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.

With the New Year approaching, CAFI and MWGSN would also like to wish everyone a prosperous, rewarding and a joyous 2018 filled with hope, peace and meaning. Together with Multiple Action Research Group (MARG) and supported by the European Union (EU), CAFI and MWGSN will begin 2018 with an international conference on the 19th and 20th of January 2018. Experts from all over the world will partake in order to deepen the understanding of racial discrimination and gender based violence for further research and work. The conference will also conduct a series of panel discussions, film screenings and a photo exhibition with an aim to develop innovative strategies to end discrimination and advocate for policy change. Please click here to visit Event Page.

Please find the December 2017 newsletter here, providing news related to Peace Building processes, Gender Based Violence, Sexual Violence, Racial Discrimination and the efforts of CAFI and MWGSN to ensure diversity and inclusion.

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Painting Competition on Gender, United Nations and Gun Violence at Imphal. Organised by Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network - 10 Dec 2017

More Photos >>
In December 2017 women weavers successfully submitted our third order for Fabindia.

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**ARTICLES**

:: Diversity and Inclusion ::

**Four billion people have no social security protection - UN labour agency**

In the World Social Protection Report 2017-2019, entitled Universal social protection to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN International Labour Organization (ILO) highlights how this protection gap is an obstacle to reaching globally-agreed targets on promoting growth and development, and protecting the planet. [Full Article>>](#)

**Gender equality means men and women both have important roles to play in world affairs, says Sheikha Fatima**

Gender equality means that "both men and women have important roles to play in all areas of life", Sheikha Fatima bint Mubarak, Chairwoman of the General Women's Union (GWU), President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, and Supreme Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation (PDF), has said. [Full Article>>](#)

"When All People Are Included, We All Win"

In September 2015, the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development replacing its predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals. Each of the seventeen goals contains target to be reached within the next fifteen years [Full Article>>](#)

**Indigenous peoples confirm involvement in GLF to 2022**

A coordinating forum of the world's indigenous peoples has confirmed its involvement in the Global Landscapes Forum (GLF) over the next five years with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the latest event in Bonn, Germany. [Full Article>>](#)

**Singapore ratifies international convention against racial discrimination**

Singapore ratified the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) on Monday (Nov 27), more than two years after signing it in October 2015. [Full Article>>](#)

:: Peace Building Process ::

**UN completes third training on Small Arms and Light Weapons risk awareness and control measures for Libyan women**

On 15 December, the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), in partnership with UN Women and UNSMIL/Security Institutions Division, completed the third and last workshop of the new phase of its project on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) risk awareness in Libya, kindly supported by the Government of Italy. [Full Article>>](#)

**South Sudan: Senior UN official urges Security Council to support peace process revitalization**

The arrival of the dry season in South Sudan could lead to more fighting that would undermine the political process and cause additional civilian casualties and displacement, a senior United Nations official cautioned the Security Council on Tuesday. [Full Article>>](#)

**Remembering women killed fighting for human rights in 2017**

More than half of the women cited in AWID's 2017 tribute to female activists were murdered for defending their rights. Among the women killed are those who fought to protect their land from the state and multinational companies, or called out injustices or corruption, or stood up for the rights of lesbian, gay and transgender people. [Full Article>>](#)

**Women Human Rights Defenders: Time To Speak Up For Those On The Frontline Of Human Rights**

Somewhere in the world right now there's a woman putting her life at risk to fight for human rights. She could be standing up to injustice, calling for sexual reproductive health and rights, fighting for the environment, securing the right to education, tackling domestic violence or campaigning for gender equality. [Full Article>>](#)
This report sets out the cross-Government action that the UK has taken to improve gender equality, tackle sexual violence in conflict, and protect vulnerable people in conflict zones from sexual exploitation and abuse. Full Article>>

UN envoy welcomes new Somali policy on role of youth in peacebuilding
Welcoming the launch of a national policy for young people in Somalia, the United Nations Youth Envoy expressed hope that with the new policy, young Somalis will be able to contribute to peacebuilding efforts in the country. Full Article>>

:: Sexual Violence in Conflict ::

Survivors of Rape in Conflict Should be in School
In 2015, as conflict raged in the Central African Republic, Evelyne (not her real name) was returning from selling cassava leaves near Boda, in the country's southwest, when an anti-balaka fighter threw her on the ground, raped her, and left her bleeding. She was around 14 years old. Full Article>>

Sexual Violence in Conflict: Women Survivors and Stigma: The 'Social Scar'
The impact of stigma on women survivors of sexual violence during and after the war in Sri Lanka has received little attention. How stigma affects women survivors and their families has rarely been documented. What are the roles and responsibilities of the different sectors involved in providing services to survivors? FOKUS WOMEN has begun to document the impact of stigma on women who have been affected by sexual violence during and after the war. Full Article>>

Civil society wants govt support on gender-based violence
While some stand tall, pick themselves up to a better future and get justice, many victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) have had their dreams shattered, lives ruined and taken ages without getting justice. Full Article>>

:: Sustainable Development Goals ::

