



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022



SOUTH
ASIA

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE

JRS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE WORKSHOP IN DELHI



JRS IO organized a four-day workshop for JRS SAS staff in Regional Office, Delhi from 29th August to 2nd September 2022. It was arranged to serve one of the objectives of JRS, i.e., revisiting the vision and mission of the organization in the context of its region. The facilitators of the training were JRS International Office Deputy Director and the International Office Strengthening Country Operations Project, Manager. The participants' group included the Regional Office core team along with the project office key members from Tamil Nadu (Sri Lankan Tamil refugees), New Delhi (Chin & Afghan urban refugees), and Bangladesh (Rohingya refugees). The workshop included a lot of group activities and everyone was encouraged to contribute their bits. After the successful completion, the participants came up with JRS/SAS mission statement and priorities to be accomplished in the near future.



CONSULTATION ON INDIA'S REGULATORY REGIME FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS & REFUGEES ORGANIZED BY DAJI, DELHI



03/09/2022



JRS Afghan refugees exhibited their talent in the cultural event

Teachers' Day celebration, Tamil Nadu



It was celebrated in many Complementary Education Centers (CECs) in Sri Lankan rehabilitation camps situated in Tamil Nadu on 5th September. There were many special competitions and cultural programs put up by children to express their respect for the teachers.



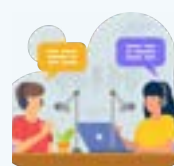


RADIO PROGRAM RECORDING BY BHOGAL GIRLS CLUB IN DELHI



The 18-member Girls Club in Bhogal locality got an opportunity under the JRS Radio program to lead a podcast recording at a private studio- Sparrow Communications in New Delhi. This recording workshop has proved to be a great platform for the girls to experience a live recording session and also demonstrate the scripts they have been preparing and record it with a professional camera. The girls were excited about learning new techniques of recording, editing, programming, and getting familiarized with the recorders.

One of the recording students, Maryam Quraishy describes her experience in her own words. "We all went to the studio for recording and everything went great, the recordings were also perfect, Sanjay sir (mentor) was friendly and we were so comfortable that we felt at home. We started recording the topics and working on overcoming our fear of talking in microphones and uses of editing, headphones, and so many other things. And in the end, I'm so happy that I am one of the JRS students in the Radio program and hope that we go to the studio more often to experience such things. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity."



SESSION ON 'SAFE & UNSAFE TOUCH' FOR STUDENTS IN TAMIL NADU

On the 13th and 16th of September, sessions on 'Safe & Unsafe Touch' were facilitated by the concerned Field Officer, Mrs. Malini for the Complementary Education Centre (CECs) Sri Lankan refugee students in Paramathi and Thoppukollai camps in Tamil Nadu. The sessions were attended by Sri Lankan Tamil refugee students who were made aware of the unsafe environment around them and ways to overcome them.



SELLING REUSABLE SANITARY PADS IN TAMIL NADU

Sri Lankan refugee women explained the need for hygienic menstrual practices to women attending a seminar on Gender-based Violence by Sivakasi Human Resource Development Organization. The skilled women were able to sell 20 reusable pads to the participants.



JRS/SAS REGIONAL OFFICE VISIT COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH FOR ROHINGYA REFUGEES



As part of the monitoring visit, JRS South Asia Regional Human Resource Officer and the Regional Programmes Officer visited Bangladesh for a week between the 19th to 21st of September. The JRS representatives visited Multipurpose Children and Adolescent Centers (MCACs) established by Caritas Bangladesh with support from Caritas Luxembourg & JRS.

It was an enriching experience for them to interact with Rohingya children who attend JRS-supported MCACs. They also met the Rohingya community inside the camp who are child protection committee members, religious leaders, and Rohingya volunteers at MCACs. The visit reinstated JRS South Asia's commitment to serving the most marginalized Rohingya children and adolescents by creating a safe space that facilitates their development and reduces mental distress.



INAUGURATION OF TWO MONTHS OF ENGLISH TRAINING IN POOLUVAPPATI CAMP IN TAMIL NADU FOR ENHANCING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SRI LANKAN TAMIL REFUGEE STUDENTS.



DIGITALIZATION OF CLASSES IN JRS, TAMIL NADU 13 CECS WERE PROVIDED WITH DIGITAL EQUIPMENT FOR ACADEMIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.



DISTRIBUTION OF DRY RATION IN DELHI

The neediest Afghan (125) and Chin (40) refugee families received dry ration support from JRS under Urban Refugee Project. The intervention assisted these communities to boost their immunity with nutritious food after Covid-19.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



JRS South Asia organized the International Day of Peace celebration on the 21st and 22nd of September in Delhi and Tamil Nadu.

