

**NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE**

**Newsletter**

**Volume 1 No 2 Issue July 2010**

For more than a century women and women's organisations and movements have mobilised support for social empowerment, economic justice, democracy, human rights and conflict prevention. Women groups in Northeast India have developed many a powerful programme of direct, non-violent, action designed to confront the fire of insurgency that has for long engulfed this strategic region since the late 1940s. In India's northeast, women have always played a major role in many peace and social movements. However, most of their actions remain in "protest" form and after the initial action dies down, nothing much happens. We, the women of Northeast India need to make ourselves understand the issues of war, conflict, peace. Only through our joint, continued and persistent efforts peace would one day follow.

Here is the Volume 1 No 2, July 2010 issue newsletter, positive news of the last two months from Northeast India and rest of the world to renew our hopes and strengthen our efforts to work towards peace making.

We are also delighted to share the inauguration of our blog. Please log on to [www.neiwip.blogspot.com](http://www.neiwip.blogspot.com) for the latest update on our work. And on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2010 at Bosco Reachout in Guwahati, Assam we are having our second Consultation on Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace. If you are around, please do join us.

With kind regards,

Binalakshmi Nepram  
Founder, Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network  
Secretary General, Control Arms Foundation of India

**News on Women and Peace Work from Northeast India**

**Naga women march for peace in Delhi**

Naga women in traditional wear took out a peaceful march in the capital on May 11. Walking in silence the women held placards with the words inscribed, 'We have lost two more sons', 'We are Naga women seeking justice and peace', '63 years is enough' etc. The rally culminated in Parliament Street, where the women prayed for the two boys (L) Loshou (23) and (L) Chakho (21) who succumbed to their injuries during the May 6 incident at Mao. Offering flowers and lighting candles for the two departed souls followed. An elder woman, a representative of the Naga mothers prayed for peace and released a symbolic 'dove'. [Read More](#)

Source: *The Sangai Express, May 11 2010*

**ULFA gives condition for peace talks**

The United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) has sought the release of its jailed leaders for early resumption of peace talks. "The government shall have to first create a conducive atmosphere so that we can collectively take a decision. The atmosphere can be created once the jailed leaders are freed," ULFA leader Mithinga Daimary said in a statement issued to a section of the media on Friday in Guwahati. Daimary was released on bail along with ULFA vice president Pradip Gogoi recently. "We have never said the talks could be held without the participation of Paresh Barua (ULFA military chief)," Daimary said, thus keeping the doors open for Barua. [Read More](#)

Source: *Hueiyen News Service / Newmai News Network, May 28 2010*

**All India Working Women Forum observed Children's Day**

All India Working Women Forum, Manipur observed the International Children's Day at Irawat Bhavan, Imphal with Dr. M. Nara, president AITUC Manipur as the chief guest and Th. Bedamani, chairperson All India Working Women Forum, Manipur, as the president. A one-day awareness programme on labour laws related to unorganized women workers was also held as a part of the observation. [Read More](#)

Source: *Imphal Free Press, June 01 2010*

**Workshop on 'Rights of the Girl Child' held**

Recognising the girl child as the vulnerable section of issues resulting from alcoholism, drug addiction, trafficking and domestic violence, the Nagaland State Social Welfare Board today organized a workshop on "Rights of the Girl Child and Future Implications of imbalanced sex ratio" for NGOs and social workers at DUDA Guest House. Addressing the Workshop, Secretary for Nagaland State Social Welfare Board, Daisy Mezhür asserted that protecting the girl child has to be taken on a serious note while highlighting various cases of abuse on the girl child, depriving them of their rights. She deliberated at length on the overview of the rights of the girl child and impressed upon that the preference for the boy child is not because of men but the society as a whole. Exhorting the participants of the Seminar, she said that "all of us need to be guardian angel to one girl". [Read More](#)

Source: *Eastern Mirror, June 01 2010*

**"Riverboat" Once Again Calls For Peace and Reconciliation through Musical Concert**

After successfully organizing musical concerts aimed at bringing peace and harmony in the strife torn state of Manipur and to promote rock music in Manipur since 2007, 'River Boat' which is an event management team comprising of young music lovers committed to bring a change in the turmoil state of Manipur once again organized a musical concert titled 'C Minor'. This concert is held under the theme "Reminiscence of western music in Manipur" to trace the roots of the advent of rock music in Manipur as well as to instill a sense of peace and harmony among the youths through music. [Read More](#)

