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 March 2017 issue newsletter here; providing news related to Gender Based Violence, rape cases and racial violence and the efforts to ensuring diversity.

Recent CAFI Activities

Race, Language, Culture: Locating the Northeast In India Observing International day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination
at Auditorium, IP College, Delhi University, 31, Sham Nath Marg, Civil Lines, Delhi-110054 on March 30, 2017

International Women's Day Celebration - Mizoram University, Mizoram - March 8, 2017

Meeting with Mizoram Chief Minister and participating in Mizoram's biggest harvest festival called Chapchar Kut on 2 March 2017

1) CAFI team also surveyed the following support centers for women and girls, orphanages and old age homes

- Raja Dumbra Sing Women’s Home run by All Manipur Women's Association, Nongmeibung Imphal East on 18th March 2017
- Integrated Women and Children Development Centre, Thangmeiband Imphal Imphal East on 20th March 2017
- Old Age Home Centre , Kongba Nongthongbam Leikai,Imphal East on 24th March 2017
- All India Working Women Voluntary Service, Working Women Hostel, Paona Bazar,Imphal West on 24th March 2017
- Environment and Economics Manipur Association (EEMA), Keikhu Kabui Village on 24th March 2017

2) Mizoram Women Protection & Swadhar Home Visit by CAFI Founder Ms Binalakshmi Nepram visited Ms. Mimi, Superintendent- Protective Home, Nodal officer- Anti-Trafficking, Protection officer-Domestic Violence Act in Aizawl, Mizoram in March 2017

3) Visit to Thutak Nunpuitu Team (TNT), Aizawl, Mizoram by Ms Binalakshmi Nepram, CAFI Founder. TNT has an Orphanage, Sanatorium, Rehabilitation Centre & A School attached to it

Photo Documentation during the Visit

Sign Board
Interactive session with old age women
Interaction with children at the Home
Julia photo with care taker
CULTURES AS DIALOGUE AMONG PEOPLE FOR PEACE

UN Security Council Resolution 2347/2017
Held in the wake of the historic adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2347/2017 on the Protection of Cultural Heritage in the event of Armed Conflict the campaign #Unite4Heritage, UNESCO’s is a global movement that aims to celebrate and safeguard cultural heritage and diversity around the world. #Unite4Heritage campaign was launched in 2015 in Baghdad, in response to the unprecedented attacks on heritage. #Culture is a driver for integration, #peace building & #SustainableDevelopment. Read More>>

G7 highlights the power of heritage for peace in first-ever meeting on culture
UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, participated in the first ever G7 Culture Ministers’ meeting held on 30 and 31 of March in Florence, Italy. G7 Members adopted a common #FlorenceDeclaration recognizing the distinctive role of culture as an instrument for dialogue, reconciliation and response to emergency situations. Members of the G7 underlined the importance of a common and coordinated action to strengthen the safeguarding of cultural heritage. Read More>>

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CAFI’S WORK REPORTED IN THE MEDIA IN THE MONTH OF MARCH

Combat: We do not consider racial violence in our country as racial
An incident of attack on African students in Greater Noida in the past. Parliament also raised the issue. Officials say that after the investigation, it will be known whether it is a racial attack or not. Wherever whenever an Indian attack is attacked outside the country, it is immediately considered a racial attack. Watch Video>>

Commemorated International Day to End Racial Discrimination
30 March 2017, New Delhi - 21st March is observed globally as International Day to End Racial Discrimination. To commemorate the occasion Control Arms Foundation of India in collaboration with Indraprastha College for Women of University of Delhi and Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network organised a panel discussion on 30 March 2017 at Auditorium, Indraprastha College, University of Delhi Delhi. Read More>>

NEWS OF NORTHEAST

ASSAM

Mentally unstable woman from Assam rescued in Delhi
Source: The Shillong Times, 6 March 2017
Delhi Police rescued a 27-year-old mentally unstable woman from Assam who was allegedly held captive here by three men. Subham Gosai (25), Sagar Rout (25) and Ranjan Koiri (28) have been apprehended for allegedly operating an organised gang involved in trafficking of girls from Assam to Delhi and other states, said Ravindra Yadav, joint commissioner of police (crime). Read More>>

