

CRITIQUE

Centre for Training, Knowledge Development & Advocacy



Let us Resolve
To spread the Constitutional Values !

'Dignity, Freedom and Justice for All' is the theme of International Human Rights Day, 2022. This theme assumes significance as the global community is launching a yearlong campaign to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in 2023 focussing on its legacy, relevance, and activism. From an individual-centric framework, over the years, the global community has expanded its scope to include the protection of the rights of vulnerable communities such as migrants, persons with disability, sexual minorities, and indigenous peoples. This is no less a small achievement.

Dignity, freedom, and justice to the last and the least are the foundational values enshrined in the UDHR. The preamble to the UDHR begins by stating 'recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world'. Human dignity calls for valuing every person as worthy of respect because they are human beings, regardless of caste, race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status.

As we begin this campaign, we are called to critically evaluate the status of human rights in India. On Constitution Day, 26 November, quoting India's first prime minister's vision of India, 'Tryst with Destiny', the Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud said, "The past clings on to us still in some measure and we have to do much before we redeem the pledges we have so often taken". Realisation of human rights is a progressive agenda. We cannot be complacent with what we have achieved. While on one hand there is growth, on the other there is the widening of inequality, unemployment, poverty, and people going hungry to bed. Violence is inflicted upon vulnerable communities – Dalits, Adivasis, religious minorities, OBCs, women, children, and sexual minorities with impunity. During the recently held Universal Periodic Review IV in Geneva, many countries expressed their concern on several human rights cases of abuses and urged India to improve its human rights record.

As Volker Turk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said, "It is absolutely clear that we need to regain the universality of human rights, the indivisibility of human rights and we need to find a new energy that motivates young people around the world". We need to ask ourselves, what is the human rights legacy that we want to pass on to the next generation? We need to build evidence-based data on the violation of human rights. To counter the violations, the knowledge of the Constitution is the only weapon we possess. When people become aware of their due rights as enshrined in the Constitution and raise their voices to demand dignified living in consonance with nature, no state can afford to take them for granted. Let us resolve to spread the Constitutional values in our homes, workplace, institutions, organisations and public domains. Let conversation on dignity, freedom, and justice for all be our household agenda during this campaign year.

Dr. Joseph Xavier SJ
Director

Recent Events

Migrants stopped 'unofficial' demolition

"Why this sudden demolition?" A 35-year-old Ms. Pompa holding her child in her lap asked the officials "Why is our house being demolished? Why are we being made homeless? Where will we go with our children?"



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Pouring water must end



"I am grateful to my people in the village who sponsored my education. Now my dream is to sponsor a child for education," promised Ms. Reena. A sentiments and experiences was shared by the participants...

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The trainees developed empathy for one another

"Exclusion from mainstream society is a problem faced by a close-knit tribal community. "I feel motivated to speak confidently to my community members and listen to their concerns" said Ms. Anusmitha Raju, a 21-year-old woman from the Vettakurumba Tribe in Wayanad district .



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I know my health status. Thank you !



Sujatha from Tamil Nadu gratefully expressed, "As we are all aging, many of us had bone related issues such as knee pain, neck pain and leg pain. We were listened to by the doctors and proper guidance was given. I would like to express my gratitude to the doctor and health professionals and sisters for organising this opportunity to know our health situation and their readiness to help us".

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A new chapter in the lives of 40 youth

It was a unique encounter for the trainees to listen to Rakshitha, a trans-person. During the session, Mr. Vinith from Pondicherry said, "Now, I realise that Transgenders are part of the society. I need to change my point of view to accept them and give them equal respect." A 5-day Advanced Training cum Workshop on "Leadership, Social Animation and Social Media"...



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I learnt ways to work with migrants

"I have been enriched by the capacity building workshop. Interaction with academicians, high court lawyer, social activists, police officer and field workers helped me to understand violence, discrimination, confinement, wage theft, accident, and at times death, endured by the migrant workers as day to day scenarios. "...



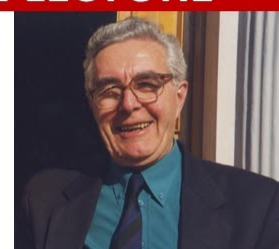
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Volken-Stan Swamy Memorial Lecture: Live Recorded Video



VOLKEN-STAN SWAMY MEMORIAL LECTURE

ON
DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



are delivered by
Senior Academician and Researcher, Human Rights and Women's Rights Activist
Sunda Grover

Chairperson
Senior Adv. Henri Tiphagne
Human Rights Activist, Executive Director, People's Watch, Madurai



Date: 9 July 2022 (Saturday) at 4.00 pm

Venue: Indian Social Institute, Benson Town, Bengaluru



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