

POLICE SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME CUM INTERACTION SESSION

Venue: Ranhola Police Station, West Delhi

Date: 23rd February, 2016

Objective: The main objective of this awareness programme was to bridge the gap between refugees and law enforcement agencies particularly Police personnel. It also aimed at empowering refugees to avail legal assistance directly, without requiring any third party intervention.

Socio-Legal Information Centre decided to conduct this awareness programme at Ranhola as earlier refugees living in Deep Vihar and Vikas Nagar have approached SLIC and reported facing security incidents. There are around 70 refugee families living in the above mentioned areas. SLIC had accordingly met the SHO of the concerned area and apprised him about the refugee situation and requested him to increase patrolling in these areas. As the police personnel of Ranhola were unaware about refugee issues, SLIC decided to brief them on the same.

SLIC conducted this awareness on 23rd February, 2016, at Ranhola Police Station. Twenty Five (25) police personnel attended the programme including the SHO Insp. Subash Malik. SLIC was represented by Hema Bisht, Sunil Kumar and Dr. Murshed Mussarraf Choudhury while **the Chin Refugee Committee (CRC) was represented by Mana Hung and Kanta Lie.**

The programme focused at creating awareness among the police personnel on the rights of the refugees and redressal of protection issues faced by them. It also focused on empowering refugees so that they can approach police directly whenever the need arises.

A brief introduction about the role 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 was explained to the participants .

SLIC briefed that mainly ethnic chin and Rohingya refugees are residing in Deep Vihar and Vikas Nagar areas which fall under the jurisdiction of Ranhola Police Station. Each refugee registered under UNHCR is provided with an ID card and through this card, police can distinguish a refugee from other foreigner nationals. They were informed about the long term visa issued by FRRO to these refugees. The staff requested the SHO to help refugees getting tenant verification done which is required for periodic renewal of LTVs. 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 case of foreign national, they can verify his/her refugee status from the refugee ID card issues by UNHCR.

Reported cases of harassment, exploitation, molestation, physical 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 RWA's to build friendly relation in order to resolve issues pertaining to neighbourhood and landlord was explained. The beat officer of Deep Vihar raised few questions regarding the presence of chin refugees in his area and wanted the office to share a list of such refugees with him.

The programme helped the participants understand the situations forcing these refugees leave their own country. Also the difficulties faced by them in Delhi to survive with their limited source of income

Beat officer and the SHO provided their respective phone number to the Chin Refugee representatives and asked them to contact them in case they need legal assistance.

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