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 March 2018, CAFI and MWGSN successfully organized an awareness raising campaign at the India Gate on 8th of March, International Women's Day as well as a participatory meeting on the 21st March, to commemorate the International Day to End Racial Discrimination with high level stakeholders. This day was made special as our partners across our project areas in the northeast joined in to observe this significant day. Shamakami and Wake Up! In Meghalaya, and CARDS (Char and Rural Development Society) in Assam along with the team in Manipur also released a series of posters on the theme as part of the convention. Our commitment to provide support to victims of sexual and racial discrimination continued along with documentation of these cases. Team members also attended a meeting organized by the European Union on pathway in the northeast of India. Please find the March 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

CAFI General Secretary Binalakshmi Nepram meets first indigenous woman Mayor Rose Cunningham Cain of Waspam, Nicaragua at a side event of the United Nations Commission on Status of Women 12-23 March 2018.
CAFI participated at the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women which took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 23 March 2018.

More about Event >>

CAFI commemorates International Women’s Day on 8th March 2018 at India Gate, New Delhi with an Awareness Raising Event.

More Photos >>

CAFI team members met Dr. K. Sobita Devi, Chairperson of the Manipur State Women Commission on March 8, 2018.

CAFI & MARG commemorates International Day to End Racial Discrimination on 21st March
2018 at India International Centre, New Delhi. Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Dr. Thockchom Meinya and Ms. Friederike Tschampa, Head of Political Affairs, European Union were the Guests of Honour at Event.

CAFI Commemorates International Day to End Racial Discrimination on 21 March 2018 in Manipur with its sister organization Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network.

CAFI Commemorates International Day to End Racial Discrimination on 21 March 2018 in Assam with our partner CARDS

CAFI Commemorates International Day to End Racial Discrimination on 21 March 2018 in Meghalaya with our partners Shamakami and Wake Up.
CAFI Founder Member Ms Binalakshmi Nepram was invited to speak at an event called #PositionOfStrength hosted by Twitter India & Youth Ki Awaaz where changemakers and women leaders explored increased empowerment and safety for women on 7th March, Hauz Khas, New Delhi. Members of Parliament Meenakshi Lekhi and Barkha Dutt were fellow panelists at the event where CAFI members attended.

NEWS OF THE MONTH

How did we go from a country everyone admired to one pitied for its gun violence?
I was in India with two American friends when 19-year old Nikolas Cruz shot and killed 17 students and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School with a legally bought AR-15-style rifle.
Read More >>

Gun violence is not just a US problem, it has reached our Indian schools
An eighteen-year old boy brought a firearm to his school in Jacobpura, Gurgaon putting 600 other school children in imminent danger.
Read More >>

Rekha Basu: Don't let students down on gun control
I was in India with two American friends when 19-year old Nikolas Cruz shot and killed 17 students and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School with a legally bought AR-15-style rifle.
Read More >>

CAFI IN MEDIA

Awareness campaign on International Women’s Day
International Women's Day is commemorated across the world in order to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.
Read More >>

Commemorating International Day to End Racial Discrimination
A participatory discussion on race, ethnicity, diversity and culture in India was organized by the Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI), Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network (MWGSN), National Coalition on Gender and Race in collaboration with Multiple Action Research Group (MARG).
Read More >>

ARTICLES

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 21 March
Source: devdiscourse.com, 21 Mar 2018

PEACE BUILDING AND DISARMAMENT
Peacebuilding in conflict zones demands people-centric approach
Source: horizon-magazine.eu, 19 March 2018
Manipur: multi-cultural event celebrates India’s diversity
Source: business-standard.com, March 16, 2018

How India’s cultural diversity may help unify the world
Source: qrius.com

UNESCO launches its 9th call for funding from UN’s International Fund for Cultural Diversity
Source: economist.com.na, Mar 26, 2018

We Need To Embrace Cultural Diversity To Tackle Hate Crime
Source: rightsinfo.org

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT
UN envoy on conflict-related sexual violence reports on visits to Iraq and Sudan
Source: news.un.org, 9 March 2018

“They amused themselves with my body”: Male survivors of sexual violence stay silent in CAR
Source: africanarguments.org, MARCH 5, 2018

