

Outcome of the Course

The Orientation Course has been a dialogic process of learning, awareness-building, and producing critical knowledge and advocacy work in the areas of forced migration, conflict resolution, peace building and refugee studies.

- **Peace and Conflict Resolution Education**

The core strength of the Course has been to widen the scope of forced migration and incorporate the South Asian experiences of multiple vulnerabilities like ethnic violence, refugee flows and massive displacement of population due to environment related issues in its three-month long distance education segment and the eight-day workshop. The Course builds on the discourse of human security where the state and non-state protection mechanisms of refugee care and internally displaced persons are reviewed and discussed in great detail. This is probably the only course in South Asia which has managed to build a huge research archive on peace and conflict resolution in the area of mixed and massive flow of population in South Asia.

- **Awareness about Forced Migration Issues among South Asian Scholars, Personnel Working in Humanitarian Institutions and Activists**

Through the Orientation Course CRG has been able to build a network of scholars, human rights activists and personnel working in national human rights commissions in South Asia. This network has been particularly useful in establishing linkages among key stakeholders and institutions working in the area of forced migration and strengthening various organizations. Our alumni has been involved in organizing short workshops in their respective institutions and has played a key role as resource groups in various forums like International Association for the Study of Forced Migration including the 8-day Course on Forced Migration.

- **Awareness about Statelessness in South Asia**

Statelessness is the quality of being, in some way, without a state. Normally statelessness emerges from succession of states or territorial reorganizations. But it also emerges from persecution of minorities and state's majoritarian bias, which lead the states at time to expel citizens or inhabitants. This condition reinforced by the protracted refusal of the involved states to take them back creates a condition, which may lead at times to loss of their nationality and citizenship. In fact, nationality and citizenship are two words most commonly used to describe the same phenomenon – the legal bond of membership between an individual and a State. Under the circumstances Statelessness can have a severe impact on the lives of the individuals concerned as well as on the internal – and international – affairs of States. Keeping these facts in consideration CRG has started emphasizing on statelessness in India since the Ninth Winter Course 2011. CRG has taken the opportunity to showcase its research on statelessness during these courses.

- **Sensitising Media on Issues of Forced Migration**

Special media workshop as a part of the course has become an important component since its inception. This year CRG has stressed on *Humanitarian Disasters, Human-Rights Violations, and Social Media Journalism* to sensitize social media activists to humanitarian disasters and human rights violations resulting from forced migration. In the process of the workshop, CRG has tried to establish a connection between mainstream journalists working on forced migration issues and social-media activists. As the main aim of the workshop is to skill traditional media activists in the tools of social media, it is important that innovative professional journalists are also involved in this. Against this backdrop the participation of social media activists and selected main

stream practicing journalists has become main source of information. The thrust are of discussion remains India's Northeast.

- **Sustained Collaboration with Other Institutions in South Asia**

One of the key outcomes of the course is the sustained collaboration with various institutions in India and special mention should be made of the UNHCR, New Delhi; Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), Eastern Region; MAKAIAS, Kolkata; British Deputy High Commission, Eastern India. Secondly, CRG has been able to build up a sustained collaboration with MAKAIAS, Kolkata through co-hosting a special session on *Borders, States and Statelessness* during the course. Thirdly, CRG is indebted to *The Telegraph* and MASUM in making the field visits successful. We are especially grateful to the residents of Priya Manna slum of Howrah for their cooperation. Lastly, the resource persons on many occasions have played an important role in building a sustained collaboration with the Course through nominating participants and encouraging exchange programmes. In South Asia, CRG is grateful to International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Nepal, and Research Initiative Bangladesh (RIB) for nominating participants to the Course.

- **Expanding Network and Visibility of South Asian Experiences and Dimensions of Forced Migration in National and International Forums**

The Course has evolved itself into a forum of well-established scholars and activists who are constantly engaging with various issues of forced migration, displacement and refugee studies. The course owes its success to the strength of its faculty members who occupy significant positions in International forums such as International Association for the Study of Forced Migration where Paula Banerjee, President of CRG and the former Course Coordinator, was elected as the President of the Association in 2013. CRG hosted the 14th IASFM conference in January 2013 not only to showcase its own research on forced migration but to create a platform for an inter-disciplinary exchange and communication to stimulate debate and discussion on the research priorities and policy issues on forced migration in South Asia. Several other ex-Course participants are actively involved in various such networks on a voluntary basis. Owing to the success of CRG's Course on Forced Migration and its contribution in the area of forced migration studies, Refugee Research Network, and Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford University has recognized CRG as one of its partner institutions.

- **Research and Resource Centre on Forced Migration**

CRG has produced and collected various documents which need to be archived for the purposes of future research and advocacy work on forced migration. The South Asia Resource Centre on Forced Migration, one of the newest developments under the wings of the Winter Course on Forced Migration, has been formed to facilitate further research on forced migration.