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 July 2017 newsletter here, providing news related to the recently concluded Nuclear Ban Treaty Negotiations, High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals, along with news related to Gender Based Violence, Sexual Violence, Racial Discrimination and the efforts to ensuring diversity.

CAFI attended the United Nations Meeting on Negotiations to Ban Nuclear Weapons
July 7, 2017

CAFI attended a High level Political Meeting at the United Nations Headquarters on Sustainable Development Goals
July 10 - July 17

CAFI also had meetings with the following Local Authorities in Meghalaya:-
Mrs Rebina Subba, who is member of the Commission for Women and founder and Chairperson of the NGO Shamakami.

Mrs Jill Marbaniang the manager, Mrs Colleen Michelle Lyngdoh the case worker and Mrs Danette Blah the counsellor of the One Stop Centre of Ganesh Das Hospital, Shillong

LPSI S Hararsati Women PS Shillong and WP/SI B.M Marak Women PS Shillong at the Sadar police Station

In Delhi, CAFI met with the following police departments on the issue of women safety:

Concerned officers working on Violence Against Women
CAFI Co-founder Binalakshmi Nepram speaks on fighting racism in India on Republic TV 27 June 2017
Watch Video>>

A list of 50 Most 'Influential People' from Northeast India
The power to change the world, the talent to make themselves heard, the ability to rise above all odd are but just few of the ingredients for any person to acquire so as to be able to stand tall amongst others. Full Article>>

:: Diversity and Inclusion ::

Textiles India 2017: Textiles represent ‘cultural diversity’ of India, says PM Narendra Modi
The PM Narendra Modi made the statement while inaugurating a three-day global textile and handicrafts event, Textiles India 2017, at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar. Full Article>>

Diversity is what makes India unique, says President Kovind
Ram Nath Kovind was sworn in as India’s 14th President in an impressive ceremony in Parliament’s Central Hall on Tuesday marking a change of guard that is significant in political terms as he became the first BJP leader to assume the highest constitutional office. Full Article>>

:: Peace Building Process ::

Committed to nuclear disarmament but can’t be party to UN treaty, says India
India did not participate in negotiations for a treaty in the prohibition of nuclear weapons at the United Nations, saying it did not contribute to the development of any customary international law. Full Article>>

United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination
By resolution 71/258, the General Assembly decided to convene in 2017 a United Nations conference to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination. Full Article>>

Treaty banning nuclear weapons approved at UN
More than 70 years after the world witnessed the devastating power of nuclear weapons, a global treaty has been approved to ban the bombs, a move that supporters hope will lead to the eventual elimination of all nuclear arms. Full Article>>

India Contributes ?3 Crores to UN Peace building Fund
The United Nation Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) is currently supporting more than 120 projects in 25 countries by providing them with relevant and fast fund supply. Full Article>>

A Treaty Is Reached to Ban Nuclear Arms. Now Comes the Hard Part
For the first time in the seven-decade effort to avert a nuclear war, a global treaty has been negotiated that proponents say would, if successful, lead to the destruction of all nuclear weapons and forever prohibit their use. Full Article>>

:: Sexual Violence in Conflict ::

In India, less than 1% women report gender-based violence
According to the World Health Organisation, one-third of all women worldwide experience gender-based violence during their lifetime. Full Article>>

Tackling gender-based violence in emergencies: A Partnership for Accountability - Real-Time Accountability Partnership
Gender-based violence (GBV) is a widespread and well-recognised threat to the health, wellbeing, opportunities and lives of women and girls world-wide. Full Article>>

India and US global partners in fighting all forms of gender violence: US Consul General
West Bengal Women and Child Development Minister Dr Sashi Panja on Thursday said there should be well-drafted
policies to handle situations involving gender violence. Full Article>>

**South Sudan sexual violence on ‘massive scale,’ report says**
It’s been five months since the shy, frail 13-year-old was snatched from his bed, drugged and raped in the middle of the night. The boy hasn’t been able to say much since. Full Article>>

