

International Association for Religious Freedom - London



LAUNCH CEREMONY OF HUMAN RIGHTS RESOURCE CENTRE



6th November 2013

**IARF- Human Rights Resource Centre
Sri.Venkateshwara College of Engineering & Technology
Tiruvallur District, Tamilnadu**

1. Introduction

The 113-year-old IARF is today extending its activities into new areas in India, with new types of activity. New steps into Human Rights Education begun in 2005 have now developed much further out of the creative and radical involvement of younger adults.

These young workers' desire for attitudinal change among the broad national young adult demographic through training programs in Human Rights Education, was the reason for launching a Human Rights Resource Centre (HRRC) by IARF's youth wing RFYN at Hindupur on August 8th 2013.

The Chennai RFYN, by the efforts and support of the International Council member Adv. Rengapashyam, have now opened a second such centre at Sri Venkateshwara College of Engineering and Technology, Chennai, on 6th November 2013.



2. Inaugural Celebration

The inaugural celebration of the new Human Rights resource centre was started at 10.00 am at Sri Venkateshwara Engineering College, Chennai. Nearly 390 young adults studying at Sri Venkateshwara College participated in the celebration. The celebration commenced with invocation prayer and followed by welcome address by the college principal.

Introduction of HRE

An introduction to Human Rights Education was presented by Bro. Albert Xaviour, the RFYN representative to the International Council. He shared about the importance of human rights and of bringing changes among them and also in wider society. He also shared his experience of organising numerous HRE programs in India.



Presidential Address



Dr. Vasudevan, the Chairman of Sri Venkateswara College gave the presidential address. His speech was short but very sweet: the college had not experienced any student-related problems or human rights violations since its foundation. They are very happy to give an office to IARF for a Human Rights Resource Centre, through which programs can be provided in and around Chennai.

Inaugural Address

The inaugural address was presented by Judge K. Baskaran, the Officiating Chairman of Tamil Nadu Human Rights Commission. He shared about the importance of Human Rights Education and appreciated IARF and its activities in HRE. He also shared about how the state commission supports the public to avoid human rights violations. He requested students to bring news and issues related human rights to the attention of the State human rights commission.

Felicitation

IARF International Council member Adv. Rengapashyam addressed the gathering about the importance of this new Centre, and how it should function ideally. He requested the young adult leaders to organise many programs in and around Chennai to awaken the masses who really have no knowledge at all about their rights. He also further stressed for the need and importance of Moral Lesson to the students for values, virtues and discipline for better society with Peace and Harmony. He also said that he will support the centre to organise hundreds of HRE programs and to have many counselling centre to give guidance for the young adult by IARF and RFYN in INDIA.



3. Interfaith Library & HRRC Office

Adv. Rengapashyam presented a few interfaith books to Dr. Vasudevan in order to open new interfaith library in the college. The new office was inaugurated by the State human rights commission Officiating Chairman Judge K. Baskaran.



Vote of Thanks

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. James Manoharan, the placement officer of the college.

