

Brief Note on Repatriation of 23 Rescued Trafficked Survivors Rohingya in North East, India

North East region of India having vast porous international borders with south Asia – such as Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar and Chicken Neck corridor with Nepal became a transit and source destination. NEDAN Foundation (NEDAN) based in Kokrajhar, Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Assam is a pioneer on Combating Cross Border Trafficking in Persons between North East, India with South Asia Countries last 20 years. Till today NEDAN had a record of rescuing and repatriating 2000 plus women and children from North East to neighboring South East Asian countries.

After successful repatriation of 23 girls from Nepal allegedly trafficked was “rescued” by Mizoram police while they were crossing the international border of Champhai district of Mizoram with Myanmar on 23rd April 2019. While rescued 23 women and girls were sheltering in the Protective Homes of Mizoram the Superintendent of Protective Home and Director Social Welfare Govt. of Mizoram contacted NEDAN FOUNDATION for support in repatriating the women and girls to Nepal since NEDAN FOUNDATION has been working on Combating Cross Border Human Trafficking and host Secretariat for North East Network Forum against Trafficking (NENFAT), having vast networking partners with South Asian Countries. Finally, all the 23 girls were handed over to Maiti Nepal in the presence of Secretary Ministry of Women Govt. of Nepal at Kakarbitha India Nepal border.

The tragedy related to displacement has long term impact in the lives and livelihood of the humanity. The Rohingyas displaced from Myanmar has great impact in the North East region of India. Many women and children can not bear the suffocating condition of relief camps set up in Cox-Bazar in Bangladesh. Many women and girls flee and try to cross the international border in India through North East region. In the beginning of 2019, 20 Rohingyas girls were rescued in Mizoram state of North East while they were crossing Mizoram border and heading towards travel to Malaysia. The rescued 20 girls were handed over to Protective Home of Mizoram run by state social welfare department govt. of Mizoram.

The social welfare department of Mizoram and Mizoram police seek the support of NEDAN Foundation for possible repatriation of 23 Rohingyas to Bangladesh Cox-Bazar Relief camps. While the process of repatriation was on Covid-19 pandemic outbreak happened and all the international border was closed. It was also a reality the event the Bangladesh govt refused to take back the Rohingyas therefore the repatriation couldn't take place almost 2 years. The govt. of Mizoram took the responsibilities of keeping them protected and provided all the support needed while they were in protective Home of Mizoram.

Today on 14th Dec-2021, it is historic day for us, all the 23 Rohingya rescued trafficked survivors living almost 2 years in the protective home of Mizoram were handed over to their guardians and family members at Mizoram House, Guwahati. Let the beginning of 2022 be celebrated with family re-union of all the 23 girls at home.





