives.

On the other hand, superheroes like Iron Man supported the Sokovia Accords, seeing them as a necessary measure to avoid further catastrophic incidents. They believed that oversight and accountability were crucial in ensuring that the actions of superheroes were in the best interest of global security.

The conflict between pro-registration and anti-registration factions, known as the "Civil War," erupted as a result of the Sokovia Accords. This conflict further deepened the divide within the superhero community and highlighted the ethical and ideological dilemmas associated with the accords.

The Xavier institute

Xavier decided to devote his life to protecting humanity from evil mutants and safeguarding innocent mutants from human oppression, believing that both groups could peacefully coexist. Xavier worked with fellow mutation expert, Dr. Karl Lykos, as well as Dr. Moira MacTaggert, in discussing the idea of founding a school for mutants.

There have been several iterations of this institute, requiring constant rebuilding due to the destruction caused by factors from the outside world. Overall, acting as a safe haven for mutants to learn to use and handle their powers, allowing them to integrate into society and foster better human-mutant relationships.

Furthermore, the institute acts as an aid and protection mechanism for mutants from the outside world, as well as becoming a training facility for the X-men.

Delegates are encouraged to consider the potential advantages and disadvantages of such institutes, as well as considering the position of metahumans in such conditions.

Case studies

In the instance of the US vs Nicaragua:

The ICJ held that the U.S. had violated international law by supporting the Contras in their rebellion against the Sandinistas and by mining Nicaragua's harbours.

The Court found in its verdict that the United States was "in breach of its obligations under customary international law not to use force against another State", "not to intervene in its affairs", "not to violate its sovereignty", "not to interrupt peaceful maritime commerce", and "in breach of its obligations under Article XIX of the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the Parties signed at Managua on 21 January 1956."

However, this case was considered a failure of international judicial powers due to the following:

- The Court stated that while the U.S. encouraged human rights violations by the Contras by the manual entitled Psychological Operations in Guerrilla Warfare, this did not make such acts attributable to the U.S.
- The United States refused to participate in the proceedings, arguing that the ICJ lacked jurisdiction to hear the case. The U.S. also blocked enforcement of the judgment by the

United Nations Security Council and thereby prevented Nicaragua from obtaining any compensation.

In the instance of the Sri Lankan civil war

UN sources have estimated that between 80,000 and 100,000 persons died in the Sri Lankan Civil War, with over 40,000 civilian casualties between 2005 and 2009 alone. Most civilian casualties were caused by Sri Lankan army shelling in the “no firing zone” (NFZ) and indiscriminate shooting by Tamil Tigers, according to a UN report.

The majority of the atrocities and the war crimes that have been committed were often swept under the rug by the majority of the current political leaders. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, former army general and defence minister from 2005 to 2015, oversaw the conflict's final phase, during which the unlawful killings were at their highest.

There is often little to no accountability for these crimes due to frequent abuse of judicial procedure. In the instance of the arrest of former Army Staff Sergeant Sunil Ratnayake and others in the army, Ratnayake was provided with a presidential pardon for his actions. Demonstrating the apparent impunity of those close to the administration, with numerous other examples of acquittal in similar cases of murder and violence. The impact of this has been to entrench a sense of impunity, further exacerbating victims’ continuing distrust of the system.

The civil war also led to laws such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which allowed for prolonged arbitrary detention, to extract false confessions through torture, and to targeting of minority communities and civil society groups. Many suspects have been held on remand for years awaiting trial, most are tortured in custody, and convictions frequently rely on confessions obtained under torture. “During this 18-month period, you are at the mercy of whichever security agency is detaining you,” a defence lawyer in numerous PTA cases told Human Rights Watch.

The Rajapaksa government has rejected pledges by the previous administration of Maithripala Sirisena to repeal the law. Instead, it has used the PTA to target religious and ethnic minorities, fuelling concerns the government aims to further institutionalise Sinhala Buddhist nationalism in keeping with President Rajapaksa’s ethnically divisive campaign rhetoric.

Allowed reference material

The Infinity Saga: Phase One (2008-2012)

- Iron Man (May 2, 2008)
- Iron Man 2 (May 7, 2010)
- Thor (May 6, 2011)
- Captain America: The First Avenger (July 22, 2011)
- Marvel’s The First Avengers (May 4, 2012)

Phase Two (2013-2015)

- Iron Man 3 (May 3, 2013)
- Thor: The Dark World (November 8, 2013)
- Captain America: The Winter Soldier (April 4, 2014)
- Guardians of the Galaxy (August 1, 2014)
- Avengers: Age of Ultron (May 1, 2015)
- Ant-Man (July 17, 2015)

Phase Three (2016-2019)

- Captain America: Civil War (May 6, 2016)
- Agents of SHIELD
- Luke Cage
- Iron Fist
- Doctor Strange (November 4, 2016)
- Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 (May 5, 2017)
- Spider-Man: Homecoming (July 7, 2017)
- Thor: Ragnarok (November 3, 2017)
- The Punisher
- Black Panther (February 16, 2018)
- Jessica Jones
- Avengers: Infinity War (April 27, 2018)
- WandaVision
- Ant-Man and the Wasp (July 6, 2018)
- Captain Marvel (March 8, 2019)
- Avengers: Endgame (April 26, 2019)
- Spider-Man: Far From Home (July 2, 2019)

Phase Four

- Black Widow (2021)
- Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (2021)
- Eternals (2021)
- Thor: Love and Thunder (2022)
- Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (2022)
- WandaVision
- The Falcon and The Winter Soldier
- Hawkeye
- Moon Knight
- I Am Groot
- She-Hulk: Attorney at Law

Phase 5

- Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania (February 16, 2023)
- Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 3 (May 5, 2023)
- The Marvels (November 10, 2023)