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 November 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.

RECENT CAFI ACTIVITIES

8th November 2017 - A talk on "Has the Multi-Billion Dollar Arms Trade Put Us All on the Firing Lane? Women for Disarmament, Peace, Security & Non Violence at Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Amherst College, Massachusetts, United States

CAFI'S WORK REPORTED IN THE MEDIA IN THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network awarded with "Exemplary Achievement in the field of Social Service" by the All India Mahila Empowerment Party.

View photo >>

Bollywood Celebs, Cricketers & Other Well-Known Personalities Came Together To Celebrate Women Achievers Of India!

Read more >>

ARTICLES

:: Diversity and Inclusion ::

Other tongues: the stunning lingual diversity of India
The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution lists the 22 official languages of India. These are the languages that the government of India officially promotes. Full Article>

Racial discrimination feeds on visible differences...
The fundamental idea behind the United Nations is one of sovereign equality of nations and equality among human beings. Full Article>

Tackling Gender Inequality Must Be A Priority For New International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt
ActionAid is pleased that a champion of women's rights will be our new Secretary of State for International Development. Penny Mordaunt has been an advocate for the important role of women in peace-keeping, and for the importance of tackling sexual violence in conflict. Full Article>

Apple releases first diversity report under new VP of diversity and inclusion
Apple has released its first diversity and inclusion report since naming Denise Young Smith as VP of diversity and inclusion in May. It's also Apple's first report since Donald Trump took the office of president of the United States. Full Article>

:: Peace Building Process ::

Making arms in India
IN yet another front-page news item on Tuesday, the country was informed about the government's supposedly unrelenting drive to make defence equipment in India. Full Article>

U.N. Women convenes champions to support women, peace
Women has convened a group of 12 champions to amplify the voices of women and defend their rights. The champions will advise U.N. Women on emerging issues for peace and security, and advocate for gender equality and women's human rights in conflict-affected settings. Full Article>

17 Years On: Commitments to Increase Women's Contributions to Peace and Security
Seventeen years after the passage of the first United Nations Security Council resolution to acknowledge that women's participation in conflict prevention and resolution and their protection from violence advance global security, progress is uneven. Full Article>

UN Security Council calls on Myanmar to end excessive military force in Rakhine state
Strongly condemning the widespread violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state, which has led to the displacement of over 600,000 members of the country's minority Muslim Rohingya community, the United Nations Security Council on Monday called on the Government to end the use of excessive military force and intercommunal violence in the region. Full Article>
Would the world be more peaceful if there were more women leaders?
During the opening months of the First World War, in the midst of the incendiary jingoism roiling Britain, the poet Dorothea Hollins of the Women's Labour League proposed that an unarmed, 1,000-strong "Women's Peace Expeditionary Force" cross Europe "in the teeth of the guns" and interpose itself between the warring armies in the trenches. Full Article>

Highlighting the role of women in peacemaking
It's been nearly 20 years since the Good Friday or Belfast Agreement was signed between the British and Irish governments and eight political parties in Northern Ireland. Full Article>

:: Sexual Violence in Conflict ::

UN Security Council urges more protections for children in conflicts
Deeply concerned about the abuse of children in war zones, the United Security Council today - in a debate in New York which included Secretary-General António Guterres and his special envoy on the issue - urged countries and non-State actors to allow children access to education and healthcare during and post-conflicts. Full Article>

First-ever Gender Vulnerability Index will give activists tangible parameters to tackle discrimination against Indian women
The first ever Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI), developed by Plan India, a non-governmental organisation, indicates that Goa is the safest for women and girls while Bihar ranked the lowest for their safety and security. Full Article>

UN advocate vows to give "visibility" to victims of sexual exploitation and abuse
Briefing the press at United Nations Headquarters in New York for the first time, the first-ever UN advocate for the rights of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse on Friday highlighted her role to give those who have suffered "visibility" and amplify their voices. Full Article>

100 special courts for crime against women
The state will get smart commercial courts in 13 cities, reiterated chief minister Adityanath Yogi at the inaugural ceremony of the 18th International Conference of Chief Justices of the World organised by City Montessori School. Full Article>

Women's groups urge Asean to put sexual violence on agenda
Women's rights groups across Southeast Asia on Sunday called on the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to make sexual violence against women and children a priority on the agenda of the 31st Asean Summit in Manila. Full Article>

