

PRESS NOTE: Non-Official Visitors Workshop, Jodhpur (2nd & 3rd August, 2013)

July 26, 2013

Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has called for a workshop on the Prison Visiting System for **Non-Official Visitors (NOVs)** from Jodhpur Division and Nagore district of Rajasthan. On SHRC's request, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI) will be joining hands with them in conducting this training event from **2nd till 3rd August, 2013 in Jodhpur**. The training program will be facilitated by the Rajasthan Directorate of Prisons and the District Administration of Jodhpur. CHRI is supporting the workshop with policy inputs and by organizing this training program. The aim of this workshop is to ensure that designated prison visitors develop the knowledge, skill and commitment necessary to work in the prisons as responsible functionaries of the system.

The workshop will be attended by 41 NOVs from Jodhpur Division and Nagore district of Rajasthan. The workshop will bring the focus on the importance of the Prison Visiting System with specific attention to the roles, rights and duties of NOVs with reference to the Rajasthan Prison Rules 1951. It will also help the NOVs in placing their work in the larger framework of protection of Human Rights of prisoners. To further strengthen the learning, a visit to Jodhpur Central Prison has been planned which would help the NOVs to gain practical knowledge about their role. Few representatives from the civil society organizations of Jodhpur and Jaipur would also be joining the workshop as participants to get acquainted with the Prison Visiting System.

The various sessions during the workshop will be graced by an eminent panel of experts from the field like *Mr. Hemant Gera (Divisional Commissioner, Jodhpur) & Mr. Bhupendra Kumar Dak (Commissioner Of Police, Jodhpur), Mr. J. K. Sharma (OSD, Jail, Home Department, Rajasthan), Mr. Shreenath Sharma, Adv. (NOV, Gopal Garh, Bharatpur), Mr. Rakesh Mohan Sharma (Superintendent, Jodhpur Central Prison), Mr. Omendra Bharadwaj (D.G. Prisons, Rajasthan), Mr. R.K. Saxena (Retd. I.G., Prisons), Justice H.R. Kuri (Chairperson, SHRC, Rajasthan) & Ms. Maja Daruwala (Director, CHRI).*

At the end of the training event, a joint certificate from Rajasthan State Human Rights Commission and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative will be awarded to each participant. Also, Rajasthan Jail Department would issue Identity Cards for the NOVs to facilitate their entry into prisons in future.