Tension in Assam town following clash, vandalism
Source: Mizoram Post, 8 March 2017
Tension prevailed in Sillapathar town in Assam on Tuesday after member of a Linguistic minority organization attacked and vandalized the office of the All Assam Student's Union (AASU) on Monday. Read More>>

Bodo women hit streets to press for Bodoland demand
Source: The Shillong Times, 25 March 2017
Bodo women on Friday staged dharna in district headquarters of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) areas demanding immediate steps on part of the Government of India for creation of a Bodoland state as well as facilitating political rights of Bodos living outside the proposed Bodoland. Read More>>

PIL on transgender rights
Source: The Assam Tribune, 27 March 2017
Admitting a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking issuance of directions to the State government for taking immediate and effective steps for the welfare and betterment of the transgender persons of the State, the Gauhati High Court has issued notices to the State the Central governments and asked them to reply within four weeks. Read More>>

MANIPUR

Fake account user in Facebook who defamed a girl arrested
Source: IT News, 7 March 2017
Cyber Crime Unit of Imphal West cracked down a fake account user in social networking site facebook who has been uploading photoshoped obscene picture of a girl. The fake account user identified as Paokai Haokip (24) years SI(OL) Khelhao Haokip of N.Zalenphai Village, Churachandpur was arrested yesterday. Read More>>

Nine injured in IED blast
Source: The Sangai Express, 9 March 2017
At least nine people were wounded in a powerful IED blast carried out by unknown persons in front of Vikas Pharmacy at Kasturi Bridge under City police station today at around 5.55 pm. Read More>>

**Woman remanded to custody for conspiring sexual assault**
**Source:** The Sangai Express, 10 March 2017
A woman has been remanded to judicial custody till March 23 by the Special Court, POCSO Imphal West for conspiring sexual assault on two minor girls. Read More>>

**Woman, new born child found dead, JAC formed**
**Source:** The Sangai Express, 21 March 2017
In a shocking incident, an 18-year-old woman along with a newly born child was found dead in a pond at Ireweng Laiabung Leikai under Kachcham police station today morning. Read More>>

**MEGHALAYA**

**Rape of minors, molestation reported from across state**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 1 March 2017
Separate incidents of rapes, molestations and sodomy were reported from across the state. On February 27, Ajoy Marboh (24 yrs) raped a 16-year-old girl at Mawmang, Mawryngkong (East Khasi Hills). Read More>>

**Woman molested inside moving vehicle**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 2 March 2017
A woman was molested by a male passenger inside a moving vehicle at Sohra on Wednesday. The 26-year-old woman lodged a complaint that on Wednesday around 11 am, while she was on her way from Sohra a male co-passenger Shiboriang Kharkongor, molested her after reaching Lad-Ryngngud in East Khasi Hills. Read More>>

**JH body recovery: Police confirm rape, murder**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 2 March 2017
The young woman whose body was found along NH-6 (earlier NH-44) on February 22 was raped and murdered, police confirmed on Thursday. Khliehriat police said though no one was arrested so far, they have got some lead and "we hope that the culprit will be arrested soon". Read More>>

**On the eve of International Women's Day, another woman murdered in city**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 8 March 2017
The body of a woman was recovered on Tuesday at Itshyrwat, on the way to North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS) in East Khasi Hills district. Read More>>

**Kidnapped mother-daughter duo rescued from Assam**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 1 March 2017
A well-coordinated operation on Thursday morning involving police from two districts of Garo Hills and neighbouring Assam has led to the rescue of a woman and her young daughter who were abducted from the nearby state. Read More>>

**Rape & murder leave victims' children scarred**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 10 March 2017
The five children of the woman from Mawprem whose body was found near Bishop's Falls on Tuesday are under the care of a children's home. Sources said two of the five children were sent to the home two years ago because the woman was a single mother and could not look after them. Read More>>

