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.

Please find the [April 2017 issue newsletter](#) here; providing news related to Gender Based Violence, rape cases, racial violence and the efforts to ensuring diversity along with sustainable development.

### RECENT CAFI ACTIVITIES

**Speech on Women, War, Weapons and Militarization at Lady Sri Ram College for Women, New Delhi.**

at Lady Shri Ram (LSR) College, New Delhi on April 1, 2017

**Meeting with Filmmaker Nicholas Kharkongkor, Director of recently released award winning film 'Mantra'.**

on April 7, 2017
Meeting with Nectar, Govt of India, over weaving.
on April 12, 2017

Ms Farida Bibi, Community Justice Worker/CAFI, participated in the Aajivika Fair 2017 organized by National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi
on April 14, 2017

Meeting with Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Home Affairs, Government of India.
on April 22, 2017

CAFI'S WORK REPORTED IN THE MEDIA IN THE MONTH OF APRIL
A facet of Women's empowerment

Spanning more than 500 pages, the book is the result of three years of research, meetenings and conferences in the entire region spread over three countries - India, Bangladesh and Myanmar. The entire issue of empowerment of women is examined generally from a perspective of peace and development, which again has a special relevance for this region...

Read all >>

ARTICLES

:: Diversity and Inclusion ::

Strength of Indian economy lies in its diversity: CII
The president of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Naushad Forbes today said the strength of Indian economy rests in its diversity. "Our diversity is a huge strength. Full Article>>

New digital map tracks racial diversity in US using data from last decade
Scientists in the US have created the most detailed digital map to track the changing racial diversity of every neighbourhood in the country. Full Article>>

#StopHindiChauvinism: Netizens protest as Hindi replaces English on Tamil Nadu milestones
India is a land of diversity with many ethnicities and languages, and debate regarding country's official language is something that keeps coming back to haunt us all. Full Article>>

 Imperfect and racist, that is who we are
In the aftermath of the horrific attacks on Africans in Noida, there has been the usual outpouring of outrage and condemnation-official and unofficial; statements on behalf of one government or the other Full Article>>

Minority Report
"Equality to all and appeasement of none" has been the BJP's mantra, though contradictory signals are now visible and strangely, the majority community is presented as a victim of so-called "minority appeasement" even in Gujarat where elections are due in a few months. Full Article>>

India looking to expel Rohingya refugees
The Indian government is considering ways to deport tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslims currently living in Jammu and Kashmir, according to reports in the Indian media. Full Article>>

Movie stars are role models; they should not be promoting fairness creams
In the wake of BJP leader Tarun Vijay's comments about dark-skinned people in southern India and the assertion that Indians are not racist, cross-over actor Abhay Deol has taken on Bollywood stars who endorse fairness creams to bolster their brand earnings. Full Article>>

AI programs exhibit racial and gender biases, research reveals
An artificial intelligence tool that has revolutionised the ability of computers to interpret everyday language has been shown to exhibit striking gender and racial biases. Full Article>>

Are Indians racist? Just ask Tarun Vijay
Students from various African countries residing in India carry a palpable, visceral fear. In January 2016, an angry mob set a Tanzanian woman's car on fire in response to a Sudanese running over an Indian woman in Bengaluru. Full Article>>

Assam: Activist Threatened With Rape, Acid Attacks For Condemning Beef Arrests
A human rights activist from Jorhat, Assam, has been threatened on social media with death, rape and acid attacks - allegedly by members of the Bajrang Dal - for condemning the arrest of three people in the town for possessing beef. Full Article>>

FAIRNESS CREAMS: 'UGLY FRAUD IN A FAIRNESS TUBE'
Watch video here>>

:: Women in Peace Making Processes ::

Hillary Clinton: Including Women in Peace Processes Is Strategic and Necessary
Hillary Clinton might be out of the woods, but the media coverage she attracts serves to remind us that we, as a nation, are not. Full Article>>

An advocate lauded for her contribution to Burma's peace process earlier this week has stressed that women should be involved in "every single step" of the country's journey to stability. Full Article>

"It Takes a Woman" to build peace in Syria.
"I profess the religion of love wherever its caravan turns along the way; that is the belief, the faith I keep," says Asmaa Kafaro, Syrian activist from Damascus, in a new audiovisual storytelling campaign, "It Takes a Woman", produced by UN Women Regional Office for Arab States. Full Article>

A Fact of Women's empowerment
Spanning more than 500 pages, the book is a result of three years of research, meetings and conference in the entire region spread over three countries- India, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Full Article>

From Assam and Kashmir to Haifa in the Middle East, Women Are Leading a Global "Fight" for Peace
Women and girls are often the biggest victims of war and conflict, yet remain one of the most unheard voices in peace processes. Full Article>

:: Sexual Violence in Conflict ::

