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 September 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

Impulse Delhi Meeting on Trafficking of Women’s Issue at IIC
September 8, 2017

Participatory Community Meeting in Noida
September 16, 2017
Advocacy Meeting with the Manipur State Legal Services Authority, Imphal Manipur
September 22, 2017

News of the Month

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

Binalakshmi Nepram honored with "The Telegraph Northeast Excellence Award 2017"
Read more >>

CAR voice in the Encouragement for the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
Watch Video >>

ARTICLES

:: Diversity and Inclusion ::

Mann Ki Baat: Don't just talk, feel India's diversity, touch it, says PM Modi
As the festive seasons begin in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to feel India's unity in diversity and not just talk about it, in his latest episode of his radio programme, Mann Ki Baat, on Sunday. Full Article>>

Cultural diversity showcased at event for Deendayal Upadhyays
New Delhi, Sep 2 (PTI) A glimpse of country's cultural diversity was on display at a programme on Hindutva icon Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's concept of cultural nationalism today at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here. Full Article>>

Gender diversity is about radical innovation and outperformance
The Google diversity story needs a reframe. Others have debunked the poor science and just plain ignorance in Google engineer James Damore's argument that males are better suited than females for work in the tech and engineering fields. Full Article>>

:: Peace Building Process ::

India suggests UN divert a percentage of peacekeeping funds to peace-building
India has criticised the "lip service" by nations to address challenges of peacekeeping operations and suggested to increase allocation of funds to activities related to peacebuilding in conflict situations. Full Article>>

Timor-Leste is vivid example of what UN can do in peacebuilding, Assembly debate told
Timor-Leste, a country which the United Nations shepherded to independence from Indonesia 15 years ago, stands as a shining example of what the world Organization can achieve in establishing peace and stability, the country's president told the General Assembly today. Full Article>>

Policymakers and Advocates Gather at Women's Forum for Peace
More than 400 women gathered at a peace forum in Hpa-an, the capital of Karen State, for three days of discussion on peace and security for women, and to commemorate the International Day of Peace on Thursday. Full Article>>

Taking women, peace and security to the next level in Africa
African advocates, pioneers, and thought leaders of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, together with the Norwegian
Foreign Minister Børge Brende took stock of the achievements and challenges for women building sustainable peace on the continent at a high-level event on 22 September during the 72nd General Assembly. Full Article>>

:: Sexual Violence in Conflict ::

Statement by Under-Secretary-General Ms. Pramila Patten Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict
Welcoming the Adoption of Security Council resolution 2379 on Accountability for Daesh Crimes
I welcome the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2379 on accountability for the acts committed by Daesh in Iraq. The resolution explicitly condemns forced marriage, trafficking in persons, rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence, and recognises that the commission of such acts may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. Full Article>>

Almost 75% of all children are subjected to violence each year, research finds
Nearly three out of four children experience violence each year, according to a global study that warns practices such as corporal punishment are widespread in both rich and poor countries. Full Article>>

Leaders at United Nations address sexual violence as a weapon of war
“Our girls were not born to be sexual slaves. Each one of them had a dream or goal for future.” Zina Salim Hassan, a 21-year-old Yazidi advocate, told UNFPA ahead of an United Nations event focusing on the use of sexual and gender-based violence as a weapon of war. Full Article>>

Group campaigns against sexual violence
To facilitate safe and confidential reporting of sexual violence incidents and provide access to available comprehensive support service and relevant information, experts in the area of sexual violence prevention have launched a web-based platform known as ‘Salvus’. Full Article>>

Violence, conflict push up global hunger crisis
In a development that can seriously defeat the Sustainable Development Goal 2 of achieving zero hunger by 2030, a new report warns that global hunger is on the rise again. After declining for over a decade, hunger increased in 2016 and now affects 815 million people worldwide (11 per cent of the global population). Full Article>>

:: Sustainable Development Goals ::

Report on sustainable development goals released
Marking two years of adoption of Sustainable Development Goals, a clutch of NGOs and civil society members released a report on the status of implementation of the agenda. Full Article>>

Sustainable Development Goals turn two: time to ensure justice for all
September 25, 2017 marks the two-year anniversary of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since their adoption, these aspirational international development targets have garnered significant attention among development partners. The indicators, data and statistics they contain are now becoming a focal point of discussion at the international level. Full Article>>

Peace and stability vital for sustainable development in a fragile world, Kazakh Minister tells UN Assembly
Addressing the 72nd annual general debate at the United Nations General Assembly, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan reiterated his country’s commitment to sustainable development and urged global leaders to remain steadfast in their battle against climate change, including through the use of renewable energy. Full Article>>

