



WORLD REFUGEE DAY -

20 JUNE 2026

INDIA'S FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

A NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK

FOR



RECOGNITION



PROTECTION



DIGNIFIED INTEGRATION

Submitted to

HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA

SHRI NARENDRA MODI JI



HINDU SAMMAN FOUNDATION

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Date: 20 June 2026

To

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
Shri Narendra Modi Ji
Prime Minister's Office
South Block
New Delhi – 110011

Subject: Submission of World Refugee Day Memorandum 2026 – "India's Forgotten Refugees: A Policy Framework for Recognition, Protection and Dignified Integration of Persecuted Hindu and Other Indic Minority Communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Other Countries."

Respected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji,

On behalf of Hindu Samman Foundation (HSF), I respectfully submit this World Refugee Day Memorandum 2026 for your kind consideration.

At the outset, I wish to place on record our sincere appreciation for the numerous humanitarian initiatives undertaken by the Government of India under your leadership for persecuted minority communities from India's neighbourhood. Measures relating to CAA, Long-Term Visas, documentation, and humanitarian framework have brought hope and dignity to thousands of families who had nowhere else to seek protection.

This memorandum has been prepared in continuation of Hindu Samman Foundation's Open Letter submitted to the Prime Minister's Office on **19 January 2026**, in which the Foundation proposed a Five-Pillar Civilizational Policy Framework for the protection, documentation and welfare of persecuted Hindu refugees from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. That representation articulated the broad policy vision. The present memorandum seeks to expand that vision into a comprehensive public policy document supported by constitutional reasoning, governance analysis, humanitarian field observations and practical recommendations.



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Over the past several years, HSF has worked extensively with persecuted refugee families living across Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal and other parts of India. Through legal assistance, humanitarian relief, housing, education, medical support, documentation assistance and livelihood initiatives, our volunteers have witnessed both the extraordinary resilience of these families and the administrative challenges that continue to affect their rehabilitation.

These experiences have reinforced one important conclusion.

The issue before the nation is not merely one of humanitarian relief.

It is a question of governance.

India has consistently demonstrated compassion towards persecuted communities. The next stage of this humanitarian commitment, in our respectful view, is the creation of a coherent institutional framework capable of providing legal clarity, administrative coordination, stronger documentation, enhanced national security and dignified rehabilitation.

The recommendations contained in this memorandum are therefore offered in a constructive spirit.

They are not intended to replace or criticise existing Government initiatives. Rather, they seek to strengthen them through a comprehensive Civilizational Refugee Governance Framework that remains firmly rooted in India's Constitution, democratic institutions, sovereign decision-making and long-standing humanitarian traditions.

The Foundation fully recognises that refugee policy involves complex considerations relating to national security, immigration, diplomacy, constitutional law, federal administration and public welfare. Accordingly, the recommendations presented herein are intended to contribute to informed national dialogue and future policy development.

HSF remains committed to supporting the Government of India in every possible manner through humanitarian field experience, documentation support, legal research, community outreach, policy feedback and constructive engagement wherever considered appropriate.

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, we respectfully submit this memorandum with the hope that it may contribute towards the formulation of a comprehensive National Refugee Policy that combines humanitarian responsibility with strong governance, constitutional values and India's long-standing civilizational heritage.

We remain confident that under your leadership, India will continue to strengthen institutions that uphold both human dignity and national interest.

With highest regards and respectful pranam.

Yours faithfully,

Vijay Pandita

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Cover Page | i |
| A Message to the Reader | ii |
| A Quote on Humanity..... | iii |
| Executive Policy Summary | iv |
| Table of Contents | v |

Chapter 1

Why World Refugee Day Matters

- The Global Significance of World Refugee Day
 - India's Humanitarian Legacy
 - Why This Memorandum Has Been Prepared
 - Scope and Objectives of the Memorandum
-

Chapter 2

The Forgotten Refugees

- Persecuted Hindu Minorities in India's Neighbourhood
 - Humanitarian Journey to India
 - Existing Government Initiatives
 - Administrative Reality after Arrival
 - Why the Issue Requires National Attention
-

Chapter 3

The Missing Link – India's National Refugee Policy

- India's Existing Refugee Management Framework
-

- Limitations of the Current Administrative Structure
 - Governance Challenges
 - Need for a Comprehensive National Refugee Policy
 - Benefits of a Structured Domestic Framework
-

Chapter 4

Humanitarian Consequences of the Current Framework

- Life in Administrative Uncertainty
 - Interrupted Childhoods
 - Education Challenges
 - Livelihood Barriers
 - Financial Exclusion
 - Healthcare Challenges
 - Housing Insecurity
 - Elderly and Vulnerable Refugees
 - Psychological Impact
 - Impact on Civil Society
 - Governance Consequences
-

Chapter 5

What Hindu Samman Foundation Has Witnessed (Ground Reality)

- HSF's Humanitarian Field Experience
 - Common Administrative Challenges
 - Documentation Issues
 - Education and Child Welfare
 - Livelihood Aspirations
 - Housing Challenges
 - Women's Experiences
 - Elderly Refugees
 - Civil Society's Role
 - Key Observations from the Ground
-

Chapter 6

Why Refugee Recognition Matters

- Recognition as an Administrative Tool
 - Documentation and Identity
 - National Security Benefits
 - Governance Advantages
 - Self-Reliance through Recognition
 - Human Dignity
 - Policy Planning
 - Judicial Consistency
 - India's Sovereign Refugee Model
-

Chapter 7

Why a National Refugee Policy Strengthens India Strategically

- Stronger Border Governance
 - Better Documentation
 - National Security
 - Institutional Coordination
 - Administrative Efficiency
 - Social Stability
 - Unlocking Human Capital
 - Cooperative Federalism
 - India's Global Leadership
 - Strategic Preparedness
-

Chapter 8

India's Civilizational Responsibility

- India's Historical Tradition of Providing Refuge
 - Constitutional Values
 - Humanitarian Governance
 - National Character
 - Compassion and Sovereignty
 - Shared National Responsibility
 - Building Institutions for the Future
-

Chapter 9

HSF's Civilizational Refugee Governance Framework

Pillar I

Establish a Comprehensive National Refugee Policy

Pillar II

Create a Uniform National Refugee Identification and Documentation System

Pillar III

Sovereign Security and Humanitarian Responsibility Doctrine

Pillar IV

State Capacity Architecture

Pillar V

Diplomatic and Information Strategy

Conclusion

Annexure A

Annexure B

Annexure C

About Hindu Samman Foundation

Back Cover

Cover Letter

HINDU SAMMAN FOUNDATION

WORLD REFUGEE DAY MEMORANDUM 2026

Recognition, Protection and Dignified Integration of Persecuted Hindu Minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan

Towards a Comprehensive National Refugee Policy for India

A Policy Memorandum

Prepared on the occasion of

World Refugee Day

20 June 2026

Submitted to The Government of India

With utmost respect to the Constitution of India, the democratic institutions of the Republic, and the Government's continuing humanitarian efforts towards persecuted minority communities.

Prepared by

Hindu Samman Foundation (HSF)

A Humanitarian and Public Policy Initiative

New Delhi, India, 2026

A Message to the Reader

Every nation is occasionally presented with moments that invite reflection—not because it has failed, but because it has the opportunity to become stronger.

World Refugee Day is one such moment for India.

Across the world, this day serves as a reminder that millions of people continue to flee persecution, violence and conflict in search of safety. For India, however, the conversation carries a deeper historical and civilizational significance.

For centuries, our civilization has provided refuge to those who had nowhere else to go. Long before refugee protection became a subject of international law, India had already demonstrated that compassion, coexistence and human dignity could coexist with strong national identity and social stability.

Independent India inherited this legacy and strengthened it through the Constitution.

Our democratic institutions, our commitment to the rule of law and our respect for human dignity have enabled India to respond to humanitarian challenges while preserving complete sovereignty over immigration, national security and foreign policy.

It is within this spirit that this memorandum has been prepared.

This document is **not** intended as a criticism of the Government of India.

On the contrary, Hindu Samman Foundation acknowledges the significant humanitarian initiatives already undertaken by successive governments to provide relief to persecuted minority communities from neighbouring countries. Measures relating to long-term visas, documentation, administrative relaxations and legislative reforms have brought hope to thousands of families seeking safety in India.

These initiatives deserve recognition.

At the same time, years of humanitarian work undertaken by Hindu Samman Foundation across refugee settlements have revealed a recurring reality.

Many refugee families continue to experience prolonged administrative uncertainty long after reaching safety.

Their challenges frequently relate not to the absence of humanitarian intent, but to the absence of a comprehensive institutional framework capable of coordinating refugee governance across multiple departments and levels of government.

This distinction is important.

The purpose of this memorandum is therefore not to question India's humanitarian commitment.

It is to respectfully suggest that the next stage of that commitment should be institutional.

Throughout these pages, the Foundation has attempted to present refugee protection not merely as a humanitarian concern but as an issue of governance, administrative efficiency, constitutional confidence and national resilience.

The recommendations offered herein are based upon years of direct engagement with refugee communities, observations from the ground, analysis of existing administrative practices and the belief that India possesses both the constitutional capacity and institutional maturity to establish a uniquely Indian model of refugee governance.

Such a model need not replicate international systems.

It need not compromise national security.

It need not dilute sovereign authority.

Instead, it can demonstrate that India is fully capable of designing its own refugee framework—one that reflects its constitutional values, strategic interests and civilizational heritage while responding effectively to contemporary humanitarian realities.

The Foundation also recognises that refugee policy is neither simple nor unilateral.

It involves questions of national security, immigration management, constitutional law, public administration, diplomacy, federal coordination and humanitarian protection.

Accordingly, no single institution can address these issues in isolation.

Meaningful progress requires dialogue.

It requires cooperation between the Union Government, State Governments, constitutional authorities, security agencies, policymakers, legal experts, humanitarian organisations, academic institutions and civil society.

This memorandum is intended as a contribution to that dialogue.

Its recommendations are offered respectfully, constructively and in the spirit of nation-building.

Above all, this document reflects a simple conviction.

The strength of a nation is measured not only by its ability to defend its borders, but also by the quality of the institutions through which it administers justice, protects human dignity and governs humanitarian challenges.

History will remember the laws we enact.

It will remember the institutions we build.

Most importantly, it will remember whether those institutions reflected the highest ideals of the Republic.

As India continues its remarkable journey as one of the world's leading democracies, Hindu Samman Foundation respectfully hopes that this memorandum contributes to an informed national conversation on building a comprehensive, sovereign and compassionate refugee governance framework for the future.

This memorandum is submitted with humility, respect and confidence in India's democratic institutions.

It is offered not as a document of protest, but as a document of partnership.

Not as a criticism of what India has done.

But as a vision of what India can still achieve.

Because this memorandum is not about changing India's values.

It is about strengthening the institutions through which those values are expressed.

"The true measure of a civilization is not merely how it protects its own people, but how it protects those who arrive at its doors seeking lawful refuge from persecution."

