

**SESSION I**

**Topic:**  Igniting Innovation in Market Access, Corporate and Social Enterprise Approach to address unsafe migration, prevent human trafficking.

**Venue:** The Brahmaputra Ashok Hotel, Guwahati

**Time:**  5:45 PM to 7:30 PM

**Moderator:** Mr. Krishnan Varma

**Panellists:**

* Victor Banerjee, Eminent Personality of the Film Industry
* Krishan Varma, Special Secretary (Retd.), Government of India
* Mr. Biswajeet
* Nandini Kalita, Director and Head, Assam Confideration of Industry
* Mr. Arnab Chakraborty, National Director, UNCTAD
* Mr. Gaurav Gogoi, Founding Secretary of Farm2Food Foundation
* Ms. Hasina Kharbhih, Managing Director, Impulse Social Enterpirses

The Conclave began with Ms. Hasina Kharbhih’s welcome speech following which; she introduced each member of the panel for the concerned session.

Mr. Victor Banerjee started the session, with his views as a representative of the film industry on the issue of trafficking and unsafe migration. He spoke about himself running a blind school comprising of 70 children in Moran District in Dibrugarh, Assam; he is also an active member of the peace movement in the area and most importantly has been the Brand Ambassador of Assam and the North-East Region in the last few months.

He stated that Trafficking is a vicious cycle of immorality; a huge tragedy and an extremely shameful aspect being faced by mankind. He stated that humans are worthy of being defined as savages because of the torture they bring onto children and women. He spoke of the importance of creating awareness and need to make people feel guilty; as this is the best way to stop people from wrong-doings and put things right.

Every human being should help those who need their help, irrespective of any other quality. It is essential for each human to start making amends for all the terrible things done by mankind, in all spheres.

Coming back to the issue of trafficking, he said that the mindset of a man is such that a woman is merely portrayed as a sex-object. He further spoke about the prevalence and free flow of abuses that has taken over each man on petty issues. Stopping the use of such derogatory language is the first step towards respecting women, which must start now.

In the end, he offered his complete support to Impulse in all its future ventures, in every way possible.

Mr. Krishnan Varma spoke about his project which is to ensure connectivity within the North Eastern Region. He stated the two aspects of this project; which are:

* Core Hard Connectivity: including travel and transport communication, railway networks and the like
* Soft Connectivity: which takes into account aspects related to border accessibility, opening and crossing, hence, unsafe migration and trafficking comes in.

One aspect of the project is to make international borders accessible, and allow crossing between borders for various purposes; and in doing this, they need to safeguard the movement of people crossing the border and keep a close vigilance to avoid trafficking in between countries.

He stated that when he was in the Government, it was working on institutionalizing a legal network regarding various issues to see how trafficking along with border movements can be minimized.

This new project looks at trans-border collaboration of various laws regarding such sensitive issues and taking a set of measures to prevent and stop trafficking, working towards rescue, rehabilitation and preventing re-trafficking. He further stated, that a Regional Approach is required to collaborate with other South Asian countries to create harmony and then work on skill building and capacity building capacities, working towards creating livelihood opportunities, thereby preventing trafficking. Thus, he spoke of how development and opening of borders can also take into account, prevention of trafficking through this project.

Mr. Biswajit Chakraborty focused on the root cause of trafficking which was conflict and lack of livelihood options hence focused on the importance of tackling livelihood conditions providing opportunities prevent, thereby, targeting the root cause of trafficking.

He said that there was an inaccessible international border of 5000 kms all around North-East. Solution according to him was to look at where we are going. He stated that opening up of borders will increase connectivity and lead to economic growth. Hence, its important to take advantage of the opening up of borders by focusing on 3 major aspects:

1. Building infrastructure
2. Providing skills to people i.e. capacity building
3. Opening up of borders and ensuring safe crossing

To conclude he stated the importance of education and economic opportunities (livelihood) to create awareness and stop trafficking and achieve a higher standard of life.

Arnab Chakraborty discussed the UN’s programme to lift standard of life which India is trying to adopt. He focused on the importance of entrepreneurship in this field. He suggested his interest to work with state government and chambers of industry and multinational corporations on a multi stake holder format and encourage women entrepreneurship, technology entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship overall and set up this model in India.   
 He focused on the importance of poverty alleviation along with fixed robust business linkage format of corporates to build livelihood options.He plans to present this programme in front of Tarun Gogoi, Honourable Chief Minister of Assam, in the coming days.

