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 February 2018, CAFI and MWGSN have been working persistently post the International Conference - creating a National Coalition Group on Race and Gender issues, working on policy briefing on the recent union budget 2018-19, reports on case intervention all across our project areas and the preparation for start-up support for victims of sexual violence in Manipur. Additionally, the team has been working in holding two events in the month of March, first, on the 8th of March, 2018 to celebrate International Women's Day by raising awareness on the current state of women and second, on the 21st of March, 2018 to commemorate the International Day to End Racism.

Please find the February 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

February 1, 2018 - Tanvi Participated at the "Consultation on Regularizing Delhi Police-Civil Society Monthly Meetings" organized by Commonwealth Human Rights Initiatives at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
February 2, 2018 - Yuri and Tanvi attended "Of Hits and Misses - A Panel Discussion on Union Budget 2018-19", Organized by Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, Constitutional Club, New Delhi

February 12 and 13, 2018 - Interview on BBC World Service on Gun Violence in India with special reference to death of a young girl student from Punjab.

February 15, 2018 - Tanvi attended the Special police Unit for Women and Child Meeting: Monthly meeting of NGOs and Women Rights Groups to discuss the various issues pertains to Women, SPUWC, Police headquarters, Malviya Nagar

26 February 2018 - Discussion on issues of Democracy, Forgotten Conflicts & Indo-Burma
February 27, 2018 - Interview with the New York Times on India's gun license procurement policies.

NEWS OF THE MONTH
MEDIA REPORTS IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2018

Inspired by his mother, author pens book on women changemakers
A Bengalurean has written a book Chavi Unlock Your Dreams about ten female social workers from across the country. This is Prasanna Karthik S's fourth book on women...
Read More >>

ARTICLES

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
We have some way to go, but optimism about diversity and inclusion is due
Source: cityam.com, 27 February 2018

A Conversation about Race and Diversity
Source: knoe.com, Feb 06, 2018

Colourful way to celebrate growing cultural diversity in the Waimakariri community
Source: stuff.co.nz, February 16 2018

Need to promote greater understanding, appreciation of cultural diversity around world: VP
Source: uniindia.com, Feb 4 2018

Global study shows gender diversity boosts the bottom line
Source: fastcompany.com, Feb 21 2018

Gender Diversity Booklet Published
Source: maritime-executive.com

PEACE BUILDING AND DISARMAMENT
Women Ex-Combatants and Peace Processes: Innovations and Challenges from Colombia
Source: reliefweb.int, 23 Feb 2018

The UN's new “Sustaining Peace” Agenda: A Policy Breakthrough in the Making
Source: reliefweb.int, 23 Feb 2018

Column: Now is the time to speak out about peace-building
Source: yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk, 19 February 2018

International NGO Facilitates Engagement of All Sectors in Peace-Building for Myanmar and Globe
Source: thejetnewspaper.com, February 14, 2018

Bangladesh to ensure women's participation in peace, security efforts
Source: dhakatribune.com

"Unthinkable" for peace process to proceed without inclusion of South Sudanese women
Source: reliefweb.int, 10 Feb 2018

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT
Angelina Jolie visits NATO to talk about sexual violence in conflict zones
Source: washingtonexaminer.com

Syria conflict: Women ‘sexually exploited in return for aid’
Source: bbc.com, 27 February 2018

Armed Conflict, Sexual Violence, Force More Than 14,000 People to Flee the Democratic Republic of Congo,

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Sustainable Development Goals Targets Achievement Necessary For Welfare Driven State
Source: urdupoint.com, 26th February 2018

EU, UNDP cooperation key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
Source: undp.org, 19 February 2018

UN 2020 sustainable development goals and a bid to 'Feed the World'
NEWS FROM NORTHEAST

ASSAM

3 girls suspected to be Rohingya arrested at Jiribam
Source: IT News, 2 February 2018

Minor girl raped in Pathsala
Source: The North East Today, 14 February 2018

Minor girl sexually molested at Guwahati
Source: The North East Today, 16 February 2018

Assam girl sold three years ago; woman arrested for trafficking
Source: The North East Today, 16 February 2018

Assam: 3009 rape cases in 2016, 1457 cases between January 2017 and January 2018!
Source: The North East Today, 22 February 2018

Assam: Major sex racket busted in Jorhat; 3 arrested
Source: The North East Today, 22 February 2018

Nepali man ends life after killing Assam woman
Source: The North East Today, 26 February 2018

Campaign to end sexual abuse of minors
Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Feb 10, 2018

MANIPUR

Manipur gets first woman Chief Justice
Source: thesangaiexpress.com, February 28, 2018

JAC demands justice for minor rape victim
Source: The Sangai Express, 7 February 2018

Legal awareness programme held
Source: The Sangai Express, 7 February 2018

Rape accused surrendered
Source: IT News, 16 February 2018

Seminar espouses women’s values in society
Source: The Sangai Express, 26 February 2018

Draft Manipur State Plan of Action for Preventing and Combating Child Trafficking presented
Source: e-pao.net, Feb 28, 2018

MINOR girl gang-raped in Manipur
Source: thehindu.com, Feb 17, 2018

MEGHALAYA

Poll Violence In Family, Man Assaul ts Wife For BJP Support
Source: The Shillong Times, 14 February 2018

Govt adopts pink theme to fight skewed sex ratio
Source: timesofindia, Jan 30, 2018

MIZORAM

Human trafficker involved in trafficking people from Rohingya arrested
Source: The North East Today, 9 February 2018

Forced prostitution on the rise: 35 victims, 47 arrests in 17 years!
Source: The North East Today, 14 February 2018
NAGALAND

Poll violence: 3 women assaulted
Source: The Nagaland Post, 18 February 2018

TRIPURA

Election 2018: Chumki, the transgender voter votes for the 1st time!
Source: The North East Today, 18 February 2018

Tripura: Woman murdered by in-laws for allegedly supporting BJP
Source: The North East Today, 24 February 2018

22 Tripura candidates have criminal cases against them
Source: timesofindia, Feb 10, 2018

DELHI NCR

Gurugram: Woman pulled out of car, raped; husband held at gunpoint
Source: indiatoday.in

Leading TV channel journalist booked for rape in Delhi
Source: newsnation.in, Feb 18, 2018

Eight month old baby girl raped in northwest Delhi, cousin arrested
Source: newsnation.in

Harassment of activists working to ensure an impartial investigation into death of Pravish Chanam
Source: e-pao.net, February 2, 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

Awareness Raising on International Women’s Day
8th March, 2018
India Gate and Dilli Haat
more details >>

Commemorating International Day to End Racism
21st March, 2018
CAFI Office
more details >>

Delhi
Control Arms Foundation of India
B 5 / 146, First Floor, Safdarjung Enclave,
New Delhi - 110 029, India
Email: cafi.communique@gmail.com
Phone: (011) 46018541/ 26166234
Website: www.cafi-online.org

Manipur
Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network
Langthabal Mantrikhong, Thong Ahanbi,
Old Palace Road
Imphal West-795003, Manipur,
Northeast India
Email: womensurvivorsnetwork@gmail.com
Website: www.womensurvivorsnetwork.org

Assam
Northeast India Survivors Support, Peace & Diversity Centre
Mother Teresa Road, Hatigaon,
Guwahati - 38, Assam