“Partnerships for the Goals” should be first SDG
Ho, Dec. 18, GNA - Mr James Gunu, former Akatsi North District Chief Executive has called for the reorganization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with “Partnerships for the Goals”, prioritized as the first. Full Article>>

What Africa must do to attain SDGs - Kofi Annan Panel
By 2050 more than one in four people on our planet will be African. Bold action is needed now to ensure that all of them have a fair chance of leading healthy, prosperous and fulfilling lives, urges the newest and final report from Kofi Annan's Africa Progress Panel, APP. Full Article>>

Migration, UN reform and sustainable development among 2018 priorities, says Assembly President
Safe migration, conflict prevention, sustainable development and United Nations reform will be the priorities of the 72nd UN General Assembly over the coming year, the 193-member body's President, Miroslav Lajcák, said on Wednesday. Full Article>>

The UN Sustainable Development Goals can create economic development in the Arctic
Today the Danish Minister for Foreign Affairs and his Greenlandic colleague Suka K. Frederiksen is hosting an international high-level conference at Eigtveds Pakhus. With the SDGs as the starting point the conference will focus on economic development in the Arctic region. Full Article>>

NEWS FROM NORTHEAST

ASSAM

Boyfriend accused of taking life of his girlfriend in his residence
Source: The North East Today, 6 December 2017

Human trafficking continues; Woman arrested in Gohpur
Source: The North East Today, 6 December 2017

Doctor arrested for raping his patient; Local public outraged
Source: The North East Today, 10 December 2017
A 6-year-old girl molested by family friend  
Source: The North East Today, 11 December 2017

A Woman found dead in Kokrajhar  
Source: The North East Today, 12 December 2017

2017 proves Guwahati not a safe place for women 
Source: The North East Today, 18 December 2017

Class 7 student gang-raped in Rangapani, fighting for her life 
Source: The North East Today, 20 December 2017

MANIPUR

'Monitor acid sale' 
Source: The Sangai Express, 3 December 2017

Human rights council for minorities formed 
Source: The Sangai Express, 3 December 2017

Nemcha Kipgen condemns acid attack in the strongest term 
Source: DIPR Manipur *, 5 December 2017

Respect human rights: CorCom 
Source: The Sangai Express, 10 December 2017

Foul play alleged in death of housewife 
Source: The Sangai Express, 12 December 2017

Legal Aid Clinic inaugurated 
Source: The Sangai Express, 15 December 2017

Missing woman found dead; body in decompose state 
Source: IT News, 17 December 2017

Legal aid clinic opened at Langthabal 
Source: The Sangai Express, 18 December 2017

FTC convicts 3 rape accused, quantum of penalty on Dec 20 
Source: The Sangai Express, 19 December 2017

Fake encounter case HC orders Rs 7 lakh compensation 
Source: The Sangai Express, 20 December 2017

MEGHALAYA

Worker Held For Attempted Molestation In Tura 
Source: The Shillong Times, 3 December 2017

13-Year-Old Girl Sexually Assaulted 
Source: The Shillong Times, 6 December 2017

Man Gets 4-Year RI Under POCSO 
Source: The Shillong Times, 6 December 2017

Tura Student Dies Due To Assault in Punjab 
Source: The Shillong Times, 8 December 2017

Rapist Stalks Minor, Mother Lodges FIR 
Source: The Shillong Times, 13 December 2017

Conference on Human Trafficking On Dec 29 
Source: The Shillong Times, 23 December 2017

MIZORAM

BJP Mohila Morcha worried over high crime rate in Tripura 
Source: assamtribune.com

Mizoram takes up influx issue 
Source: thehindu.com

Mizoram is a role model, says Kovind 
Source: telegraphindia.com
The Other Arakan Conflict Sends 1,600 Myanmar Refugees to Mizoram
Source: newsclick.in

NAGALAND

Activism against gender-based violence campaign underway
Source: The Nagaland Post, 6 December 2017

Programme on ‘violence against women’
Source: The Nagaland Post, 6 December 2017

CCF resolves to check violence against domestic help, children
Source: The Nagaland Post, 14 December 2017

Activists discuss women’s rights
Source: The Nagaland Post, 16 December 2017

Nagaland Passes Resolution Revoking Women Reservation in ULBs
Source: northeasttoday.in

DELHI-NCR & OTHERS

Northeast India reacts strongly to unprovoked violence against Christians in Madhya Pradesh!
Source: The North East Today, 15 December 2017

Capital shame: 12 cases of rape, sodomy of school children in Delhi this year
Source: hindustantimes.com

Special site for North-East residents in Delhi
Source: newdelhitimes.com

MP Leads Way For Women Safety As Cabinet Clears Death Penalty For Rape Of Girls Below 12 Years
Source: indiatimes.com

Racist Attack on Arunachalee Student in Himachal, Student’s Body Writes to Kiren Rijiju
Source: eclecticnortheast.in

International Conference - Deepening Diversity, Women’s Rights and Democracy
Date: January 19-20, 2018
Time: 9 AM - 5 PM
Venue: Conference Hall 2 & 3, India International Centre, 40 Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi 110003, India

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