Source: *E-pao, June 01 2010*

**MSCW takes up case on assault on three women**

A suo motu case has been taken up by the Manipur State Commission for Women in connection with an assault on three women by a 50-year old man, Md Hamid, of Hatta Mana Ingkhol under the Porompat police station on May 26 at the house of Hamid. The report regarding this assault was carried in the local newspapers dated May 28 this year. The case is a follow up action taken by the State Women's Commission after the chairperson of the Manipur State Commission for Women visited the RIMS hospital on May 28 to see the condition of one of the victims named Rukeiyat, who is only 11 years old. [Read More](#)

Source: *Imphal Free Press, Jun 3 2010*

**Manipur Baptist Convention appeals for peace, sanity**

Expressing deep concern over the prevailing grim situation in Manipur, the Manipur Baptist Convention (MBC) has appealed to all the people of the land to join hands in promoting peace and understanding and to refrain from any undesirable activities. In a statement issued to the press today, MBC also urged the people spread the message of peace and become ambassadors of goodwill, which is the urgent need at this time of uncertainty and tension. The MBC has also appealed to the Government of Manipur to seriously and minutely study the causes of the present situation, which has resulted in untold sufferings of the common people. The media has also been urged to exercise utmost discretion in the usage and tone of words that have the potential to hurt the feelings and sentiments of other people. The public too should desist from such practise, urged MBC. [Read More](#)

Source: *The Sangai Express, June 03 2010*

**Manipur Church reaches out to Naga civil societies for peace**

Taking the initiatives to break the present deadlock throttling Manipur, arising out of the deep divide between the people and valley people as well as the ban imposed on the movement of vehicles from Manipur in Nagaland or Naga inhabited areas, a team of the All Manipur Church Association (AMCO), led by its president Rev Prim Vaiphei has held talks with its Nagaland counter parts as well as Naga civil societies. Efforts to usher in peace and clear all misunderstandings and bring peace in the two neighbouring States through the initiatives of the Church leaders from either side (AMCO and NBCC) were discussed, said Rev Prim. [Read More](#)

Source: *The Sangai Express, June 06 2010*

**Women Department of Kohima Ao Baptist Church celebrates 'Year of the Woman'**

The Women Department of Kohima Ao Baptist Church held a special programme on June 12 at the main church on the theme 'Celebrate Womanhood' as part of the 'Year of the Woman' as declared by the Church. The programme included talks on the theme by Joint Director Horticulture, Watienla Lamir, who called on the gathering of about one thousand women to celebrate with a positive attitude giving thanks to God for all the good things He has given to women in general and Ao women in particular. Programme coordinator, Dr. Achila Lanu, highlighted the significance of the theme and on the 'Year of the Woman, 2010' as declared by the Kohima Ao Baptist Church. The programme was also marked by sharing of stories of success in life by Mrs. Imsütula and Mrs. Aienla Tali and a presentation on a topic 'In the image of God' by Mrs. Amongla Toy. [Read More](#)

Source: *Eastern Mirror, June 13 2010*

**Featured Articles, News & Resources from Around the World**

**The quest for gender-just peace**

Yakin Erturk reflects on the six years she spent working as the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and argues that in order to build a gender-just peace, dis-empowering patriarchy and engaging with the feminist agenda of empowering women must be the guiding principle for all peace initiatives. [Read Full Article](#)

Source : *The Morung Express*

**Arms to Peace Art**

The mission of the Art of Peace Charitable Trust (AOPCT) has made a short film 'Illegal gun owners are giving up weapons' to explain their mission of recasting surrendered weapons to create inspirational public sculptures called Peace Angels. This film includes men who have recognised the costs of gun culture to their own safety, and to that of their community. As former owners or users of guns, they are acting for change, challenging the inevitability of the link between violent masculinities and gun culture. View it online at: <http://armstoart.com>

Source : *IANSA Women's Network*

**Define Security**

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom asks you to re-define security. **Security - What Is It? - Video** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yg-ZlrMQJ8&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yg-ZlrMQJ8&feature=player_embedded)

Source : *IANSA Women's Network*

**10 Years of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325**

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