Dear Friends,

Warm greetings from Control Arms Foundation of India & Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network.

India is a land of great diversity consisting of 29 states and 7 union territories. Often the term "Unity in Diversity" has been used to reflect the country's immense diversity. It has also been used to promote the various socio-cultural differences of the many communities settled in vastly different regions. "Diversity" means more than just acknowledging and/or tolerating differences. The concept signifies respect and appreciation of different cultures, race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, age, physical abilities etc. and in our country, there is much need to support and protect diversity. Individuals and groups must be valued and be freed from prejudice. Hence, it is extremely important to foster a climate of equity and mutual respect which are intrinsic for a peaceful nation to grow and develop.

"Deepening Diversity Women Rights and Democracy in India" is a program Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI) started with an aim to address the issues of increasing violence against women and girls in conflict zones as well as the rise in case of growing intolerance and racial violence in India. CAFI is closely working with committed stakeholders to contribute in solving the issues of Gender Based Violence (GBV) especially in conflict zones of India and racial discrimination in the country. The goal is to deepen diversity and to raise awareness on the injustice prevailing all across India. By adopting mechanisms such as improved and strengthened civil society responses, taking initiatives, engaging local authorities and government structures as well as international efforts, the focus is on the need to solve these issues. Through these efforts, CAFI hopes that it will help in ensuring an inclusive and sustainable growth in India.

In the month of April 2018, Ms. Binalakshmi Nepram, Founder and Secretary General of CAFI and MWGSN attended and participated at the 17th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Team members have also been preparing in organizing on 2nd of May, a regional level round table conference in Guwahati, Assam on the theme of Racial discrimination in Northeast India and also a briefing of Parliamentarians on the high rise of crime against women as well as diversity on the 30th of May. Our commitment to provide support to victims of sexual and racial discrimination continued along with documentation of many sexual and domestic abuse cases all across the Northeast of India. Please find the April newsletter here, providing news related to the aforementioned conference, Peace Building processes, Gender Based Violence, Sexual Violence, Racial Discrimination and the efforts of CAFI and MWGSN to ensure diversity and inclusion.

RECENT CAFI AND MWGSN ACTIVITIES

Ms. Binalakshmi Nepram, Founder and Secretary General of Control Arms Foundation of India and Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network participated in the discussion on Empowerment and Protection for Women Human Rights Defenders at Georgetown Law, Washington D.C.
Control Arms Foundation of India/Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network participated in 17th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 16-23 April 2018

Ms. Binalakshmi Nepram participated in a panel discussion on Indigenous Women Human Rights Defenders - Indigenous Media Zone moderated by Beatrice Duncan, UN Women at the 17th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This was organized by the Secretariat of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues/Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the UN Department of Public Information and indigenous media groups.

Public lecture on "Women and Gun Violence: The Story of how Women in Manipur, Northeast Region of India worked to mitigate Violent Conflict in South Asia's Longest Running Armed Conflict by Ms. Binalakshmi Nepram."
A panel discussion on “Understanding the Rohingya Crisis and the Indo-Burma Region” with UNDP Myanmar head Knut Ostby where Ms. Binalakshmi Nepram, talked about the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis and its implications on Northeast India.

**NEWS OF THE MONTH**

**CAFI IN MEDIA IN APRIL 2018**

**AFSPA Is Lifted in Meghalaya And Parts Of Arunachal Pradesh; What About Manipur And Nagaland?**

On Monday, Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju announced that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) had been lifted in Meghalaya and parts of Arunachal Pradesh because of a significant improvement in the security of these states in the past few years.

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**NE Dispatch: The Distortion of Manipur’s History and Assam’s Debate on Citizenship**

Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh is facing severe public criticism for his speech at a Gujarat government sponsored event early this week, with a powerful students’ body even demanding the BJP leader's resignation for “distorting” the state's history, else it would resort to....

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**Portraits of Power: Fearless Women Human Rights Defenders around the World**

Women human rights defenders at Nobel Women's Initiative's 5th international conference, “Defending the Defenders! Building Global Support for Women Human Rights Defenders.”....

[Read More >>](#)

**ARTICLES**

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

- India must evolve a new system to appoint judges
  Source: hindustantimes.com, Apr 27, 2018

- Diversity is the backbone of india - President
  Source: uniindia.com, Apr 18, 2018

- Unconscious bias, fewer women leaders hinder diversity: Report
  Source: thequint.com, Apr 11, 2018

- On Racism And How My Ladakhi Features Never Quite Fit The Indian Imagination
  Source: feminismindia.com, Apr 12, 2018

**PEACE BUILDING AND DISARMAMENT**

- Conflict Resolution and Peace Building
  Source: kashmirmonitor.in, Apr 30, 2018

- Research shows that wars are less likely when women are part of peace processes
  Source: independent.co.uk, 17 April 2018

- Global Military Spending Has Doubled but the World Is No Safer
  Source: time.com, April 25, 2018

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**

- UN officials urge action to prevent sexual violence in conflict; Rohingya lawyer says “Security Council failed us”
  Source: news.un.org, 16 April 2018

- Report of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence (S/2018/250) [EN/AR]
  Source: reliefweb.int

- How indigenous women who survived Guatemala’s conflict are fighting for justice
  Source: theconversation.com

- Conflict-Related Violence Takes Heavy Toll on J&K Children, 318 Killed in 15 Years
  Source: thewire.in, 01/APR/2018

**CRIME AGAINST WOMEN BY POLITICAL LEADERS**

- Crimes against Women Analysis of MPs/MLAs with Declared Cases Related to Crimes against Women
  Source: adrindia.org

**NEWS FROM NORTHEAST**
ASSAM

Over 29K cases of crime against women in Assam in 2 years
Source: The North East Today, 2 April 2018