— *World Refugee Day Memorandum*

2026

Hindu Samman Foundation

Executive Policy Summary

World Refugee Day 2026 Memorandum

Recognition, Protection and Dignified Integration of Persecuted Hindu Minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan

Purpose of this Memorandum

This memorandum has been prepared by Hindu Samman Foundation (HSF) on the occasion of World Refugee Day 2026 to respectfully place before the Government of India a comprehensive policy framework for the recognition, protection and dignified rehabilitation of persecuted Hindu minorities who have sought refuge in India after facing religious persecution in neighbouring countries.

The Foundation recognises and appreciates the significant humanitarian initiatives already undertaken by the Government of India, including long-term visa mechanisms, administrative relaxations and legislative measures intended to provide relief to persecuted minorities.

The recommendations contained in this memorandum seek to build upon these initiatives by proposing a structured National Refugee Policy that strengthens governance, improves administrative efficiency, enhances national security and enables long-term rehabilitation through constitutional institutions.

The memorandum is therefore offered as a constructive policy document in the spirit of partnership and nation-building.

The Challenge

Thousands of persecuted Hindu families from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan have entered India over several decades seeking safety after facing religious persecution, discrimination, violence and forced displacement.

While many have received humanitarian support through existing government initiatives, numerous families continue to experience prolonged administrative uncertainty during their rehabilitation.

Field experience gathered by Hindu Samman Foundation across refugee settlements in Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal and other regions indicates recurring challenges relating to:

- documentation;
- education;
- healthcare;

- financial inclusion;
- housing;
- employment;
- social protection; and
- long-term administrative certainty.

These challenges do not necessarily arise from a lack of humanitarian intent.

Rather, they largely reflect the absence of a unified national framework capable of coordinating refugee governance across multiple government institutions.

Why Reform Is Needed

India possesses one of the world's oldest traditions of providing refuge to persecuted communities.

Independent India has continued this legacy through constitutional governance while preserving complete sovereignty over immigration and national security.

However, refugee management today remains distributed across executive orders, visa regulations, judicial decisions and departmental practices.

Although these mechanisms have enabled important humanitarian responses, they do not provide a comprehensive administrative architecture capable of ensuring consistent implementation nationwide.

A National Refugee Policy would therefore improve governance by:

- providing legal clarity;
- strengthening documentation systems;
- improving interdepartmental coordination;
- reducing administrative ambiguity;
- enhancing national security through better identity management;
- facilitating evidence-based policymaking; and
- promoting long-term self-reliance instead of prolonged dependency.

What HSF Has Observed

Through years of humanitarian engagement with refugee communities, Hindu Samman Foundation has observed remarkably consistent patterns across multiple states.

Families overwhelmingly express a desire to:

- educate their children;

- obtain lawful employment;
- rebuild stable homes;
- become financially independent;
- comply with Indian laws; and
- contribute positively to Indian society.

The Foundation has found very little demand for permanent dependence upon humanitarian assistance.

Instead, refugee families consistently seek opportunity, dignity and administrative certainty.

These observations reinforce the conclusion that structured rehabilitation benefits both refugee communities and the State.

HSF's Five-Pillar National Refugee Policy Framework

Hindu Samman Foundation respectfully recommends the following integrated policy framework:

Pillar I

Establish a Comprehensive National Refugee Policy defining refugee status, eligibility, documentation, rights, responsibilities, security procedures and rehabilitation pathways under the sovereign authority of the Government of India.

Pillar II

Create a Uniform National Refugee Identification and Documentation System supported by secure identity management, digital records and coordinated administrative procedures.

Pillar III

Establish a Dedicated National Institutional Mechanism to coordinate refugee registration, documentation, rehabilitation, policy implementation, grievance redressal and inter-ministerial coordination.

Pillar IV

Develop a Comprehensive Rehabilitation Framework focusing upon:

- education;
- healthcare;
- housing;

- employment;
- livelihood generation;
- skill development;
- financial inclusion; and
- support for vulnerable families.

Pillar V

Strengthen Regional Humanitarian Diplomacy and Early Response Mechanisms through institutional coordination, humanitarian monitoring and dedicated engagement with issues affecting persecuted minority communities in India's neighbourhood.

Expected Outcomes

The proposed framework would produce significant humanitarian and governance benefits.

For refugee communities, it would provide:

- dignity;
- legal certainty;
- better access to education;
- improved livelihood opportunities;
- stable rehabilitation; and
- greater self-reliance.

For the Government of India, it would provide:

- stronger documentation;
- enhanced national security;
- improved administrative efficiency;
- better policy coordination;
- reduced procedural ambiguity;
- evidence-based planning; and
- more effective public service delivery.

For India as a nation, it would:

- reinforce constitutional governance;
 - strengthen India's humanitarian leadership;
 - preserve sovereign control over refugee determination;
 - enhance social stability; and
 - reaffirm India's civilizational tradition of providing refuge to persecuted communities.
-

The Way Forward

The Foundation respectfully submits that the time has come to initiate a national dialogue on the formulation of a comprehensive National Refugee Policy suited to India's constitutional framework, strategic interests and humanitarian traditions.

Such a policy need not replicate international models.

It can be uniquely Indian.

It can preserve complete sovereignty.

It can strengthen national security.

It can improve governance.

It can uphold human dignity.

Above all, it can transform humanitarian intent into enduring public policy.

Final Submission

Hindu Samman Foundation respectfully presents this memorandum in the hope that it contributes meaningfully to informed public discussion and future policymaking.

The Foundation remains committed to working alongside the Government of India, constitutional institutions, civil society organisations and citizens in advancing a refugee governance framework that reflects the highest ideals of the Republic.

Recognition. Protection. Dignified Integration.

These are not only humanitarian aspirations.

They are investments in stronger governance, stronger institutions and a stronger India.

CHAPTER 1

WORLD REFUGEE DAY

Why This Day Matters to India

Every year, on **20 June**, the international community observes **World Refugee Day** to honour millions of people across the world who have been forced to leave their homes because of persecution, violence, conflict, war, or the fear of losing their lives and freedoms.

The day serves as a reminder that behind every refugee statistic is a human story—a family separated from its homeland, a child deprived of education, a widow struggling for survival, an elderly person living without certainty, and communities searching not for privilege, but for safety, dignity, and a chance to rebuild their lives.

World Refugee Day is not merely an international observance. It is a humanitarian call to governments, institutions, civil society organizations, and citizens to reflect upon their collective responsibility towards those who have been displaced through circumstances beyond their control.

The modern international refugee protection framework emerged after the devastation of the Second World War. In response to one of history's largest humanitarian crises, the international community adopted the **1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees**, followed by the **1967 Protocol**, establishing internationally recognized principles for the protection of refugees.

Although India is not a State Party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol, the country has a long and proud humanitarian tradition of providing shelter to displaced communities. Throughout history, India has welcomed people fleeing persecution and conflict, demonstrating compassion rooted not only in international humanitarian values but also in India's own civilizational ethos.

However, despite this rich humanitarian legacy, India still does not have a comprehensive national refugee policy governing the recognition, documentation, protection, and rehabilitation of refugees. Consequently, different refugee communities are often administered through varying legal and administrative mechanisms depending upon historical, diplomatic, and security considerations.

This absence of a comprehensive domestic refugee framework has created practical challenges for many vulnerable communities seeking long-term protection in India.

Among the most overlooked of these communities are **persecuted Hindu minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and other neighbouring regions** who have sought

refuge in India after facing religious persecution, forced displacement, discrimination, violence, or the denial of fundamental freedoms.

For many such families, India is not merely another destination. It is the only country where they believe they can preserve their faith, identity, culture, and way of life.

Yet, after reaching India, many continue to experience prolonged uncertainty regarding documentation, legal identity, education, healthcare, employment, housing, banking, financial inclusion, and long-term integration.

As a result, thousands of refugee families spend years navigating administrative processes without the legal clarity that a structured refugee framework could potentially provide.

This memorandum does not seek to diminish the efforts already undertaken by successive Governments of India in extending humanitarian assistance to persecuted minorities. Significant policy initiatives over the years—including measures facilitating long-term stay and pathways towards citizenship for eligible applicants—have provided hope to many families and deserve appreciation.

Nevertheless, the experience of Hindu Samman Foundation (HSF), gathered through direct engagement with refugee communities across multiple states, indicates that important humanitarian and administrative challenges continue to persist on the ground.

These challenges deserve careful national attention—not merely as questions of immigration policy, but as questions of humanitarian governance, constitutional compassion, national security, and India's long-standing civilizational responsibility.

This memorandum therefore seeks to initiate a constructive national dialogue on the need for a dedicated refugee protection framework for persecuted Hindu minorities who seek shelter in India.

Such a framework would not only address humanitarian concerns but also strengthen administrative efficiency, improve documentation, enhance national security through better registration mechanisms, facilitate lawful integration, and reinforce India's position as a nation committed to both compassion and responsible governance.

World Refugee Day offers an appropriate occasion to begin that conversation.

It reminds us that the true measure of a civilization is not only how it protects its borders, but also how it protects those who arrive at those borders seeking safety after persecution.

For persecuted Hindu minorities from our neighbouring countries, India has long represented hope.

This memorandum respectfully submits that it is now time to transform that hope into a structured humanitarian policy that offers recognition, protection, and dignity while simultaneously strengthening India's strategic interests and governance framework.

The chapters that follow examine why such a policy has become both a humanitarian necessity and a strategic opportunity for the Republic of India.

Chapter 2

The Forgotten Refugees

Every year, **World Refugee Day** reminds the international community that millions of people across the world are forced to leave their homes due to persecution, violence, discrimination and conflict. While global attention often focuses on large refugee crises elsewhere, another humanitarian reality has continued to unfold quietly in India's own neighbourhood.

For decades, thousands of Hindus and other indigenous minority communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan have crossed into India seeking safety after facing sustained religious persecution, targeted violence, forced conversions, abductions, social discrimination, destruction of places of worship, economic exclusion and an atmosphere of persistent insecurity. Many arrive in India not as economic migrants but as people escaping conditions that have made dignified life increasingly impossible.

Unlike conventional migration driven by employment or education, these families frequently leave behind their homes, businesses, agricultural land, savings and ancestral roots with little certainty about what awaits them. Many arrive carrying only the hope that India, as the civilizational homeland of Sanatan traditions, will provide them with safety, dignity and an opportunity to rebuild their lives.

The Government of India has, over the years, taken several important humanitarian initiatives to ease the difficulties faced by these communities. Measures such as the issuance of Long-Term Visas (LTVs), gradual relaxation of certain documentation requirements, and legislative efforts including the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 have reflected an acknowledgement of the unique circumstances faced by persecuted minorities from neighbouring countries. These initiatives have brought hope to thousands of families and represent significant steps towards humanitarian protection.

However, despite these positive developments, a substantial gap continues to exist between legal residence and meaningful rehabilitation.

For many refugee families, obtaining a Long-Term Visa marks only the beginning of a long and uncertain administrative journey. Access to essential public services often remains inconsistent across different states and districts. Families continue to encounter practical difficulties in obtaining identity documents, opening bank accounts, enrolling children in schools, accessing healthcare, securing formal employment, renting accommodation, obtaining social welfare benefits, renewing documentation and participating fully in everyday civic life.

