

Media Update

2 May 2016

UNITED NATIONS

Media Advisory

United Nations Secretary-General Report on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

On 9 May 2016 the UN Secretary-General's report "In Safety and Dignity: Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants," will be officially issued.

In the run up to the release, we offer media representatives based in Pakistan the opportunity to participate in a special briefing on the report. The briefing session will focus on the status of refugees and migrants in Pakistan and at global level.

When: **Thursday, 5 May 2016, 17:15 – 19:00 hrs** (Refreshments to follow)

Where: UNIC, ILO Building, G-5/2, Islamabad

What:

- Introductory briefing - Pakistan: refugees and migrants
- SG Report on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants

Who:

- Mr. Indrika Ratwatte, Country Representative, UNHCR
- Mr. Davide Terzi, Country Representative, IOM
- Mr. Fabrizio Hochschild, Deputy to the Secretary General's Special Advisor for the Summit on Addressing Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants (*live from UN Headquarters in New York*)
- Mr. Vittorio Cammarota, Director, UN Information Centre





Registration: send your name and designation to info.islamabad@unic.org by COB **Wednesday 4 May, 2016**. Please note that for security reasons only registered participants will have access to the event.

THE REPORT AND CONTENT OF THIS BRIEFING ARE EMBARGOED UNTIL 10.00 pm. Pakistan time, 9 MAY 2016. JOURNALISTS MUST STRICTLY ADHERE TO THIS AND NOT PUBLISH ARTICLES PRIOR TO 9 MAY.

UNITED NATIONS

Secretary-General Message

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

3 May 2016

Human rights, democratic societies and sustainable development depend on the free flow of information. And the right to information depends on press freedom. Each year, we observe World Press Freedom Day to emphasize these fundamental principles, to protect the independence of the media and to honour media workers who risk and have lost their lives in the exercise of their profession.

This year, World Press Freedom Day coincides with three important milestones. It is the 250th anniversary of the world's first freedom of information law, covering both modern-day Sweden and Finland, and it is the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Windhoek Declaration of press freedom principles. Finally, 2016 is also the first year of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

Press freedom and the free flow of information are necessary not only to inform citizens about the Goals, but to enable them to hold their



leaders accountable for fulfilling the pledges they have made. The media – including, and increasingly, new online media -- serve as our eyes and ears. We all benefit from the information they provide.

A free, independent and safe media environment is essential. Yet, all too often, journalists are threatened, harassed, obstructed or even killed in the pursuit of information. Many languish in detention, some in appalling conditions, for shedding light on governance failures, corporate malfeasance or societal problems.

I am very concerned about the increasingly restrictive environment for media workers in many countries. Constraints on freedom of expression place shackles on progress itself. On this World Press Freedom Day, I urge all Governments, politicians, businesses and citizens to commit to nurturing and protecting an independent, free media. Without this fundamental right, people are less free and less empowered. With it, we can work together for a world of dignity and opportunity for all.

UNAIDS

Press Release

UNAIDS welcomes landmark decision by Sri Lanka's Supreme Court to prohibit HIV discrimination

First court decision in South Asia to make general pronouncement recognizing the human rights of all people living with HIV

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) welcomed a decision by Sri Lanka's Supreme Court to prohibit HIV discrimination in education settings.

The country's highest court issued the directive in response to a fundamental rights violation petition filed by Chandani De Soysa, who is from the rural community of Illukhena, Kuliyaipitiya in Western Sri Lanka.





Ms De Soysa became a widow last year. When she tried to enrol her five-year old son in the local school he was denied admission because he was believed to be living with HIV.

With support from UNAIDS and the Positive Women's Network, Ms De Soysa filed her petition with the Supreme Court in February. The court's directive which was released on 28 April stated that the rights to an education of children living with or affected by HIV must be upheld based on the country's constitutional directive of universal access to education for children between the ages of 5-14.

The Supreme Court also went a step further reminding the State of its obligation to take necessary measures to protect, promote and respect the human rights of people living with HIV in order to eliminate discrimination that is experienced by them. This is the first court decision in South Asia to make a general pronouncement recognizing the human rights of all people living with HIV, and sets a precedent for future cases in Sri Lanka challenging HIV discrimination experienced in settings other than education.

"I would like to give a special note of thanks to all the strangers out there who offered their support in various forms – from money, food, scholarships to a simple word of encouragement. I can not express in words my gratitude for this kindness," said Ms De Soysa. "My son has a dream to be a doctor one day and I hope he will be an HIV specialist."

"This is a great day for social justice," said Steve Kraus, Director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Asia and the Pacific. "Sri Lanka's highest court has stood up in support of people who are being left behind. From now on, no child can be denied access to education based on HIV."

Princey Mangalika, Executive Director of the Positive Women's Network in Sri Lanka said, "I would like to express my appreciation to the Supreme Court. This marks a momentously progressive step forward for the people living with HIV community in Sri Lanka."

There were an estimated 3 300 people living with HIV in Sri Lanka in 2014, including around 100 children (ages 0 to 14 years). There have been other cases of children being denied school admission because of their association with HIV, which have been settled through mediation.



Discrimination against students affected by HIV also occurs in other countries in South Asia. In India, a petition filed by Naz Foundation (India) Trust, which provides care and support to children living with HIV, through the Lawyers Collective relied on publicly available reports to show that children have been systematically targeted because of their association with HIV – they have faced repeated incidents of humiliation, suspension, violence, segregation and expulsion.

