

## NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE Newsletter

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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 4, November 2010 issue newsletter, positive news of the last two months covering September and October 2010 from Northeast India and rest of the world to renew our hopes and strengthen our efforts to work towards peace making.

With kind regards,

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

### Manipur Women Vendors Welfare Association urges Centre to Preserve 300-year old Women's Market

The Women Vendors Welfare Association has urged the Centre to protect and preserve the traditional and indigenous women's market in Imphal, Manipur. In a memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, a delegation of Women Vendors Welfare Association urged the Prime Minister for his interference to take proper prevention and steps for the women who still spend nights at the Keithel from any unwanted event. Because this market is more than 300 years old, in the world this is the only market of Nupi (Women's) it should be preserved as a historical place instead of construction super market. According to the memorandum copy, since July 13, 2003 women of Sana Keithel maintained a 24-hour vigil at the Keithel agitating to retain their physical space, to defend the keithel from demolition at night by Government agencies. [Read More](#)

Source: The Sentinel, 3 September 2010

### Importance of women role in development process stressed in Chizami Seminar

North East Network (NEN), in collaboration with Kuzhalhu Zawe, has organized a seminar on "Strengthening women's leadership" at NEN Resource Centre, Chizami Village, from September 3-4. Altogether 58 participants comprising women VDB secretaries, women society chairpersons and women pastors from Kuzhale spoke during the seminar. [Read More](#)

Source: Eastern Mirror, 5 September 2010

### Legal Awareness Campaign on Statutory Rights of Women

Nagaland Women Commission (NWC) launched "Legal Awareness Campaign on Statutory Rights of Women" in a function held in Oriental College in Kohima. Declaring the launch of the campaign, NWC chairperson Sano Vamuzo said Nagaland has produced many highly-qualified educated young people. Yet, she said, "There is a big question as how many will be really useful to the society. I am afraid majority will be found wanting when responsibilities are thrust upon them." [Read More](#)

Source: Morung Express, 3 September 2010

### Naga Women in Music Festival

For the first time in Nagaland, Abiogenesis Society in collaboration with North East Zone Cultural Centre will be organising 'Naga Women In Music Festival' on the occasion of International Day of Non Violence on October 2, 2010 at Dimapur, Nagaland. The festival will feature various Naga Women singers and bands. The theme of the festival is 'Harmony for Humanity' and dedicated to late Daniel Pearl which is observed world over, through an international network of concerts using the power of music to reaffirm the commitment to tolerance and humanity. Since 2002, Daniel Pearl World Music Days has grown to include the participation of more than 4,900 performances in 102 countries. [Read More](#)

Source: Morung Express, 5 September 2010

### Promotion of gender equality stressed

Khonoma Ruffino Nagaland (KRN), the apex Khwunomia social organization, and its Kohima unit celebrated its 66th anniversary today at the Heritage, Kohima with great enthusiasm and gaiety with Additional Chief Secretary & Commissioner, Banuo Z Jamir as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Banuo Z. Jamir recalled her days as an active member of Khonoma Ruffino and said Khwunomia are unique due to their pride or 'mhoshoh'. Praising the positive pride in competitive excellence, etiquette, respect for elders etc., she however, cautioned against negative pride that leads to 'stubbornness'. [Read More](#)

Source: Eastern Mirror, 1 September 2010

### Call for women's political empowerment

BJP's Mahila Morcha president Smriti Irani today called for political empowerment of women and attacked the State Government for allegedly failing to control the price rise, strengthen the public distribution system (PDS) and check trafficking in women. Addressing a news conference here Irani termed the State Government weak and said it had failed to solve the problems of the common man. "Women trafficking is also on the rise in the State," she said. Irani called BJP vice-president and MP from Assam Bijoya Chakraborty as a strong political figure and said the BJP's Mahila Morcha would initiate some strong measures to make women in the country politically strong. She said the BJP National Executive meeting scheduled for September 28 and 29 in Mumbai would take some important decisions regarding women's security, besides the formation of "Nari Shakti Kendra" in every district of the States. [Read More](#)

Source: The Sentinel, 5 September 2010

### Hundreds protest assault of Northeast girl at Connaught Place

Several women and students from Manipur gathered in front of the "Wow" restaurant and bar at Delhi's Connaught Place holding placards and festoons strongly condemning the alleged sexual assault of a woman from the Northeast region, by the Manager of the restobar where she worked. Besides condemning the sexual assault the students and women from Manipur and other States of the Northeast demanded speedy processing of the FIR. The girl, from Manipur, worked at the said restobar on and she was physically assaulted by the manager on the charge that she was watching TV instead of attending to her duty on August 24 night. The girl fought back and accused the manager of trying to molest her and lodged a complaint with police. [Read More](#)

Source: The Sentinel, 5 September 2010

### Northeast India youth peace festival 2010 concludes with rally for peace

Two-day North East Youth Peace Festival 2010 organised by Peace Channel at Holy Cross under the theme 'Youth for Peace and Development' culminated on 20 September with Lt Gen NK Singh, 3 Corp Rangapahar as the chief guest. More than 900 students from the state of Manipur, Tripura, Assam and Nagaland participated in the festival organized to celebrate the international day of peace and the foundation day of Peace Channel. [Read More](#)

