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.

CAFI and MWGSN started the New Year with an insightful International Conference and Photo Exhibition on the 19 and 20 January 2018. The conference with experts from all over the world saw intense and enlightening panel discussions, revealing yet informative film screenings and a meaningful photo exhibition significant to the theme with an aim to develop innovative strategies to end discrimination and advocate for policy change. Please find the January 2018 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.

19-20 January 2018 - International Conference and Photo Exhibition on Deepening Diversity, Women’s Rights and Democracy at the India International Centre, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi.

CAFI’S WORK REPORTED IN THE MEDIA IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY

5 highlights of problems faced by Northeast Indians brought to light!
From racial discrimination to increasing gender based violence, activists, experts and academicians who met in a two day conference... Read More >>
CAFI organises International conference
Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI) along with Manipur Women Gun Survivor's Network in collaboration with Multiple Action Research Group...
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Conference on addressing racial and gender based violence
Speaking for Diversity, Equality and Dignity : International Conference on addressing racial and gender based violence...
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Memorandum for drafting an Anti Racial Law, to develop a National Diversity Policy
Submission of memorandum for drafting an Anti Racial Law, to develop a National Diversity Policy and to adopt a National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security...
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Plea to President on racial bias against NE
Activists of the Gurdwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha, Fancy Bazar and Sikh Sangat of Greater Guwahati take out a candlelight procession in Guwahati...
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ARTICLES

:: Diversity and Inclusion ::

Cultural diversity is not cultural competency
The lack of evidence around the way high-performing organizations remove cultural barriers stems largely from a lack of effort to see culture as a serious and measurable factor in service delivery... Full Article>>

ASEAN colours add to India’s celebration of diversity
The nation on Friday celebrated its 69th Republic Day, hosting 10 leaders of Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) countries as chief guests, marking 25 years of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership... Full Article>>

Universal child-care laws undermine cultural diversity
very community has its own cultural ethos, and its own specific models of care-giving. The universal ideas of child care prescribed by Attachment Theory have little practical relevance outside the West... Full Article>>

How Gender Diversity Enhances the Bottom Line
How Gender Diversity Leads to a Bigger Bottom Line - Despite making up half of the population and 47% of the labor force, women remain highly underrepresented in the top echelons of business... Full Article>>

Racial-ethnic diversity isn’t the only kind, and it’s a cultural strength
Iowa Congressman Steve King, who revels in controversy, made some more when he tweeted “Diversity is not our strength.” Is this the case? To answer this, I researched some of the best studies in politics... Full Article>>

:: Peace Building Process and Disarmament ::

Bangladesh to ensure women's participation in peace, security efforts
Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali has said women must be at the centre of Bangladesh's work to prevent conflict, build peace, and respond to emergencies... Full Article>>

Landmark Vatican Conference on Nuclear Disarmament Brings a Breeze of Expectation
The following article is based on an interview with Hirotsugu Terasaki, the Director General of Peace and Global Issues of the lay Buddhist organization Soka Gakkai International (SGI), in Tokyo, Japan... Full Article>>

Pope to diplomats: World peace depends on right to life, disarmament
A culture of peace “calls for unremitting efforts in favor of disarmament and the reduction of recourse to the use of armed force in the handling of international affairs,” he said Jan. 8 in his annual address to diplomats... Full Article>>

A Human Security Approach To Nuclear Disarmament - Analysis
Despite the best intentions of nuclear disarmament groups, failure to adopt norms surrounding human security in disarmament has proved to be a major impediment in achieving concrete progress... Full Article>>

Launching Research Project, Ambassadors Highlight Women's Role in Peace
Women's civil society groups are crucial to promoting peace in Ukraine and Myanmar, said Melanne Verveer, the first U.S. ambassador-at-large for global women's issues under the administration... Full Article>>

' Media should focus on peace building and transitional justice'
Action Nepal in partnership with ICRC Nepal organised a national seminar here today. The event mainly focused on the role... Full Article>>
110 peace and reconciliation facilitators trained on peace building
At least 110 peace and reconciliation facilitators drawn from across refugee hosting communities in Foni last Friday concluded two-day training on peace building, reconciliation.

UN official calls to fund peacebuilding efforts in Darfur
UN peacekeeping chief has urged the Security Council to allocate funds for the consolidate peacebuilding process in Darfur as he admitted a tangible improvement in the security situation on the ground.

