



PRESS RELEASE

**TISS Director's Office
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UNHCR India joins hand with Tata Institute for Social Science for establishing 'Centre for Refugee and Statelessness Studies'

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) New Delhi and the Tata Institute for Social Sciences (TISS) Mumbai, are signing a Letter of understanding for collaboration and partnership to establish the "Centre for Refugee and Statelessness Studies" (CRSS), a first of its kind in India, under School of Law, Rights and Constitutional Governance (SLRCG) at TISS, Mumbai.

Mr. William Tall, UNHCR Chief of Mission, India and Maldives is visiting TISS on 22 April to sign the Letter of Intent along with Prof. S.Parasuraman, Director, TISS.

TISS since its inception has been an institution of excellence in higher education that continually responds to changing social realities and protecting the marginalised and vulnerable groups. In fact, during the aftermath of the Partition in 1947, the Institute sent a relief team consisting of students and faculty to work in refugee camps. This tradition of responding to humanitarian needs continues even today. In 2014, TISS released a collaborative study report entitled 'Exploring durable solutions for Sri Lankan Tamil refugees in India', proving its strong commitment to work for the marginalised and the vulnerable.

Through this Letter of Intent, both TISS and UNHCR would foster partnership for training, capacity building, research and awareness raising on refugee protection and statelessness issues. Regular teaching of refugee law and statelessness will be conducted at TISS, including workshops, seminars, conferences and periodic publications on the subject.

India as the world's largest democracy is following several progressive national and international laws in terms of offering assistance and protection to vulnerable groups like refugees. It has positive administrative policies and frameworks on refugee protection and has over the years, contributed extensively in the field of humanitarian support and human rights for refugees.

UNHCR Chief of Mission: Mr. William Tall: *"UNHCR is very happy to enter into this partnership with TISS to work on awareness raising and capacity building on statelessness and refugee issues. India has seen the largest migration of persons in the past and though India is not today affected by large migration issues, it has contributed*

significantly over the years to refugee protection and assistance. Partnering with TISS will aid in spreading awareness and understanding on statelessness and refugee issues, so as to build effective policies and solutions in collaboration with the government.”

Director TISS, Mr. Parasuraman: *“TISS is pleased with the collaboration with UNHCR as it allows both organization to work together in spreading awareness and creating technical capacities to better understand issues of statelessness and emerging issues affecting refugee protection.”*

For further details, please contact: Dr. K.M. Parivelan, Associate Professor & Chairperson, Nodal Centre of Excellence for Human Rights Education, School of Law, Rights and Constitutional Governance at TISS, Mumbai. Mobile no. 9029090805/ Email: parivelan@tiss.edu