



IARF- Human Rights Resource Centre is the integral part of International Association for Religious Freedom, working in partners with Brothers Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS) to create a culture of Human Rights & Peace in India.

# H .R. D. Training Report

**Bangalore on 12 & 13 Aug, 2017**

**Madurai on 19 & 20 Sep, 2017**

## 1. Human Rights Defenders Training

### Intensive Training program for the Social Work Students- Bangalore

The IARF- Human Rights Resource Centre (HRRC) in association with Brothers Integrated Rural Development Society (BIRDS) organized two days Human Rights Defenders Training programme for Social work students on 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 at BIRDS, Bangalore.

The HRRC is working with various communities to address discrimination, and develop preventative approaches to build a culture for human rights in India. Presently, few among India's large young population are aware of their rights, as a result majority of Indian young adults today suffer many social evils. Possessing knowledge on Human Rights is essential to ensure social peace and harmony, which in turn associate to national productivity and therefore prosperity. After creating changes among the young adults through Human Rights Education since 2005, the HRRC moved to the second phase of HRE program to make the young adults to be a Human Rights Defenders.

#### Participants

The first Human Rights Defenders Training Programme organized by Human Rights Resource Centre 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at BIRDS campus, Bangalore. The 52 participants from following colleges took part in the program. 1. Christ University, 2. St. Joseph College, 3. Kristu Jayanti College, 4. Bangalore City College, 5. Bangalore University, 6. St. Aloysius College, 7. Christ Junior College, 8. St. Mary's Junior College, 9. Sacred Heart College, Thirupathur, 10. The American College, Madurai, 11. 6 Students from France, 12. Goutham College of Science and 12. Acharya College.

The program began with inaugural celebration on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2017 at 10.30am. The Chief Guest was Sri. Madhu Sharma I.F.S, Secretary, State Human Rights Commission, Karnataka and she motivated the participants to become a good human rights defender to bring peace in the society. The inaugural address was given by Rev. Fr. Agustin George, the vice-Principal of Kristu Jayanti College. Also Sri. Donna Farnandes, the Secretary of Vimochana, Rev. Bro. P. Jeyaraj, Principal, St. Mary's school, Mr. Ambrose Christy, the social activists Chennai were the guest of honours for the inaugural celebration.

**Inaugural Celebration**



## Training

**Day one:** The first session started with participants' self-introduction and ice-breaking, followed by the History of Human Rights and the functions of United Nation also explained to the participants. These sessions were conducted by Mr. Ambrose Christy, the social activist, Chennai. The participants were given an opportunity to express their expectation from this training program. The organization vision and objectives were explained to the participants. The Universal Declaration for Human Rights articles was discussed in six groups and we encourage the groups to present it in a creative way. IARF's three India-produced video; docu-dramas helped participants understand certain key human rights issues in Indian society. Also the functions of National and State Human Rights Commission were explained to the participants and the mandate for Human Rights Education by the National Human Rights Commission were discussed in the groups. The first day program was concluded with a short evaluation.

**Day Two:** The second day sessions were presented with the short UDHR articles film. Based on this the Statue Tableau activity was conducted. The "statue tableau" helped participants bring different solutions for Human Rights-related issues. They also shared their experiences of human rights violations such as child trafficking, workers' rights, religious freedom, gender discrimination, etc. The Fundamental Rights, POCSO Act & Child rights session was conducted by Dr. Suja Sukumaran, senior coordinator, Enfold India. She shared some very important articles of the POCSO Act and had long open discussion with the participants to understand the Act very clearly. Also the participants were motivated to share local human rights issues and find solutions with the help of UDHR. Finally the participants were divided into different groups for future plans. Also the HRRC has selected very active participants to create a HRD group in Bangalore.



## Evaluation & Valedictory

The final evaluation was conducted for the participants and they said the program was very good and they requested to organise it for their friends and also for their college students. Few of the participants said we need to visit the schools and communities to create human rights awareness to bring create peace in the society.

The program was completed with a valedictory celebration. Very Rev. Monsignor Robert Le Gall, Archbishop of Toulouse, France was the chief guest and motivated the participants to spread peace in this society. Also Dr. Vincent Paul, the HOD of MSW- Christ University, Mrs. Anitha Asoke, the HOD of MSW, AIMS college, Rev. Bro. P.T. George, the Director of Vidyadeep College were invited as a guest of honour for this celebration. All the guest shared and motivated the participants to spread Human Rights Education in India. The participants received participation certificates.



**Together for Peace**

## Outcome...

The following leaning outcome has experience from the participants...

