

Interaction Session with Police

Police Station Timarpur

Thursday 19th November 2015

SLIC conducted Police Interaction Session at Timarpur police station on 19 November 2015. The objective of the session was to sensitize police on Refugee Protection and to create a platform for the refugees and police to have interaction to discuss on concern issues. Newly elected Somali Community representatives namely Mahamed Sharif, Mohamud, Amina and former community representative Ibrahim were present. An afghan refugee Wali Khan also attended the session. SLIC was represented by Smita Singh and Adv. Hrishikesh. Cyril and Varun represented UNHCR and BOSCO respectively.

SLIC briefed SHO O. P. Thakur (87850870129) about the roles of SLIC and UNHCR towards ensuring protection and rights of refugees. He was informed about the presence of mandate refugees in Wazirabad and cases of protection risk reported from the area.

The SHO was very receptive about the purpose of the session and the issue placed before him. He enquired about the grievances of the refugee community from the representatives and wanted to know about their problems. He was open to extend any possible assistance to the refugee community.

The SHO was also briefed about the general condition of the community with regard to their livelihood and living condition. The recent incident of Abdilahi was discussed with the SHO who assured full cooperation in investigation process. He informed that the beat officers were given directions to find those Nigerians who are absconding since the incident. He shared the phone numbers of beat officers of the area (HC Satinder 9810525092, Ct Kiran Pal 8860757679, Ct Amit 9650365599) and asked the community representatives to call on the given phone number as and when they see the absconding Nigerian culprits. Referring to the case, the SHO added that a police team visited the house of stated Nigerians but the house was locked and the Land lord had no information of the tenants (Nigerians).

One of the community representatives raised a question that the community has language problem while dealing with the police. In response to this, the SHO gave the phone numbers of SI Narender (8010753149) and SI Ganpati (9911852535) who are well versed in English and can be contacted whenever required.

Wali Khan, an afghan refugee cited his previous reported case in Bihar and Assam. He was repeatedly tried to deviate the discussion to his personal problems including financial and protection issues. He also stated about the last incident of attack faced by his daughters while coming back from the school, which he had already reported to the police station. The SHO

assured him full cooperate to increase police patrolling around the school. He also asked Wali Khan to immediately inform police whenever such incident happens, which he failed to do so earlier. The SHO informed that he is going to conduct a sensitization programme with the school authorities and children to aware them on safety mechanism. This way, teachers/students/school could immediately report to police about any untoward incident.

The SHO suggested that police will introduce the Somali community representative with RWA Committee as well as the Aman Committee for peaceful coexistence of the refugee Community in the neighbourhood.

SLIC discussed the issue of Somali refugees being mistaken as Nigerians by the locals, on which the SHO responded that he will send the beat officers to the area to explain the locals about such issue.

Varun from BOSCO suggested that the police officers can also visit the BOSCO office, in Wazirabad to implement the above said action.

The SHO took the details of the Representatives/SLIC/BOSCO/UNHCR and assured police cooperation in case of legal matters in future.