As a result, many remain in a prolonged state of administrative uncertainty despite residing peacefully in India for years.

This uncertainty affects every aspect of daily life.

Children lose valuable years of education because documentation requirements vary between institutions. Skilled professionals are frequently unable to utilise their educational qualifications or previous work experience due to lack of recognition mechanisms. Elderly refugees often remain outside pension and social protection systems despite their vulnerability. Families struggle to access formal financial services, stable housing and lawful employment opportunities necessary for long-term self-reliance.

In many instances, these challenges do not arise from the absence of compassion on the part of individual officials. Rather, they stem from the absence of a uniform national framework that clearly defines the legal status, rights, responsibilities and administrative procedures applicable to persecuted refugee communities.

Consequently, decisions affecting refugee families are often interpreted differently across departments, districts and states. Administrative uncertainty replaces legal clarity, resulting in inconsistent implementation despite the Government's broader humanitarian intent.

The humanitarian consequences extend beyond documentation alone.

Without a structured rehabilitation framework, refugee families often remain dependent upon charitable organisations, civil society groups and local communities for basic necessities such as food, shelter, education, healthcare and livelihood support. While voluntary organisations have played an invaluable role in filling these gaps, humanitarian assistance cannot substitute for a predictable administrative system capable of supporting long-term integration.

Through its work across refugee settlements in Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat and West Bengal, Hindu Samman Foundation has interacted with hundreds of such families. Their stories differ in detail but reveal strikingly similar patterns—years spent waiting for documents, repeated administrative hurdles, interrupted education for children, barriers to employment, financial exclusion, housing insecurity and prolonged uncertainty about the future.

These experiences point not to isolated administrative failures but to a broader structural issue requiring policy attention.

The humanitarian challenge before India today is therefore not simply one of providing refuge. It is the challenge of ensuring that individuals who have already escaped persecution are able to live with dignity, legal certainty and self-reliance after reaching safety.

Recognising this distinction is essential.

Protection from persecution does not end at the border. True humanitarian protection also requires an administrative framework that enables refugees to rebuild their lives, participate productively in society and contribute to the nation that has given them shelter.

It is this missing link that forms the central focus of this memorandum.

Chapter 3

The Missing Link – India's National Refugee Policy

India has a long and distinguished history of extending refuge to people fleeing persecution. From ancient times to the modern era, the country has provided shelter to communities escaping religious persecution, political instability and armed conflict. This humanitarian tradition reflects India's civilizational ethos of compassion, coexistence and respect for human dignity.

Over the decades, India has welcomed diverse refugee populations through pragmatic administrative arrangements. Tibetan refugees, Sri Lankan Tamil refugees, Chakma refugees, Afghan refugees and several other displaced communities have received varying degrees of protection based upon their individual circumstances and the prevailing geopolitical context.

This flexible approach has enabled India to respond to complex humanitarian situations without becoming a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. It has also allowed successive governments to preserve sovereign discretion in matters relating to national security, immigration and foreign policy.

This sovereign flexibility has served India well.

However, the changing nature of regional displacement now presents a different administrative challenge.

Persecuted minority communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan often arrive gradually over many years rather than through sudden mass influxes. Many remain in India for prolonged periods under Long-Term Visas, while others eventually become eligible for citizenship under existing legal provisions. During this extended period, they require access to basic administrative systems that allow them to live lawfully, educate their children, support their families and contribute productively to society.

It is at this stage that the absence of a structured national refugee framework becomes increasingly apparent.

Unlike several countries that have enacted domestic refugee legislation or established comprehensive administrative procedures, India currently manages refugee situations through a combination of executive orders, ministry notifications, visa regulations, judicial pronouncements and case-specific administrative decisions. While these mechanisms have enabled humanitarian responses in individual situations, they do not constitute a comprehensive national policy applicable across all relevant government departments.

Consequently, refugee families often experience uncertainty not because the Government lacks humanitarian intent, but because there is no single, clearly defined administrative framework that harmonises implementation across institutions.

The absence of such a framework creates several governance challenges.

First, different authorities may interpret applicable rules differently. Procedures relating to documentation, identity verification, educational admission, banking, employment, welfare eligibility and local administration can vary significantly between states, districts and even individual offices. Families with similar legal status may therefore experience substantially different outcomes depending upon where they reside.

Second, administrative agencies frequently operate without clear interdepartmental coordination. Immigration authorities, district administrations, educational institutions, financial institutions, healthcare providers and welfare departments often rely upon separate guidelines, resulting in fragmented decision-making and avoidable procedural delays.

Third, the lack of uniform administrative standards places an additional burden upon government officials themselves. In the absence of comprehensive policy guidance, frontline officers are frequently required to interpret complex humanitarian situations on a case-by-case basis. This increases uncertainty, delays decision-making and creates inconsistency despite the best intentions of public servants.

Fourth, prolonged ambiguity can unintentionally encourage informal practices. Refugee families who remain uncertain about documentation requirements or administrative procedures become more vulnerable to misinformation, exploitation by intermediaries and unnecessary financial hardship. A transparent and standardised system would reduce such risks while strengthening public confidence in government institutions.

Most importantly, the absence of a structured framework makes long-term rehabilitation considerably more difficult.

Humanitarian protection extends beyond permitting physical entry into a country. Individuals escaping persecution must also be able to rebuild stable, productive and dignified lives. Access to lawful employment, education, healthcare, financial inclusion, housing, identity documentation and community integration are not merely welfare considerations; they are essential components of successful rehabilitation and social stability.

Without a coordinated framework, these objectives remain dependent upon fragmented administrative practices rather than predictable governance.

It is equally important to recognise what a national refugee policy would **not** mean.

It would not dilute India's sovereign authority over immigration.

It would not create unrestricted rights of entry.

It would not prevent the Government from conducting rigorous security verification.

It would not compromise national security or border management.

On the contrary, a well-designed domestic refugee framework would strengthen sovereign control by clearly distinguishing between different categories of foreign nationals based upon objective legal criteria.

Individuals seeking refuge due to verified persecution require different administrative pathways from tourists, temporary visitors, economic migrants or persons who have entered the country unlawfully for reasons unrelated to persecution. A structured classification system would improve governance by reducing ambiguity while enabling more efficient allocation of administrative resources.

Such a framework would also reinforce national security.

Comprehensive registration procedures, biometric identification, periodic verification, digital record management and inter-agency coordination would improve the Government's ability to accurately identify, monitor and assist refugee populations. Clear legal procedures reduce uncertainty, strengthen institutional accountability and enable more effective policy implementation.

International experience demonstrates that refugee protection and national security are not competing objectives. Well-governed refugee systems around the world rely upon robust identity verification, structured documentation, security screening and continuous administrative oversight. Humanitarian protection and effective governance are most successful when they operate together rather than in isolation.

India's unique constitutional and geopolitical circumstances require an approach that reflects national priorities rather than replicating international models. Any future refugee framework must remain firmly rooted in India's sovereign decision-making, security interests and constitutional values. Nevertheless, the broader international experience illustrates that clear domestic legislation and coordinated administrative procedures improve both humanitarian outcomes and governmental efficiency.

For persecuted Hindu minorities and other similarly situated communities arriving from India's neighbourhood, the absence of a dedicated framework has resulted in years of avoidable uncertainty despite successive humanitarian initiatives undertaken by the Government.

A carefully designed National Refugee Policy would therefore not represent a departure from India's existing humanitarian tradition. Rather, it would provide the administrative architecture necessary to make that tradition more consistent, more transparent and more effective.

It would convert goodwill into governance.

It would convert compassion into policy.

Most importantly, it would ensure that humanitarian protection is delivered with the clarity, dignity and administrative certainty that both refugee families and public institutions deserve.

Chapter 4

Humanitarian Consequences of the Current Framework

Humanitarian protection does not end when a persecuted individual crosses an international border. Safety from immediate violence is only the first step. Lasting protection requires the opportunity to rebuild a stable, dignified and self-reliant life through access to documentation, education, healthcare, employment, housing and public institutions.

When these essential components remain uncertain, displacement continues long after physical persecution has ended.

For many persecuted Hindu minority families from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, this has become the defining reality of life in India.

While successive humanitarian initiatives undertaken by the Government of India have provided important legal pathways and relief measures, the absence of a comprehensive refugee framework often leaves families navigating multiple administrative systems without clear guidance or uniform implementation. The result is not merely procedural inconvenience; it produces cumulative humanitarian consequences that affect every generation within a refugee household.

A Life Suspended Between Two Countries

Most refugee families arriving in India have permanently severed their connection with their country of origin. Returning is frequently not a realistic or safe option due to the circumstances that compelled their migration.

At the same time, many spend years in India before obtaining complete legal certainty regarding their long-term administrative status.

This prolonged transitional period creates a condition in which families are physically safe but administratively unsettled. They are neither temporary visitors preparing to return nor fully integrated residents able to participate confidently in every aspect of public life.

Such uncertainty affects decision-making at every level of family life—from children's education and employment choices to housing, healthcare, financial planning and long-term social integration.

Interrupted Childhoods

Children are often the most affected by prolonged administrative uncertainty.

Education is one of the most powerful instruments for rehabilitation, social integration and economic self-reliance. Yet refugee children frequently encounter practical obstacles during school admissions due to documentation requirements, variations in local administrative practices or delays in obtaining identity documents.

When schooling is delayed or interrupted, the consequences extend well beyond the classroom.

Children who remain outside formal education become increasingly vulnerable to child labour, early marriage, social exclusion and long-term economic disadvantage. Every academic year lost reduces future opportunities for higher education, skilled employment and meaningful participation in society.

For children who have already experienced displacement, education represents far more than literacy—it restores routine, confidence, social belonging and hope for the future.

Barriers to Livelihood and Economic Independence

Most refugee families do not seek prolonged dependency upon charitable assistance.

Like any other family, they aspire to earn a livelihood, support themselves and contribute productively to the communities in which they live.

However, uncertainty surrounding documentation, recognition of qualifications, banking access and employment opportunities frequently limits these aspirations.

Many individuals who possessed agricultural land, businesses, technical skills or professional experience before displacement find themselves restricted to irregular daily wage labour despite having the capacity to contribute more substantially to India's economy.

Highly skilled individuals may remain unable to utilise their previous educational or professional qualifications because appropriate recognition or transition mechanisms are unavailable.

The resulting underemployment represents not only a humanitarian concern but also a loss of valuable human capital.

Financial Exclusion

Modern economic participation depends upon access to formal financial systems.

Bank accounts, digital payments, savings instruments, credit facilities and financial identity have become essential components of everyday life in contemporary India.

Where documentation challenges persist, refugee families may encounter significant practical difficulties in accessing these services.

Without financial inclusion, families often struggle to receive wages through formal channels, build savings, obtain credit for small enterprises, rent accommodation or participate fully in the formal economy.

Economic rehabilitation therefore becomes considerably more difficult despite an individual's willingness to work and contribute.