In Delhi, it was celebrated in two parts of Delhi (West and South) for Afghan and Chin refugee communities. On 21st September, the event took place in Our Lady of Grace Church Hall for JRS Tilak Nagar and Chanakya Place centers, and on 22nd September for Bhogal Centre for their community. It was attended by 166 members (123 Female and 43 Male).

Fr. Stephen Raj, the JRS Regional Director of South Asia, and Sr. Manju the sister of the Holy Cross of Hazaribagh were the speakers along with the Urban Refugee Project Director, Ms. Roseline Osana who facilitated the events.

The Afghan and Chin refugee students exhibited the cultural dance program on their respective traditional songs. Based on the theme "End inequality and discrimination and build peace". Both the Afghan and chin students performed traditional dances, songs, and role play and gave speeches highlighting the theme. The poster-making competition was also conducted for the students based on the theme of the day.

The speakers enlightened the audience with their thought-provoking speech and explained how racism and discrimination poison people's hearts and minds and erode the peace we all seek.

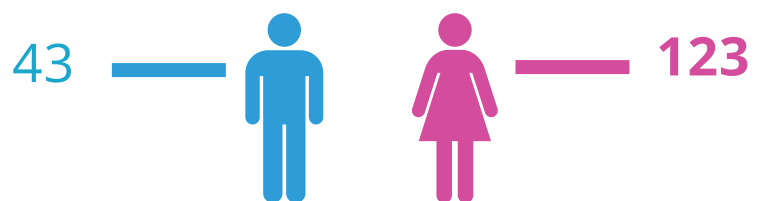


Instead of fighting each other based on caste, colour, creed, and religion, we should be working to defeat our true enemies, i.e., racism, gender discrimination, inequality, and conflict that exist among us, in our family, workplace, and our country. Both speakers emphasized re-affirming the bonds of solidarity and standing for the values of truth, understanding, mutual love, and respect.

"If we do not have peace in one part of the world, no one has peace anywhere in the world."

In Tamil Nadu, it was also observed on 21st September in many camps with the theme of 'End Racism and Build Peace'. This created awareness among the Sri Lankan refugee community of the need for peace individually as well as collectively as one human society.

The event was a beautiful expression of harmony among Afghan, Chin, and Sri Lankan refugees along with JRS members of the South Asian Region.



LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR THE SELF-HELP GROUP FOR WOMEN

Women belonging to eight self-help groups underwent a one-day leadership and group dynamics training in their camp location. Packiaraj, SJ, Eugene SJ, and Mr. Maran were the resource persons for this training. The training aims to build a good rapport among the team members to enable them to work efficiently.



Six SHGs are going to start the poultry farming unit



One SHG is taking up a camphor production unit and



The last one is doing a bakery-producing unit

DISTRICT LEVEL INTERFACE MEETING, TAMIL NADU



On 23th September, a district-level interface meeting was organized in Ramanathapuram. The Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner, and the Special Deputy Collector of Ramanathapuram district were present and responded proactively to the demands echoed by the people from the Mandapam Sri Lankan rehabilitation camp.



The beautician training class was inaugurated at Pooluvappati Camp, Coimbatore on 23rd September'22.

INAUGURATION OF BEAUTICIAN TRAINING, TAMIL NADU





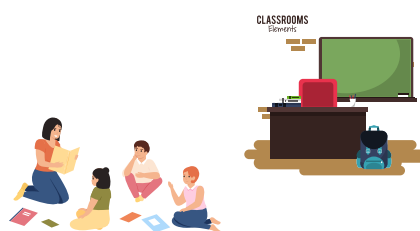
TEACHER'S TRAINING FOR URBAN REFUGEE PROJECT, DELHI



On 30th September, a Teacher Training Programme was conducted for JRS educational teachers under the Urban Refugee Project at the Regional Office, Delhi. The resource person was Ms. Christine Albert who has 30 years of teaching experience.

Chin and Afghan urban refugee students are often forced to drop out of host community schools on account of socio-cultural challenges and inadequate financial capacities.

This is to enable JRS teachers to build a trust-based relationship with their students and enhance their teaching methods to offer effective and efficient learning support to refugee children and young adults through already established JRS centers.



On 20th September, Karaiyur camp in Tamil Nadu held a Plantation drive with Sri Lankan refugees





Jesuit Refugee Service

Nonprofit organization

We accompany, serve, and advocate the cause of refugees and other forcibly displaced people, so that they may heal, learn and determine their own future.

Delivering Significant Change

62,189 people were served in 2021

JRS South Asia was present in 2 countries

- Accompany
- Serve
- Advocate

For more information:



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