

Updating on Resource Centre on Forced Migration

The Resource Centre has been envisaged as a facilitating centre to anchor research and training in forced migration and displacement and to encourage learning in the field by engaging with all who have worked, are working or wish to work in the field of migration. The CRG has structured the Resource Centre in such a way that it frames a wide range of data, analytical texts and documents pertaining primarily to forced migration, displacement, and its variegated effects and expressions—from social justice to minority rights, from cultural politics to political maneuverings. Through our website and online holding, we purport to disseminate the same to a global network of students, researchers and empathizers who seek to stand for the cause of the disenfranchised. A secured web page had been patterned for the resource centre in March 2010. Since then, we have been steadily sharing our collection through the cyberspace. Books, journals, contemporary documents and reports are being uploaded—our online catalogue slowly burgeoning. This year for the first time the participants of the Eighth Winter Course have enjoyed the benefit of digitized resource centre. Here is a brief synopsis of what we have and are going to accomplish.

• Books

We procure new and important books, mainly from the field of social science and social activism, and continuously incorporate their details to our online catalogue. Our recent additions include quite a few books on women's studies and labour history, as also pertinent autobiographies and literary texts. Others include foundational texts on political economy and works on media. About 300 books and innumerable academic articles have been incorporated into our library. The articles can be read online.

• Documents

Over the years, CRG has organized many successful workshops and conferences on different aspects of forced migration, gender, media, justice, autonomy, governance and so on. Reports on these are already available in the archives of CRG's website and now they have been enlisted in the resource centre along with their links. Each year CRG organizes a Winter Course on Forced Migration. The details and reading materials of the course in the past years are available in the archive of CRG's website, also with links. Apart from this, CRG has organized workshops in Nepal, Guwahati and Gangtok recently, and a summary of the proceedings there have been uploaded. Now we go to the entirely new endeavours. We have started collecting relevant materials on **Rajarhat** as part of CRG's work on Transit Labour which would culminate into CRG's forthcoming Fourth Critical Studies Conference, to be held in September 2011. The online catalogue has been assiduously categorized and segmented.

Similarly we have uploaded documents on the stateless state of the **Chakmas of Arunachal Pradesh**. Legal entanglements and xenophobic dimensions of electoral politics have left them with neither refugee nor citizen status. The documents are in hard copy, and a comprehensive enumeration of the same is given online, so that researchers know about the documents they must seek.

We have also underscored our commitment to the cause of minority rights and cultural expressions by starting to document the history of the imposing **Hooghly Imambarah**. History reveals that at the time of communal violence that broke out in 1950 as a consequence of partition of India Imambarah, one of the famous *Shija* Muslim pilgrimage centre in Hooghly district of West Bengal, gave shelter to thousands of displaced Muslim people—exuding an ethics of care. We have already

uploaded a photographic presentation of the place. More documents are to come up, spawning an alternative narrative of post-partition riots centering round this shrine.

We have already uploaded the primary data collected during our research program **Women & Borders in South Asia**, and those collected during the programmes **Globalization & Sustainability of Rights**.

- **Audio Files**

Audio files of lectures and interviews, pertaining to the topics of taught in our Winter Course on Forced Migration and issues like statelessness have been edited by professional editors. These files have been uploaded to our website.

- **Fellowships**

Resource Centre facilitates inter-country researches through exchange visits in South Asia, provides short term scholarships/fellowships to young researchers and documents myriad aspects of forced migration. CRG wants to initiate more frequent exchanges of scholars from other South Asian countries to work on the theme of forced migration and displacement. The main objective is to develop first-hand knowledge and experiences about forced migration and displacement in the neighbouring countries of South Asia. CRG will also publicize its research outputs as widely as possible and organize short term training programmes for dissemination of knowledge thus accumulated. For 2010-11, we provided writing fellowships to four researchers. The list is given below:

1. **Anuradha Gunarathne**, National Project Coordinator in National Protection and Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons Project, Human Rights Commission, Sri Lanka
Research Topic: *Post conflict and Creative Avenues of Reconciling Adolescence: Realising Protection (Legal and Institutional Challenges) in contemporary Sri Lanka.*

2. **Surendra Kumar**, Lecturer, Political Science, Bangalore University
Research Topic: *Conflict and Internal Displacement in Sri Lanka: Concerns and Obstacles to Durable Solutions.*

3. **Roopshree Joshi**, Project Manager, Lutheran World Federation, Nepal
Research Topic: *For the Tibetans living in Nepal*

4. **Anita Ghimire**, Project Co-leader and Post Doctoral Fellow, Migration Revisited; NCCR-North and South.
Research Topic: *Rethinking "Women" in forced displacement.*

The reports will be published in due course in our series **Policies and Practices and Refugee Watch** Journal.