**7-yr-old raped in EKH**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 14 March 2017
A seven-year-old girl was raped by a truck driver in a remote area of East Khasi Hills. The minor was raped a couple of months back, which was revealed during a conversation with a neighbour. Read More>>

**Budget speech pays lip service to women's security**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 16 March 2017
In his Budget speech on Wednesday, Chief Minister, Mukul Sangma who also holds the Finance portfolio while dwelling at length on measures for maintaining "internal security," (read addressing militancy), just glossed over the rising crimes against women and children in the State. Read More>>

**One arrested for marrying minor**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 17 March 2017
A construction worker in Nartiang village was arrested by the local police for allegedly marrying a minor girl. The accused, Md. Abdul Hakim Ali, married a 16-year-old girl, a student of Class VI at Ramkrishna Mission Secondary School, Nartiang. Read More>>

**Teacher accused of molestation surrenders**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 16 March 2017
Konasson Rodborne, the teacher at a Sohiong school who is accused of molesting two students, surrendered before a local court here on Friday, a day after the High Court rejected his pre-arrest bail application. Read More>>

**Gang rape victim writes to SCPCR, seeks protection**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 21 March 2017
Fear of ostracism and security concerns forced the 17-year-old gang rape victim from Mawryngkong to write to the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR) asking for protection and justice. Read More>>

**Man attempts to rape woman in R Bhole**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 22 March 2017
A man allegedly attempted to rape a woman in R Bhole district. The woman lodged a complaint that on March 19 around 8.30 pm, Aibor Syngkli forcibly took her to a jungle near lewisier under Nongpoh Police station in his auto-rickshaw (ML-10B-3850) and attempted to rape her. Read More>>

**Teen sexually assault minor, victim pregnant**
**Source:** The Shillong Times, 24 March 2017
A twelve-year-old girl was allegedly sexually assaulted by a teenage boy at Nongstoin in West Khasi Hills. Police informed that on Wednesday the girl was brought to Ganesh Das Government Maternal and Child Health Hospital, Shillong where
medical examination revealed that she was pregnant. Read More>>

Crime against women: One-stop crisis centre in Tura soon
Source: The Shillong Times, 26 March 2017
The West Garo Hills Deputy Commissioner, Pravin Bakshi, said on Saturday the one-stop crisis centre for victims of violence will soon be functional. The centre will provide medical care, counselling and will monitor the victim. Read More>>

MIZORAM

International Women's Day Observed with much vigour in Mizoram
Source: Mizoram Post, 9 March 2017
The International Women's Day was celebrated in various part Mizoram on Wednesday with the UN selected theme "Be Bold for Change" after leaving the warmth of my home and striving for the party for 10 years , people were shouting " we don't want a women" when my name came up in the MLA election and that really hurt, said Vanlalampuii Chawngthu the Mizoram State Commission for Women Chairman and the only women
Govt to compensate crime victims
Source: Mizoram Post, 9 March 2017
As per Mizoram Victims of Crime Compensation Scheme, 2011, the Mizoram government will compensate crime victims belonging to BPL family officially statement said today. The statement said that any BPL families who are the victim of crime like rape, sexual abuse and person who faced death due to crime can seek compensation from the government under Mizoram Victims of Crime
Legal Aid Clinic Open in Hrangbana College
Source: Mizoram Post, 9 March 2017
R.Romawai, Minister of Higher & Technical Education today inaugurated Legal Aid Clinic jointly opened by Govt Hrangbana college ah Mizoram Legal Services Authority and Legal Cell, Govt.Hrangbana College

