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 October 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**

Community Justice Workers meeting in Langthabal Office, Imphal, Manipur
September 29, 2017

EU ROM Monitoring visit in Delhi, Manipur, Meghalaya and Assam.
October 9 - October 17, 2017
**CAFI'S WORK REPORTED IN THE MEDIA IN THE MONTH OF OCTOBER**

**Age of consent in Manipur was lower than the rest of India till 2012**
Read more >>

**In Lush Manipur, Women Work for Peace as Militarization Marches On**
Read more >>

**ARTICLES**

:: **Diversity and Inclusion ::**

*India’s diversity can’t be destroyed*
No political party or individual can destroy India’s diversity and plurality. There is no country in the world which is as diverse as ours. It is a country where at least seven major religions are practised, 15-16 major languages and over 100 dialects are spoken, said P. Chidambaram, former Finance Minister and Member of Parliament here on Friday. [Full Article]>

**Genome India Project launched in northeast**
Imphal, Oct 24 (IANS) Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) of over 2,000 individuals spanning different ethnic, linguistic and socio-cultural sections of the northeastern states will be carried out as part of the Genome India Project, launched in the region on Tuesday. [Full Article]>

**Diversity should be seen as a treasure: Sumitra Mahajan**
Diversity should not be a pretext for conflict, but should be seen as a treasure, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan said on Sunday, underlining that the language of pluralism is that of dialogue and debate. [Full Article]>

**Expert meeting at UN aspires to create “space” for women in science and technology**
A three-day event on how to, among other things, improve women’s involvement in the aerospace sector as well as in the fields of science, technology and mathematics, kicked off today under the leadership of two United Nations offices. [Full Article]>

**Columbia University commits $100 million to diversity**
Over the next five years, Columbia University will be committing US$100 million to diversifying its faculty in an effort to boost the low numbers of minority teachers. [Full Article]>

**Diversity Summit inspires culture of inclusivity**
The Wellesley Community Center opened its doors for all to enjoy, learn, and grow at the World of Wellesley’s fourth annual Diversity Summit on October 21. The World of Wellesley (WOW) aims to make the town a more welcoming and inclusive place by understanding and celebrating diversity. [Full Article]>

:: **Peace Building Process ::**

**Group’s Nobel Peace Prize win spotlights need to end ‘nuclear nightmare’ says UN chief**
Congratulating the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on being awarded today the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, top United Nations officials said that the recognition is a reminder of the need to grim threats posed by such weapons to humanity. [Full Article]>

**UN Treaty ‘beginning of the end for nuclear weapons,’ say Nobel Peace Prize winners**
Speaking to journalists at the United Nations Headquarters, in New York, representatives of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize winner - International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) - urged countries around the globe to eliminate nuclear weapons. [Full Article]>

**Success of United Nations Peacekeeping Depends on Adapting to Changing Nature of Conflict, Assistant Secretary-General Tells Fourth Committee**
United Nations peacekeeping succeeded when it evolved and adapted in response to the changing nature of conflict, a senior official in the relevant department told the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) today, highlighting reform measures recently announced by the Secretary-General. [Full Article]>

**Despite Growing Awareness of Urgent Need to End Sexual Violence, Empower Women in Conflict Zones, Real Progress Seriously Lagging, Security Council Told**
Normative frameworks had been established and global awareness of the urgency of ending sexual atrocities and
empowering women in conflict situations was growing, but progress on the ground must be accelerated, speakers told the
Security Council in an all-day debate today. Full Article>>

"No backsliding" on Women's Inclusion in Peace Mediation
Last week, Norway made history with Ine Eriksen Søreide becoming the country's first female foreign minister. Even in
relatively gender-equal countries like Norway it is still rare to find women holding top positions in the so-called "hard issue"
sectors of foreign affairs and peace and security. Barriers to the full involvement of women in work to prevent and resolve
violent conflicts still persist. Full Article>>

African Union approaches to peacebuilding
Abstract This article argues that the African Union (AU) approach to peacebuilding, out of Africa's historical experience and
lessons from the United Nations (UN), is comprehensive and holistic, but requires the existence of a legitimate government, a
functional society and domestic parties for dialogue to begin. Full Article>>

:: Sexual Violence in Conflict ::

Countering Sexual Violence in Conflict
A new report from the Women and Foreign Policy program and the Center for Preventive Action, launched this week,
highlights the global security threat posed by conflict-related sexual violence and outlines policy steps that the U.S.
government should take to prevent and respond to such violence. Full Article>>

Investigating conflict-related sexual and gender-based crimes-lessons from Iraq and Syria
In the lead-up to UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, experts discuss what it takes to
document and investigate conflict-related sexual and gender-based crimes and pathways to justice for the crimes committed
in Iraq and Syria. Full Article>>

