



WEST BENGAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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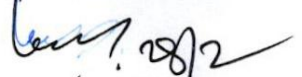
From: Shri Laima Chozah IAS,
Secretary & CEO.

To: The Chief Secretary
Government of West Bengal
NABANNA
325, Sarat Chatterjee Road
Mandirtala, P.O.- Shibpur,
Howrah-711102

Sir,

I am directed to send herewith an authenticated copy of the Minutes of the meeting on Anti-Human Trafficking held by the West Bengal Human Rights Commission and the Government of West Bengal/BSF at Commission's Office, Purta Bhaban, Salt Lake, Kolkata- 700091 on 18-01-2019 for taking necessary action.

Yours faithfully,


Secretary & CEO.

Minutes of meeting on Anti-Human Trafficking held by West Bengal Human Rights Commission and Govt. of West Bengal/B.S.F at Commission's office, Purta Bhavan, Salt Lake, Kolkata – 700091 on 18-1-2019.

A meeting was held on 18th January, 2019 on the subject of Anti Human Trafficking at the Commission's office. The meeting was chaired by Justice Shri Girish Chandra Gupta, Chairman, West Bengal Human Rights Commission.

Following officers attended the meeting :

From the Commission –

Justice Girish Chandra Gupta, Hon'ble Chairman

Naparajit Mukherjee, Hon'ble Member (A)

Mani Sanker Dwivedy Hon'ble Member (J)

Laima Chozah, IAS, Principal Secretary & CEO

Shashikant Pujari, IPS, ADG & IGP

From the Govt. official side –

Smt. S. Ghosh IAS, Secretary, Women & Child Development and Social Welfare Deptt.,

Dr. B. Varun Chandra Sekhar, IPS, D.C., DD (Spl.), Kolkata Police

Dipsankar Rudra, IPS, D.I.G., Spl., CID, West Bengal

K.V. Raghavacharyulu, D.I.G., BSF, South Bengal

Debkumar Bhattacharya, Asstt. Director, CRT

N.G. Hira, Asstt. Secretary, W&CD and SW Deptt.

Azizul Haque, Asstt. Commissioner, A.H.T.U, D.D. Kolkata Police

Goutam Saha, O.C., AHTU, C.I.D., West Bengal.

2. Discussions were opened by Hon'ble Chairman and Hon'ble member (A) with the note that anti human trafficking has become a very important issue considering the magnitude of the problem and its Inter-State and international ramification.

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There are reports that human trafficking is being conducted through international borders with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan through the State of West Bengal and onwards to other States of India. To understand the magnitude of the problem as well as to take a stock of preventive and restorative steps taken to resolve the issue this meeting was called by the Commission.

3. Smt. S. Ghosh, IAS, Secretary, Women & Child Development and Social Welfare set the tone of the meeting by outlining the steps been taken by the Government to prevent trafficking in women and children. She stated that a high powered committee has been constituted at State Govt. level headed by Hon'ble Minister, Women & Child Development Department in which all stake holders are members. This includes police and various Govt. Departments involved in preventing trafficking. She also stated that in order to have an integrated project and to get the village level involved in the process of anti human trafficking a committee has been constituted in the wards of town areas and blocks at village levels. These committees are named as "Child Protection Committee". At the ground level the stake holders are from the department of Health, Panchayat, Child Welfare. The idea is to spread the message of anti human trafficking among the parents as well as children and also to monitor the activities of women and children in order to prevent human trafficking. There is thus, two fold activities (a) to spread awareness and (b) to prevent human trafficking. Master trainers are also being engaged at the village level for such purposes. Apart from it, awareness camps are being held on a regular basis. During "Gangasagar Mela" also such awareness camps were held in the Sagar Island with the co-operation of WBSCPCR. Government and ninety NGO's are maintaining destitute Homes for rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking into the main stream. Those belonging

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to India are being restored to their families while those belonging to the neighbouring countries like Bangladesh, Nepal are being repatriated through their respective High Commissions. She also informed that arrangements are made for contacting and counselling of the parents of potential forms of child trafficking as a preventive/rehabilitative measure.