Nandinee Kalita was representing the corporate sector and focusing on corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives in the third sector. Corporate play an important role to bridge the gap between CSR and CSO and identify vulnerable sections and work towards CSR.   
Private sector organizations (PSO) have to work here by creating livelihood, entrepreneurship for underprivileged school drop outs and work towards capacity building. Also they have to look at rescue and rehabilitation in terms of trafficking for which skill building is essential. Corporates must identify projects for vulnerable people; monitor, enhance and support them. Every company has MOU partners in other countries. Each PCO must help facilitate this interaction for their advantage. Thus, CSR plays a big role in empowering people.

Gaurav Gogoi stated that trafficking is the third biggest crime and also the third most profitable business after arms and drug dealing. 5 years ago he encountered his first trafficking case in delhi and realized the importance to be optimistic in this issue. He believes that agriculture is the way forward. Agriculture sector is not dying because current economy of India agriculture employs most number of people. It is reviving growth in India. Agriculture including all allied activities is not done justice with. In his organization Farm2Food, the agriculture model ensures mass employment and entrepreneurship is encouraged. Agriculture can create income and profit. North East has a lot of scope in agriculture as Assam is the main contributor to the agriculture sector in India. Mindset towards agriculture needs to be changed. Modern agriculture technological and scientific involvement and creates value of land. Assam has major climate disasters and these disasters are the root cause behind poverty which leads to trafficking. Agriculture needs to take into account climate disasters and work in coordination with corporate bringing in technology to ensure best productivity.

Impulse works on prevention, policing, rehabilitation and prosecution. It is very clearly observed by the discussion that poverty is the root cause of trafficking. Having worked with women possessing traditional skills which have no importance it is essential to look at economic growth. This is the reason why impulse has moved from a non-profit to for profit organization. Impulse model empowers people by developing entrepreneurship skills which will sustain them in the long run and prevent unsafe migration. Skill building and capacity building are essential and come with a value attached. The impulse model has won Master Winner Award of CNBC last week and it looks forward to its model being adopted by various organizations in the country.

**Friday, 6th December 2013**

**Session II**

**Topic:** Status of Adopting and Implementing the UN Trafficking Protocol

**Venue:** Hall of NEDFi

**Time:** 10:20 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.

**Speaker and Moderator:** Mr. Bijo Francis, Executive Director, Asian Human Rights Commission, Hong Kong

**Panellists:**

* Dr. Praveen Kumar Singh, Director, MHA
* Cristina Albertin, Representative, UNODC Regional Office for South Asia

According to Bijo Francis, one of the challenges faced in fighting human trafficking is getting a complaint registered with the proper authorities. A complaint is the seed from which the prosecution goes through. The state agencies need to be acquainted to handle the complaints. Another aspect to be considered after rescuing the victims is the psychological trauma that they have been through. Proper psychological intervention should be implemented when the children are rescued. The agencies should be equipped to deal with such problems. We should gear ourselves in dealing with complains. Organized crime is a major factor in trafficking. Criminal justice institutions are very important. It is an enormous challenge especially for large country like India. There should be adequate resources for the agencies, judiciary and prosecution involved in dealing with human trafficking. Civil society needs to embrace today’s technology to document, record and assimilate data and cases. Even in 2013, civil society tends to use resources, much as in 1980s. The certainty of punishment reduces crime and not the gravity of it. The UN should take an adequate initiative to see that the resources for combating human trafficking are expanded. There are no adequate resources to handle the complaints.

Cristina Albertin stated that there should be measures to protect the identity of the victim and measures to support physical and psychological recovery of the victim. Legal rights of the victim should be preserved. More than 50% cases of trafficking are of sexual exploitation and 40% cases are of child labour. The trafficking industry makes a profit of around 32 billion annually. 20% of the victims trafficked are children. Protocols are an important instrument for fighting trafficking. Ineffective implementation of protocols is also a leading cause of trafficking.

Dr. Praveen Kumari talked about inclusion of trafficking laws in the constitution. Artile 370 of the Constitution of India defines trafficking as it is defined in the protocol. Severe punishment has been implemented to combat trafficking. There should be intervention at many stages like empowerment, education and skill development of the poor to reduce the vulnerability and hence the demand for trafficking. India has continuously participated in SAARC conferences.