Rape is an instrument of war in Central African Republic conflict, finds study
Rape and sexual slavery have been used as weapons of war across Central Africa Republic, with armed groups carrying out
brutal attacks with impunity, human rights campaigners have warned. Full Article>>

The State of Conflict and Violence in Asia: Five Surprising Takeaways
The Asia Foundation just-released The State of Conflict and Violence in Asia, a new book detailing the levels and impacts of
violence in 14 Asian countries. In Asia's editor asked the research team what surprised them most Full Article>>

End the sexual violence that bonds traffickers and terrorists
Rape was first recognised as a crime against humanity by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
(ICTY) in 1993. It continues to be employed as a weapon of war. Yet while international legal mechanisms allow for its
prosecution - however difficult the process - the motivations and pull factors for engaging in sexually violent acts during times
of conflict remain underexplored. Full Article>>

:: Sustainable Development Goals ::

Sustainable cities key to implement SDGs, says head of UN regional forum
Noting the high speed of urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations development arm in the region
underlined the need to keep a close watch on the provision of services, equipment, mobility, housing and urban land to make
sure they can match pace with the demand. Full Article>>

On International Day, UN highlights rural women's participation in sustainable, climate-resilient agricultural
Women and girls are central to the sustainability of rural households and communities, improving rural livelihoods and
overall wellbeing, but their role and significance is often overlooked, the head of the United Nations entity for women's
empowerment today said. Full Article>>

Achieve Sustainable Development Goals or become poorer - Expert
The quality of life of Ghanaians will sink if the country fails to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals SDGs by 2030. Full Article>>

Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations: The contribution of the private sector
On January 1, 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development â€”
adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic UN Summit â€” officially came into force. Full Article>>

Role of the Fashion Industry in UN’s Sustainable Development Goals
Fashion is not a sector that exists in a vacuum. In fact, the fashion industry is not unlike any other key economic drivers; it is a
key component of a global economy and certainly an important sector to consider when thinking about the UNâ€™s 17
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Full Article>>

NEWS FROM NORTHEAST

ASSAM

Assam: BSF jawan arrested on rape, murder charges of Assam woman
Source: The North East Today, 14 October 2017

Assam Police Arrest 4 For Throwing Stone At Australian Cricket Team Bus
Source: The Shillong Times, 15 October 2017
### Manipur

- **Minor Gang Raped**
  
  Source: The Shillong Times, 7 October 2017

- **'Rapist' Step-Father Yet To Be Arrested**
  
  Source: The Shillong Times, 16 October 2017

- **Trafficking Angle In Mawiong Missing Girl Case, Alleges Family**
  
  Source: The Shillong Times, 19 October 2017

- **17-Year-Old Found Hanging**
  
  Source: The Shillong Times, 19 October 2017

- **AFSPA zone reduced in 2 northeast states**
  
  Source: timesofindia.indiatimes.com, Oct 3, 2017

### Meghalaya

- **Trafficked girls return home**
  
  Source: The Sangai Express, 1 October 2017

- **School Headmaster Accused of Sexual Assault**
  
  Source: Kangla Online, 2 October 2017

- **60 year old convicted**
  
  Source: The Sangai Express, 10 October 2017

### Mizoram

- **Mizoram: Man awarded life imprisonment for murdering wife**
  
  Source: The North East Today, 14 October 2017

- **Man gets 10-year jail for raping daughter in Mizoram**
  
  Source: The North East Today, 20 October 2017

### Nagaland

- **CCF condemns rape of minor**
  
  Source: The Nagaland Post, 5 October 2017

- **1 held for rape of minor in Dimapur**
  
  Source: The Nagaland Post, 11 October 2017

- **Phek police consultative meeting on violence against women and children**
  
  Source: The Nagaland Post, 11 October 2017

- **Nagaland: Crimes Against Women on the Rise, Report Says**
  
  Source: northeastindia.com, October 14, 2017

### Delhi-NCR & Others

- **Another North-Eastern Youth Goes Missing in the Capital**
  
  Source: e-pao.net, 06th October 2017

- **Over 40 million children join ‘Satyarthi Class’ on child sexual abuse; A Guinness World Record is set**
  
  Source: indiaeducationdiary.in, October 11, 2017

- **5th edition of North East Festival to commence on November 3 in Delhi**
  
  Source: thenortheasttoday.com

- **Rape victim's silence can't be taken as proof of consent for sexual relations: Delhi HC**
  
  Source: hindustantimes.com, Oct 22, 2017
Attacks on Swiss couple raise questions on Indian ethics
Source: wionews.com, Oct 26, 2017

No Upcoming Events!

Delhi
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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