

International Human Rights Day 10th December 2009

A Signature Campaign “ We care For the Homeless”

- Date & Time** : 10th December 2009 & 11.00 am
- Venue** : On the streets of Gandhi Irwin Salai, Egmore, Chennai
-08 Opposite to CMDA Office or behind Veeran
Alaguvel Muthu Statue Near to Egmore Railway
Station
- Implemented By** : Indian Community Welfare Organized – ICWO
- Supported By** : Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs,
DFID - Department for International Development,
Actionaid India

“ We care For the Homeless”

Homeless Community is one of the most vulnerable groups of the Urban Poor Communities. Sizable members of the community still remain invisible to the state because of the methodology of the census process that is conducted. Homelessness is one the serious issue as it leaves the community to be at the mercy of nature, common Man and police.

Homeless people live in the most pathetic condition they did not even have a place to sleep. They usually sleep on the pavements of the street, railway stations, bus stop and terminus, under the bridge, subway etc. They are omnipresent in all the major pockets of the city. They occasionally put clothes and thatches over their head as roofs only to be looted or destroyed by corporation and after that being chased away by police in nights. Most of the homeless settlement are thickly populated and do not have public toilets nearby or have inadequate toilet facilities. When a person enters the city at first glimpse itself they will get a sight of the homeless people.

Each and every day all the people, politician and the policymakers pass through them, but even then they are the most invisible people in the earth. They are not taken into account in the government schemes and services nor government policies.

Though there was a mention of the homeless in the housing policy 1988 but there was no provisions made for them latter. They were fully ignored while implementing the policy as they might have felt them unwanted, unnecessary and not useful.

The homeless population is an active part of the city economy and moving them out will affect the homeless community and the city that relies on these people for their services. The pavement dwellers servers the upper classes people the work as their house maid, drivers, gate keepers, laundry person, flower vendors, lift heavy loads, pull carts with their loads and many more coolie workers with very least payments.

Indian Community welfare Organisation is working for their following rights - Right to shelter & livelihood, Entitlements, Right to live with dignity and Citizenship rights.

ICWO has organised a one day campaign to ensure care for the homeless in Chennai. We care for the homeless in Chennai. **This campaign ensures support from the general public and people of all walks of life to extend their care for the homeless in Chennai to ensure the right to live with dignity through a signature screen.**

Homeless people considered as illegal occupants of the city, they are seen as people involved in illegal activities. Though majority of them are hard working labour, they earn their bread by working very hard. Only very few engaged in beggary, rag picking, street sex workers and petty crimes, but the public and the police have the view all of them are involved in illegal activities. The police book them in false cases and put them behind bars. This is one of the common phenomenon among the homeless people.

Underlying the right to adequate housing is the human right to life with dignity. The failure to provide adequate living conditions, including adequate housing and the provision of essential services, results in a violation of human dignity. The right to life with dignity is the most fundamental and non-negotiable human right and is the core for the realisation of all other human rights.

The campaign aims to cover the General public and Policy Makers, Media personnel's, Donor Agencies, and Communication experts working for urban developments, NGOs, CBOs and other net works etc

At a very static location near the Egmore railway station where a considerable number of homeless families live near the railway station and pavements around 300 homeless communities from various parts of Chennai were gathered there and signature campaigning for care of the pavement dwellers in Chennai.

Leaflets and handout would be distributed to the general public on the basic human rights and seeking care for the homeless and a signature on the signature screen hoisted near the egmore railway station. Posters wold be released during the event. ICWO will take every effort to invite the media to cover the events at large and involve from all types of media like Print, Electronic, Live, Web and Air so that the program will have a wider publicity. ICWO expect that the campaign will reach 5,00,000 general public through media.