HIV-related stigma and discrimination continue to prevent people from accessing key education and health services as well as reduce employment opportunities. Research conducted by people living with HIV in 13 countries in Asia between 2009-2014 found that an average of 12% of HIV-positive people surveyed reported exclusion from social gatherings and activities and 23% said they had been verbally insulted, harassed or threatened.

UNAIDS congratulates Sri Lanka on this historic step forward and urges countries in the region to introduce comprehensive laws protecting people affected by HIV against direct and indirect discrimination in all settings, including education, health care and employment. While courts in India have ruled to protect the rights of people living with HIV in specific settings, no country in the region has passed a national HIV law. Sindh Province in Pakistan has a comprehensive HIV law, but there is no such protection across the country.

UNAIDS also encourages governments to support legal literacy programmes and ensure access to legal services for people living with, affected by and at higher risk of HIV, so that they can pursue justice and help end systemic rights violations.

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UNIDO

Press Release

Inaugural ceremony for the provision of Cutlery Polishing Machines to the Cutlery Manufacturers

His Excellency Mr. Jean-Francois Cautain, EU Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Esam Alqarara (UNIDO Representative in Pakistan), Mr. Abdul Ghaffar Khattak (CEO, NPO Pakistan), Retired Justice Iftikhar Cheema (MNA) Mr. Khalid Mughal (Chairman PCSUMEA), Mr. Badar ul Islam (OIC TRTA II), Mr. Hameed Akhtar Chadda (Member FPCCI) and a number of representatives from cutlery sector participated in the inaugural ceremony for the provision of cutlery polishing machines to the cutlery manufacturers in Wazirabad. This intervention has been carried out under the EU funded TRTA II Programme implemented by UNIDO.

In his welcome address Mr. Khalid Mughal said " The benchmarking study conducted under EU funded TRTA II Programme implemented by UNIDO and the technology upgradation intervention would prove to be key endeavors in bringing about enhanced export regime for the Cutlery and Knives Sector of Wazirabad. We are trying to replicate and upscale this intervention in collaboration with Government and donor agencies. I congratulate the team of TRTA II Programme on achieving this key milestone in the cutlery sector of Wazirabad. Introducing the cutlery sector he said, " Due to the high quality artisan abilities in the field of cutlery and knives over the centuries, Wazirabad has become synonymous to the City of Cutlery. The sector consists of more than 500 Cutlery manufacturing SMEs in and around the city of Wazirabad covering an area of 10 square miles. A wide range of products including, swords, daggers, knives kitchen ware and kitchen utensils are being manufactured in Wazirabad. Total export of this industry is around 90 US\$ Million while it is providing employment to more than 25000 personnel.

H.E. Mr. Jean Francois assured future support to the Pakistan's industrial sectors to exploit the full potential of GSP Plus scheme awarded by the



EU. In the face of severe competition Pakistani manufacturers need to adopt latest technology to comply with the social standards demanded by the customers of high end markets like EU and USA.

Mr. Esam Alqararah applauded the contributions made under TRTA II Programme and apprised the audience that in view of the benchmarking study the major impediments of the sector were identified as low levels of productivity, inadequate technology upgradation, poor performance management systems and shortage of skilled staff and labour. The sector, indeed, is facing acute labour shortage in grinding and polishing sections. Major reason has been health hazard environment leading to fatal diseases like lung cancer. The new generation is unlikely to adopt the work of their parents (grinding and polishing) and also parents are not in favor to engage their siblings into the unhealthy working environment with stagnant opportunities of growth. The polishing stage is the longest, requires the most number of workers, inefficient, environmentally harmful especially to workers' health and causes the maximum number of injuries at the work place (health and safety).

Subsequently, TRTA II programme selected two cutlery manufacturing units on cost sharing basis to implement the technology upgradation intervention in their cutlery polishing sections. The beneficiary units have built new production halls or refurbished the existing ones to accommodate installation of polishing machines. They have complied with the recommendations made by TRTA experts in terms of redesigning layouts to rearrange their equipment and machinery in order to maximize the efficiency and reduction of wastages due to non-value added activities like, travelling, work in process, workers' sitting positions, etc. These activities took a substantial effort and cost on part of the companies.

Major benefits envisaged as a result of this technology upgradation are:

- Improve working environment in the polishing sections and attract new labour force into the cutlery & knives sector.
- Almost 6 times increase in production capacities of the cutlery units along with uniform product quality enabling them to carry out greater number of production orders thereby leading to more employment generation.
- Indigenize the cutlery polishing technology for the cutlery & knives sector.

Four members team of the Chinese supplier during the month of February, 2016, has installed, commissioned and trained the personnel of model units on the new cutlery polishing machines. Pakistan Cutlery Association has been apprised on the new technology through the meetings with the Chinese engineers and through the demonstration sessions held at cutlery beneficiary units.

Mr. Abdul Ghaffar Khatak congratulate the TRTA II Programme team in bringing about the much needed intervention in the cutlery sector at pilot level and highlighted the capacity building exercise carried out for the local institutions under this programme. He said, "this is encouraging that Pakistan Cutlery Association (PCSUMEA) has developed a PC-1 through TUSDEC following the model of TRTA II programme to upgrade the technology in other cutlery manufacturing units of the sector making this intervention sustainable and impactful."

An MoU was also signed among the TRTA II Programme, PCSUMEA and the Cutlery beneficiary units to strengthen the collaboration and to replicate and upscale the interventions made under TRTA II Programme.
