

Interaction Session of Refugee Representatives with Police

SLIC

19.05.2016

SLIC with BOSCO organised a joint Interaction session between refugees representatives and police on 19 May 2016 at SLIC. The session aimed at to build and create comfort level of the refugees to interact with police. It also aimed at encouraging the refugees to take initiative to address their legal protection issues to the police and subsequently enabling and empowering them with legal knowledge to handle legal protection cases on their own whenever required.

The session was attended by eight refugee representatives (6 Afghans and 2 somalis) from Bhogal area. BOSCO was represented by Suining, Shariq, Chiru and Nazim. Belover and Smita attended from SLIC and Juhi from UNHCR. Mr. SI Bharat Singh, the Chowk-in-charge of PS Jangpura along with one beat officer was present to interact with the refugees and answer to their queries.



SLIC gave the introduction and the purpose of the session followed by briefing of BOSCO services by Shariq. The session saw active participation from the refugees and they came out with their issues and queries.

Discussion

Issues/queries	Response from Police
Afghan representatives shared about an incident involving afghans and locals. Following the fight, the locals entered into the house of the afghan and threatened them. The	In such incident, complainant should contact police station for assistance and Chowki in-charge personally opined that no person is allowed to enter another

<p>police was informed but received no satisfactory result.</p>	<p>person's house to intimidate. The Chowki in-charge stated that in the particular case, if police had not taken proper action then he apologised for the same and assured cooperation in future.</p>
<p>An afghan representative informed about a non-refugee afghan who is involved in illegal drug business. He wanted to know whether the person could be deported to Afghanistan as he is creating nuisance and defamed the afghan community.</p>	<p>In such matter, if evidence is found against the person for his involvement in illegal activity then, he can be prosecuted and refer him to FRRO for deportation process.</p>
<p>Somali representative shared her experience with police. Once she assisted a Somali friend who lost her bag and complaint was lodged at PS Lajpat Nagar. As she and her friend received no satisfactory result from the complaint, her friend had to face problem regarding her stay/exit in India as she had lost all her documents including visa/passport in the incident.</p> <p>She stated that she personally is not comfortable visiting police station or interacting with policeman.</p>	<p>First of all, any wrong impression or fear of police should be erased from one's mind. Police is no different from any other human being. One should not be scared or feel uncomfortable approaching police for assistance.</p>
<p>SLIC had queries as under</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In case of emergency involving Domestic violence case, whether the matter could be reported to the police. • The Delhi police initiative for senior citizens-whether such initiative could be avail by refugees as well. 	<p>In matter related to domestic violence, the police can take the complaint but the complaint should be addressed to the Magistrate/DLSA. Depending upon the nature of the case, the police will accordingly take step however, for core matrimonial issue, DLSA should be contacted.</p> <p>Regarding Senior citizen, the programme is</p>

	<p>solely meant for senior citizen who is living alone or with spouse. The chowk-in-charge was not sure whether refugees could also avail the provision.</p>
<p>BOSCO shared about challenges faced when refugee do not want to file police complaint when incident happens. Such as, in case of child sexual abuse when parents are unwilling to seek police complaint or in generally when victim do not want police complaint.</p> <p>BOSCO also wanted to know the procedure of dealing with missing (person) complaint.</p>	<p>In such matter, victim should be encouraged to come forward for police complaint and POCSO talks of mandatory reporting.</p> <p>If complaint is not lodged or not make known to the police, the issue will be left unaddressed and no action could be taken.</p> <p>In case of missing complaint, police generally take detail information of the missing person including photograph to be published or telecast in newspapers or TV etc as a procedure to trace the person.</p>

The police gave instruction on preventive measure to be followed in case of snatching incident. To avert any snatching incident, the police suggested that person (especially women) should hold their mobile phone/articles tightly while commuting in public and be alert at all times.



The police also talked about the challenging and demanding job that they have to perform. After 16 hours of hard work, if a person approaches police for complaint and if not satisfy with his/her complaint then, police is blamed. Nevertheless, the police encouraged the

refugees to contact them for any complaint and assured full cooperation in the matter. The police stressed that the society mind-set to avoid police involvement in legal matters should be clarified and curtailed. The chowki in-charge was open to meeting the refugees periodically for any legal problem.

The refugee representatives thanked the police for the support and to the Government of India for allowing stay in the country.