Awareness Programme Marks World Day Against Trafficking in Persons at Loreto College (Autonomous)

The **Department of Human Rights and Sociology** of **Loreto College (Autonomous)**, in collaboration with the **Community Service Centre** and **Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre**, organised an **Awareness Programme** in observance of the **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** on **30 July 2026** at the College Concert Hall. The programme aimed to raise awareness about the growing menace of human trafficking, with special emphasis on prevention, rehabilitation, and the psychological well-being of survivors.

The programme was conceived under the guidance of the **Teacher-in-Charge, Dr. Sr. A. Nirmala**, whose vision led to the successful organisation of the event. The initiative was coordinated by **Ms. Chaitali Karmakar**, Head of the Department of Human Rights; **Ms. Karobi Das**, Community Service Leader; **Mr. Meghjit Sengupta**, Head of the Department of Sociology; and **Ms. Kaushiki Banerjee**, Faculty of the Department of Sociology.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by **Dr. Amrita Dasgupta**, IQAC Coordinator of Loreto College (Autonomous), symbolising the collective commitment towards creating awareness and combating human trafficking.

The event featured an eminent panel of speakers from diverse professional backgrounds. **Ms. Anwesha Banerjee**, Freelance Journalist, shared her field experiences while reporting on trafficking cases and rescue operations. She highlighted that although women and girls are often perceived as the primary victims of trafficking, boys are also vulnerable and should not be overlooked. She urged society to recognise trafficking as a human rights issue affecting all genders.

Ms. Nabanita Shome, Associate Director of **Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre**, elaborated on the organisation's anti-human trafficking initiatives, rescue operations, rehabilitation programmes and community-based interventions. She discussed the organisation's **Peer-to-Peer Monitoring System**, an innovative child protection model in which children, adolescents, and youth from vulnerable communities become advocates for child safety and create a protective network within their communities. She also highlighted several notable achievements of the initiative, including **27 peer group members** receiving the **Bravery Award** from the **West Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBCPCR)**; **Nine peer group members** receiving the prestigious **Award for Courage** from the **Telegraph Foundation**; and The **Peer-to-Peer Monitoring System** being honoured with the **Third ABC Solidarity Prize**, awarded by one of Spain's leading newspapers.

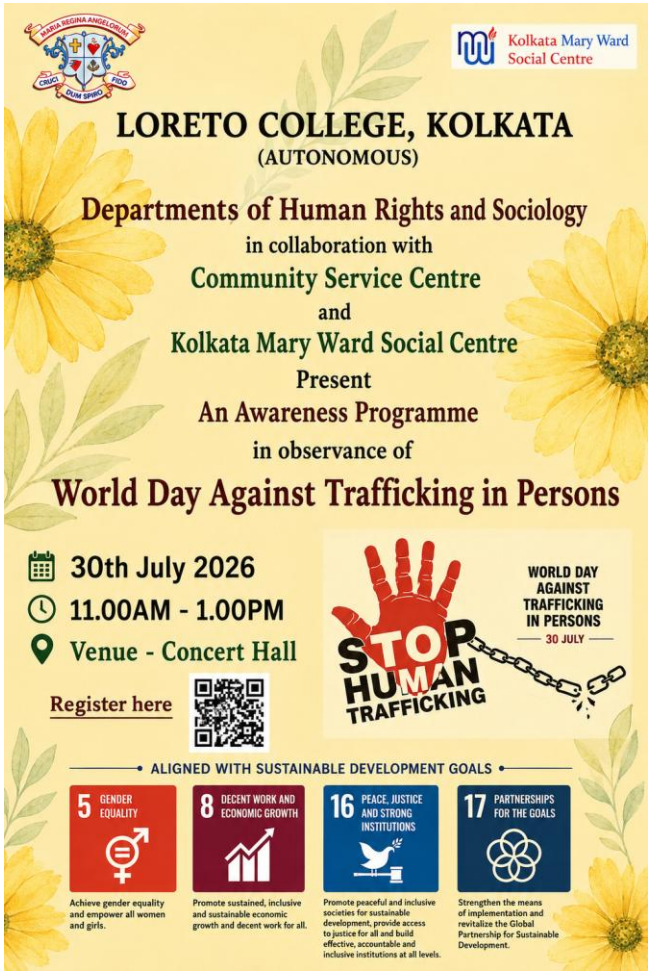
Addressing the psychological dimension of trafficking, **Ms. Sudhanya Roy Chowdhury**, Clinical Psychologist and Faculty Member of the Department of Psychology, Loreto College (Autonomous), discussed the severe emotional and psychological trauma experienced by survivors, particularly children. She explained the importance of counselling, psychotherapy, and long-term rehabilitation in helping survivors rebuild their lives. She also pointed out that

recovery is often complicated by social stigma and family rejection, making community support and professional intervention essential.