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Ms. Pramila Patten welcomes trial for the rape of children in Kavumu, Democratic Republic of the Congo
United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Ms. Pramila Patten welcomes progress in the trial conducted by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in South Kivu province related to the rapes of dozens of children in Kavumu, DRC. Full Article>

Why we need to end impunity for sexual violence in armed conflict
We now have a unique moment to ensure perpetrators of sexual violence in armed conflict do not go unpunished. In a recent keynote address to the UN Peacekeeping defence ministers' summit in Vancouver, actor and global campaigner Angelina Jolie said it was a myth that sexual violence was not a "serious" enough crime to warrant prosecution and imprisonment. Full Article>

UN envoy: Sexual attacks against Rohingya may be war crimes
UN - Widespread atrocities against Rohingya Muslim women and girls have been orchestrated and perpetrated by Myanmar's military and may amount to war crimes, says the UN envoy on sexual violence in conflict. Full Article>

:: Sustainable Development Goals ::

All 17 Global Goals interrelated, with strong links to gender equality - senior UN official
Addressing challenges faced by women in the world of work is a key theme for a United Nations forum on leveraging the power of partnerships to drive the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Full Article>

UN backed-report highlights role of business in achieving Global Goal on justice and strong institutions
Through anti-corruption measures, promoting diversity and supporting justice initiatives, companies play a crucial role in achieving targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on building accountable and inclusive institutions, according to a report released Friday by a United Nations-backed global fund. Full Article>

Women in Maritime Asia: aiming to achieve SDG 5
This coming week, from November 6 to 10, eight Filipino women engaged in the maritime sector will join their counterparts from 15 Asian countries in Dili, Timor Leste to discuss on how they could support achieve the UN Agenda 2030, under which are 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs). Full Article>

Science and technology can help tackle key sustainable development challenges
Integrated science is essential to strengthen water management, sustainably use the oceans and tackle climate change, the head of the United Nations cultural agency said on World Science Day for Peace and Development. Full Article>
'Trafficking of women from NE on the rise'
Source: IT News, 16 November 2017

A 60-year-old woman killed for 2kg rice in Sonitpur district
Source: The Northeast Today, 17 November 2017

A 70-year-old held for trying to sexually molest minor in Guwahati
Source: The Northeast Today, 17 November 2017

MANIPUR

Legal aid clinics established
Source: The Sangai Express, 6 November 2017

Child rights awareness on 14th death anniversary of Lungnila Elizabeth
Source: The Sangai Express, 6 November 2017

Poster Campaign On Legal Services
Source: The Shillong Times, 18 November 2017

Transgenders to get separate toilet at Sangai Festival
Source: The Sangai Express, 19 November 2017

MEGHALAYA

Cop Suspended After Sexually Assault Charge
Source: The Shillong Times, 4 November 2017

Protest Against Sexual Harassment Of NEHU Students
Source: The Shillong Times, 4 November 2017

Teenager Kidnapped, Raped In WKH
Source: The Shillong Times, 10 November 2017

Sexual Harassment: NEHU Prof Suspended
Source: The Shillong Times, 14 November 2017

Rape accused examined
Source: The Sangai Express, 18 November 2017

MIZORAM

Create Jobs for NE women to stop trafficking: NCW Chair
Source: The Mizoram Post, 14 November 2017

Rape Dominates POCSO Cases In East Khasi Hills
Source: The Shillong Times, 21 November 2017

Cops Conduct Fresh Probe into Girl's Death
Source: The Shillong Times, 22 November 2017

NAGALAND

Man held for attempted sexual assault on 15-yr-old girl in Dimapur
Source: Voice of the 7 Sisters, 6 November 2017

Alleged molestation of minor at Thilixu village condemned
Source: Nagaland Post, 9 November 2017

Organizations condemn Nov 7 attempted rape of minor at Samziuram village, Peren
Source: Nagaland Post, 9 November 2017

Minor allegedly sexually molested in Longmatra: AST condemns
Source: Nagaland Post, 13 November 2017

Rape accused sentenced to 10 years RI
Source: Nagaland Post, 17 November 2017

DELHI-NCR & OTHERS
Student from Manipur found dead
Source: The Sangai Express / PTI, 2 November 2017

3 Northeast Indian states feature in top 5 list of safest places for women in India!
Source: The Northeast Today, 3 November 2017

Upcoming Events

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

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