**UN envoy on sexual violence in conflict urges protection of survivors released from ISIL-held Mosul**
The United Nations official advocating against the use of sexual violence in conflict today urged all Iraqis to shun stigmatization, and called for women and girls returning from Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Da’esh) captivity to be embraced into their communities and supported, especially if they have children as a result of rape. Full Article>>

**First-ever Joint UN-AU Trip Focuses on Women, Peace and Security**
Urgent action is required to increase women’s participation in peace processes and ensure their voices are heard on all aspects of society, according to remarks made by UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed during the first-ever UN-African Union (AU) trip focused on women, peace and security. Full Article>>

**:: Sustainable Development Goals ::**

**Voluntary National Review Report - On the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals**
Full Article>>

**Global problems need global solutions, UN officials tell ministers at development forum**
Opening the high-level segment of the annual forum designed to discuss implementation of the anti-poverty agenda, top United Nations officials today stressed the importance of multilateralism to address global problems. Full Article>>

**UN political forum opens with focus on eradicating poverty and forming partnerships**
Senior government representatives are at the United Nations today for the start of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to track progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), two years after they were adopted. Full Article>>

**Achieving Zero Hunger requires transforming rural economies, investing in sustainable agriculture**
The pace of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be accelerated, a high-level United Nations meeting stressed today in its final declaration. Full Article>>

**NEWS FROM NORTHEAST**

**ASSAM**

**Woman allegedly raped and murdered near Hotel Radisson Blu**
Source: Voice of the seven sisters, 5 July 2017

**Girl kidnapped and raped in a moving vehicle in Guwahati; accused arrested**
Source: thenortheasttoday.com, 22 July 2017

**MANIPUR**

**Youth held for sending obscene picture**
Source: The Sangai Express, 1 July 2017

**Women helpline**
Source: The Sangai Express, 14 July 2017

**Phaknung gang rape case: Police file charge sheet**
Source: The Sangai Express, 14 July 2017

**SC orders CBI to probe 95 Manipur encounter deaths**
Source: TimesofIndia.indiatimes.com, 15 July 2017

**Manipur: Physically and mentally challenged minor girl raped allegedly in school at Imphal**
Source: The North east Today, 23 July 2017

**Manipur: Step-father allegedly rapes 14-year-old daughter**
Source: The North East Today, 26 July 2017

**MEGHALAYA**

**Minor girl ‘molested’ in Tura**
Source: The Sentinel, 9 July 2017

**Rape accused Julius Dorphang removed as member of Assembly Committees!**
Source: Voice of the Seven Sisters, 15 July 2017

**Measures To Curb Online Child Sexual Abuse**
Source: The Shillong Times, 20 July 2017
**MLA accused of raping minor appointed to House panel in Meghalaya**
*Source: The Indian Express, 25 July 2017*

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**MIZORAM**

*Mizoram: Two BSF jawans allegedly rape Chakma tribal woman, pour acid on her face*
*Source: The aPolitical: 20 July 2017*

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**NAGALAND**

**CHILDLINE sensitize students on POCSO Act**
*Source: The Nagaland Post, 1 July 2017*

**Rape victims compensated under NVCS 2012**
*Source: The Nagaland Post, 4 July 2017*

**Legal service clinic opened at Pungro**
*Source: The Nagaland Post, 4 July 2017*

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**DELHI-NCR & OTHERS**

**ST Commission issues notice to Delhi Golf Club**
*Source: The Sentinel, 8 July 2017*

**13-year-old Delhi girl abducted, raped, comes back home three weeks pregnant**
*Source: Times Now, 14 July 2017*

**Rape cases reported in Delhi rise by 277% in 5 years as govt initiatives falter, funds remain underutilised**
*hindustantimes.com, 08 July 2017*

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**Upcoming Events**

*Meeting local level authorities for survey of legal protection homes, New Delhi and Guwahati.*

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**Feedback**

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