- Supporting the IARF- Human Rights Resource Centre in all the possible way to spread the awareness on Human Rights Education.
- Bringing the news about the Human Rights Education to the rural communities in where the rights are violated.
- The social work volunteers will help the school going teenagers to create human rights awareness
- Bringing many interfaith young adults to practice its objectives of HRRC to create peace in the society.

## 2. Human Rights Defenders Training at Madurai

The IARF- Human Rights Resource Centre and Brothers Integrated Rural Development Society in association with the Department of Religion, Philosophy & Sociology organized national Human Rights Defenders training program for the college students at American college to create peace and harmony in the society.

### Participants

The Human Rights Defenders Training program was held on 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at American College, (Department of Religion, Philosophy & Sociology) Madurai, Tamilnadu. There were 120 students from different colleges of Tamil Nadu. Colleges like Lady Doak, Cauvery Women's College, Arul Amandar College, Fatima College, Madurai Kamaraj University, Mannar Thirumalai Nakker, Madurai Institute of Social Science, The Madurai College & American College were the participants for this two days training program.

### Opening Ceremony

The Madurai District Collector was the chief guest for the program. The Program began with the inaugural ceremony. Rev. Dr. Arul Arasu Israel, the Head of the Department of (Religion, Philosophy & Sociology) of the American College Madurai addressed the gathering with a welcome speech and motivated the participants to learn their Human Rights & commit themselves to create social awareness. The district collector asked the participants to work for peace and take up the responsibility to bring change in the society.

## Training

The first session started with participant's self-introduction and ice-breaking, followed by the history of IARF, HRRC in collaboration with Birds. Short videos was shown to the participants on the history of Human Rights, then explained the kinds of human rights, need for Human Rights education along with active games which were conducted, that helped the participants to energize themselves in the middle of the session. Also presentation on UDHR, short films on UDHR articles were presented. There was group discussion on UDHR articles. Then, after lunch the participants were divided into group of six and they were assigned to present each article as a skit performance. After the first session there was a group photo taken at the end of the session along with the Dignitaries.

The second day's session started with discussion on POC SO Act, UPR – Universal Periodical Review and also a revision and discussion on all the 30 UDHR articles & videos was shown on the UDHR articles. Then the floor was open for asking questions. After that we had two activities related to the UDHR articles and all the students took an active part. The participants also shared their experiences of human rights violations such as gender discrimination, worker's rights and child trafficking. Afternoon there was a deep discussion about future activities to support the Human Rights Resource Centre in creating Human Rights awareness in the region and around.

The program came to an end with a Valedictory Function. The Principal, Dr. Sr. G.Celine Sahaya Mary from Fatima College was invited and Dr. M.D Sebastian who is an Interfaith activist was also invited. Br. Albert Xaviour, Director, BIRDS& IARF-HRRC along with the Chief Guest distributed the certificates to the participants for the two days training program.



## Participants Speaks ...

1. I learnt about the history of the Human rights, how it evolved and its present situation. Every individual is entitled with 30 human rights and any violation could be questioned. Justice shall be served. Every individual has a responsibility towards the society and we all can develop properly only if we do our responsibility properly.
2. I would like to work in the field of children and women. I will help anyone who is in need of my help. I will ensure that, I don't violate any one's right. I will teach other's the knowledge that I have acquired.
3. The session was informative, interactive and creative; also I could feel the passion that you have for the HR. But, what I really enjoyed was how others were ready to accept other's thoughts.

a) Specific points I learned are as follows

- ❖ I came to know about the rights of all the human beings.
- ❖ How we can use human rights when we are in need.
- ❖ How United Nation is working for the people.
- ❖ How our leaders are applying or following.

b) I would like to work for untouchables.

c) I feel that I am equipped a little with these talks. Training program is good



## Conclusion

The both Human Rights Defenders Training Program had created new life among the participants and molded them as a Human Rights Defenders to create the culture of peace in the society. Students of different colleges of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu had participated these two days Human Rights Defenders training program. The programs also created unity among participants and created the attitude to come together for peace.

Bro. Albert Xaviour who is the director of BIRDS (Brothers Integrated Rural Development Society) played an important role in explaining all the 30 articles of UDHR along with the skit performance and energizing activities. And Rajani Sonar the Project coordinator explained about IARF, HRRC and collaboration with BIRDS.

It was a successful program appreciated by the professors from various colleges, as they want HRRC to conduct Human Rights Defenders Training Program in their Institution as well. During the training, students were also good as they were maintaining love, peace & harmony. Finally the IARFC- HRRC and BIRDS looking forward to create network with all the for the participants to take up the responsibility to create the culture of peace in India.

**Let us create a  
Culture of Peace**

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