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 September 2018, Founder and Secretary General of CAFI and MWGSN, Ms. Nepram delivered a speech on "Working Together to End Gun Violence: The Story of How Women in Manipur Worked to Mitigate Violence in South Asia's Longest Running Armed Conflict" at Otis College, Connecticut, USA on September 5 2018. Following this, CAFI and MWGSN held a successful panel discussion and prelaunch of the book titled "Addressing Democracy, Diversity, Racial and Gender-Based Violence with special emphasis in Conflict Areas" edited by Ms. Binalakshmi Nepram and published by the New York Universal Publishing House. This was held at the India Habitat Centre on 21 September 2018. The CAFI and MWGSN team have also been working with PRIA (Participatory Research in Asia) and Martha Farrell Foundation to host the second part of the Training of Trainers on Diversity, Gender Justice and Inclusion on October 4 and 5, 2018. Throughout the month, many of our Community Justice Workers continue to reach out and report as well as handle cases of human rights violations in different villages all across the northeast in our project areas. The team is also committed to providing 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 September newsletter here, providing news related to the aforementioned events, 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

September 5, 2018 - Ms. Binalakshmi Nepram, Founder and Secretary General, Control Arms Foundation of India and Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network at the Otis Library, Connecticut, USA speaking on Working Together to End Gun Violence: The Story of How...
Women in Manipur Worked to Mitigate Violence in South Asia’s Longest Running Armed Conflict".

September 21, 2018 - Panel Discussion and Prelaunch of the book on “Addressing Democracy, Diversity, Racial and Gender-Based Violence with Special Focus on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones in India” at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

NEWS OF THE MONTH

MEDIA REPORTS IN THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 2018

Addressing Democracy, Diversity, Race and Gender-Based Violence
A new book born out of three years of intensive research across Northeast India and the National Capital Region of Delhi (Delhi NCR) focuses on the rising intolerance in the world’s largest democracy....
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CAFI launches book
In an event organised by Control Arms Foundation of India in collaboration with Multiple Action Research Group (MARG) and India Habitat Centre (IHC) with support from EU, a book titled ‘Addressing Democracy, Diversity....
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Nepram to speak at Otis Library
Writer-Activist Binalakshmi Nepram will speak at at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 5 at the Otis Library, 261 Main St., Norwich.....
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ARTICLES

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Colour me right: It’s time to end colourism in India
Source: aljazeera.com, 10 Sept 2018

India’s cultural diversity on display
Source: tribuneindia.com, Sep 30, 2018

Vice President Naidu hails India’s cultural diversity, pushes for inclusive nationalism
Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Sep 2, 2018

Why the young from India’s northeast are building bridges with the country’s big cities
Source: qz.com

PEACE BUILDING AND DISARMAMENT

Intersections of violence against women and girls with state-building and peace-building: Lessons from Nepal, Sierra Leone and South Sudan
Source: reliefweb.int, 22 Sep 2018

India third highest in gun-related deaths, firearm mortality rate “beats” China, Pakistan, Bangladesh: US study
Half the World's Gun-related Deaths Occur in Just 6 Countries, Including the U.S.
Source: counterview.net, September 07, 2018

Empower women to resolve global challenges
Source: science.howstuffworks.com, September 17, 2018

SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

Bangladesh, UN sign up to address sexual violence against Rohingyas
Source: dhakatribune.com, September 29, 2018

The world is failing women and girls whose bodies have been weaponised
Source: theguardian.com, September 5, 2018

What drives women over the edge?
Source: dailypioneer.com,

NEWS FROM NORTHEAST

ASSAM

53-yr-old auto rickshaw driver jailed for molesting minor
Source: The North East Today, 7 September 2018

28-yr-old engineer arrested for trying to marry minor in Bongaigaon district
Source: The North East Today, 10 September 2018

3 NE states among 12 with high rates of child marriage & teenage pregnancy: Report
Source: The North East Today, 14 September 2018

Man arrested for allegedly raping minor inside van in Baksa district
Source: The North East Today, 18 September 2018

Girl sold in Ghy by mother & son, rescued from Siliguri red light area
Source: The North East Today, 20 September 2018

Assistant Sub-Inspector arrested for physically assaulting two women in PS
Source: The North East Today, 20 September 2018

19 held for stripping & assaulting woman with chilli powder
Source: The North East Today, 23 September 2018

Assam teen escapes rape attempt by 4 men who kidnapped her in Goalpara district
Source: The North East Today, 25 September 2018

4,130 rapes & over 15,000 dowry cases reported in state the last 2 years
Source: The North East Today, 25 September 2018

MANIPUR

Saving rape Victims: actions on sentiment and anger might ruined the minor victims
Source: IT News, 1 September 2018

Rape accused remanded for 4 more days in Police Custody
Source: IT News, 2 September 2018

On the run rape accused held
Source: The Sangai Express, 2 September 2018

Fast track investigation cell necessary to curb crimes against women and children: Acting Chairperson MHRC
Source: The Sangai Express, 9 September 2018

Take up action against teacher who touched girl student inappropriately: AMSU
Source: The Sangai Express, 9 September 2018

Youth lynched on charge of lifting two wheeler
Source: The Sangai Express, 14 September 2018

Sit-ins demand justice for victims of alleged extra Judicial killings
Source: The Sangai Express, 2 September 2018

Midnight rape, say MUTA, MUSU, MUSA
Source: The Sangai Express, 22 September 2018
MEGHALAYA

Man, 65, arrested for raping minor granddaughters in Meghalaya
Source: The Morung Express, 1 September 2018

Father sexually molestes 10-yr-old daughter, mother forgives husband for the crime
Source: The North East Today, 3 September 2018

16-year-old girl abducted in SWGH; taken to Assam
Source: The North East Today, 8 September 2018

NE has emerged as hub of human trafficking: Meghalaya HC Chief Justice
Source: The North East Today, 24 September 2018

MIZORAM

14-year-old brutally gangraped in Chamdur
Source: The North East Today, 6 September 2018

NAGALAND

Mob tries to enter jail in search of murder accused
Source: The North East Today, 22 September 2018

TRIPURA

Woman humiliated with garland of shoes over alleged affair in state
Source: The North East Today, 27 September 2018

DELHI NCR

Domestic hell
Source: indianexpress.com

Self-styled Godman arrested for raping woman in Delhi
Source: newindianexpress.com, 30th September 2018

Delhi man raped niece for four years to ‘treat her manglik dosh’
Source: newsnation.in

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

October 4 and 5, 2018 - Training of Trainers on Diversity, Gender Justice and Inclusion
Seminar Hall I and II, India International Centre, 40, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi - 110003
9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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

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