Chief Minister of Assam, Mr. Tarun Gogoi addressed the issue of human trafficking as one of the most serious issues and challenging one as well and also he admitted that this issue has a prominent presence in various parts of Assam. He said that “it’s our obligation to see that all people live with the dignity in State”. He said that the reasons behind human trafficking had been the poverty, migration, forced labour etc. Some parents willingly make their children indulge into it due to poverty and sometimes they even force them to do so. He urges that the victims should be rescued and the culprits to be booked. It is needed to identify the areas and the reasons as well. The process of implementation should be streamed down from a higher level to the lower level i.e. to the level of the village. Backward places like the city slums are most vulnerable. It poses a big challenge as because it appears to be a luring business. Providing employment opportunities, right to food security and right to education will lead to eradication of this heinous crime. Our top priority is the well being of women and the children. We need to empower women socially, politically and economically on which the Assam state has already done a lot, as proclaimed by the CM. He appealed that everyone should come together to fight the menace and not just the Home Ministry and police. He suggests encouragement of sports, games, culture and drama. This can propagate the message and play a vital role in combating human trafficking. He said that the concerned helplines should be developed and the machineries to be strengthened i.e. how to rescue and rehabilitate the victims so that they are not tempted to get into it again. Finally, he appeals to the NGOs and the civil societies to come forth and join hands to work upon it and he assures that the Assam Government is committed to give all the facilities to fight the menace of human trafficking.

**Session III**

**Topic:** Need for SOPs regarding Repatriation of Cross-Border Human Trafficking Victims

**Venue:** Hall of NEDFi

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

**Moderator:** P.M. Nair IPS, Former DG, NDRF

**Speakers:**

* Florrie Burke, Chair Emeritus of the Freedom Network
* Indrani Sinha, Director, SANLAAP
* Salma Ali, Director, BNWLA

**Panellists:**

* Dr. Praveen Kumari Singh, Director, MHA
* Madhu Sethi, Deputy Secretary, SAARC, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India
* Roksana Hasin, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Bangladesh
* Sunita Nepal, National Commission for Controlling Human Trafficking, MOWCSW
* Sonam Penjor, Officiating Chief Program Officer, Women Division, NCWC, Bhutan
* Chandra Kumar Ghimire, Consul General, Nepal
* K. Varma, Special Secretary (Retd), Government of India’

Establishing multinational cooperation is one of the most vital stepladders in combating against human trafficking. Florrie Burke, in her staging, talked about the need to limelight, the concern. It is not easy for survivors of trafficking to lead a proper life. They have a fear of rejection. It is not easy to cooperate in the midst of states and countries. It takes attention to detail and strategy of the whole community to combat trafficking.

Indrani Sinha emphasized focus on the language gap between the victim and the rescue organization because of which the pain suffered by the victim can not be transmitted to the rescuer. She shared her own experience of rescuing the children of Myanmar that her organization did. Because of the language barrier at the NGOs and correction centres, the social and emotional issues suffered by the victims could not be comprehended to the organization workers. Also there is a documentation gap because of the vast network of the task forces. This needs to be tackled. Many people use fake refugee status documents to take the children from the shelter homes and retraffick them. There is a need for SOPs regarding repatriation of cross border human trafficking victims.

Salma Ali talked about the reintegration problem faced by the victims after rescuing. Cases still pending in courts which need to be dealt faster and prosecutions to be made. Teleconferencing could be used for the trial in cross border cases.

Krishnan Verma states the need for better communication between various organizations and countries to fight collaboratively against human trafficking.

**Session IV**

**Topic:** Lessons from AHTU North East India

**Venue:** Hall of NEDFi

**Time:** 1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Moderator:** Mr. Bijo Francis, Executive Director, Asian Human Rights Commission, Hong Kong

**Speakers:**

* Mukesh Sahay, IPS, ADGP, CID,

Guwahati, Assam

* B.R. Rana, IPS, IGP (CID), Meghalaya
* Dr. Praveen Kumari Singh, Director, MHA

**Panellists:**

* P.M. Nair, IPS, Former DG, NDRF
* Govind P. Thapa, Additional Inspector General of Police (Retd), Nepal
* Hasina Kharbhih, Chair of Board, Impulse NGO Network/MD, Impulse Social Enterprises

The fourth session was the treatise about the episode of the Anti Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) and their cases.

B.R. Rana talked about certain children who were from Bangladesh were rescued from Shillong with the aid of the police. Human Trafficking is on the rise because of the various insurgency groups in Meghalaya.