Healthcare Without Continuity

Refugee households often include elderly persons, persons with disabilities, widows, pregnant women and individuals living with chronic medical conditions.

Access to healthcare is therefore not merely an emergency requirement but an ongoing necessity.

Administrative uncertainty may complicate continuity of treatment, access to government health schemes or timely medical interventions, particularly for economically vulnerable families.

The humanitarian consequences are especially severe where chronic illness coincides with financial hardship.

Medical insecurity can quickly transform temporary vulnerability into long-term poverty.

Housing Insecurity

Stable housing is fundamental to human dignity.

Yet many refugee families spend years living in temporary settlements, rented accommodation or informal habitations due to financial limitations, documentation challenges and the absence of structured rehabilitation mechanisms.

Housing insecurity affects far more than physical shelter.

It influences children's education, public health, personal safety, community integration, employment opportunities and psychological well-being.

Families unable to establish permanent residences often find it difficult to build the stability necessary for long-term rehabilitation.

The Elderly and the Most Vulnerable

Among the most affected are elderly refugees who have exhausted their savings after displacement.

Many have spent decades contributing to society in their countries of origin before being forced to leave everything behind.

After arriving in India, they frequently depend upon younger family members, charitable organisations or community support for their daily needs.

Widows, persons with disabilities, chronically ill individuals and single-parent households face similar vulnerabilities.

Without structured social protection mechanisms, these groups remain disproportionately dependent upon voluntary humanitarian assistance.

The Psychological Cost of Uncertainty

Displacement causes emotional trauma that extends beyond physical migration.

Many refugee families have witnessed violence, discrimination, forced displacement or the loss of homes, livelihoods and community networks accumulated over generations.

Rebuilding emotional security requires more than physical safety.

Years of administrative uncertainty may reinforce feelings of instability, insecurity and social exclusion even after reaching a place of refuge.

Conversely, predictable legal procedures, recognised documentation and transparent administrative systems contribute significantly to restoring confidence, belonging and hope.

Human dignity is strengthened when individuals understand their rights, responsibilities and future within the society that has welcomed them.

Impact on Civil Society

The consequences of an incomplete rehabilitation framework are not borne solely by refugee families.

Civil society organisations, charitable institutions, religious organisations and local communities frequently assume responsibilities that would otherwise be addressed through structured administrative systems.

Across India, numerous voluntary organisations provide food, shelter, education, healthcare, documentation assistance, livelihood support and legal guidance to refugee families.

Their contribution is both valuable and commendable.

However, humanitarian organisations are not substitutes for public policy.

Their resources are finite, geographically uneven and dependent upon voluntary contributions.

A coordinated national framework would allow civil society and government institutions to complement one another more effectively, ensuring that humanitarian assistance becomes a bridge towards self-reliance rather than a permanent substitute for institutional support.

A Governance Challenge with Human Consequences

The humanitarian difficulties experienced by refugee families should not be viewed as isolated administrative inconveniences.

Rather, they represent the predictable consequences of a system in which legal residence, administrative recognition and long-term rehabilitation are not yet integrated into a coherent national framework.

This is not a question of compassion versus security.

Nor is it a question of humanitarian values versus sovereign control.

It is a question of governance.

A structured refugee policy would enable public institutions to respond with greater consistency, improve coordination across departments, strengthen documentation systems and reduce avoidable hardship without compromising national security or India's sovereign decision-making.

Ultimately, humanitarian protection succeeds not only when people are rescued from persecution, but when they are given the opportunity to rebuild lives of dignity, productivity and hope.

The experiences documented by Hindu Samman Foundation over several years demonstrate that this objective remains achievable.

The challenge before India is not whether to protect persecuted refugee communities, but how to do so through a framework that combines compassion, constitutional governance and administrative clarity.

Chapter 5

What Hindu Samman Foundation Has Witnessed (Ground Reality)

Policy discussions on refugees often rely upon legal frameworks, demographic estimates and administrative records. While these are essential for informed policymaking, they do not always capture the lived realities of displaced families struggling to rebuild their lives.

Over the past several years, Hindu Samman Foundation (HSF) has undertaken extensive humanitarian work among persecuted Hindu refugee communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan living across different parts of India. Through relief programmes, legal assistance, documentation support, livelihood initiatives, housing projects, educational interventions, medical assistance and community outreach, HSF volunteers have visited refugee settlements in Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, West Bengal and other locations.

These visits have enabled the Foundation to interact directly with thousands of refugee men, women and children representing diverse age groups, occupations and socio-economic backgrounds.

Although every family has its own unique journey, the challenges observed across different states are remarkably consistent.

This consistency suggests that the difficulties faced by refugee families are not isolated incidents or local administrative anomalies. Rather, they reflect recurring structural issues that require a coordinated national response.

Documentation Remains the Beginning—Not the End

One of the most consistent observations made during HSF's fieldwork is that obtaining legal documentation, while critically important, rarely resolves the broader challenges confronting refugee families.

Many families invest considerable time, financial resources and emotional energy in securing visas, renewals, identity documents and other administrative approvals. Yet even after receiving such documentation, they often continue to face uncertainty while attempting to access banking services, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, housing, employment opportunities and social welfare systems.

For many families, documentation marks the start of a long administrative journey rather than its conclusion.

Children Continue to Lose Educational Opportunities

Across numerous refugee settlements visited by HSF, parents consistently identify education as their greatest aspiration for their children.

Many families willingly sacrifice their own comfort so that the next generation may enjoy opportunities unavailable to them.

Yet documentation delays, financial hardship, frequent relocation and inconsistent administrative practices often interrupt children's education during their most formative years.

Some children lose several academic years before entering school. Others discontinue education altogether due to economic pressures or repeated displacement.

The long-term implications extend beyond individual families and affect India's future human capital.

Every child successfully integrated into the education system becomes a future contributor to society.

Every child left behind represents a preventable loss of potential.

Refugees Want Work, Not Dependence

Perhaps the most striking observation made by HSF volunteers is that refugee families overwhelmingly seek opportunity rather than charity.

Very few families ask for permanent financial assistance.

Instead, they consistently express a desire for dignified employment, stable livelihoods, vocational opportunities, access to markets and the ability to become self-reliant.

Former farmers wish to cultivate land.

Small business owners seek opportunities to rebuild enterprises.

Skilled workers hope to resume their professions.

Young people aspire to acquire new skills and participate in India's growing economy.

Their aspirations closely resemble those of every hardworking Indian family.

The principal difference is that they must pursue these goals while navigating the additional burden of displacement and prolonged administrative uncertainty.

Housing Represents Stability

During field visits across multiple states, HSF has observed that inadequate housing often becomes the centre of a family's vulnerability.

Temporary shelters, overcrowded accommodation, informal settlements and repeated relocation create instability that affects education, employment, healthcare and community integration.

Conversely, families that obtain secure housing frequently experience significant improvements in overall well-being.

Children remain enrolled in schools.

Adults pursue stable employment.

Healthcare becomes more accessible.

Community participation increases.

These observations have reinforced HSF's belief that housing should be viewed not merely as humanitarian assistance but as an investment in long-term rehabilitation.

Documentation Challenges Affect Everyday Life

HSF volunteers have repeatedly encountered situations in which administrative uncertainty creates cascading practical difficulties.

A delay in one document may prevent access to another.

An expired permit may interrupt banking services.

Uncertainty regarding identity documentation may complicate employment, housing or educational admission.

Each individual challenge may appear administrative in nature.

Together, however, they create a cycle of uncertainty that affects every aspect of family life.

The Foundation has also observed that many refugee families possess limited awareness of changing administrative procedures, making them increasingly dependent upon voluntary organisations for guidance and documentation support.

A simplified, transparent and nationally coordinated administrative framework would significantly reduce these avoidable hardships.

Women Carry a Disproportionate Burden

Women within refugee households frequently bear multiple responsibilities simultaneously.

They care for children, elderly family members and persons with disabilities while also managing household responsibilities under conditions of financial uncertainty.

In many settlements, women have demonstrated extraordinary resilience despite prolonged hardship.

They actively seek educational opportunities for their children, support family livelihoods and participate in community initiatives wherever possible.

Strengthening refugee rehabilitation therefore directly strengthens family stability, child welfare and community resilience.

Elderly Refugees Live with Quiet Insecurity

HSF has met numerous elderly refugees who spent their productive years contributing to society before displacement forced them to abandon homes, property and livelihoods accumulated over decades.

Many now depend upon younger relatives or humanitarian organisations for their daily needs.

Their greatest concern is rarely financial alone.

It is the desire to live their remaining years with dignity, security and a sense of belonging in the country they now call home.

Civil Society Has Filled Critical Gaps

One of the most encouraging observations made during HSF's humanitarian work has been the extraordinary generosity shown by Indian society.

Individual citizens, charitable trusts, religious institutions, volunteers and local communities have consistently stepped forward to support refugee families through food assistance, medical care, housing, education, employment opportunities and emergency relief.

These acts of compassion reflect the enduring humanitarian values embedded within Indian society.

However, HSF's experience also demonstrates that voluntary efforts alone cannot address challenges of this scale indefinitely.

Civil society is most effective when working alongside well-defined public policy rather than in place of it.

The Same Problems Recur Across Different States

Perhaps the most significant conclusion emerging from HSF's field experience is the remarkable similarity of challenges encountered across geographically distant refugee settlements.

Whether in metropolitan cities or remote rural areas, the recurring themes remain strikingly consistent:

- Delays and uncertainty relating to documentation.
- Interrupted education for children.
- Limited access to stable livelihoods.

- Housing insecurity.
- Healthcare vulnerabilities.
- Financial exclusion.
- Administrative complexity.
- Dependence upon voluntary assistance during prolonged transition.

When similar patterns emerge repeatedly across different states, communities and administrative jurisdictions, they indicate structural policy gaps rather than isolated local issues.

Ground Experience Supports Policy Reform

The observations presented in this memorandum are not based upon theoretical analysis alone.

They arise from years of direct humanitarian engagement with refugee families living through these realities every day.

HSF's field experience reinforces one central conclusion:

The overwhelming majority of persecuted refugee families do not seek perpetual assistance.

They seek certainty.

They seek dignity.

They seek the opportunity to educate their children, earn an honest livelihood, obey the laws of India and contribute positively to the nation that has given them refuge.

Their aspirations are fully compatible with India's constitutional values, humanitarian traditions and national interests.

For this reason, the Foundation respectfully submits that a comprehensive National Refugee Policy should not be viewed merely as a humanitarian initiative.

It should be recognised as an evidence-based governance reform informed by the lived experiences of refugee families and by the practical lessons learned through years of civil society engagement on the ground.

Chapter 6

Why Refugee Recognition Matters

The central objective of this memorandum is not merely to advocate for greater humanitarian assistance. It is to advocate for the formal recognition of persecuted refugee communities through a structured domestic framework that enables effective governance, legal clarity and dignified rehabilitation.

Recognition is often misunderstood as a symbolic declaration.

In reality, it is an administrative foundation upon which every other aspect of refugee management depends.

Without a clearly defined legal and administrative status, governments face difficulties in designing consistent procedures, public institutions struggle to implement uniform policies and refugee families remain uncertain about their rights, responsibilities and future.