4. In the various Homes both educational and psychological support are extended and vocational training is also imparted.

5. Dr. B. Varun Chandra Sekhar, IPS, D.C.,DD (Spl.), Kolkata Police stated that they have been trying to recover victims of trafficking from "red light" and other areas and restoring them to their families. During the last two years at least in 17 cases police succeeded in recovery of victims. "Child friendly corners" and a "task force" have also been constituted with the police in every Police Station. As per direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court Special Task Force have been formed to speed up investigation and trial of cases registered under POCSO Act.

6. Shri Dipsankar Rudra, IPS, D.I.G., Spl., CID, West Bengal informed that in the State of West Bengal the CID was taking adequate measures to prevent and detect victims of child trafficking. He also informed that in spite of functional Fast Track Courts a large number of cases under POCSO Act were pending trial. A web portal has been introduced by CID/NIC to recover and restore the missing children, who were trafficked. However, on being asked by the Commission regarding statistics for the last five years of child and women trafficking no ready answer could be provided by DIG, CID, Spl., West Bengal, because the figures were not readily available with him.

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7. D.I.G., BSF, South Bengal informed that the aim of BSF was to prevent and detect human traffickers who were operating on international borders specially with Bangladesh. However, he informed that there was no system of sharing information between police and BSF. He suggested that a better co-ordination between police and BSF is needed specially information should be shared with BSF which is needed for better performance.

8. Mr. Justice Girish Chandra Gupta, Hon'ble Chairman suggested that the Women & Child Welfare Deptt. should follow the model adopted by Alipore and Presidency Correctional Homes for imparting vocational training which includes painting, tailoring, umbrella making, bakery etc. This would help in achieving the object of making the victims economically self-reliant.

9. Mr. M.S. Dwivedy, Hon'ble Member (J) suggested that at the district level and State level the assistance of District Legal Services Authority and State Legal Services Authority should be taken to prevent the menace of human trafficking. SLSA and DLSA should both help in spreading awareness as well as expediting trials of various cases of human trafficking.

10. Mr. N. Mukherjee, Hon'ble Member (A) suggested that there should be proper co-ordination between West Bengal and Kolkata Police as well as BSF and other forces like SSB, Railway Protection Force in order to prevent human trafficking. He also suggested that small and attractive movies should be screened, by the Women & Child Development Deptt. and the police, and projected in vulnerable areas specially villages to create awareness regarding anti human trafficking and measures to combat the same. He further suggested that the police should register cases in PITA rather than under IPC sections as under the former act there are stricter penal

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provisions against the human traffickers including seizure of their moveable and immoveable properties.

The following actionable points came out of the discussion :

- (a) Greater involvement of all stake holders in prevention of human trafficking specially at village levels. (Action : Secretary, W&CD)
- (b) Imparting vocational training in various fields to victims of human trafficking in destitute Homes. (Action : Secretary, W&CD)
- (c) Awareness programmes by way of films, street dramas, plays in vulnerable and affected areas. (Action : W&CD, Police, BSF)
- (d) Recovery and restoration of victims of Child and Human Trafficking from red light areas. (Action : Kolkata Police and West.Bengal Police)
- (e) Proper investigation and ensuring speedy trial of cases (Action : Kolkata Police and West Bengal Police)
- (f) Better co-ordination and sharing of information with BSF and local police.
(Action : BSF, Kolkata Police, West Bengal Police)
- (g) Involving all stake holders including SLSA and DLSA in the process of anti human trafficking.
(Action : Secretary, W& CD)

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

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(Justice G.C.Gupta)
Chairman

(N. Mukherjee) 21/2/2019
Member

(M.S Dwivedy) 21/2/19
Member