

THE SOUTH ASIA SHORT COURSE ON REFUGEE RIGHTS AND ADVOCACY

4-8 June 2018
Bangalore, India

BACKGROUND

The South Asia Short Course is an initiative organised by the South Asia Working Group in conjunction with the Legal Aid and Advocacy Working Group (LAAWG) of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN). APRRN is partnering with the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education, Jain University, Bangalore. This is the first APRRN Short Course to be held in South Asia. The course aims to strengthen participants' understanding of forced migration in the Asia Pacific through a human rights perspective. The course also seeks to strengthen participants' capacity and knowledge in advocating for the rights of refugees in the region with a specific focus on the South Asia sub-region. As statelessness is a key concern across many south Asian nations (Tibetans, Rohingya in Bangladesh, re-acquiring citizenship for Sri Lankan returnees), this may be a particular focus of this course.

The course will be delivered through a combination of lectures, case studies and small group work, and participants are expected to do some in-depth reading and minor research before the course. The participants will also conduct practical group work over the five days, giving them the opportunity to use the knowledge and skills acquired. The course will be presented by some of the leading experts working on forced migration issues in the region. They include academics, activists, pro-bono lawyers, UNHCR representatives and NGO workers.

The course will be spread over five days and will be held in Bangalore, India. The course will cover the following thematic areas:

- Overview and update of forced migration in the Asia Pacific
- Understanding the global refugee "crisis" and latest developments
- New developments in international refugee law and relevant human rights law
- Introduction to advocacy & challenges in advocating for the rights of refugees at the national level
- Exploring effective strategies for national level advocacy e.g. working and advocating with national and local authorities, engaging National Human Rights Commissions, strategic litigation etc.
- Community engagement strategies for effective advocacy
- Conducting effective refugee research for use in advocacy.

The course is made possible with the generous funding support of Open Society Foundations and the in-kind support from Jain University, Bangalore.

DATES AND VENUE

4-8 June 2018

Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education, Jain University, Bangalore, India

PARTICIPANTS

About 25 to 30 participants are expected to join the course. The selection criteria for participants are:

- Mid or high-level staff in a national, sub-regional or regional NGO/CSO in South Asia;
- Minimum of 2 years experience in the field of forced migration/refugee rights;
- Commitment to working in the same organisation at least until the end of 2019;
- Ideally some experience and background in policy and advocacy work (not required);
- Ability to communicate in English (both spoken and written) as the course will be conducted in English and no formal translation facilities will be provided.

ACCREDITATION

Participants will receive a Certificate of Participation from Jain University and APRRN.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The deadline for application for admission to the course is **Friday 16th March 2018**. Early applications (especially for scholarships) are encouraged. To register for the course please follow this link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOuf6_h_ljSH4vUd2Av2ggpk7ZwhD1ukjqL4FcERaPqilYHg/viewform?usp=sf_link

In addition, all applicants **MUST** provide a recommendation letter from the head of their organisation and send it to evan@aprrn.info. The letter shall outline the reasons why the applicant is being endorsed to participate in the course. Short-listed applicants will be informed on or before **Friday 6th April 2018** by email.

FEES AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The registration fee for the short course is \$100 USD (non-refundable) and needs to be paid in cash by all participants on the first day of the course. Registration fees may be waived in exceptional circumstances.

APRRN will be able to offer a limited number of participants support with costs related to attending the course – this support will only cover flight costs and accommodation (other related costs such as local transport, visa, airport taxes, per diem etc. will need to be covered by the participants themselves). Breakfast (if you are staying at the venue), lunch and two coffee breaks will be offered for all participants.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Inquiries about the course, local accommodation and logistics should be directed to the APRRN Secretariat at evan@aprrn.info