Conversely, when refugee status is clearly recognised within a structured national framework, governance becomes more predictable, public administration becomes more efficient and humanitarian protection becomes substantially more effective.

Recognition Creates Administrative Clarity

Public administration functions most effectively when legal categories are clearly defined.

Citizens, tourists, students, business travellers, temporary workers and permanent residents each operate under distinct legal frameworks with corresponding rights and obligations.

Refugees represent another distinct category.

Individuals who have fled verified persecution require administrative pathways that differ from those designed for voluntary migration or temporary international travel.

Recognising this distinction enables government departments to adopt uniform procedures, reduce ambiguity and improve coordination across institutions.

Administrative clarity benefits both the State and the individual.

Recognition Improves Documentation

One of the greatest practical advantages of formal refugee recognition is the establishment of a predictable documentation ecosystem.

When refugee status is clearly identified through a nationally recognised administrative framework, associated processes relating to identity verification, residence documentation, periodic review and access to essential public services become significantly more streamlined.

Instead of navigating multiple disconnected procedures, refugee families and government agencies operate within a coherent administrative structure.

This reduces duplication, improves record-keeping and enhances institutional efficiency.

Recognition Strengthens National Security

Humanitarian protection and national security should never be viewed as competing objectives.

In fact, effective refugee recognition strengthens national security by improving the State's ability to accurately identify, document and monitor refugee populations.

A structured framework enables systematic registration, biometric verification where appropriate, periodic renewal, digital record management and coordinated information sharing between relevant government agencies.

Such systems reduce uncertainty regarding identity while strengthening accountability.

Clear documentation also enables authorities to distinguish genuine refugees from individuals who may misuse humanitarian processes for unrelated purposes.

A transparent and well-regulated refugee system therefore supports both humanitarian objectives and national security interests.

Recognition Reduces Administrative Burden

The absence of standardised procedures often requires government officials to resolve similar issues repeatedly through individual interpretation.

This consumes administrative time, produces inconsistent outcomes and creates avoidable delays for both officials and applicants.

A comprehensive refugee framework would provide standard operating procedures applicable across departments, reducing unnecessary discretion while improving consistency.

Frontline officers would benefit from greater policy clarity.

Applicants would benefit from greater predictability.

Public administration would benefit from greater efficiency.

Recognition Promotes Self-Reliance

The overwhelming majority of refugee families aspire to rebuild independent lives rather than depend indefinitely upon humanitarian assistance.

Formal recognition enables governments to design policies that support this transition.

When refugees are able to access education, lawful employment, financial services, vocational training and stable housing through clearly defined administrative procedures, long-term dependency naturally declines.

Individuals become taxpayers, entrepreneurs, workers, consumers and contributors to local economies.

Successful rehabilitation therefore transforms humanitarian expenditure into long-term social and economic contribution.

Recognition Protects Human Dignity

Every individual deserves to know where they stand before the law.

Uncertainty regarding administrative status often produces anxiety, confusion and diminished confidence in public institutions.

Recognition provides something equally important as material assistance—it provides certainty.

Families gain confidence to educate their children, establish businesses, invest in housing, participate in community life and plan for the future.

Human dignity is strengthened when people understand both their responsibilities and the protections available to them under law.

Recognition Improves Policy Planning

Governments require reliable information to formulate effective public policy.

A structured refugee framework would facilitate comprehensive data collection relating to demographics, education, employment, healthcare, housing needs, geographic distribution and other indicators essential for evidence-based decision-making.

Such information would improve planning across multiple ministries while enabling more efficient allocation of public resources.

Good governance depends upon accurate information.

Recognition makes such information possible.

Recognition Supports Judicial Consistency

In the absence of comprehensive legislation, courts are often called upon to resolve humanitarian issues through constitutional interpretation and case-specific adjudication.

A clear statutory or administrative framework would provide greater guidance to public authorities while reducing uncertainty regarding procedural implementation.

This would strengthen legal consistency and improve access to justice for affected families.

Recognition Encourages Responsible International Engagement

India has consistently demonstrated that humanitarian action can coexist with sovereign decision-making.

A structured refugee policy would further reinforce India's reputation as a responsible democratic nation capable of addressing complex humanitarian challenges through its own constitutional institutions and administrative systems.

Importantly, such recognition need not depend upon accession to international refugee treaties.

India possesses the constitutional capacity, legislative competence and administrative experience to design a uniquely Indian model that reflects its national interests, security priorities and civilizational values.

By developing its own domestic framework, India can demonstrate global leadership while preserving complete sovereignty over immigration, border management and refugee determination.

Recognition Is an Investment in Stability

Refugee recognition should ultimately be understood as an investment rather than an obligation.

It reduces administrative uncertainty.

It strengthens documentation.

It enhances national security.

It improves interdepartmental coordination.

It encourages economic participation.

It protects vulnerable families.

It supports social stability.

It strengthens public confidence in government institutions.

Most importantly, it transforms humanitarian protection from an emergency response into a structured pathway towards dignity and self-reliance.

For persecuted Hindu minorities and other similarly situated refugee communities, formal recognition would not simply acknowledge their past suffering.

It would provide the institutional foundation necessary for rebuilding their future.

Recognition, therefore, is not the destination.

It is the first step towards a coherent National Refugee Policy that serves the interests of refugees, strengthens governance and advances the long-term interests of the Republic of India.

Chapter 7

Why a National Refugee Policy Strengthens India Strategically

Public policy is most enduring when humanitarian values and national interests reinforce one another.

The proposal for a comprehensive National Refugee Policy should therefore not be viewed solely through the lens of compassion or welfare. It should also be understood as a strategic governance reform that strengthens India's administrative capacity, enhances national security, improves institutional coordination and reinforces the country's position as a responsible regional power.

Throughout history, successful nations have recognised that humanitarian governance and strategic governance are not opposing concepts. Well-designed institutions create both social stability and national resilience.

A structured refugee framework offers India precisely such an opportunity.

Stronger Border Governance

Effective border management extends beyond regulating entry into the country.

It also requires clear administrative systems for individuals who have already entered India's jurisdiction and whose legal status must be determined, documented and managed.

A structured refugee framework would create transparent procedures for identifying persons fleeing verified persecution, conducting security screening, maintaining comprehensive records and ensuring periodic administrative review.

This reduces ambiguity while strengthening the Government's ability to distinguish between different categories of foreign nationals.

Greater clarity improves governance.

Greater governance strengthens border security.

Better National Security Through Better Documentation

National security depends upon accurate information.

A refugee policy built upon robust identity verification, biometric registration where appropriate, digital documentation and periodic review would improve the State's knowledge of refugee populations residing within India.

Clear documentation enables authorities to identify genuine beneficiaries, monitor administrative compliance and reduce opportunities for identity fraud or misuse of humanitarian processes.

Security institutions function most effectively when information is complete, accurate and regularly updated.

A structured refugee framework therefore enhances—not weakens—the State's security architecture.

Improved Coordination Across Government

Refugee management intersects with the responsibilities of multiple ministries and public institutions.

Home Affairs, External Affairs, Education, Health, Social Justice, Women and Child Development, Labour, Rural Development, Housing, Financial Services, State Governments and District Administrations may all engage with refugee-related issues in different capacities.

Without an integrated framework, coordination often depends upon individual administrative initiatives.

A National Refugee Policy would provide a common institutional reference point, enabling departments to work within a unified administrative architecture while respecting their respective statutory responsibilities.

Good governance is strengthened when institutions work together rather than in parallel.

Reducing Long-Term Administrative Costs

Administrative uncertainty often generates repetitive work.

Individual applications require repeated clarification.

Departments issue case-specific interpretations.

Officials revisit similar questions without uniform guidance.

Applicants make multiple visits seeking procedural certainty.

A standardised refugee framework would simplify many of these processes through clearly defined procedures applicable nationwide.

Over time, improved administrative efficiency reduces costs for both government institutions and refugee families.

Predictable systems are generally less resource-intensive than fragmented ones.

Strengthening Social Stability

Communities integrate more successfully when administrative processes are transparent and predictable.

Uncertainty can unintentionally create misunderstanding, misinformation and avoidable social tensions.

By contrast, clearly defined legal status, documented rights, specified responsibilities and transparent procedures promote confidence among refugees, public institutions and host communities alike.

Successful integration is not achieved through uncertainty.

It is achieved through clarity.

A stable refugee management system therefore contributes directly to social harmony and public confidence.

Unlocking Human Capital

Among persecuted refugee communities are farmers, artisans, teachers, entrepreneurs, skilled workers, healthcare professionals, technicians and individuals possessing years of practical experience.

Many arrive in India after losing homes, businesses and livelihoods—not their abilities.

When administrative systems facilitate education, skill recognition, vocational training and lawful employment, refugee populations become contributors to economic development rather than long-term beneficiaries of assistance.

Every individual who becomes economically self-reliant contributes to local productivity, consumer demand, entrepreneurship and tax revenues.

The objective of refugee policy should therefore be rehabilitation through participation rather than dependency through exclusion.

Supporting Cooperative Federalism

Refugee communities often reside across multiple states with differing administrative capacities and local procedures.

A national framework would establish broad policy standards while allowing states sufficient flexibility to implement rehabilitation programmes suited to local conditions.

Such an approach reflects the spirit of cooperative federalism by combining national policy direction with state-level administrative innovation.

Uniform principles can coexist with decentralised implementation.

Enhancing India's International Standing

India has long been recognised as a civilisation that has provided refuge to persecuted communities without abandoning its sovereign decision-making.

A comprehensive domestic refugee framework would further demonstrate India's capacity to address humanitarian challenges through democratic institutions, constitutional governance and indigenous policy solutions.

Importantly, this does not require India to replicate international models or compromise sovereign authority.

Rather, it would showcase India's ability to develop a distinctly Indian approach that balances humanitarian responsibilities with national security, constitutional values and strategic autonomy.

Such leadership would reinforce India's credibility in regional and global discussions concerning migration, displacement and humanitarian governance.

Demonstrating Constitutional Confidence

The Constitution of India establishes a governance framework founded upon the rule of law, equality before law, due process and respect for human dignity.

A well-designed refugee policy would reflect confidence in these constitutional institutions.

It would demonstrate that humanitarian governance can be implemented through transparent procedures, legislative clarity and accountable public administration.

Strong constitutional democracies address complex challenges by strengthening institutions—not by avoiding them.

Preparing for Future Humanitarian Challenges

Regional geopolitical developments remain dynamic.

Future humanitarian crises arising from persecution, instability, conflict or natural disasters cannot be predicted with certainty.

Establishing a comprehensive refugee framework today would improve India's preparedness for future contingencies.

Rather than responding to each situation through ad hoc administrative measures, the Government would possess an established institutional mechanism capable of responding efficiently while adapting to the specific circumstances of each crisis.

Prepared institutions strengthen national resilience.

A Strategic Investment in India's Future

Nations are ultimately judged not only by how they defend their borders, but also by how effectively they govern the people who come under their protection.

A National Refugee Policy would not diminish India's sovereignty.