Sonam Yankeela Bhutia spoke about the comparatively low trafficking in Sikkim. Only 7 cases were registered in the year 2011 and none in 2012. The population in Sikkim is very low, therefore, the law and order is moderately manageable. Women police are posted in every police station in Sikkim. ‘Track missing child’ portal is operational in the state of Sikkim. In 2011, a 17 year old girl induced by a female friend for a job but at the nick of the time she become the victim of human trafficking. She was repositioned to Jharkhand. 9 months later she was brought back and on the way from Siliguri, she was sexually assaulted at multiple epochs. Soon after her rescue she was found to be physically as well as psychologically distressed. Presently, she lives at the shelter home and aims to be a constabulary officer and added that the NGOs must not give up their punch-up and enthused for more shelter homes.

Mukesh Sahay while functioning with the CID has salvaged a large number of girls from Tamil Nadu and sent them back to their domicile in Assam and Manipur. Their parents charged him sternly for bringing the victims back. Mukesh talked about how victims don’t realize that they are being subjugated. He says that the police were not skilled on how to act in response to human trafficking victims. After he received a message from a doctor from Bangaluru he managed to rescue at least 8-9 fatalities. After this incident, the CID started working with NGOs and other civil societies. There were 14 AHTUs established in Assam however they are struggling for manpower.

Miranda Ingtipi elucidated the case study from Lumding district of Assam. 2 girls who belonged to a poor community were trafficked by 3 known people and sold in Pune. Their parents lodged missing complaint in police station. A NGO from Pune had rescued the elder girl and clued-up the NGO of Meghalaya. The younger one was left behind in a public place from where she was rescued and placed in a government shelter home. They were both rescued finally and brought back home.

**Session V**

**Topic:** Mature Media – Responsible Response towards Human Trafficking

**Venue:** Hall of NEDFi

**Time:** 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Moderator:** Arijit Sen, Senior Editor, CNN-IBN

**Panellists:**

* Mrinal Talukdar, Joint Editor, DY365
* Kunal Majumder,
* Sein Win, Journalist, Myanmar

**Additional Panellists:**

* Thomas Lim, Editor, Meghalaya Times
* Amit Patro, Editor, Sikkim Express
* Syed Sajjad Ali, Editor, Indigenous Herald
* Appu Gapak, Sub Editor, Arunachal Times

Hasina approached Kunal Mukherji when she had a story about a village in Jantia hills, which comprised of only adolescents working in the mine. So while working with Tehelka he got the chance to work on trafficking. Most of the children he observed were from Nepal and Bangladesh. Bangladeshis were denying their nationality. Normal school going children came to Jantia hills to work and earn money in their holidays in the mines. According to him, these children were not forced to work. They were offered good jobs with good salaries because of which they come to work. This entire village had no adults but only adolescents. It was observed that the cases of HIV Aids and sexual assaults had increased because of no adult supervision.

On asking Mrinal Talukdar about his views while amplifying voice of victims if he believes that the media is responsible towards trafficking. He didn’t agree to it. Things unfold so fast and rapidly that it was very difficult to engage responsibly. He believes that journalism is dead, it has changed so much in the last four years and has become a TRP driven industry hence has no scope for responsibility. At his position he has controlled of activities however outputs through various stages are not a responsible product. “TV is a mad man world.” TRP driven no interest journalism has taken over and killed real journalism.” There is a thin line between migration and trafficking and this is clearly seen in Kokrajhar, which are the last major railway station of Assam and also the hub of trafficking cases in Assam. He stated that journalists are neither doing responsible journalism and nor going to because all the investors care about is their money and profit.

Appu Gapak was asked about her difficulties as a female journalist and whether she gets enough space and time to work in Arunachal. She stated that there were not too much cases of trafficking in Arunachal, only 3 since 2009. What is seen is a lot of children working as domestic help and labour. And according to her they are not forced to do so. They are happier and healthier where they are now is because of their socio-economic condition back home.

Syed Sajjad Ali was asked why India is toping charts of Modern day Slavery. He stated that journalism is not dying it can be revived. Trafficking in Tripura is not a major issue but it is existing in the labour and the domestic help scenario. Hundreds of people coming from Jharkhand are being chained to avoid running away. Bangladesh was the main source of Trafficking which has been reduced ever since the border has been fenced all along, nevertheless, it still exists. Trafficking is done for domestic help and media is not reporting enough as because government does not provide adequate information.