NAGALAND

Gender equality need of the hour: Governor
Source: The Nagaland Post, 7 March 2017
Nagaland governor, PB Acharya, has called upon the people of Nagaland to uphold women's achievements, recognise challenges and to focus greater attention on women's right and gender equality.
Awareness on women helpline and one stop centre
Source: The Nagaland Post, 9 March 2017
Sakhi-One Stop Centre, Dimapur, in collaboration with CHILDLINE, Dimapur organised a community awareness programme under the theme "Be Bold for Change" on International Women's Day on March 8, for women and children at Chettywary Colony, Westyard and Grace Colony, Dimapur.
NLSF condemns rape of minor
Source: The Nagaland Post, 25 March 2017
Nagaland Law Students' Federation (NLSF) has vehemently condemned the rape of an 8-year old minor, hailing from Chiechama village by one non-local, Bijoy Mushahari from Golaghat, Assam on March 14.

DELHI-NCR & OTHERS

NE HELPLINE cautious Delhi Police to ensure safety of NE people during Holi
Source: Mizoram Post, 7 March 2017
The North East Support Centre & Helpline (NESCH) has urged the Delhi Police to ensure safety and security of North East people living in Delhi by making tight security arrangement during this Holi.
Long neglected NE witnessing development now: Jitendra
Source: The Assam Tribune, 6 March 2017
DoNER Minister Jitendra Singh today said the long neglected Northeastern region of the country was now witnessing development, and has the potential to become an attractive investment hub.
Bengaluru owner beats up North-Eastern tenant, made to lick shoes
Source: Asianet Newsable, 7 March 2017
Higio Guntey is a fourth-semester student in the Christ University in Bengaluru was allegedly abused by his house owner on Monday evening and was later beaten black and blue.
28-year-old gang-raped in Delhi's Pandav Nagar, 5 held
Source: Times of India, 13 March 2017
A 28-year-old woman was allegedly gang-raped by five men at a house in Pandav Nagar in east Delhi early on Sunday. The woman claimed that one of the accused, an acquaintance, offered to drop her home in south Delhi, but forcibly took her to the rented house where all five took turns to rape her. All accused have been arrested.
Attack on Arunachal student in Bangalore saddening: Rijiju
Source: The Shillong Times, 14 March 2017
Union minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday described the attack on a student from Arunachal Pradesh in Bengaluru as "saddening" and said the Home Ministry is also pursuing the matter besides the police investigation.
Implement Bezbaruah panel report to protect N-E people: AHRC
Source: The Shillong Times, 16 March 2017
In the wake of alleged incident of assault of an Arunachali youth Higio Gungetey (22) in Bengaluru on March 6, Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC) has demanded urgent implementation of Bezbaruah Committee report for protection and safety of people from the Northeast living in other parts of the country especially in metropolitan areas.
Rijiju details cases against NE folks in Delhi
Source: The Sangai Express / PTI, 22 March 2017
As many as 704 cases of crimes against people hailing from the North East were registered in Delhi in last three years, Lok Sabha was informed today. Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju said that in 2014, a total of 282 cases of crimes against people from the North East were registered in the National capital and 258 people were arrested for these cases. 

**Student death: Four Africans beaten up during vigil in Greater Noida, Swaraj seeks report**

Source: The Indian Express, 28 March 2017

As many as four Africans were beaten up in Greater Noida’s Pari Chowk area during a candlelight march for a 17-year-old boy who died on Saturday evening. According to police, the Class XII student had allegedly died of a drug overdose, following which his family accused their five Nigerian neighbours of murder and demanded their arrest.

**Sushma Swaraj Calls Yogi Adityanath After Assault on Nigerians**

28 March 2017: A day after Nigerian students held a protest over being accused of cannibalism and being booked for killing 19-year-old Manish Khari, several African nationals were attacked and a Nigerian woman was allegedly abducted in Greater Noida on Monday.

**ARTICLES**

**Legal training of Delhi police Northeast Cell representatives**

Organised by: Control Arms Foundation of India in collaboration with Multiple Action Research Group

**Speech at Jindal University on Racism and Diversity**

Venue: Sonipat Narela Road, Near Jagdishpur Village, Sonipat, Haryana 131001

**Upcoming Events**