

POLICE SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME

PS DABRI

29.07.2016

SLIC conducted a sensitization programme for the police at PS Dabri on 29 July 2016. Sixteen (16) police personnel attended the programme including the SHO, Harender Singh. SLIC was represented by Belover Hutten, Sunil Kumar, Murshed Mussarraf, Hitendra Chauhan and Ni Cin Tial. UNHCR was represented by Teena Joseph and Hitesh from BOSCO. Khua Er a refugee from Hakha community also participated in the session.

The rationale in conducting the programme was to aware police on the Refugee Protection and its principles, to minimize the gap of communication between refugees and police, encouraging PoCs to avail the legal provision whenever required and to cultivate the comfort level of the PoCs in engaging with police in times of need or crisis.

UNHCR representative highlighted the definition of a refugee and the grounds on which a person is compelled to flee his country in order to protect his/her life. She gave an example of countries where violence and war have produced PoCs for UNHCR.

The police personnel were informed that about the general population of UNHCR registered refugees in India and other refugees recognised by Government of India. About the issuance of LTV by FRRO to refugees which permits them to stay in the country legally. The RSD process was explained to them and sample of a refugee ID cards issued by UNHCR was shown for their



understanding. They were explained on the differences between refugees from African countries (like Somalia, Ethiopia, Sudan) with other foreigners from the same continent such as the Nigerians. The police were informed that they can differentiate registered refugees from other foreigners through the ID cards issued by UNHCR and they can verify the same from UNHCR office in case of any doubt or for any clarification.

Hitesh from BOSCO explained the role and services provided to refugees pertaining to education and medical assistance. Further about the enrolment of refugee children in Government schools/Anganwadis and assisting them in hospitals in case of health issues.

SLIC elaborated on the legal protection aspect of the refugees. How the PoCs due to their appearance and language barriers face hostility and sometimes subjected to physical assault including sexual violence of refugee women and children. Emphasised was made on the



protection of refugee women and children from sexual offences and how POCSO Act safeguards and protects children. The police was informed that under POCSO, any report of child sexual abuse demand for mandatory reporting to police or CWC. Hence, any such cases reported to the PS should be dealt with utmost care and sensitivity.

There were some queries from police regarding the tenant verification process where one policeman highlighted that refugees request for immediate processing of the verification as their residential permits are expiring soon.

The policeman reasoned that refugee should approach police one month before the expiry the Visa so that they have ample time to process the same. Regarding non-compliance from the local landlord, the police informed that it is police duty to make the landlord cooperate in the process.



The SHO was receptive and assured full cooperation in future. SLIC requested the police cooperation whenever case of refugee is reported in their PS. After the session, SLIC/ UNHCR also met the ACP of the area Mr. R.K Ojha for a brief introduction on refugee protection and seeking of his cooperation.