Sein Win from Burma was asked about the opening up of Burma to the world and whether it has created any problems. He stated that this has caused a lot of problems in all spheres, including arms and drugs dealing and the sort. Earlier the attitude was different, it was to blame the Government and not about how to solve the problem. Now, many topics are reported about in Burma and it is observed that only 10% of the working sector is effective and pro-reformist. It is very essential to educate journalist in Burma, reconciliation approach present in today’s world is good and makes the police CSO accessible and arrive at a solution. Media has freedom; however, the government has control over everything else.

Thimas Lim was asked if the way of reporting has changed in Meghalaya and the view of local people towards trafficking has changed.  
He said that journalism needs a change and being a writer, teacher and publisher he feels that there is a need to rethink Journalism. Trafficking in Meghalaya is a bad scenario, what is seen in this conclave is just a flash. North East always says national media does not give due importance to the region and this is where the fault lies. As an answer to the question, he believes while living among the North East people he needs to be very cautious about what, how and when to report. He has observed that smuggling and drugs are always linked to trafficking. Impulse rescued lots of children who have a desire to study but can not because of socio-economic background hence domestic help can not be categorized as unforced. North East lacks in-depth investigation, however, Meghalaya journalism is very responsible and has worked with Impulse for rehabilitation and finding shelter for various victims and is not just TRP driven instead contributes to the society. Each state representative is passionate about their own state, this shows reality of journalism and the North East region is doing a tremendous job.

Amit Patro stated that Sikkim being a small society with a few small villages and towns, it is very difficult to report on trafficking even after maintaining principle of confidentiality and anonymity because every village has few households and the victims return to the village is attached with a stigma.

**Session VI**

**Topic:** Prosecution, collaboration across the borders

**Venue:** Hall of NEDFi

**Time:** 4:30 p.m. – 5:20 p.m.

**Moderator:** Bhuwan Ribhu, Advocate

**Speaker:**

* Florrie Burke, Chair Emeritus of the Freedom Network

**Penallists:**

* Doma Bhutia, Director, Human Rights Law Network , Sikkim Branch
* Justice Md. Miftah Uddin Choudhury, Supreme Court of Bangladesh
* Saptarshi Biswas, IJM, Kolkata
* Aung Thane, Supreme Court advocate, Legal Performance Aid Centre, Myanmar
* Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre, Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court, Assam
* Babloo Loitongbam, Human Rights Alert

Florrie Burke began with talking about how essential it is for the organizations and prosecutors to work together as a team. Countries are overwhelmed with cases but there are not enough prosecutors to prosecute them. Successful prosecution is of utmost importance because it scares the traffickers and prevents them from indulging in this heinous act of trafficking. “Perfect laws in books do not make a perfect change.” Successful prosecution is also important to get justice to the victim for; it is the justice for the victims that keeps the crime at bay. The prosecution and the organization need to work as a team. Sometimes, it may be hard to get the victims to be the witnesses or the case may be too hard to prove but by consistent motivational efforts it can happen. A mandate is needed for the same. We have to look at it as a very significant crime and we all are not immune to it. More and more skilled and educated people are being trafficked because of lack of opportunity in their country. Justice has to be given now and we need to encourage and increase prosecution. She cited a case of a girl from Central Africa trafficked to USA where her traffickers were behind the bars for 50 long years. It was a classic example of working together, the civil societies, NGOs and prosecutors.

Mr. Bhuwan Ribhu said that we are in a crucial juncture in history, especially in India, in terms of fighting trafficking because of good and comprehensive laws comparatively. Article 370 of constitution prohibits trafficking. We have not been able to change the government’s sluggishness in this regard.

The ultimate test lies in whether the case is prosecuted or not. The solution still lies in the law but the number of cases reported is very less. In 2012 only 140 cases were reported.

Ms. Bhutia states that investigation gets fizzled out. The policemen are not equipped. They take down statements half heartedly and in an unorganized manner. The traffickers get the advantages of it. Prosecutors lack sensitivity. A need of training the judiciary to handle such cases is strongly felt.