Sustainable development possible only if global community works together, Slovenia tells UN
Effective international cooperation with the United Nations at its core is essential to address global challenges which have become even more complex and intertwined, the Prime Minister of Slovenia told world leaders today, urging unity among the international community. Full Article>>

Companies Failing to Live Up to UN Sustainable Development Vows
More than 9,000 companies around the world have pledged to support United Nations sustainable-development goals such as respecting human rights, fighting corruption and ending poverty. Many have yet to follow through. Full Article>>

NEWS FROM NORTHEAST

ASSAM

Newly-wed woman allegedly gang raped by miscreants along with husband
Source: Voice of 7 Sisters, 3 September 2017

School girl commits suicide in Assam; principal arrested
Source: Nagaland Post, 3 September 2017

Guwahati Registers Highest Number Of Cases Of Murder, Abduction, Robbery And Theft
Source: The Shillong Times, 5 September 2017

Morigaon DC orders probe into teacher’s allegation
Source: Sentinel, 14 September 2017

Mizo woman’s body found lying in pond at Cachar district of Assam, 2 arrested
MANIPUR

**Woman fined Rs 1 lakh for false claim of rape**  
Source: The Sangai Express, 1 September 2017

**Final hearing of sexual assault case fixed**  
Source: The Sangai Express, 2 September 2017

**Four pulled up for ‘trafficking’ girls**  
Source: The Sangai Express, 3 September 2017

**‘Rapist’, family banished from Sekmai**  
Source: The Sangai Express, 3 September 2017

**Housewife found dead, foul play suspected**  
Source: The Sangai Express, 3 September 2017

**Women should fight for their rights and get justice: Governor**  
Source: The Sangai Express / DIPR, 5 September 2017

**Rising crime against women on social media a concern: Shyamkumar**  
Source: The Sangai Express / DIPR, 6 September 2017

**Trafficking case of CCpur 2 minor girls rescued, one more agent held**  
Source: The Sangai Express, 7 September 2017

**Remanded under POCSO**  
Source: The Sangai Express, 8 September 2017

**Woman complains of lethargic police action against abusive husband**  
Source: The Sangai Express, 8 September 2017

**8 State girls rescued from Yangon**  
Source: The Sangai Express, 10 September 2017

**Kamjong organises first legal awareness programme**  
Source: The Sangai Express, 17 September 2017

**Three, including one woman killed in attack at UTLA SK Thadou camp**  
Source: The Sangai Express, 19 September 2017

**Cops should be gender sensitive: Najma**  
Source: The Sangai Express / DIPR, 19 September 2017

MEGHALAYA

**Minor girl raped in East Garo Hills**  
Source: Nagaland Post, 4 September 2017

**Mezhalaya: 14 yr old minor resurfaces back after months of rape and abuse**  
Source: The North East Today, 18 September 2017

**Two Arrested For "Sexual Assault"**  
Source: The Shillong Times, 20 September 2017

**Step-Father On The Run After Raping Minor Twins**  
Source: The Shillong Times, 23 September 2017

MIZORAM

**Mizoram: Two Border Security Force personnel arrested on rape charge**  
Source: The North East Today, 8 September 2017

**Vanlalawmpuii Chawngthu becomes Mizoram's first woman minister in 30 years**  
Source: The North East Today, 24 September 2017
**NAGALAND**

1 held for posting obscene pics online  
Source: Nagaland Post, 1 September 2017

Nagaland: Woman allegedly raped and murdered in Zunheboto  
Source: The North East Today, 22 September 2017

**DELHI-NCR & OTHERS**

Duped of her belongings by Faridabad friend, Manipur teen kickboxer stuck in Agra women’s shelter for two weeks  
Source: The Sangai Express / TNN, 4 September 2017

Noida Police Cremates Manipuri Youth without Informing Family  
Source: The Wire, 20 September 2017

Northeast Indian students in quandary as Hindi test made compulsory in some Delhi University Colleges  
Source: The North East Today, 22 September 2017

Manipur woman dies after fighting bag snatchers in Delhi; 3 arrested in this regard  
Source: The North East Today, 23 September 2017

Student death: Manipur CM to meet Yogi  
Source: thehindu.com, September 25, 2017

Manipur youth missing in New Delhi  
Source: nagalandpost.com, 26 Sep. 2017

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**Upcoming Events**

**Advocacy Meetings in Assam**

**Community Justice Workers Meeting in Manipur**

**Advocacy Meetings in Manipur**

**Participatory Community Meetings in New Delhi-NCR region**

**Advocacy Meetings in Nagaland**

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**Delhi**

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**Assam**

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Website: [www.womensurvivorsnetwork.org](http://www.womensurvivorsnetwork.org)