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 injustices 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 May 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.

Dr. Johann Hesse, Head of Cooperation, EU delegates visits Manipur
3rd May - 7th May 2017

One day meeting on Addressing Gender Based Violence in Manipur: Focus on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones
4th May 2017 at Imphal, Manipur
Meeting with Muslim community women affected by conflict at Yairipok, Thoubal District, Manipur
5th May 2017

Meeting with Women groups formed under CAFI, Leimaram Chaukhat Thoudang Lup and Leimaram Apunba Nupi Lup at Leimaram Bishnupur District
6th May 2017

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
May 13, 2017 at CAFI Office, New Delhi

CAFI'S WORK REPORTED IN THE MEDIA IN THE MONTH OF MAY
India Comes in the Line of Fire at UNHRC over Rights Record, Racism
India faced questions about its human rights records from over 100 countries, ranging from attacks on Africans to restrictions on foreign funding of NGOs, even as it asserted that a "vibrant" civil society and "fiercely independent" judiciary was enough to address any aberrations. Full Article>>

Film awards celebrate India's diversity: President
President Pranab Mukherjee on Wednesday presented the National Film Awards to this year's winners who included Bollywood star Akshay Kumar (best actor) and Rajesh Mapuskar (best director) as well as the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke to renowned filmmaker and actor K. Viswanath. Full Article>>

India is becoming a country of many apartheid, many segregations
India was among the foremost of countries to denounce the iniquitous system of apartheid in South Africa. Indeed, Nelson Mandela who eventually freed his country from the yoke of racial segregation drew a large part of his inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's struggle to liberate India from the British raj. Full Article>>

Diversity calls for celebration and not confrontation: Modi
Dickoya (Sri Lanka), May 12 (PTI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi today said Sinhala and Tamil communities in Sri Lanka should strengthen unity and harmony as he assured Indias full support to the steps taken by Colombo to improve the living conditions of minority Tamils in the country. Full Article>>

Religious Diversity of Triple Talaq Bench Justices Only a Coincidence
Schedule III of the Constitution of India deals with the oaths of office and secrecy to be taken by ministers and justices. Form of oath or affirmation to be made by the Judges of the Supreme Court and the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India: Full Article>>

Cultural diversity takes centrestage
It was all about cultural diversity on the fifteenth week of Physical Literacy Days (PL Days), in Gachibowli on Sunday. The milestone was marked by cake cutting. despite the heat, people came in traditional dresses and participated in dance forms. Full Article>>

Diversity in cinema promotes national integration: Venkaiah Naidu
Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday said that Indian cinema has helped in unifying the country and promoting national integrity, as it showcases the vast richness of India's diversity. Full Article>>

Women in Peace Making Processes:

N-Peace Awards 2016: Recognizing Women in Peacebuilding
The United Nations Development Programme felicitated Ms. Sumika Perera recently at the United Nations Compound for her achievement as one of the 9 winners of the N-Peace Awards for 2016, from over 100 nominations across 7 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Full Article>>

Women Encouraged To Contribute In Peace Building in S. Sudan
The State Deputy Governor, Dr. Margaret Itto Leonardo made the remarks while addressing a workshop on peace building and conflict resolution at the Catholic Diocese of Torit Training Hall on Saturday. Full Article>>

Israeli and Palestinian women hold peace talks on the streets of Tel Aviv
While clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinians erupted across the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Friday, some 150 Palestinian and Israeli women gathered on Rothschild Boulevard in central Tel Aviv to engage in public negotiations to find a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Full Article>>

Working for a World Without War
Until now it has been normal to consider military might as the determinant of an international pecking order. Possession of the weapons and the forces to deter or frighten other nations has even determined the structure of the United Nations Full Article>>

Reflections on Women and Peacebuilding: President Tarja Halonen
The presence of Finland's former President, Tarja Halonen, at the 5th Harri Holkeri Lecture at Queen's University Belfast, served as a timely reminder of the progress that Northern Ireland has made with peace and reconciliation since the Good Friday Agreement was signed almost 20 years ago. Full Article>>

Sexual Violence in Conflict:

Study: Sexual violence routinely used as a weapon in conflict zones across South Asia
There is an exponential increase in the incidence of sexual violence - which is often used as a tool of punishment, for
revenge and to teach other communities a lesson - in areas of conflict in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Full Article>>

India calls for global action against sexual violence in conflict
India has asserted in the UN that prosecution of perpetrators of sexual violence against women and children in conflict is essential as it underscores the need to increase involvement of women in conflict prevention and resolution. Full Article>>

Sexual violence in conflict "legitimate threat" to peace and security - UN deputy chief
Although global understanding of sexual violence in conflict is shifting, there remains the need to tackle the root causes of such violations that lie in fundamental inequality and discrimination against women, Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed told the United Nations Security Council today. Full Article>>

"Ending sexual violence in conflict is central to peace building, conflict prevention and reconciliation"
Statement by Ambassador Matthew Rycroft, UK Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at the Security Council Open Debate on sexual violence in conflict. Thank you Minister, Mr President, for convening this important open debate. Full Article>>