Ms. Pramila Patten of Mauritius - Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres has appointed Pramila Patten of Mauritius as his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict at the level of Under-Secretary-General. Full Article>

Tripura raises voice against rape through paintings
In order to raise their voices in a silent manner against the rising rape incidents and menace of drug among youth, people along with the students of Art College, Tripura took part in road paintings and cartoon drawing under the name 'Hope Jagaran' here. Full Article>

India declines to vote in the UN Nuclear Weapon Ban conference, Western nuclear powers go against the motion
A conference held in New York on Monday witnessed a no-show from India as diplomatic sources revealed that India is closely monitoring the developments although refraining from voting a direct yes or no. Full Article>

A ban on nuclear weapons is within sight
A global ban on the world's most destructive and inhumane weapons could be adopted within a matter of months. Elayne Whyte Gómez, the Costa Rican ambassador presiding over the historic UN disarmament negotiations that began in New York last week, believes concluding a nuclear-weapon-ban treaty by July 7 is "an achievable goal." Full Article>

:: Sustainable Development Goals ::

Sunil Mittal and Antonio Guterres discussed challenges posed by anti-globalisation sentiments.
International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Chairman Sunil Mittal today met United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres to discuss the role of world business in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals. Full Article>

'India needs to magnify own models for achieving Sustainable Development Goals'
A TALK on role of agricultural universities and research centres in achieving the sustainable development goals was organised on Tuesday. Full Article>

NEWS FROM NORTHEAST
MANIPUR

Minor girl allegedly raped
The Sangai Express, 3 April 2017

Police remand for rape accused
The Sangai Express, 4 April 2017

'Trafficked' victim rescued from Tulihal Airport
The Sangai Express, 5 April 2017

Parent of 'rescued' girl clarifies
The Sangai Express, 5 April 2017

Army men involved in extra-judicial killing in Manipur must be punished: SC to first probe 3 cases of rape and murder
The Sangai Express / TNN, 16 April 2017

Teenage girls gang raped, seven held
The People's Chronicle, 20 April 2017

5 rape accused declared juveniles
The Sangai Express, 24 April 2017

United voice raised against rape cases
The Sangai Express, 25 April 2017
MEGHALAYA

- Minor raped in North Garo Hills
  Source: The Assam Tribune, 3 April 2017

- Garos will become minorities in their own land, claims BJP leader
  Source: The Assam Tribune, 3 April 2017

- Minor's Rape: Third Charge Sheet Filed
  Source: The Shillong Times, 6 April 2017

- Juveniles held for involvement in gang rape
  Source: The Meghalaya Times, 6 April 2017

- Rape Victim Pregnant; Minor Molested
  Source: The Shillong Times, 7 April 2017

- Social Groups Divided Over Garo Customary Bill
  Source: The Shillong Times, 8 April 2017

- Man Held for Minor's Rape
  Source: The Shillong Times, 9 April 2017

- Minor girl abducted, raped by juvenile in WGH
  Source: Meghalaya Times, 23 April 2017

MIZORAM

- The Abuse Where Mizoram got first place
  Source: The Mizoram Post, 11 April 2017

- Mizoram Victims of Crime Compensation Scheme
  Source: The Mizoram Post, 13 April 2017

- Teacher sacked for sexual harassment
  Source: The Mizoram Post, 17 April 2017

NAGALAND

- Dimapur police unearths ‘major human trafficking racket’
  Source: IT News, 13 April 2017

- Rapist sentenced to 10 years imprisonment
  Source: The Nagaland Post, 21 April 2017

- Protest rally over molestation
  Source: The Nagaland Post, 22 April 2017

DELHI-NCR & OTHERS

- Clamour for anti-racism law grows
  Source: The Telegraph, 7 April 2017

- Any Kind of Racism is Condemnable
  Source: The Mizoram Post, 9 April 2017

- Girl walking to school offered lift by neighbour, raped at his friend's home in west Delhi
  Source: Hindustan Times, 14 April 2017

- Delhi woman cop rapes 10-year-old to save the teacher accused of sexually assaulting the girl
  Source: Oddnaari, 18 April 2017

Panel Discussion on “Addressing Gender based Violence in Manipur: Focus on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones”
Date: 4 May 2017
Time: 10 am - 1.00 pm
Venue: Siroy Conference Hall, Imphal Hotel, North ACC, Imphal, Manipur

Weaving Peace by Women of Manipur
A special gathering to celebrate our first ever supply to Fabindia by extraordinary women weavers of Manipur in partnership with Rangsutra and NECTAR
Date: 13 May 2017
Time: 3 to 6 pm
Venue: B 5/146 First Floor, Safdarjung

“Legal training of Delhi Police Northeast Representatives” convened by Control Arms Foundation of India, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network, Multiple Action Research Group in collaboration with Delhi Police
Date: 26th and 27th May 2017
Delhi
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