**Session VII**

**Topic:** Civil Society Partnership to Address Trafficking in Persons

**Venue:** Hall of NEDFi

**Time:** 9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Moderator:**

* Deependra Chamlagain, Director, Samriddhi, Nepal

**Speakers:**

* Florrie Burke, Chair Emeritus of the Freedom Network
* Tashi Rapten Barfungpa, Director, Hope
* Sunil Mow, Chairman / Director, Athupopu Social Foundation / HRLN

**Panelists:**

* Hasina Khabrhih, Founder/Chair of Board, Impulse NGO Network
* Salma Ali, Executive Director, Bangladesh National Woman Lawyers' Association (BNWLA)
* Sabin Gurung, Senior Programme Officer, Maiti Nepal
* Maung Mang Win, General Secreatry, YMCA

**Additional Panelists:**

* Sreelekha Ray, Executive Director, Voluntary Health Association of Tripura
* Doma Bhutia, Director, Human Rights Law Network , Sikkim Branch
* L. Pishak Singh, Secy, Sustainable Development Centre, Manipur
* Chenithung Humtsoe, Executive Director, Bethesda Youth Welfare Centre, Nagaland
* Miguel Queah, Founder/Chairman, UTSAH, Assam
* Sushil Huidrom, Advocate

Florri Burke stated that we must provide education to prevent trafficking. Law enforcements should take a human right approach when dealing with trafficking. When law enforcements fail to take a human rights approach, the victims end up being treated badly. The human rights approach looks at all persons who are victims of trafficking in all sectors. We should ensure that when the victims are freed from slavery they should not be defined by one experience. Building capacity is important in eradicating trafficking. There are many diverse groups involved in dealing with trafficking. We need to bring these diverse groups together, and starting a partnership work together. Teamwork makes for an effective response to trafficking. Collaboration is our end goal. Involving small grass-roots organizations is the key because they have contact and knowledge of where trafficking is happening and also they can function as a link. It is important to involve all the areas of society while dealing with trafficking.

Tashi Burfunga talked about his experience regarding trafficking in Sikkim, he stated that there was no awareness in Sikkim related to trafficking before 2005. In 2005 a state level consultation and collaboration with the police was held from where the inception of awareness about trafficking took place in Sikkim. Now they are holding awareness programmes and training police and law agencies. Trafficking is prevalent in a subtle manner in Sikkim. Sharing of real life incidents, dramas and plays helps spread awareness and has been found to be more effective in spreading awareness.

Sunil Mow talked about the porous borders in Arunachal Pradesh with Bhutan, Myanmar and China. He stated the need of training border security forces and having consultation with the police and also emphasized on the positive role of NGO’s. There needs to be a series of capacity building at regular intervals for the BSF’s as the personnel keeps changing. There should be partnerships with different countries. There should be no stigmatization of the victims. NGO’s and law enforcements should be well trained through which we can deal more efficiently with the situation.

In the question and answer session it was asked by a member from the audience ‘what was the role of CWC ( Child Welfare Council) in Sikkim? ‘.

Tashi Burfunga replied that it is working in Sikkim but there are several loopholes in it as authorities.

It was also added by a panellist that in 2003 there was no CWC in Tripura, pressure was created by NGO’s to create the CWC. Then in 2005 homes were very less, more houses were needed, the NGO then started the shelter home in Tripura, the child home formed by the Children Act. Without CWC which would’nt have been possible. Another question raised from the audience that ‘trafficking goes beyond the border, and it is also intra and inter regional, cross border trafficking is also taking place, so what is the opinion of the panel? ‘. Then Lamaba Singh replied that in the context of Manipur 2008-2013, only 35 cases of trafficking were registered and rehabilitation work has been done, he also added that the various stakeholders should be pro-active and now Manipur Government is pro-active regarding this issue. In Manipur the Bangladeshi children are there in the observation home, they are in the age group of below 18. He concluded with the message that they are here to do something for the future.

**Session VIII**

**Topic:** The role of Service Providers in addressing protection of human trafficking survivors

**Venue:** Hall of NEDFi

**Time:** 10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

**Moderator:**

* Amod K. Kanth, General Secretary, Retd. IPS & Chairperson – Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR)  
  Former DGP

**Panellists:**

* Florrie Burke, Chair Emeritus of the Freedom Network
* H.M.Shangpliang,M.C..S. Director of Social Welfare, Meghalaya
* Indrani Sinha, Director, SANLAAP
* Sabin Gurung, Senior Programme Officer, Maiti Nepal

Amod K. Kanth said that police is the main enforcement body, the role of police was very negligible in the context of child trafficking in1988, when he started an NGO ‘Prayas’, he wanted the place where he can keep the rescued children. Today Prayas operates in 8 states in India, with nearly 800 employees, 27 homes. It is one of the leading service providers.