Sexual Violence is a "Threat to Security and Durable Peace"
Sexual violence is increasingly used as a tactic of terrorism and thus must be addressed as a peace and security issue, officials said at a UN Security Council meeting. Full Article>>

Perpetrators, not victims, should be shamed for conflict-related sexual violence - UN report
Survivors of sexual violence in war zones need to be recognized as legitimate victims of conflict and terrorism, and not blamed, stigmatized or shamed, the United Nations has said in an annual report to be presented to the Security Council. Full Article>>

UN Reveals Sexual Violence increasingly used as torture
At a recent U.N. Security Council meeting, officials stated that sexual violence has been increasingly used as a war tactic and urged that it be addressed as a peace and security issue. Full Article>>

Bilkis Bano verdict steers away from taking responsibility about sexual violence committed in conflicts
A few years before the Godhra incident and the allied communal riots in Gujarat, the establishments of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) stitched together a narrative of sexual violence in conflict situations by conceptualising that gender-based and sexual violence is a weapon of war. Full Article>>

:: Sustainable Development Goals ::

Sustainable Development Goals: Strengthening rural-urban linkages is the key for India
The world is rapidly urbanising. Currently, more than half of the world's population lives in urban areas, and by 2050, as much as 66% is projected to be urban, with much of this rise taking place in developing countries. Full Article>>

India: Missing The Bus On Sustainable Development Goals? - Analysis
In April 2017, the Government of India released a draft set of India's indicators for mapping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the country for public consultation. Full Article>>

'India committed to building resilient healthcare system'
Union minister J P Nadda today said achieving health related goals in Indian context was a daunting task but asserted the country's commitment in building a resilient system to mitigate its vulnerability to any health crisis. Full Article>>

India’s Indicators for Mapping SDGs Reveal Our Flawed Understanding of Sustainability
With the government releasing a draft set of indicators for mapping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the country a new door has been opened for critical and substantive policy decisions on the implementation of SDGs in India. Full Article>>

NEWS FROM NORTHEAST

ASSAM

Assam tribal king arrested for raping mother of four
The Hindustan Times, 23 May 2017

MANIPUR

Minor raped
The Sangai Express, 4 May 2017

Woman found dead with slit throat
The Sangai Express, 6 May 2017

Man, woman found dead separately
The Sangai Express, 6 May 2017

Man sentenced to 5 yrs for sexual assault
The Sangai Express, 10 May 2017

Revisiting rape victim Rose Ningph seniors 43 years later
The Sangai Express, 12 May 2017
MEGHALAYA

Meghalaya: 14 year old gang raped in East Garo Hills; juvenile amongst two caught
Voice of 7 Sisters, 1 May 2017

Meghalaya yet to grant transgenders their rights
Meghalaya Times, 7 May 2017

Teacher repeatedly rapes 16-yr-old student in Garo Hills as state sees steep rise in rape cases!
Voice of 7 Sisters, 11 May 2017

Six land in police net on charges of raping & murdering a 21 year old woman
Voice of 7 Sisters, 12 May 2017

9 yr old molested by 55 yr old man
Voice of 7 Sisters, 12 May 2017

Women in distress now given window of hope
Meghalaya Times, 12 May 2017

MIZORAM

AR jawan arrested over alleged sexual molestation
The Mizoram Post, 10 May 2017

NAGALAND

Seminar deliberate on humanitarian norms, gender & child rights protection
The Nagaland Post, 11 May 2017

1 held for alleged rape of minor girl
The Nagaland Post, 17 May 2017

Woman brutally murdered in Dimapur!
Voice of 7 Sisters, 22 May 2017

DELHI-NCR & OTHERS

Delhi's house of horror: Teens allege molestation, growth injection
Hindustan Times, 2 May 2017

Delhi school tells rape survivor not to attend classes as she brings 'bad name'
Hindustan Times, 4 May 2017

Sikkim woman gang raped; Thrown out of moving car in Delhi!
Voice of 7 Sisters, 14 May 2017

Court, doctors allow abortion for 10-year-old rape victim
Times Now, 17 May 2017

Upcoming Events

**Manipur State Level Meeting: Ensuring Diversity, Women's Rights and Democracy in India: Working Towards Ending Racial Discrimination & Gender Based Violence with Focus on Sexual Violence collectively in the State of Manipur and Northeast India**

*Date:* 19th June 2017  
*Time:* 9.30 am - 2 pm  
*Venue:* Siroy Conference Hall, Imphal Hotel, North AOC, Imphal, Manipur

**Community Leaders Trained on the Issue; Legal Assistance on Awareness on Rule of law and its relationship with conflict, diversity, inclusion and gender justice, Constitution of India, International human rights framework and Redressal Mechanism**

*Date:* 19th - 21st June 2017  
*Venue:* Siroy Conference Hall, Imphal Hotel, North AOC, Imphal, Manipur