

POLICE SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME CUM INTERACTION SESSION

PS JANAKPURI, 09.03.2015

Socio-Legal Information Centre organized a Police Sensitization Session at PS Janakpuri on 09 March 2015. The session was attended by nineteen police personnel including the SHO of the PS Mr. R.S. Meena. The rationale of the meeting was to strengthen and enhance relation with the police to aware them on Refugees Protection issues. This exercise was also essential to orient new incumbents of the PS on refugee issues and their cooperation while dealing any refugee cases reported in the PS.

SLIC was represented by Belover Hutten, Advocate Divya Mittal and Chharaliana (Burmese Interpreter).

The meeting started with introduction of the participants and a brief explanation of UNHCR and its operation in India including SLIC legal services to Refugees and Asylum seekers. A short overview of Refugees Protection and refugee issues in India in general was highlighted. The participants were briefed about refugee population mainly that of Burmese origin residing in their jurisdiction (Asalatpur and Possangipur). A sample of refugee ID card was circulated among the participants to explain them the difference between registered refugees and non refugees/foreigners. They were informed that whenever they come across any cases of foreign national, they can verify from the refugee ID card issued by UNHCR.

Some participants raised query of refugees seeking medical treatment in private hospital sometimes show their refugee ID card to hospital staff stating that the card would exempt them from paying the medical bills. At this, SLIC clarified that refugees are assisted for medical treatment in Government hospitals and if refugee visits private hospital then they would have to pay on their own.

The SHO put up the question of Nigerian nationals and SLIC explained that refugees from African countries like Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia are often mistaken as people from Nigeria. Hence, it is very vital that Police authenticate their country of origin and ask for refugee ID cards to clarify any doubts.

The SHO shared his mobile number and noted down the detail of SLIC staff for future reference. SLIC thanked the SHO and the participants for their cooperation and giving time for the session.

Note: SLIC had informed and invited CRC to attend the session but due to some busy schedule, they could not attend.