Indrani Sinha stated that the ultimate goal has to be very clear. We have to make the victims independent and empower them with knowledge. There should be collaboration with different departments. The work is not limited to service providers. There should be support and information sharing. We all should work along and know the service providers.

Salma Ali stated that as lawyers they have also taken up the responsibility to set up shelter homes. They try to regularise the minimum standard and care. She stressed the need to work with grass-root level NGO’s. She emphasized the need for series of programmes catering to police, NGO’s etc. She also stressed the need for referral service , partnership between India and Bangladesh. She said that SOP’s should be signed as early as possible.

Sabin Gurung said that rescue and repartition is not an easy task. When the girls are brought back to Nepal they go through peer and career counselling. Waging war against criminals is not an easy task. Sometimes the girls can become hostile. We also have to work with corporate sectors to get the girls added to their work force. The service providers are walking on the edge of the sword, as if anything goes wrong the government and the media will criticize them in an uncharitable fashion. It is not easy to work in this sector.

Mr. Sonam Penjor said that there is no formal setting or dedicated law in Bhutan to deal with trafficking. They have an informal setting but would like to upgrade to a formal setting.

Mr. E. Lotha said that trafficking should be declared a heinous, genocide and racist act. He stressed the need for fast track courts. He called for separate task forces in each district which should include men and women police officers so that the women can approach the women police officer whenever required. He also insisted that we all should go back after this conference with the conviction to do good.

**Session X**

**Topic:** Experience sharing of Civil Society Organizations

**Venue:** Hall of NEDFi

**Time:** 11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Moderator:**

* Manish Subharwal, CEO, Impact

**Panellists:**

* Anupam Das, State Coordinator, Apne Aap Women Worldwide
* Niloy Basu, Bangla Natak
* Christophe Plais, Terra Indica
* Mr. Rajib K. Haldar, Additional Director, Child In Need Institute (CINI)
* Mr. Satyajit Ghosh, Project Manager - Missing Child Alert (MCA), PLAN India
* Ravi Kant, Consultant UNODC – India Country Assessment Report, Advocate Supreme Court of India, President Shakti Vahini
* Binoy Krishna Mallick, Executive Director, Rights Jessore

Anupam Das works in the Apne Aap Women Worldwide. He talks about prostitution in India. More than 58% of the victims of trafficking are used in prostitution. He further proclaimed that most of the buyers are male and the women and girls are bought and forced into prostitution. He states that many politicians, police and law persons are also involved indirectly in this trade of trafficking. The Apne Aap Women Worldwide was formed in 2002 by 22 prostitute survivors in Mumbai. They have a 3 year model plan of learning, livelihood and legal protection. Their view on supply is to empower the women and on demand are police level changes, movements and petitions. They have a website called the “coolmendontbuysex.com”. The motto of this organization is to curb the demand.

Niloy Basu works in an agency called Bangla Natak. This organization uses theatre based works to spread awareness. They have done various threatre researches in eastern Himalayas and Goa. This programme started in 2013. They tried to learn the approach of the resilient communities. These communities have a strong cultural bounding which makes it harder for traffickers to interfere in their communities. They also believe that correct skill can alleviate poverty. They believe that if the artist live then the art lives, hence, they promote artists.

Christophe Plais works in the Terra Indica in West Bengal. They are a furniture company who supply for European market and Kolkata. This company was started in 2005. Their social objective is for young adults from NGOs in Kolkata to learn skill training. He also helps these young adults of the age of 17 to start their own enterprise. He wishes more companies would invest in these kinds of endeavours.

Mr. Rajib K. Haldar has worked Murshidabad at the border of Bangladesh. The situation is utterly pathetic; 62% of the children are married before age of 14. He said that primarily trafficking can be witnessed in the premises of railway station. And to tackle with the mounting problem the government of India under the integrated child development scheme with the collaboration of railway police force have successfully mitigated the problem from the railway station to a great magnitude and consequently the trafficking rolled down to a drastic level. In a nutshell, it was figured that near about 58% cases were tracked by the panchayat level and 68% child marriages stopped.

Mr. Satyajit Ghosh stated that trafficking is an evolving and changing concept. Cyber space is being utilized for trafficking. He gave 4 dimensions of trafficking which are sourcing, transaction, destination and state. He emphasized on the need of collaboration between governments, and stated that networking is key and that we should be using technology to enable us more.