

### Concept Note and Program Schedule

Presently the world is witnessing the worst refugee crisis since the Second World War. The protracted armed conflicts and civil wars in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and some African countries like South Sudan, the Central African Republic, Nigeria and Burundi have generated this most pathetic condition of human sufferings. The intensity of this crisis probably has no parallel in the memory of the inquisitive minds of the younger generations and it left them introspecting their convictions towards the international legal protection of refugees.

The Syrian refugees add up the most of the current refugee crisis. The ongoing civil war in Syria has left almost half of its citizens displaced. As per the estimates of Amnesty International, more than four million Syrian have fled the countries and have become refugees. Though the larger proportion of this exodus is now living in the neighbouring countries of Syria, however, the capacity of those states to hold refugees has utterly exhausted and in dire need of adequate international support.

Apart from its quantitative intensity, this crisis has two other distinctive features. First, it is the first time that refugee crisis caused by armed conflicts in a particular region has such a wider global refugee impact. Refugees emerging from affected areas are reaching Europe and other parts of the world miles away from their home. Second, it is the first time that Europe is witnessing such large chunk of refugee influx from outside the region. It is estimated that more than a million refugees crossed into Europe during 2015. The half-hearted attempts of the European governments to contain the situation have failed miserably and their efforts are now concentrated to discourage the people from coming to the EU territory. This invites an inquiry into the policy and legal measures undertaken by EU with respect to their compatibility with the rights of refugees.

The policy measures undertaken by EU like strengthening of Frontex - the EU border agency to ensure border controls within EU and preparing the EU common list of the safe country of origin has compromised the legal protection available to the refugees. Their plea of security issues at home and rejecting refugees without any reasonable individual inquiry potentially compromises the principle of *Non Refoulment*. The formidable legal hurdles created on the plea of internal security to curb and dissuade the refugees from seeking shelter in host countries also need to be understood legally. The contours of internal security should be debated to appraise its contemporary ambit keeping in mind terrorism and other contemporary security threat.

In this situation, it is a high time to debate and discuss the rights of refugees and the corresponding legal obligation of states in the current crisis. The legal nature of refugee rights and the related international legal obligations are need to be discussed threadbare in light of the new issues emanating out of it. The ideas that have been the edifice of the conception of refugee rights also need to be reasserted in the current situation of the refugee crisis. Without compromising any generality, the seminar is meant to discuss and debate following issues.

- The Rights of Refugees under International Law: Conceptual Ideas, Substantive Provisions and Legal Status of Refugee Rights.
- Contemporary Refugee Crisis: Its Nature, Legal Obligations and State's Responses and Way Out
- Refugee issues and vulnerable populations.
- Refugees and Human Trafficking
- Refugees Issues in India

## **Tentative Schedule**

**Date 04-04-2016/ Day –I**

**Venue- Maple Club, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon.**

Registration

09.30 – 10.00 am

**Inaugural Session**

**10.00 – 11.00 am**

- Brief Introduction and Welcome Address  
Prof. Sanoj Rajan Dean School of Law, Ph.D., Ansal University, Gurgaon.
- Lighting of Lamp
- Keynote Address by **Mr. Waiel S.H Awwad**, Ph.D., War Correspondent,  
Political Analyst and expert on South Asia and Middle East.
- Address by Chief Guest **Ms. Yasuko Shimizu**, Deputy Representative,  
UNHCR, New Delhi.

High Tea

11.00 – 11.30 am

**First Plenary Session**

**11.30 – 12.30 pm**

“Donald Trump, Refugees and the New American Exceptionalism” – **Prof. Edward L. Carter**, J.D. LL.M., Professor and Director, Brigham Young University School of Communications, Utah, United States.

**Discussion and Paper Presentation:** “Need to have a Uniform Asylum Policy in India - A Critique on Asylum Bill, 2016” by **Prof. Abraham Joseph**, Ansal University School of Law.

12:30-1.00 pm

**International Seminar “Contemporary Refugee Crisis and Syrian Exodus”**

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**Chair: Prof. S. Sarkar**, NCU, Gurgaon

Lunch

1.00 – 2.00 pm

**Second Plenary Session**

**2.00 – 3.00 pm**

“Human Trafficking and Refugee Population” -**Prof. Elumalai**, Ph.D., Director, School of Law, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi.

**Discussion and Paper Presentation:** "The Politics of Forced Migration and Refugee Crisis In International Law". by **Mr. Balaji Naika**, Research Scholar, JNU, New Delhi.

3.00 - 3.30 pm

**Chair: Ms. Kavita Belani**, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, New Delhi.

Tea

3.30 – 4.00 pm

**Third Plenary Session**

**4.00 – 5.00 pm**

“Refugee Status in the Context of Armed Conflict” - **Prof. Osamu Arakaki, Ph.D.**, College of Liberal Arts, International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan.

**Discussion and Paper Presentation:**

5.00 - 5.30 pm

“Fleeing the Conflict- A Sri Lankan Tamil Refugees Case Study” by **Prof. G. Rajasekar**, Ph.D., Faculty of Law Madras University, Chennai

**Chair: Dr. Sunod Jacob**, Legal Adviser, the ICRC, New Delhi.

**Date 05-04-2016/ Day Two**

**Venue- Ansal University Auditorium, Gurgaon**

**International Seminar “Contemporary Refugee Crisis and Syrian Exodus”**

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**Fourth Plenary Session**

**10.00 – 11.00 am**

“Refugee Protection an Indian Perspective”- **Prof. David Ambrose**, Ph.D., Professor and Dean, Faculty of Law, Madras University Chennai

High Tea

11.00 – 11.30 am

**Discussion and Paper Presentation** “Refugees Movement and Environment Protection” by **Prof. Saligram Bhatt**, Ph.D., former Professor, JNU and Professor Emeritus NALSAR University.

11.30 – 12.30 pm

**Chair- Prof. Vinay Kumar Singh**, Associate Director and IHL Chair, Indian Society of International Law, New Delhi

**Valedictory Ceremony**

**12.30 – 1.00 pm**

Chief Guest- **Prof. Raj S Dhankar**, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, Ansal University, Gurgaon.

Lunch

1.00 – 2.00 pm