It would strengthen it.

It would not weaken national security.

It would reinforce it.

It would not create administrative complexity.

It would replace complexity with clarity.

It would not encourage dependency.

It would promote self-reliance through structured rehabilitation.

Above all, it would demonstrate that India possesses the institutional maturity to address humanitarian displacement through policies that are compassionate, constitutionally sound and strategically intelligent.

For these reasons, Hindu Samman Foundation respectfully submits that a National Refugee Policy should be viewed not merely as a humanitarian reform, but as a strategic investment in India's governance, security, social stability and long-term national interests.

A nation that governs humanitarian challenges with clarity strengthens not only those who seek refuge within its borders, but also the institutions upon which its own future depends.

Chapter 8

India's Civilizational Responsibility

Nations derive their strength not only from economic development, military capability or institutional capacity, but also from the enduring values that define their collective identity.

India's identity has, for millennia, been shaped by a civilizational tradition that recognises the dignity of human life, respects diversity and extends protection to those seeking refuge from persecution. Across different historical periods, communities escaping violence, discrimination and conflict have found shelter on Indian soil while preserving their faith, culture and traditions.

This legacy is neither accidental nor episodic.

It reflects a deeply rooted civilizational belief that strength is demonstrated not merely through power, but through the ability to protect the vulnerable while upholding justice and social harmony.

Modern India inherited this civilizational ethos and strengthened it through constitutional democracy.

The Constitution of India establishes a framework founded upon the rule of law, equality before the law, human dignity, justice and accountable governance. These constitutional principles have enabled India to respond to humanitarian challenges while preserving its sovereignty, democratic institutions and national security.

Accordingly, India's responsibility towards persecuted refugee communities should not be viewed as arising from sentiment alone.

It emerges from the convergence of three enduring foundations:

- India's civilizational heritage,
- India's constitutional values, and
- India's sovereign commitment to humane and responsible governance.

Together, these principles provide a compelling basis for developing a coherent national approach towards refugee protection.

A Civilization That Has Long Offered Refuge

Throughout history, India has welcomed communities fleeing persecution and instability from different parts of the world.

These experiences demonstrate an enduring characteristic of Indian civilization: the willingness to offer protection without demanding the abandonment of identity, culture or faith.

This historical legacy has contributed significantly to India's global reputation as a society capable of balancing diversity with social cohesion.

The humanitarian challenges of the twenty-first century present an opportunity to continue that tradition through modern institutions and transparent public policy.

History provides the inspiration.

Public policy provides the mechanism.

Constitutional Values Give Modern Expression to Ancient Ideals

Independent India chose to institutionalise its moral values through constitutional governance.

The Constitution transformed timeless principles of justice and human dignity into enforceable democratic institutions.

This distinction is important.

Humanitarian protection in modern India is not dependent upon individual generosity alone.

It is strengthened through laws, public institutions, accountable administration and judicial oversight.

A comprehensive refugee framework would therefore represent not merely an act of compassion but an expression of constitutional confidence.

It would demonstrate that India's democratic institutions are capable of addressing complex humanitarian challenges through transparent, lawful and accountable governance.

Protecting the Persecuted Strengthens National Character

Every nation is ultimately remembered not only for the prosperity it creates, but also for the principles it upholds during moments of humanitarian challenge.

Providing structured protection to those fleeing verified persecution strengthens the moral authority of democratic institutions.

It demonstrates confidence in the rule of law.

It reinforces public trust in governance.

It reflects the maturity of a nation capable of combining compassion with administrative discipline.

The protection of vulnerable people should therefore not be viewed as an act of charity.

It is an affirmation of national character.

Compassion and Sovereignty Are Compatible

Humanitarian responsibility is sometimes incorrectly portrayed as being in tension with national security or sovereign decision-making.

India's experience demonstrates otherwise.

The country has consistently shown that compassion can coexist with strong border management, security verification and independent foreign policy.

A carefully designed National Refugee Policy would continue this tradition.

It would preserve the Government's complete authority over refugee determination, border management, documentation, security screening and immigration policy while providing greater clarity regarding the treatment of individuals who have already entered India after fleeing verified persecution.

Humanitarian governance becomes stronger—not weaker—when it operates through clearly defined institutions.

A Shared Responsibility

The responsibility for refugee rehabilitation cannot rest upon government institutions alone.

Civil society organisations, religious institutions, charitable trusts, educational institutions, professional associations, local communities and individual citizens all play an important role in supporting vulnerable families.

Across India, thousands of citizens have voluntarily contributed food, shelter, education, healthcare, employment opportunities and financial assistance to persecuted refugee communities.

These acts of service represent one of the finest expressions of Indian society.

However, sustainable rehabilitation requires partnership.

Government provides the institutional framework.

Civil society contributes innovation, outreach and community support.

Citizens provide compassion.

Refugee families contribute resilience, determination and the willingness to rebuild their lives.

Together, these stakeholders create an ecosystem capable of transforming humanitarian protection into lasting social integration.

Responsibility Beyond Relief

The true measure of humanitarian protection is not simply whether people survive persecution.

It is whether they are eventually able to live with dignity, stability and hope.

Emergency relief addresses immediate suffering.

Long-term rehabilitation restores opportunity.

Recognition enables participation.

Education creates future generations of contributors.

Employment builds self-reliance.

Housing provides stability.

Legal certainty restores confidence.

A National Refugee Policy should therefore aspire not merely to protect life, but to restore the conditions necessary for a meaningful life.

A Vision Consistent with India's Future

India today stands among the world's leading democracies and one of its fastest-growing economies.

Its voice carries increasing influence in regional and global affairs.

With greater influence comes greater opportunity to demonstrate innovative models of humanitarian governance that reflect India's own constitutional traditions and strategic priorities.

India need not replicate any international model.

Nor must it compromise its sovereign decision-making.

Instead, it can develop a uniquely Indian refugee framework that combines:

- constitutional governance,
- administrative efficiency,
- humanitarian responsibility,
- national security, and
- civilizational values.

Such a framework would not only address present humanitarian challenges but also serve as an enduring institutional legacy for future generations.

A Nation's Greatness Is Reflected in Its Institutions

Civilizations endure because they transform values into institutions.

Compassion becomes meaningful when it is supported by law.

Justice becomes effective when it is implemented through transparent administration.

Human dignity is best protected when governments create systems that are predictable, accountable and fair.

For persecuted refugee communities seeking safety in India, the greatest assurance is not merely temporary protection.

It is the confidence that they have entered a nation whose institutions are capable of combining humanity with good governance.

India has both the civilizational wisdom and the constitutional strength to build such institutions.

The opportunity before the nation is therefore not simply to respond to a humanitarian challenge.

It is to reaffirm, through enlightened public policy, the values that have shaped India's identity across centuries.

By establishing a comprehensive National Refugee Policy, India would not merely strengthen refugee protection.

It would strengthen the enduring ideals upon which the Republic itself continues to stand.

Chapter 9

HSF's Civilizational Refugee Governance Framework

A Five-Pillar National Policy Blueprint for India

The preceding chapters of this memorandum have examined the humanitarian realities faced by persecuted refugee communities, the governance challenges arising from the absence of a comprehensive refugee framework, and the strategic, constitutional and civilizational reasons for policy reform.

The conclusion is clear.

India does not merely require additional welfare schemes for persecuted refugee communities. It requires an integrated governance architecture capable of providing legal clarity, institutional coordination, humanitarian protection and long-term rehabilitation while fully preserving India's sovereignty and national security.

Accordingly, Hindu Samman Foundation respectfully proposes the following **Civilizational Refugee Governance Framework**.

This framework builds upon the recommendations submitted by the Foundation to the Prime Minister's Office on 19 January 2026 and has been further refined through subsequent humanitarian engagement with refugee communities across multiple States of India.

The framework rests upon five mutually reinforcing pillars.

Pillar I

National Refugee Policy for Persecuted Hindu and other Indic minority communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan

The foundation of effective refugee governance is a clearly defined national policy.

For nearly eight decades, persecuted Hindu minorities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan have sought refuge in India after fleeing religious persecution, targeted violence, forced conversions, demographic displacement and systematic discrimination.

Despite numerous humanitarian initiatives undertaken by the Government of India, these communities continue to exist within an administrative grey area. Many are neither recognised as refugees under a domestic legal framework nor treated as ordinary foreign visitors. This uncertainty creates practical difficulties for both refugee families and public authorities.

HSF therefore respectfully recommends that the Government of India formulate a comprehensive National Refugee Policy specifically addressing the needs of verified religiously persecuted minorities from neighbouring countries.

Such a policy should:

- establish a clearly defined legal refugee category under Indian law;
- recognise forced religious persecution as distinct from voluntary migration;
- provide a structured refugee determination mechanism through sovereign Indian institutions;
- issue National Refugee Cards to recognised beneficiaries;
- facilitate lawful access to education, healthcare, banking and employment;
- permit inter-State mobility without unnecessary administrative barriers;
- establish transparent pathways towards permanent residency and citizenship wherever provided under Indian law; and
- define both the rights and responsibilities applicable to recognised refugees during their period of protection.

Such a policy would remain entirely under the sovereign authority of the Government of India. It would not require accession to any international refugee treaty, nor would it diminish India's complete discretion over immigration, border management or national security.

Rather, it would provide a coherent domestic framework through which existing humanitarian initiatives may operate with greater consistency, predictability and administrative efficiency.

Pillar II

National Documentation and Identity Framework

Effective governance begins with reliable identification.

One of the most persistent challenges observed by HSF during its humanitarian work concerns the absence of a unified documentation framework for persecuted refugee families.

Without recognised identity documentation, individuals frequently encounter practical barriers while attempting to open bank accounts, obtain mobile connections, enrol children in schools, access healthcare, secure employment or interact with public institutions.

Documentation uncertainty also increases the administrative burden upon government officials responsible for verification and service delivery.

HSF therefore recommends the establishment of a comprehensive National Documentation and Identity Framework consisting of two complementary components.

A. National Refugee Card

Every recognised refugee should receive a secure National Refugee Card serving as the primary identity document during the period of protection.

The card should include secure biometric identification where appropriate and be integrated into a national digital refugee database maintained by the competent Government authority.

The card would facilitate:

- lawful identification;
- police verification;
- access to approved public services;
- employment verification;
- banking;
- healthcare;
- education; and
- accurate national refugee statistics.

B. Resident Refugee Identity Integration

HSF further recommends that the Government examine administrative mechanisms enabling recognised refugees to obtain essential identity credentials required for everyday civic life without automatically conferring citizenship.

Such mechanisms would simplify access to banking, PAN, digital services, healthcare, insurance, pensions, educational institutions and other essential public systems while preserving the legal distinction between citizenship and refugee status.

The objective is simple.

Every recognised refugee should be identifiable.

Every government department should know how to verify that identity.

Every public institution should operate through one uniform documentation system.

Such a framework would strengthen both humanitarian protection and national security.

Pillar III

Sovereign Security and Humanitarian Responsibility Doctrine

India's refugee policy should be guided by a clearly articulated national doctrine.

