

## **INTERACTION SESSION FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES WITH POLICE**

**PS JANGPURA, 17.02.2015**

Socio-Legal Information Centre organized an interaction session for Afghan refugees residing in Bhogal with police on 17 February 2015. The meeting was held at PS Jangpura with S.I. Narender Sharawat, chowki-in-charge showing a very positive response to the meeting. The rationale of the meeting was to strengthen and enhance confidence building level of the refugee community to engage with police in legal related matter. More significantly, the necessity to create a platform where refugee community feels comfort to share their protection related issue for legal redressal with the police.

In the meeting, seven Afghan representatives (2 men and 5 women) namely Mohd. Dawood Sharifi (09C00237), Abdul Jabar (82C00042), Nastaran Masood (09C02265), Fakharia Khalid (06C00501), Nasren (09C01987), Aziza Hamid (08C00124) and Habiba (09C00981) were present. SLIC was represented by Belover Hutten, Advocate Fazal Abdali and Said Anwari (Interpreter) and the Chowki-in-charge of the PS along with five female sub-Inspectors was present.

The meeting started with introduction of the participants and a brief explanation of UNHCR and its operation in India. Further a short overview of Refugees Protection and refugee issues in India in general was highlighted.

In response to this, S.I Narender Sharawat informed the participants that his PS receives about 5-6 afghan cases a month and higher percentage of the perpetrators in such cases are Afghan themselves. He gave example of an Afghan case reported the same day at the PS where a married Afghan man was troubling an Afghan Refugee woman. Mr. Sharawat also highlighted about Afghan girls getting involved in sex work and Afghan men engaged in substance abuse and drugs peddling in the locality. He cited deportation incidents of 3 non-refugee Afghans following verification drive of foreign nationals in his area.

The Afghan participants were in consensus and agreed to what Mr. Sharawat highlighted. They raised issue of incidents where Afghan girls working in Chemist shops are sometime forced by the local shop owners to put on make-ups or dress in such a manner to attract customers. The participants revealed that such incidents are mostly reported from Lajpat Nagar area. Hence, action should be taken against such shop owners.

The participants showed interest in playing a pro-active role in legal matters involving Afghan refugees. They requested to be informed about such incidents in future so that they can provide support as a community. Mr. Sharawat appreciated their interest and informed them

about the ongoing “Community Policing” being encouraged by the Delhi Police. He invited the participants for Self Defense classes which could be jointly organized with SLIC for the community. In addition, Mr. Sharawat gave safety measure tips against snatching incidents. He explained that these culprits are experts who generally roam on motorcycle in search of targets. Hence, especially girls and women should be alert while on roads and in public area.

Mr. Sharawat shared his mobile number and noted down the detail of the participants in his diary of future case references. SLIC and participants thanked the Chowki-in-charge for his warmth reception and interest in the meeting.