

## Website to help trace missing children

DIMAPUR, MAR 4 (EMN): [www.homelink.in](http://www.homelink.in) ([missingchildsearch.net](http://missingchildsearch.net)), a website developed by Don Bosco National Forum for the Youth at Risk (YaR) and dedicated towards restoring children back home

and assist in tracing lost or missing children in the country might prove valuable to Nagaland where child trafficking cases have increasingly been raising its ugly head.

National Director of Don Bosco YaR forum India Homelink Network Fr Joe Prabu has offered this 'click of a button in finding missing children' software free of cost to genuine NGOs or agencies in Dimapur who are truly concerned in bringing about a happy childhood to vulnerable and targeted children.

At present, 13 states of India and 2 union territories have joined this web-based service network to fight against child exploitation through a controlled pooling and sharing of data which is enabled through the website.

This software interlinks all police stations, children homes; NGOs and other concerned stake holders so that member institutions in collaboration with other institutes around the country can share missing details and help in getting back those missing children.

Any one who loses his or her child can lodge a complaint on the website by entering all the details of the child and by uploading a photograph. They can also visit the website to find out if their child has been traced any where, in which case the details will be posted online by likeminded organizations or individuals.

The National Director elucidating on the homelink network at AIDA complex to stake holders projected the aim of the system as to earnestly restore child rights through community participation and adequate services offered by government and NGOs.

The current status of the home link as in March 1 reports 14,411 missing children reported, 398 identified children , 4170 found children 44,805 home placed children, 63,714 children with organization out of a total of 1,59, 123 children registered across the country.

The objectives of this website include identifying adequate intervention and follow up mechanism at local/district/state/regional/national level for every child in any form of risk, exploitation, discrimination and facilitate policies that recognize the rights of every child.

Today's meeting decided that AIDA, Prodigals Home, Assisi and Social Welfare Department, all involved directly or indirectly in bringing about a child friendly society would deliberate on how this mechanism would be best brought about in the city.

"Using the state of the art technology, the software will be enhanced in future to enable the search by biometrics, artificial; intelligence and multilingual support," said Fr Joe Prabu, National Director.

The need of a concrete trajectory mechanism still remains elusive in Nagaland and also the Northeast region, which is a child trafficking belt for sexual and commercial exploitation.

A study conducted by Prodigals Home, the total number of missing persons from January 2007 till July 2009 as reported by the media institutions came to 276, out of which the number of children missing was 230.