



## WORLD REFUGEE DAY 2023

Loyola Institute of Social Science Training and Research (LISSTAR),

*in collaboration with*

Departments of History, International Relations, Social Work and  
Sociology of Loyola College (Autonomous) Chennai

*invite you to commemorate*

### **WORLD REFUGEE DAY**

On 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 05.15 p.m. in Lawrence Sundaram Hall,  
Loyola College (Autonomous) Chennai: 600 034

Refugee Day Address by

**Mr. Manuraj Shunmugasundaram**

Partner, Ganesan and Manuraj Legal LLP and  
Legal Expert, State Government Advisory  
Committee for Sri Lankan Refugees Welfare

Inclusion of Refugees by

**Mr. Satchithananda Valan Michael**

Head of Field Office at  
UNHCR, Chennai

## Agenda

7<sup>th</sup> July 2023

- 04.15 p.m. Street Theatre  
Department of Sociology  
Loyola College (Autonomous) Chennai - 34
- A talk on *Refugee Scenario in the World and India*  
**(Rev. Dr. A. Louie Albert SJ, Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Loyola College (Autonomous) Chennai)**
- 04.30 p.m. Flash Mob  
Department of Social Work  
Loyola College (Autonomous) Chennai
- 05.15 p.m. to  
05.20 p.m. Invocation Song
- 05.20 p.m. to  
05.25 p.m. Welcome Address  
**Rev. Dr. M.S. Joseph Antony Jacob SJ**  
Director, LISSTAR,  
Loyola College (Autonomous) Chennai
- 05.25 p.m. to  
05.35 p.m. Introductory Remarks  
**Rev. Dr. A. Louis Arockiaraj SJ**  
Principal, Loyola College (Autonomous) Chennai
- 05.35 p.m. to  
05.55 p.m. World Refugee Day Address  
**Mr. Manuraj Shunmugasundaram**  
Partner, Ganesan and Manuraj Legal LLP and Legal  
Expert, State Government Advisory Committee for  
Sri Lanka Refugees Welfare
- 05.55 p.m. to  
06.10 p.m. Inclusion of Refugees  
**Mr. Satchithananda Valan Michael**  
Head of Field Office at UNHCR, Chennai
- 06.10 p.m. to  
06.20 p.m. Sharing by Refugees
- 06.20 p.m. to  
06.30 p.m. **Fr. Paul Raj SJ**  
Director, Jesuit Service (JRS) Tamil Nadu

Vote of Thanks & National Anthem

## REPORT ON THE WORLD REFUGEE DAY COMMEMORATION 2023

World Refugee Day was commemorated on the 7th of July, 2023 by the joint efforts of the Departments of Sociology, History, International Relations and Social Work in collaboration with LISSTAR. The commemoration started with the putting up of a street theatre performance by the PG students of the Department of Sociology highlighting the Refugee crisis, discrimination and distress.



Dr. A. Louie Albert SJ from the Department of Sociology addressed the gathered crowd on the Refugee Scenario in the World and India which was followed by a Flash Mob by the students of the Department of Social Work.

The performances were followed by the Formal Commemoration of the World Refugee Day at the Lawrence Sundaram Hall. The event began with an Invocation. The gathering was warmly welcomed by Rev. Dr. M.S. Joseph Antony Jacob SJ Director, LISSTAR, followed by an Introductory Remark by Rev. Dr. A. Louis Arockiaraj SJ, Principal, Loyola College.

The Refugee Day Address was delivered by Mr. Manuraj Shunmugasundaram, Partner, Ganesan and Manuraj Legal LLP and Legal Expert, State Government Advisory Committee for Sri Lankan Refugees Welfare. He educated the gathering about the United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees which was adopted in 1951 and much more on the differences between being a refugee, Statelessness, and being a person without nationality. He roughly broke down the evolution of this crisis tracing its historical roots. Mr. Manuraj also spoke on the ethnolinguistic persecutions happening against Muslims, SriLanka people, etc. He also highlighted the issue of illegal migrants while talking about refugees.

This was followed by a talk on the Inclusion of Refugees by Mr. Satchithananda Valan Michael, Head of Field Office at UNHCR, Chennai. He identified the issues of refugees and spoke on the need to create sustainable pathways to citizenship. Also, he educated the gathering to observe and consider refugees as an asset rather than a burden. He emphasized the gathering to rely on facts and evidence.

To gain deeper insights into the current challenges faced by refugees, students - Ms. Sangchen Dolma, Department of History, and Mr. Y Markitvain of the Department of BMM were called upon to share their experiences of being a refugee. Their sharing was heart-rendering and enlightened all who were gathered on the reality. Following the experience-sharing session, Fr. Paul Raj SJ, Director, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS), Tamil Nadu, shared his thoughts and experiences on his interactions with the refugee community.

The event was wrapped up with a vote of thanks rendered by Rev. Fr. Arockiasamy SJ, Co-ordinator, Department of History and the National Anthem.