1773 women have been killed in rape, dowry, witch-hunting
Source: The North East Today, 3 April 2018

Assam to get fast track courts to try rape cases
Source: The North East Today, 5 April 2018

60-year-old arrested for raping minor
Source: The North East Today, 7 April 2018

Absconding child killer arrested for alleged rape & murder of 5-yr-old
Source: The North East Today, 9 April 2018

Minor alleges rape, police says she had consensual sex with boyfriend
Source: The North East Today, 10 April 2018

Assam Police Nab 3 Over Mob Assault On Woman
Source: The Shillong Times, 10 April 2018

Gogoi Flays Assam Govt Over Growing Crimes Against Women
Source: The Shillong Times, 19 April 2018

11-year-old raped and burnt alive, How a village unites together
Source: The North East Today, 19 April 2018

Security guard held for ‘sexually abusing’ 12-year-old boy
Source: The North East Today, 20 April 2018

Assam records 20 cases of sexual assault on minors in two months
Source: The North East Today, 22 April 2018

Assam among top 10 states with maximum number of crimes against minor
Source: The North East Today, 22 April 2018

Middle-aged man rapes minor in Tinsukia
Source: The North East Today, 22 April 2018

Youth held for blackmailing teenage girl with morphed photographs
Source: The North East Today, 23 April 2018

MANIPUR

Minor girl kidnapped
Source: The Sangai Express, 2 April 2018

Legal aid clinic opened
Source: The Sangai Express, 4 April 2018

Rape accused remanded to police custody
Source: The Sangai Express, 5 April 2018

Mentally unsound lady raped
Source: IT News, 5 April 2018

2 Rohingyas held, girl rescued from trafficking net
Source: The Sangai Express

AMSU Women Wing stages protest against crime on women; demand harsh punishment to rapist
Source: IT News, 10 April 2018

Ex-militant charged of rape and molestation of 40 yrs old widow
Source: IT News, 12 April 2018

Victims, CSOs demand anti-rape law; Protest Sit-in and Rally staged
Source: IT News, 17 April 2018

Many protest rampant crime against women
Source: The Sangai Express, 20 April 2018

Crime against women
Source: The Sangai Express, 21 April 2018

Repeal of AFSPA from Meghalaya, Arunachal raises hope for Manipur, Nagaland, Assam
Source: thesangaiexpress.com
MEGHALAYA

PHE Employees Rape Two Minors In GH, One Held  
Source: The Shillong Times, 5 April 2018

Five Held In NGH After Girl Molestation Video Goes Viral  
Source: The Shillong Times, 8 April 2018

James Sangma Calls For Concerted Efforts to Tackle Crime Against Women  
Source: The Shillong Times, 12 April 2018

Teenager Raped Near Tura, Five Held  
Source: The Shillong Times, 14 April 2018

Rape Accused Cop Arrested  
Source: The Shillong Times, 14 April 2018

Mother Mum On Minor Daughter’s Rape  
Source: The Shillong Times, 15 April 2018

A Mother’s 16-Year Wait For Justice  
Source: The Shillong Times, 16 April 2018

Another Woman Assaulted In GH, Video Goes Viral  
Source: The Shillong Times, 16 April 2018

Man Held For Rape  
Source: The Shillong Times, 16 April 2018

7-Year-Old Raped By Grandfather in Garo Hills  
Source: The Shillong Times, 18 April 2018

Youth Held For Sharing Private Video of Girlfriend  
Source: The Shillong Times, 19 April 2018

DC Calls Meeting To Discuss Crimes Against Women  
Source: The Shillong Times, 20 April 2018

MIZORAM

Mizoram records highest rate of HIV among pregnant women in the country  
Source: The North East Today, 3 April 2018

NAGALAND

C&SS organises awareness programme on ‘Child Rights’  
Source: Nagaland Post, 8 April 2018

Candle light vigils held for UP, J&K rape victims  
Source: Nagaland Post, 16 April 2018

Awareness programme held on adolescence girls  
Source: Nagaland Post, 18 April 2018

TRIPURA

Woman allegedly stripped naked and beaten at Udaipur  
Source: The North East Today, 2 April 2018

Man accused of raping 14-yr-old girl in police net  
Source: The North East Today, 12 April 2018

16-yr-old gang-raped by 5 youths in Tripura; accused arrested  
Source: The North East Today, 17 April 2018

14-Year-Old alleges to have been raped four times, threats by “Powerful” businessman  
Source: The North East Today, 23 April 2018

DELHI NCR

Delhi Police sub-inspector arrested by CBI for demanding bribe to drop rape case of minor  
Source: indiatoday.in, April 27, 2018

‘Betis’ not safe in Delhi-NCR! BPO executive allegedly raped by Ola driver’s friend in Greater Noida  
Source: timesnownews.com, Apr 27, 2018

Delhi-NCR: National Crime Region  
Source: dnaindia.com, Apr 28, 2018

16 Times Indian Leaders Made Outrageous Remarks About Rape
UPCOMING EVENTS IN MAY 2018

Is there Racial Discrimination in Northeast India? - A regional level roundtable to understand ground realities and possible manifestations of Racial Discrimination in Northeast India
Date: 2 May 2018
Time: 10.00 am - 4.00pm
Venue: Hotel Blue Moon, Uzaan Bazar, Guwahati, Assam

Meeting with High Level stakeholders in Assam, Northeast India
Date: 4 May 2018

Parliamentarians Briefing
Date: 30 May 2018
Time: 11.00 am - 2.00 pm
Venue: Boardroom, Constitutional Club, Rafi Marg, New Delhi, India.

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Northeast India
Email: womensurvivorsnetwork@gmail.com
Website: www.womensurvivorsnetwork.org

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Northeast India Survivors Support, Peace & Diversity Centre
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