Qatar backs UN efforts to support peace-building and sustainability
Doha Regional Dialogue on Sustaining Peace launched yesterday with the participation of a number of Arab and Muslim countries, civil society organisations, and non-governmental organisations.

UN Secretary General issues 'red alert' against conflicts and hatred in 2018
In his message on the New Year, United Nations Secretary-General António Gutерres has called for unity among the global community to tackle overwhelming challenges and defend values shared by all.

Women’s Participation in Peace Processes: Colombia
A new CFR Interactive Report presents compelling evidence about the value of women’s contributions to peace processes around the world.

:: Sexual Violence in Conflict ::

Government Denies Marital Rape Occurs, National Survey Shows 5.4% of Married Women Are Victims
"Physically forced her to have sexual intercourse with him even when she did not want to." This is a category of spousal violence which the Indian government records data for. And according to the latest National Health and Family Survey (NFHS-4) for 2015-16, 5.4% women have experienced marital rape, under this category.

5 reasons the U.N. Security Council should care about the Burmese military’s sexual assaults on the Rohingya
Burma's ethnic cleansing campaign against Rohingya Muslims has been rife with sexual violence, according to recent news accounts. Among the more than 600,000 people who have fled to neighboring Bangladesh, many are survivors of rape, gang rape and sexual slavery.

Understanding violence against women
One of the most persistent patterns in the distribution of power is that of inequalities between women and men. Taking in consideration that gender relations are power relations, it is easy to discover some roots of gender discrimination in three forms of violence facing any society.

Conflict in Congo has led to children being sexually abused and recruited as soldiers, finds Unicef
At least 1.3 million people have been displaced in the Democratic Republic of Congo by inter-ethnic violence and clashes between the regular army, militia and armed groups, according to a Unicef report.

Violence against women and girls and resilience: Links, impacts and perspectives from the Chadian context
Many development programmes that aim to increase people's resilience are designed to help those affected by disasters and climate change, and they often target women. Indeed, contextual analyses conducted by development actors often reveal socioeconomic inequalities that disproportionately affect women that lead to.

Violence at Home, Insecurity Here, Uncertainty Ahead
The violent persecution of the Rohingya, which has displaced almost a million people from Myanmar to Bangladesh in recent months, represents one of the worst humanitarian disasters the world has ever seen.

:: Sustainable Development Goals ::

Localizing the SDGs: Local economic development and gender diversity
Finalizing global agendas is one thing. Implementing them is another. We need to change for the better: the way we live, work, produce, consume, generate our energy.

Sustainable Development Goals: first meeting of the Commission’s high level multi-stakeholder platform
The Commission’s high level multi-stakeholder platform on the follow up to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in the EU met for the first time on Wednesday 10 January.

Adopt sustainable development goals in manifestos
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by 193 countries, including Malaysia, in September 2015 at the United Nations Summit encompass environmental, social and economic dimensions.

Why Leadership is Essential for Achieving Sustainable Development Goals
At the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on September 25th, 2015, more than 150 world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

G-77 at UN to Focus on Global Solidarity and Multilateralism
The Group of 77, comprising 134 developing and newly industrialized countries, has set itself six priorities for 2018 during the presidency of Sameh Hassan Shoukry, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt.

Sustainable development of India: Is CSR the solution?
Even after the legal mandate, India is still failing to meet its national socio-economic development targets and achieving the SDGs.

UN Secretary-General’s Remarks at High-Level Event in Addis Ababa
The Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres addressed participants at the High-Level conference in Ethiopia, Addis Ababa speaking on "Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in Africa by 2025... Full Article>>

NEWS FROM NORTHEAST

ASSAM

All-women pink autos make Assam debut
Source: business-standard.com

'We Are Not Even Accepted As Assamese, Let Alone Indian': Assam's Minorities
Source: youthkiawaaz.com

Rape survivor escapes ashram in Assam, shares horrifying stories of what goes on within
Source: indiatoday.in

'We don't want to be identified on the basis of our religion,' say Assam's indigenous Desi Muslims
Source: scroll.in

Director of orphanage held for molesting minor in Assam
Source: easternmimromagaland.com

Conclave for women entrepreneurs of Assam
Source: arunachaltimes.in

Ashram head held for raping minor in Assam
Source: The Times of India, 12 January 2018

