

**Cutting the Gordian Knot: Evaluating the Effectiveness
of EU-Inspired Confiscation Strategies to Sever the Economic Lifelines
of Organised Crime in Sri Lanka**

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This research critically examines the efficacy of the European Union's (EU) confiscation strategies in undermining the economic bases of organised crime and proposes best practices for their implementation in Sri Lanka. Organised crime poses a significant global threat with profound societal, public, and economic impacts, necessitating robust countermeasures. Confiscation has emerged as a central component of the EU's multifaceted approach to combatting organised crime, comprising both classical and modern strategies, each with unique methodologies and challenges. This study aims to evaluate the relevance and applicability of these strategies within the Sri Lankan context. Further, this study highlights the crucial role of strong legal frameworks and effective enforcement mechanisms in combatting organised crime. By targeting the economic infrastructure of organised crimes, confiscation strategies can significantly disrupt their operations. Additionally, the research underscores the importance of harmonizing national laws with international standards to ensure effective implementation. The research is significant for its economic analysis and "Law and Economics" perspective, focusing on the impact of implementing EU-inspired confiscation strategies to dismantle the economic bases of organised crime. Utilizing qualitative data analysis as the primary methodology, this study meticulously examines legal documents, policy papers, and scholarly literature related to confiscation and organised crime. The doctrinal legal approach facilitates a comprehensive review and interpretation of existing laws, regulations, policies, and jurisprudence, extracting critical insights from the EU's confiscation strategies. The findings contribute to a nuanced understanding of how Sri Lanka can adapt and implement effective confiscation strategies, promoting a legal and economic environment resilient to organised crime. The recommendations aim to guide policymakers and legal practitioners in Sri Lanka, informing the development of tailored strategies that capitalize on the strengths and address the weaknesses observed in the EU's approach.

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