Throughout history, India has provided refuge to persecuted communities while preserving complete sovereignty over immigration and national security.

HSF respectfully proposes that India formally articulate a **Sovereign Security and Humanitarian Responsibility Doctrine** affirming that verified persecuted Hindu minorities from neighbouring countries may seek lawful protection in India through sovereign constitutional processes established by the Government of India.

Such a doctrine would not create an unrestricted right of entry.

Nor would it weaken border security.

Rather, it would establish a principled framework through which humanitarian responsibility and sovereign decision-making reinforce one another.

The doctrine would provide:

- humanitarian clarity by recognising the unique circumstances of religious persecution;
- constitutional consistency through transparent administrative procedures;
- strategic certainty regarding India's long-term humanitarian approach;
- stronger national security through lawful documentation and verification; and
- civilizational continuity by affirming India's historic role as a place of refuge for persecuted communities.

HSF further recommends that India retain sufficient humanitarian flexibility to respond to verified cases of religious persecution affecting Hindus and other Indic minorities in neighbouring regions, allowing policy to respond to future humanitarian developments while remaining fully consistent with India's foreign policy and strategic interests.

A clearly articulated doctrine would replace uncertainty with policy direction while strengthening both humanitarian governance and national security.

Pillar IV

State Capacity Architecture

Public policy succeeds only when supported by strong institutions.

A National Refugee Policy should therefore be accompanied by an administrative architecture capable of coordinating implementation across the Union Government, State Governments and relevant public institutions.

HSF respectfully recommends the establishment of a dedicated institutional framework consisting of the following components.

A. Dedicated Government Division for Refugee Affairs

The Government may consider establishing a specialised division under the Ministry of Home Affairs or another appropriate authority responsible for refugee registration, documentation, policy coordination, rehabilitation planning and inter-ministerial cooperation.

Its responsibilities may include:

- refugee registration;
- identity management;
- documentation oversight;
- State Government coordination;
- rehabilitation planning;
- data management;
- policy research;
- grievance redressal; and
- coordination with recognised humanitarian organisations.

B. National Commission for Persecuted Hindu Minorities

HSF further recommends the establishment of an advisory commission to examine issues affecting persecuted Hindu minorities seeking refuge in India.

The Commission may assist through:

- policy recommendations;
- research;
- documentation of persecution;
- legal studies;
- coordination with constitutional bodies; and

- consultation with affected communities and civil society organisations.

C. National Registry of Persecuted Hindu Minorities

The Foundation also recommends creating a National Registry documenting verified instances of religious persecution affecting Hindu and other Indic minority communities in neighbouring countries.

Such a registry would preserve historical records, support policy formulation, strengthen humanitarian planning and contribute to future research concerning forced displacement in the Indian subcontinent.

Together, these institutions would provide the administrative capacity necessary for effective refugee governance while reducing fragmentation across departments.

Pillar V

Diplomatic and Information Strategy

Humanitarian protection should not begin only after displaced families arrive within India's borders.

Preventive engagement, humanitarian monitoring and institutional preparedness are equally important components of refugee governance.

HSF therefore proposes strengthening India's diplomatic and public information architecture through two complementary initiatives.

A. Ministry of External Affairs – Persecuted Minorities Desk

A dedicated desk within the Ministry of External Affairs could:

- receive humanitarian alerts relating to persecuted minority communities;
- monitor emerging situations affecting vulnerable populations;
- coordinate with Indian missions abroad where appropriate;
- facilitate communication with affected families;
- engage with diaspora organisations;
- assist during humanitarian emergencies; and
- contribute to early policy responses.

Such a mechanism would improve preparedness while supporting India's humanitarian diplomacy.

B. National Information and Public Awareness Mechanism

HSF also recommends strengthening public awareness regarding humanitarian displacement through appropriate institutional mechanisms.

This may include:

- periodic humanitarian reports;
- documentary initiatives;
- public awareness campaigns;
- academic research;
- data publication; and
- collaboration with educational institutions and civil society.

Greater public understanding promotes informed policymaking, encourages responsible civic participation and strengthens national awareness of humanitarian challenges affecting India's neighbourhood.

Implementation Principles

HSF respectfully submits that the proposed framework should be implemented in accordance with the following guiding principles:

- **Complete Sovereignty:** Refugee determination, documentation and rehabilitation shall remain exclusively under the authority of the Government of India.
- **National Security:** Every humanitarian measure should incorporate robust security verification, identity management and institutional oversight.
- **Constitutional Governance:** All implementation should remain consistent with the Constitution of India and applicable laws.
- **Human Dignity:** Every recognised refugee should be treated with dignity while remaining fully subject to Indian law.
- **Self-Reliance:** Rehabilitation should focus upon education, livelihoods, housing and productive participation rather than long-term dependency.
- **Partnership:** Government institutions, State Governments, civil society organisations, philanthropic institutions and citizens should work collaboratively to achieve successful rehabilitation.

A Vision for the Future

The recommendations contained in this framework are not intended to replace existing Government initiatives.

They are intended to strengthen them.

India has already demonstrated compassion through successive humanitarian measures benefiting persecuted minority communities.

The next stage is institutional consolidation.

A comprehensive Civilizational Refugee Governance Framework would transform individual initiatives into a coherent national policy capable of providing legal certainty, administrative efficiency, stronger national security and dignified rehabilitation.

For persecuted refugee communities, it would restore hope.

For public institutions, it would provide clarity.

For India, it would reinforce the constitutional values, civilizational heritage and strategic vision that have long distinguished the Republic as a nation capable of combining humanitarian leadership with sovereign governance.

Hindu Samman Foundation respectfully submits this Five-Pillar Civilizational Refugee Governance Framework as a constructive contribution towards that national vision.

Conclusion

World Refugee Day is more than an annual international observance.

It is an opportunity to reflect upon one of humanity's oldest responsibilities—the protection of those who have been compelled to leave their homes because persecution made ordinary life impossible.

For India, this reflection carries a unique significance.

Our nation has, throughout history, extended refuge to communities seeking safety while preserving its own civilizational identity, constitutional values and sovereign decision-making. This tradition represents one of India's enduring strengths and continues to command respect both within the country and internationally.

The humanitarian challenges faced today by persecuted Hindu minorities and other similarly situated refugee communities from India's neighbourhood present an opportunity to further strengthen this legacy through modern, transparent and accountable public institutions.

This memorandum has sought to demonstrate that the issue before the nation is not simply one of humanitarian assistance.

It is fundamentally a question of governance.

When refugee communities remain without a coherent administrative framework, uncertainty affects not only vulnerable families but also public institutions responsible for documentation, education, healthcare, housing, employment and long-term rehabilitation.

Conversely, when governance becomes structured, humanitarian outcomes improve, administrative efficiency increases and national security is strengthened.

Throughout this memorandum, Hindu Samman Foundation has respectfully submitted that a comprehensive National Refugee Policy would benefit not only refugee families but also the Republic of India itself.

Such a policy would:

- provide legal and administrative clarity;
- strengthen documentation and identity management;
- improve coordination across government institutions;
- reinforce national security through better record management;
- promote education, livelihoods and self-reliance;
- reduce long-term humanitarian dependency;

- support evidence-based policymaking; and
- reaffirm India's constitutional and civilizational commitment to humane governance.

Importantly, the Foundation does not advocate the adoption of any external model.

India possesses the constitutional wisdom, administrative experience and institutional maturity to develop its own sovereign refugee framework suited to its unique history, security environment and democratic traditions.

The recommendations contained in this memorandum are therefore intended as constructive policy suggestions offered in the spirit of partnership.

They build upon the significant humanitarian initiatives already undertaken by the Government of India and seek only to organise them within a more coherent, predictable and integrated institutional framework.

The Foundation also recognises that refugee policy is a complex area involving constitutional considerations, national security, international relations, public administration and social welfare.

Accordingly, the development of a comprehensive framework will necessarily require consultation among the Government of India, State Governments, constitutional institutions, security agencies, legal experts, humanitarian organisations, civil society and affected communities themselves.

HSF stands ready to contribute to that process.

Through years of humanitarian engagement across refugee settlements in multiple states, the Foundation has witnessed both the extraordinary resilience of displaced families and the extraordinary generosity of Indian society.

It has also witnessed the transformative impact that timely documentation, stable housing, access to education, dignified livelihoods and coordinated institutional support can have on families rebuilding their lives.

These experiences reinforce one simple conclusion.

Refugees do not seek a life of permanent dependence.

They seek an opportunity to stand on their own feet.

They seek certainty rather than uncertainty.

They seek dignity rather than sympathy.

They seek the opportunity to contribute positively to the nation that has offered them protection.

A well-designed National Refugee Policy would enable precisely that transition.

History demonstrates that nations are ultimately remembered not only for the challenges they faced but for the institutions they created in response to those challenges.

India today possesses the opportunity to establish a refugee governance framework that reflects the best of its constitutional values, civilizational heritage and democratic institutions while fully preserving its sovereign authority and national security.

Such a framework would not merely address the needs of today's refugee communities.

It would create an enduring institutional legacy capable of responding to future humanitarian challenges with clarity, consistency and compassion.

On this World Refugee Day, Hindu Samman Foundation respectfully calls upon the Government of India to initiate a national dialogue on the formulation of a comprehensive National Refugee Policy.

Such a dialogue would represent not only an investment in humanitarian protection, but also an investment in stronger governance, more effective public administration and a more resilient Republic.

The measure of a great nation is not only the strength of its borders or the scale of its economy.

It is also the strength of its institutions, the clarity of its governance and the dignity with which it protects those who seek lawful refuge from persecution.

India has demonstrated these values throughout its history.

