

## **Sensitisation of Public Prosecutors on Human Trafficking**

ASLSA organised a training cum sensitisation programme on Human Trafficking on 10 August 2019 at Don Bosco Institute, Kharghuli, Guwahati for the Public Prosecutor (PP)s of Zone III Judicial Districts of Assam viz. Kamrup (M), Kamrup (Amingaon), Nagaon, Morigaon, Karbi-Anglong, Nalbari, Baksa and Barpeta. The training was an initiative of ASLSA as per a direction received from Home and Political Department, Govt. of Assam to sensitise the PPs to combat the spurt in the crime. More such programmes will follow for other Zones of the state. Presenting his welcome address, the Member Secretary, ASLSA, Mr. S.N. Sarma said that the PPs were key persons of the justice system and in order to deliver good services training was very important for them as everyone. The Deputy Secretary and Under Secretary, ASLSA, Ms. Gitali Rabha and Ms. Meenakshi Sarmah respectively facilitated the proceedings of the event.



**Dr. Y.K. Gautam, addressing the participants**

Delivering the keynote address, the ADGP (Prosecution), Assam, Dr. Y.K. Gautam cited National data to explain the high rate of human trafficking in Assam. Dr. Gautam termed the role of PPs as very important in speedily investigating the

cases, finding out and punishing the trafficker. He also emphasised on upgrading the skill of PPs to handle cyber crimes.



**Mr. A.F.A. Bora, during his presentation**

The District and Sessions Judge (Retd.) and former Member Secretary, ASLSA, Mr. A.F.A. Bora spoke on substantive laws, procedural laws and appreciation of evidences, including electronic evidence in connection of human trafficking cases. Referring to the UN convention against Transnational Organised Crime, Immoral Traffick Prevention Act, SAARC definition of trafficking and various sections of IPC and Indian Evidence Act, Mr. Bora upheld that a lawyer was an assisting officer of the court and so he/she should be efficient, acceptable and know the exact provisions of the laws. He expressed concern over the insensitivity with which identity of the victims was often disclosed.

The IGP, CID, Assam, Mr. Surendra Kumar, as another efficient Resource Person of the programme, presented on nature of the crime, investigation challenges and issues relating to investigation of inter-state trafficking. Mr. Kumar

announced that Govt. of India had approved an amount of 70 lakh to all Anti Human Trafficking Units in the districts to maintain the expenses of rescue and rehabilitation.



**A section of the participants**

Mr. P.P. Baruah, Public Prosecutor, Gauhati High Court presented on examination and cross examination of victims and other witnesses, how to prove the chain of trafficking and facts that would strengthen/weaken the case of prosecution.

Dr. Rajeev Sharma, General Secretary, Global Organisation for Life Development (GOLD), articulated on rehabilitation and reintegration of trafficked survivors. His session was rich with real life stories of his practical experiences of working against human trafficking.

---