Man arrested for alleged molestation of two girl
Source: The North East Today, 22 January 2018

9-month-old baby's mother tortured for dowry in Nagaon
Source: The North East Today, 22 January 2018

15-year-old minor raped in Dhekiajuli
Source: The North East Today, 24 January 2018

Man gets life imprisonment for rape and murder of 21 year old
Source: The North East Today, 25 January 2018

MANIPUR

Assam Rifles seizes weapons in Manipur
Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com

Grenade explosion kills two in Manipur
Source: nagalandpost.com

Rape accused shot dead in Manipur
Source: thenortheasttoday.com

One convicted for rape; quantum of penalty on Jan 5
Source: The Sangai Express, 3 January 2018

Legal awareness programme
Source: The Sangai Express, 4 January 2018

Father sentenced to life for sexually molesting his own daughter
Source: The Sangai Express, 6 January 2018

Ten rapists punished in 2017
Source: The Sangai Express, 8 January 2018

'Rate of justice delivery in State low'
Source: The Sangai Express, 8 January 2018

Acid attack victim speaks out, demands life imprisonment for accused
Source: The Sangai Express, 8 January 2018

One Day Awareness Programme on POCSO Act and JJ Act
Source: IT News, 11 January 2018

1 minor killed, 4 others injured in grenade blasts
MEGHALAYA

Meghalaya Cabinet Amends Rules To Recognize Third Gender
Source: theshillongtimes.com, Jan 23, 2018

Meghalaya: Rape victim sees justice after 3 years; POCSO court sentences accused to 3 yrs rigorous imprisonment
Source: thenortheasttoday.com, Jan 17, 2018

Vigilantism on the Rise in Northeast, as Insurgent Groups Continue to Gun Down Sex Offenders
Source: newscllick.in, 06 Jan 2018

Tura Hostel To Ensure Working Women's Safety
Source: The Shillong Times, 7 January 2018

Human Trafficking: 4 GH Girls Rescued From Bihar
Source: The Shillong Times, 8 January 2018

Economic Empowerment Programme For Women Launched At Tikrikilla
Source: The Shillong Times, 12 January 2018

Woman Assaulted, No Arrests Yet
Source: The Shillong Times, 16 January 2018

POSCO Court Awards 3 Years RI To Rape Accused
Source: The Shillong Times, 17 January 2018

Man Jailed For Raping Minor
Source: The Shillong Times, 18 January 2018

MIZORAM

'Myanmar Refugees in Mizoram Refusing to Return to Myanmar'
Source: northeasttoday.in, January 22, 2018

Mizoram: 45-year-old teacher arrested for allegedly raping 6-yr-old at Maubawk village
Source: Voice of the 7 Sisters, 9 January 2018

NAGALAND

Political parties not to issue tickets for election
Source: nagalandpost.com, 29 Jan 2018

Woman found dead
Source: The Nagaland Post, 11 January 2018

ZPO condemn case of fatal domestic violence
Source: The Nagaland Post, 11 January 2018

TRIPURA

6 Rohingya Muslims arrested in Tripura
Source: aninews.in, Jan 16, 2018

Husband absconded after killing wife at Birendranagar
Source: The North East Today, 18 January 2018

Assam-based labourer arrested on charges of raping minor
Source: The North East Today, 24 January 2018

DELHI-NCR & OTHERS

Professor alleges rape
Source: thehindu.com, January 13, 2018

Manipur girl found dead at Delhi residence; IGP Robin Hibu raises serious concern about death of NE youth
Source: The North East Today, 11 January 2018

Discrimination of North East Participants in The National Youth Festival
Source: IT News, 16 January 2018
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<td>Control Arms Foundation of India</td>
<td>Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network</td>
<td>Northeast India Survivors Support, Peace &amp; Diversity Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>B 5 / 146, First Floor, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110 029, India</td>
<td>Langthabal Mantriakhong, Thong Ahanbi, Old Palace Road Imphal West-795003, Manipur, Northeast India</td>
<td>Mother Teresa Road, Hatigaon, Guwahati - 38, Assam</td>
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<td>Email: <a href="mailto:womensurvivorsnetwork@gmail.com">womensurvivorsnetwork@gmail.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.womensurvivorsnetwork.org">www.womensurvivorsnetwork.org</a></td>
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