With a comprehensive National Refugee Policy, it has the opportunity to strengthen them for generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,

Regards

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Hindu Samman Foundation (HSF)

World Refugee Day

20 June 2026

Annexure A

Administrative and Legal Issues Faced by Persecuted Refugee Families

The following administrative and legal issues have been consistently observed by Hindu Samman Foundation during humanitarian engagement with persecuted Hindu and other Indic minority refugee communities residing across different parts of India. The issues are presented for policy consideration and institutional review.

| Issue | Brief Description |
|--|---|
| 1. Visa-related Issues | Frequent visa renewals, costs involved, procedural delays and varying administrative practices often create prolonged uncertainty for refugee families. |
| 2. Long-Term Visa (LTV) | Delays in grant, renewal and implementation of LTV-related facilities affect long-term rehabilitation and access to essential services. |
| 3. Refugee Identification | Absence of a dedicated refugee identity document creates administrative ambiguity across government departments. |
| 4. Aadhaar | Documentation and address requirements may delay Aadhaar enrolment, time bound expiry, limiting access to numerous public and private services. |
| 5. PAN Card | Difficulty obtaining PAN affects employment, taxation, financial transactions and entrepreneurship. |
| 6. Banking Services | Refugees frequently encounter challenges opening bank accounts or accessing formal financial services due to documentation requirements. |
| 7. SIM Cards & Digital Identity | Identity verification requirements may delay access to mobile connectivity and digital public services. |
| 8. School Admissions | Children may face admission difficulties due to documentation gaps or inconsistent administrative practices. |
| 9. Higher Education | Refugee youth often encounter uncertainty regarding admission procedures, documentation and eligibility requirements. |

| Issue | Brief Description |
|--|---|
| 10. Recognition of Educational Qualifications | Academic certificates obtained abroad may not always be easily recognised, limiting educational and employment opportunities. |
| 11. Employment | Documentation uncertainty restricts access to formal employment despite willingness and ability to work. |
| 12. Work Authorisation | Lack of a clearly defined refugee work framework limits economic self-reliance and lawful participation in the labour market. |
| 13. Skill Recognition | Professional skills and vocational experience acquired before displacement often remain underutilised. |
| 14. Healthcare Access | Documentation barriers and financial hardship may delay access to healthcare and public health schemes. |
| 15. Health Insurance | Limited access to insurance mechanisms increases financial vulnerability during medical emergencies. |
| 16. Housing | Many refugee families continue to live in temporary or inadequate accommodation without long-term housing security. |
| 17. Property Purchase | Legal uncertainty may restrict the ability to acquire stable residential property where otherwise permissible. |
| 18. Ration & Food Security | Access to food security programmes may remain inconsistent during prolonged administrative transition. |
| 19. Social Welfare Schemes | Refugees may face practical difficulties accessing welfare benefits due to documentation or eligibility issues. |
| 20. Pension Support | Elderly and vulnerable refugees often remain outside formal pension systems despite humanitarian need. |
| 21. Women & Child Welfare | Refugee women and children may require targeted administrative support in education, nutrition, healthcare and protection services. |
| 22. Birth Registration | Delays in registration may affect a child's future access to education and identity documentation. |

| Issue | Brief Description |
|---|--|
| 23. Marriage Registration | Administrative uncertainty may complicate legal registration of marriages. |
| 24. Death Registration | Families may encounter procedural challenges in obtaining timely death registration and related documentation. |
| 25. Police Verification | Refugees frequently undergo repeated verification processes due to the absence of a uniform national refugee framework. |
| 26. Digital Documentation | Lack of integrated digital records results in repeated submission of documents across multiple departments. |
| 27. Inter-State Mobility | Refugee families may encounter procedural difficulties while relocating for employment, education or family reasons. |
| 28. Grievance Redressal | There is no dedicated institutional mechanism for addressing refugee-specific administrative grievances. |
| 29. Legal Aid | Many refugee families require guidance to understand evolving administrative procedures and legal documentation. |
| 30. Citizenship-related Procedures | Eligible refugees often experience lengthy and complex administrative processes while pursuing Indian citizenship under applicable laws. |

Summary Observation

The issues outlined above do not necessarily arise from the absence of humanitarian intent. Rather, they largely reflect the absence of a comprehensive and uniformly implemented National Refugee Policy capable of integrating documentation, identity management, rehabilitation and interdepartmental coordination within a coherent administrative framework.

Hindu Samman Foundation respectfully submits that addressing these issues through institutional reform would strengthen humanitarian protection, improve governance, enhance national security and facilitate the dignified integration of persecuted refugee communities into Indian society.

Annexure B

Representative Field Observations from HSF Humanitarian Work

Introduction

The following observations are derived from Hindu Samman Foundation's humanitarian engagement with persecuted Hindu and other Indic minority refugee communities residing across multiple States of India.

The purpose of this Annexure is not to present individual humanitarian stories, but to demonstrate recurring administrative and rehabilitation patterns consistently observed across different refugee settlements.

These observations have informed the policy recommendations contained in this memorandum.

1. National Capital Territory of Delhi

Background

Delhi hosts a significant population of persecuted refugee families from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan residing across multiple informal settlements and rehabilitation locations.

Common Humanitarian Challenges

- Temporary and inadequate housing.
- Financial insecurity.
- Medical vulnerabilities among elderly refugees.
- Interrupted education of children.
- Dependence upon daily wage employment.

Common Administrative Issues

- Documentation delays.
- Aadhaar-related challenges.
- Banking difficulties.
- Access to welfare services.

- Repeated police verification.
- Identity-related administrative uncertainty.
- Employment scrutiny, no proper designated vending market spaces.

HSF Humanitarian Interventions

- Food assistance.
- Medical support.
- Housing construction.
- Livelihood assistance.
- Documentation guidance.
- Educational support.
- Community rehabilitation.

Policy Observation

Delhi demonstrates that humanitarian relief alone cannot replace a coordinated administrative rehabilitation framework.

2. Rajasthan

Background

HSF has conducted extensive humanitarian work among refugee settlements across Jodhpur district and adjoining regions where many persecuted Hindu refugee families have resided for several years.

Common Humanitarian Challenges

- Extreme housing insecurity.
- Limited livelihood opportunities.
- Agricultural dependence.
- Women and children living in vulnerable conditions.
- Elderly refugees requiring social support.

Common Administrative Issues

- Delays in documentation.
- School admission challenges.

- Healthcare accessibility.
- Employment uncertainty.
- Banking access.
- Identity verification.

HSF Humanitarian Interventions

- Housing projects.
- Pension assistance.
- Livelihood generation.
- Medical assistance.
- Educational support.
- Community development.
- Documentation assistance.

Policy Observation

Field experience indicates that secure housing, documentation and livelihoods together produce significantly better rehabilitation outcomes than isolated humanitarian interventions.

3. Gujarat

Background

HSF's humanitarian work in Gujarat has included refugee communities residing in both urban and semi-urban settlements.

Common Humanitarian Challenges

- Inadequate sanitation.
- Housing shortages.
- Limited employment opportunities.
- Financial vulnerability.
- Educational disruption.

Common Administrative Issues

- Identity documentation.

- Banking services.
- Welfare access.
- School admissions.
- Administrative coordination.

HSF Humanitarian Interventions

- Sanitation infrastructure.
- Housing support.
- Community engagement.
- Documentation guidance.
- Humanitarian assistance.

Policy Observation

Community rehabilitation improves substantially when basic infrastructure is combined with clear administrative support systems.

4. West Bengal

Background

HSF has interacted with persecuted Hindu refugee communities residing in different parts of West Bengal, particularly among families arriving from Bangladesh.

Common Humanitarian Challenges

- Documentation uncertainty.
- Financial hardship.
- Livelihood insecurity.
- Educational disruption.
- Housing concerns.

Common Administrative Issues

- Citizenship-related procedures.
- Identity documentation.
- Welfare eligibility.
- Banking access.

- Administrative guidance.

HSF Humanitarian Interventions

- Legal awareness.
- Documentation assistance.
- Community outreach.
- Humanitarian support.
- Policy advocacy.

Policy Observation

Early documentation and administrative guidance significantly reduce long-term rehabilitation challenges for newly arrived refugee families.

National-Level Observations

Across all States visited by Hindu Samman Foundation, several recurring patterns have consistently emerged.

Humanitarian Patterns

- Refugees overwhelmingly seek dignified livelihoods rather than long-term dependence.
- Education remains the highest priority for most refugee families.
- Stable housing significantly improves rehabilitation outcomes.
- Women and elderly refugees remain among the most vulnerable groups.
- Community resilience is remarkably strong despite prolonged hardship.

Administrative Patterns

- Documentation remains the primary challenge.
- Identity-related uncertainty affects multiple aspects of daily life.
- Different administrative practices exist across States.
- Banking, education and healthcare are closely linked to documentation.
- Lack of a dedicated refugee framework creates procedural inconsistency.

Governance Lessons

HSF's field experience suggests that most humanitarian challenges arise not from a lack of compassion but from the absence of a comprehensive administrative framework capable of integrating refugee documentation, identity management, rehabilitation and interdepartmental coordination.

Accordingly, the Foundation respectfully submits that a National Refugee Policy would address these recurring structural issues more effectively than isolated administrative interventions.

Closing Observation

The humanitarian experiences documented by Hindu Samman Foundation across multiple States consistently demonstrate that persecuted refugee families aspire to become self-reliant, law-abiding and productive members of Indian society.

Their primary request is not prolonged assistance.

It is administrative certainty.

These field observations have directly informed the recommendations contained in this World Refugee Day Memorandum.

Annexure C

Sources of Policy Observations

The observations and policy recommendations contained in this memorandum are derived from the cumulative humanitarian experience of Hindu Samman Foundation over several years of engagement with persecuted Hindu and other Indic minority refugee communities residing in different parts of India.

The Foundation's policy analysis is informed by, among other sources:

- Extensive humanitarian field visits across refugee settlements in multiple States.
- Direct interaction with refugee families and community representatives.
- Publicly documented humanitarian work undertaken by HSF.
- Audio-video documentation generated during humanitarian field visits.
- Administrative interactions with refugee beneficiaries.
- Legal assistance provided to refugee families.
- Government notifications, public policies and administrative circulars.
- Judicial decisions and constitutional principles relevant to refugee protection.
- Representations previously submitted by Hindu Samman Foundation to various constitutional and governmental authorities.
- Research undertaken during the preparation of this World Refugee Day Memorandum.

This memorandum is intended to serve as a public policy document. It is not presented as an evidentiary record or legal pleading. The recommendations are based upon recurring humanitarian and administrative patterns consistently observed during HSF's field engagement and policy research.

About Hindu Samman Foundation (HSF)

Society Must Stand for Society.

Hindu Samman Foundation (HSF) is a humanitarian and public policy organisation dedicated to serving vulnerable Hindu and other Indic communities through relief, rehabilitation, legal assistance, community development and policy advocacy.

The Foundation works on the belief that humanitarian service, constitutional values and national development are mutually reinforcing. Alongside direct humanitarian interventions, HSF seeks to contribute constructively to public policy discussions affecting vulnerable communities across globe.

Over the years, HSF has undertaken humanitarian work in multiple States, particularly among persecuted refugee communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan residing in India. Its work includes emergency relief, housing assistance, livelihood generation, education, medical support, documentation assistance, legal guidance and community rehabilitation.

The Foundation has also submitted policy representations to various constitutional and governmental authorities with the objective of strengthening governance, improving humanitarian outcomes and promoting long-term institutional reforms.

Areas of Work

- Humanitarian Relief
- Refugee Rehabilitation
- Housing Initiatives
- Livelihood Generation
- Education Support
- Medical Assistance
- Legal Aid and Documentation
- Women and Child Welfare
- Community Development
- Public Policy Research and Advocacy

Vision

To build a society where no vulnerable Indic family is left without dignity, opportunity or support, while contributing constructively towards stronger humanitarian institutions and better public policy.

Mission

To unite society in the service of society by combining humanitarian action, constitutional values and community participation to create sustainable solutions for vulnerable families.

Contact

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"Recognition. Protection. Dignified Integration."

A Vision for Humanitarian Governance.



INDIA'S FORGOTTEN REFUGEES

A World Refugee Day Policy Memorandum



RECOGNITION.



PROTECTION.



DIGNIFIED INTEGRATION.

“ The true measure of a civilization is not merely how it protects its own people, but how it protects those who arrive at its doors seeking lawful refuge from persecution. ”

HINDU SAMMAN FOUNDATION

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