

POLICE SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME CUM INTERACTION SESSION

Venue: Police Station, Mundka, West Delhi

Date: 10th February, 2016

Socio-Legal Information Centre conducted an awareness programme for the law enforcing agencies on refugee on 10th Feb.2016, at Mundka Police Station. Twenty Five (25) police personnel attended the programme including the Add. SHO Insp. Suresh Kumar Lakra. SLIC was represented by Hema Bisht and Sunil Kumar while the Rohingya Refugee community was represented by Jaffar (14C00792), Mohd Sultan (13C01894) and Abdul Hashim (13C02937).

The programme was focused at creating awareness among the police personnel on the rights of refugees and redressal of protection issues faced by them.

Role and function of UNHCR was highlighted including how the agency provides international protection to refugees and SLIC's role as a legal partner of UNHCR. Diverse refugees nationalities registered under UNHCR were shared and how refugees fled their own country to escape persecution and life threatening prospect.

Brief background on how India traditionally has been host to diverse groups of refugees despite lack of refugee law in the country. Other points such as UN convention, Foreigners' Act and principle of *non-refoulement* were shared. They were informed that refugee are entitled to certain rights such as right to life, equal protection before law, right to practice any religion, non-discrimination etc as stipulated in the Indian constitution.

SLIC briefed that mainly Afghan, Rohingya and Burmese refugees are residing in West Delhi. Each refugee registered under UNHCR is provided with an ID card and through this card, police can distinguish a refugee from other foreigners. They were informed that FRRO issues them residential permit from time to time. A sample of refugee ID card and LTV were 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.

They were further informed about the presence of 24-25 Rohingya refugee families residing in Mundka Village. The Reader to SHO (Mr. Somveer) informed the staff that the Station House Officer was aware about the presence of Rohingya's in their area and also that they have been asked to submit copies of residential permits issued by FRRO.

Reported cases of harassment, exploitation, molestation, physically assault, discrimination, sexual violence perpetrated upon refugees were highlighted to the police and how SLIC

conducts similar programmes in other police stations including with local bodies like RWAs to build friendly relation in order to resolve issues pertaining to neighborhood and landlords.

The Add.SHO raised some queries related to political situation of Burma and changes taking place there.

He and the Reader to SHO provided their mobile numbers to the Rohingya community and asked them to get in touch with them in case face any problems. Contact details of beat officers of Mundka village were also shared with the community.

SLIC thanked the Add. SHO and other participants for their cooperation and requested them to continue their support towards refugees living in their area.