

8<sup>th</sup> August 2013

Angelo Institute,  
Hindupur, A.P, INDIA



## REPORT OF THE LAUNCH CEREMONY OF IARF-HRRC



Organized by

IARF – RFYN  
in association with  
Brothers of the Sacred Heart, INDIA

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# 01 Introduction

The newly promulgated Human Rights Resource Centre (HRRC) was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013 at Angelo Institute, Hindupur, Andhra Pradesh, INDIA.

It is an integral part of the London-based **International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF)**, and is working in partnership with the **Sacred Heart Brothers, India**.

It is God's plan to launch this new centre to promote a culture of Human Rights and Peace in wider Indian society. Though Andhra Pradesh state was in tension and strike for the past week, the launch ceremony was organised without any problems. At Hindupur there was some relief from the strike due to Ramadan and the celebration was very successful.

The launching of a new HRRC is another dimension of the activities of IARF which reflects its seven years of committed involvement organising hundreds of Human Rights Education Training programs in India and Bangladesh, which have brought changes among thousands of young adults, professionals and others toward promoting peace in the society. **This Centre is administered by the young adults (RFYN) of IARF.**





# 02

## Blessing & Opening

The newly constructed HRRC office at Angelo Institute was blessed by Bishop the Most Rev. Antony Poola, Bishop of Kurnool on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2013. The office was inaugurated by the Member of Karnataka State Human Rights Commission Smt. Meera C. Saksena by a ribbon-cutting.



# 03

## Inaugural Celebration



The inaugural celebration started with an introduction given by the RFYN HRE facilitator Janhvi Gupte. The invocation prayer was recited by young adults of three different faiths. The dignitaries were invited to the dais and requested to light the lamp to show unity in promoting Human Rights and Peace.

Bro. Albert Xaviour, the HRE facilitator, welcomed the dignitaries and the young adults honoured them with gifts and momentous.

# 04

## Launching of New

# CD & Handbook

The Chhindwara RFYN leader Immanuel Manish presented an introduction about the new facilitators model CD and the Participants Handbook, which is published under the name of IARF Human Rights Resource Centre. The facilitators' model CD was launched by Smt. Meera C. Saxena and received by Rev. Bro. Victordoss, President & Superior-General of the congregation of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.

The Participants' Handbook was launched by the Most. Rev. Bishop. Antony Poola – the first copy being received by Rev. Bro. Edward Francis, Provincial Superior of Angelo Province.





# 05

## The Chief Guests



The inaugural address was given by Smt. Meera C. Saksena, member of Karnataka State Human Rights Commission. She shared that “Many people are not aware of their rights. We are human being and entitled to have all the rights. We want to avoid violence against women & children, and also child labour, sexual harassment. Male domination of society must be eradicated, and we should provide equal opportunity for women as the main development for women’s activities. We also have to avoid child marriages & the dowry system. We hope the HRRC will support the development of women in society”.



The blessing speech was given by the Most. Rev. Bishop. Antony Poola, the Bishop of Kurnool. He blessed everyone with very valuable words and encouraged the young adults and others to contribute to the HRRC and also to develop the new centre to help thousands of young adults in India. He said “Women have all kinds of rights, but it is not reaching them. They are treated like objects in our country, we need to avoid this and respect the rights of women. We need to come forward to work for their rights. Religious dialogue helps to bring peace in society”.



The presidential address was given by Very Rev. Bro. Victordoss, President and Superior-General of the congregation of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart. He made his address to motivate the RFYN to run the new HRRC in a successful manner. He said “The Brothers in this institution have taken on a very sensitive project to develop society. I am very happy about the works of the IARF which has many branches around the world and provides interfaith dialogue to bring peace. The HRRC has been started here to bring awareness about Human Rights to the society through the young adults”.

# 06

## Hiroshima & Nagasaki Day Remembrance

The RFYN Young Adult HRE facilitator Janhvi Gupte shared briefly about Hiroshima and Nagasaki Remembrance Day, and her experience in visiting Hiroshima. She asked everyone to stand for a Pledge for Peace. It was very inspiring for the dignitaries and young adults to hear this call to work for peace, and oppose the many social evils. Her sharing helped participants pray deeply for those affected in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.





# 07

## Inter-Faith Dialogue

To help local people and religious leaders understand the importance of interfaith dialogue, the IARF-RFYN organised an interfaith dialogue during the launch ceremony of HRRC. Three eminent speakers from four different faiths were invited. The theme for the speakers was “Religion speaks and promotes Human Rights & Peace”. **Dr. Brown**, IARF member from Chhindwara branch, moderated the session by presenting a very brief introduction about the dialogue and how IARF works to promote peace through interfaith dialogue.

**Prof. Suresh** from BIT institute of Technology shared about how Hinduism promotes Human Rights and peace in society. He represented Mr. Chandra Mohan and shared his ideas: “In today’s society we need to have human values and principles which bring universal family in the society. The religion says fight for good reasons and not for the bad. All must be safe and happy, and live for peace”.

**Smt. Rajayogini B.K Sugandhaji** from BKS (Brahma Kumaris) shared how they promote Human Rights and peace with yoga and meditation. She also shared that “Human right & peace of mind should go together. Who have righteous experience, have a right to experience peace. Religion means being dignified & mighty, which gives us peace of mind”.

The Senior Pastor from Maranatha Church, **Rev. Praveen Choudary Chaparala**, shared about how Christianity promotes Human Rights and Peace in the world: “If you don’t love your neighbour who is visible, how can you love your God, who is invisible? If we started to love each other, without any hatred, we can bring peace in society”.

**Mr. Noor Shareef** from Urdu School shared about the means by which Islam promotes Human Rights & Peace in today’s world: “We have learned to swim like a fish, but we have not learned to live like a human being. Who are responsible for the social evils taking place in the name of religion? Who has to raise a voice against this? We the young adults to come forward to protest against this. We have to inculcate the culture of peace in society”.





# 08

## Other Dignitaries

Apart from the chief guest and eminent personalities for the dialogue we also honoured the following guests who had presented for the function: **Rev. Fr. Selvaraj**, Parish Priest at Hindupur; **Dr. P. Sanjeeva Rayudu**, Principal of BIT Institute of Technology; **Mr. Venugopal**, Circle Inspector of rural police stations; **Rev. Bro. Gnanapragasam SHJ**, Correspondent of Angelo Institution, **Mrs. Brown**, Women's Rights Coordinator of Madhya Pradesh State Human Rights Commission.

# 09

## Cultural Program

Angelo Public School's little children presented a beautiful dance to entertain the participants. The little ones' presentation attracted everyone's attention and illuminated the celebration in a very creative way.



# 10 Vote of thanks & Group photo

The Bangalore RFYN spokesman Pramod presented the vote of thanks, thanking all the dignitaries in the name of IARF-HRRC for their valuable support for the new Centre. He thanked everyone who has supported us in launching this new office for Human Rights at Hindupur. Finally, with the national anthem by the RFYN, the celebration came to an end, RFYN coming together for a group photo with the dignitaries.



## **MC'ing by RFYN:**

Jahnvi Gupte from Indore; Deepu Abraham from Hindupur;  
Yashika Gowda from Bangalore

## **Host Committee**

Clinton Moses & local RFYN