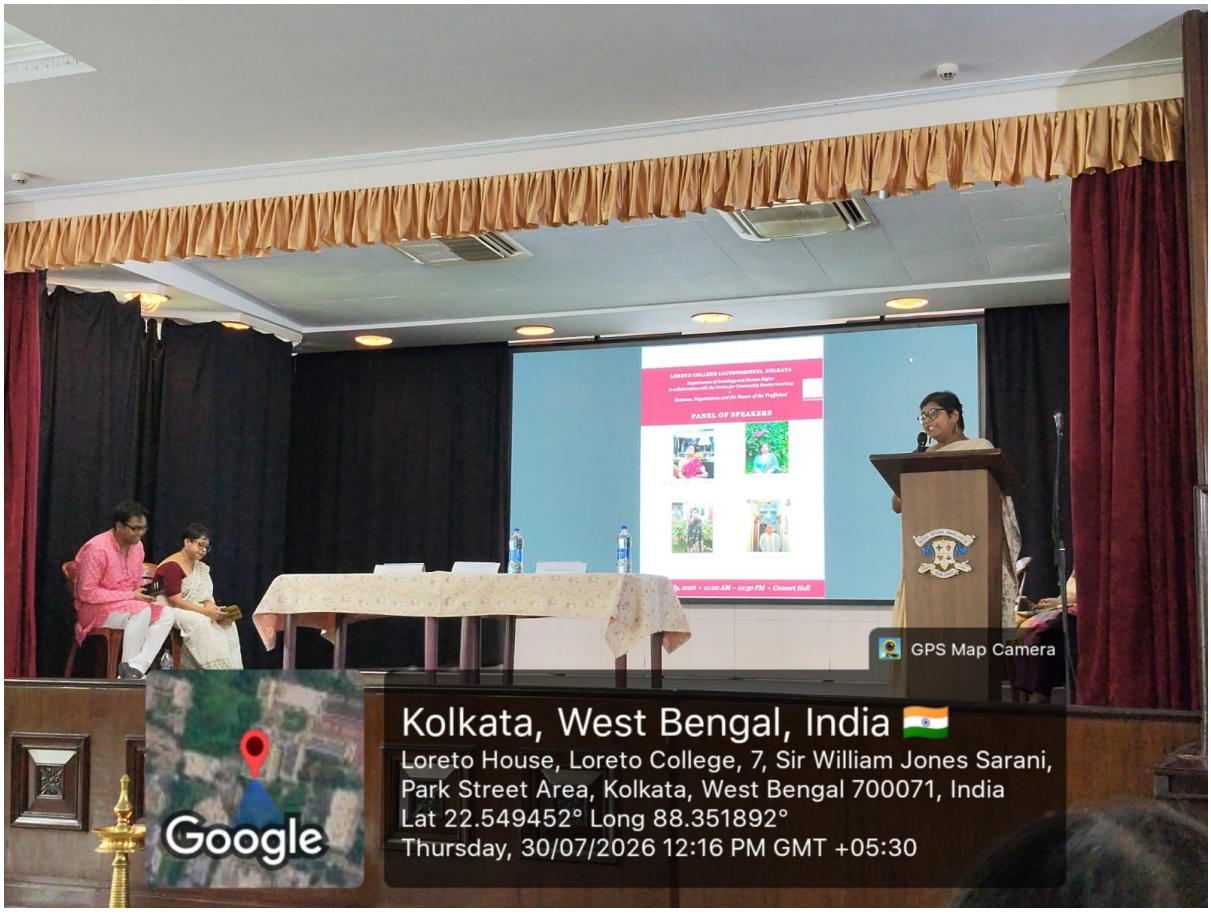
The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from around **160 students** representing various departments of the college. The interactive panel discussion encouraged students to engage directly with the speakers through thoughtful questions and discussions on trafficking, rehabilitation, media ethics and mental health.

Following the awareness session, an **Essay Competition** on the theme of **Human Trafficking** was organised, attracting **45 participants** from different departments. The competition was judged by **Dr. Sanghita Sanyal**, Head of the Department of English, who selected the three best essays based on originality, critical analysis and relevance to the theme.

The programme concluded with a renewed commitment to spreading awareness about human trafficking and strengthening collective efforts to prevent exploitation. By bringing together experts from journalism, social work, psychology and academia, the event successfully highlighted that combating trafficking requires collaboration among educational institutions, civil society organisations, law enforcement agencies, and the community. The awareness programme not only sensitised students to one of the most pressing human rights issues of our time but also encouraged them to become informed, responsible and active citizens committed to protecting the dignity and rights of every individual.




LORETO COLLEGE, KOLKATA
Department of Human Rights and Sociology
with
collaboration with
Community Service Centre and
Kolkata Mass Ward Social Centre
Present
An Awareness Programme
on
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
30th July 2026
11.00AM - 1.00PM
Venue : Concert Hall
STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING


PANEL OF SPEAKERS
GPS Map Camera
Kolkata, West Bengal, India
Loreto House, Loreto College, 7, Sir William Jones Sarani,
Park Street Area, Kolkata, West Bengal 700071, India
Lat 22.549452° Long 88.351892°
Thursday, 30/07/2026 12:16 PM GMT +05:30
Google


Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre
LORETO COLLEGE, KOLKATA
(AUTONOMOUS)
Departments of Human Rights and Sociology
in collaboration with
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and
Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre
Present
An Awareness Programme
in observance of
World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
STOP


Strategic Objectives for Community Vigilance
The core mission of the peer-to-peer monitoring system is to move from reactive rescue to proactive prevention.
Direction Prevention-Stopping trafficking, abuse, child marriage before they occur.
Vulnerability Mapping- Identifying
Leadership Development
Building confidence and
awareness among
youth/adolescent/children
members.
Community Strengthening
Ensuring a 24/7 vigilance
within villages and slums.




LORETO COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), KOLKATA
Departments of Sociology and Human Rights
in collaboration with the Centre for Community Service Learning
Reasons, Negotiations and the Future of the Trafficked
PANEL OF SPEAKERS
Sudhanya Roy Chowdhury
Nabanita Shome

