

Police sensitization program

PS Jaitpur

30.12.2016

A police sensitization was jointly organised by SLIC with UNHCR and BOSCO at PS Jaitpur on 30/12/2016. UNHCR was represented by Kiri, SLIC by Murshed and Adv. Fazal and BOSCO by Varsha and Amit. Three rohingya representatives participated and in total 19 police personnel including SHO Mr. Mohar Singh attended the program.

Kiri from UNHCR started the session with brief introduction of UNHCR and its operation in India and across the globe. He highlighted the goals and achievement of UNHCR since its inception. He clearly differentiated the difference between UNHCR mandated refugees and the government assisted refugees in India. In summary, Kiri included the points as under

- a. History and the goals of UNHCR.
- b. The status of UNHCR India.
- c. India's position in dealing with the refugees.

Advocate Fazal from SLIC gave a detailed role of SLIC and its objective. He spoke on rohingya refugees and their plights. Presented detailed information regarding the flight of rohingya communities and how they arrived in India. He highlighted the administrative legal arrangement for the refugees and how they are generally arrested under the foreigners act. He mentioned about certain rights stipulated in the Indian constitution which are applicable for the citizens and non-citizens alike. Further India not being a signatory to the 1951 UN convention on refugees and the subsequently protocols and absence of domestic law on refugees in the country, however, there are various case laws which protects refugee from forcible deportation. It was vitally mentioned that refugees should not be forcefully deported to his/her country of origin where he/she would face persecution.

Given such lacunae in addressing the issue of refugee, Indian however, has been maintaining a liberal policy when it comes to dealing with refugees since time immemorial.

In addition to this, SLIC provided general information about the problems faced by the rohingya refugees. BOSCO staff also gave introduction about the organisation and its services they provide to refugees. Refugee representatives also shared that they are reluctant to approach police due to their lack of awareness about the legal procedures. At this, the SHO assured full co-operation and the help to the community. Community leaders exchange their contact numbers with the police officials for future reference.