Violence against girls in conflict-affected populations reinforces gender norms
Source: sciencedaily.com, March 1, 2018

Women and Girls Critically Underserved in the Rohingya Humanitarian Response
Source: reliefweb.int

Rape, sexual assault and sexual harassment: what’s the difference?
Source: theconversation.com, March 27, 2018

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
Sustainable development: Need to avoid one-size-fits-all approach, says Minister
Source: thehindubusinessline.com, MARCH 6, 2018

The U.N. Set 17 Goals To Make The World A Better Place. How’s It Doing?
Source: npr.org, March 22, 2018

Achieving sustainable development begins with fighting corruption
Source: thenational.ae, March 5, 2018

‘Human rights key to sustainable development’
Source: thepeninsulaqatar.com, 21 Mar 2018

NEWS FROM NORTHEAST

ASSAM
Woman stabbed by husband in Ahmedabad
Source: The North East Today, 8 March 2018

Woman gang raped in front of husband in Nagaon
Source: The North East Today, 17 March 2018

Constable booked for posting obscene photos of girl on social media
Source: The North East Today, 19 March 2018

Constable held for death of minor girl in Kokrajhar
Source: The North East Today, 19 March 2018

Minor allegedly raped by 65-year-old man in Barpeta
Source: The North East Today, 23 March 2018

MANIPUR
Ratanmala alleged rape and murder case
Source: The Sangai Express, 8 March 2018

Governor Dr Najma Heptulla hails Manipuri women on International Women’s Day
Source: IT News, 9 March 2018

AMSU alleges rape, demands punishment
Source: The Sangai Express, 10 March 2018

Acid Victim denied compensation
Source: IT News, 14 March 2018

Girl with dementia abused; 3 suspects held
Source: The Sangai Express, 21 March 2018

‘True democracy thrives where legislature, judiciary and executive are well-balanced’
Source: www.itp.co.in, Mar 24, 2018
MEGHALAYA

‘Children’s Safety’ Awareness Held In Garo Hills  
Source: The Shillong Times, 2 March 2018

Pharmacist Accused of Sexual Assault  
Source: The Shillong Times, 11 March 2018

Rape Accused Convicted  
Source: The Shillong Times, 11 March 2018

Prasad Lists Measures To Curb Crime Against Women, Kids  
Source: The Shillong Times, 17 March 2018

Upper Shillong Rape Victim’s Family Awaits Justice  
Source: The Shillong Times, 18 March 2018

Women Safety, Youth Problems, Low Quality Education Dominate Debate In Meghalaya House  
Source: The Shillong Times, 19 March 2018

Man Held For Raping Mentally Challenged  
Source: The Shillong Times, 19 March 2018

MIZORAM

Mizoram’s ‘Supercop’ faces flak by Nirbhaya’s mother for insensitive remarks on her  
Source: The North East Today, 20 March 2018

NAGALAND

WDLSA to conduct legal service camp  
Source: The Nagaland Post, 14 March 2018

TRIPURA

Woman’s decomposed body recovered from Sonamura, investigation underway  
Source: The North East Today, 20 March 2018

DELHI NCR

Ahead of Holi, semen-filled balloon allegedly thrown at Northeast girl in Delhi  
Source: The North East Today, 1 March 2018

Northeast Indian students under racial attack in Vadodara university, claims youth forum  
Source: The North East Today, 18 March 2018

Northeast people should adopt local culture in states: Deodhar  
Source: business-standard.com, March 26, 2018

‘Don’t call me chinki’, a photo exhibition on Northeast people underway in Delhi  
Source: hindustantimes.com, Mar 19, 2018

‘Rape Roko’ Will Not Stop Until the Guilty Have Been Punished: Swati Maliwal  
Source: newsclick.in, 09 Mar 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

State Level Meeting in Northeast India

“Highlighting the prevalence of Racial Discrimination in the northeast of India and ways to tackle it”.

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

Manipur  
Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network  
Langthabal Mantrikhong, Thong Ahanbi, Old Palace Road, Imphal West-795003, Manipur, Northeast India  
Email:

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