Source: Eastern Mirror, 20 September 2010

### Noney women seek govt intervention

The Chakanlong Tanpui Women Nishaband Society, Noney, Tamenglong has sought intervention of the Union Home minister P Chidambaram over the matter of arrest of one Henry Gangmei of Tupul by personnel of the 26 AR posted at Tupul. The incident of arrest of Henry occurred on September 12 morning at Tupul and the innocent youth was later taken to the AR post and wrongfully charged him as a militant, Noney women's body said in complaint made to the Union Home minister and urged for immediate intervention of the union ministry in releasing the arrested youth. The women's body also warned of launching severe forms of agitation if failed to take up necessary action at the earliest. [Read More](#)

Source: Imphal Free Press, 21 September 2010

### Child trafficking

In a release issued by the President of the Public Monitoring Committee (PMC), Tamenglong District, the committee has made an appeal to the Government of Manipur for special attention towards the increasing trend of child trafficking in Manipur. The committee while stating that the need of the hour is to use the intelligence, police, army and any available machinery to unearth the evils surfacing in the home state. While stating the recent occurrence at Longmai (Noney) NH-53 where three children of Longmai (Noney) 41 Bazar were rescued by their parents from Bishnupur parking on September 17 just as the minors were about to board the bus towards Bishnupur. [Read More](#)

Source: Imphal Free Press, 21 September 2010

### Naga Women Guard Delhi During Commonwealth Games

Young, armed and fearless, they are spread across Metro stations, markets, railway stations and the Games venues. Patrolling the city streets, these 590 women some of them barely out of their teens are out on no mean task. Meet the first all-women battalion of the Nagaland Police which is deployed in Delhi to secure the biggest sporting event hosted by the country. The six companies comprise women officers adding up to 650 when you include the support staff who have just completed training and are on their first 'job'. "They are all aged between 18-25 years. Most of them have a rural background and had never been to a metropolitan city. This is a completely new experience for them. They were slightly apprehensive since it is their first posting. But they have adapted well and possibly know more about the city now than I do," said their deputy commandant, Temjensenla. [Read More](#)

Source: Morung Express, 4 October 2010

### Mother's Hope founder represents India at women empowerment seminar in Japan

The Founder & Director of Mother's Hope, Moamenla Jamir represented India in Tokyo at the 10 days international training programme called, "Empowerment Seminar for Women Leaders in the Asia Pacific Region", i.e. from September 30 to October 9. A press note issued by N Manen Jamir, Lecturer in English Department of Sakus Mission College has informed that the Government of Japan is "spending millions of yen" for such type of women's international programme through NWECC (National Women's Education Centre, Japan). [Read More](#)

Source: Morung Express, 7 October 2010

### Consultation on land rights, women quota

Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio graced a one day consultative meeting with civil societies and tribal hohos on ownership of land and its resources, municipal election and women reservation on October 8 at Heritage Bamboo Hall, Kisama. Short speeches on issues of land and its resources and women reservation were delivered by Sano Vamuzo, Chairperson, Women Commission Nagaland, Tokheho, Leader of Opposition, Dr. Chumben Murry, Minister for Agriculture, T.R. Zeliang, Minister for Planning & Coordination and Veterinary & Animal Husbandry, Dr. S.C. Jamir, former Governor of Maharashtra, M.C. Konyak, Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment and Excise and Justice HK Sema, Rtd Judge, Supreme Court. [Read More](#)

Source: Morung Express, 7 October 2010

### Women are ambassadors and peace makers

Former State minister of Information and Public Relation (IPR) and senior Congressman, Thomas Ngullie, has said that women should play the role of "ambassadors" and build bridges between villages and communities. Addressing a get-together of women from Lakhuti village married outside their village and women married to Lakhuti villagers at Lakhuti Baptist Church on Sunday, the former minister who attended the meeting as special invitee said that women are not only home makers but also peace makers. To Lakhuti women married to other villagers and communities, Thomas, who is also a native of Lakhuti village, said that they should act as ambassadors and try to foster better relations between different villages and communities. [Read More](#)

Source: Eastern Mirror, 10 October 2010

### Growing role of women acknowledged

State Deputy Chairman of Planning Board, Neiba Kronu has acknowledged the role of women in motivating themselves to help and uplift others to greater heights, while he also emphasised on the formation of Self Help Groups to further their aspirations. Addressing the 34th general meeting of the Chakhesang Women Welfare Society at Yoruba village which was held from October 1 to 3, Kronu has acknowledged the role of CWWS in their service towards uplift of the women especially in the rural sector. He has also suggested the Society to give more importance towards forming Self Help Groups in the area for their economic uplift. [Read More](#)

Source: Eastern Mirror, 4 October 2010

### Role of women in shaping society acknowledged

While acknowledging the role of women in shaping the society, State Minister for PHED, Dr Ngangshi, has expressed desire that they should be included in decision making bodies. He has also called upon the women to have constructive effect in the society and set good example, stating that people living in the towns are looked up with reverence by those living in rural areas. Dr. Ngangshi said this while addressing the one day conference of Watsu Mungdang Kohima Unit, on October 9 at Indoor Stadium, Kohima, as the chief guest. The conference was held on the theme 'Position of women in progressive change'. [Read More](#)

Source: Eastern Mirror, 9 October 2010

### Campaigns on women's right

Awareness campaign on women's rights was jointly organized by Mokokchung Law College and the State Legal Service Authority at Lungkumer Kilem, Mokokchung, on October 23. Main speaker, Dr. Lanungdang, Dean of Social Sciences, Nagaland University, Lumami, said that gender based debate is prominent in today's context, adding that with the advent of education, women's participation has gradually made a new paradigm shift. [Read More](#)

Source: Eastern Mirror, 23 October 2010

### Pistols replace balloons as kids' favourite

Ghaneshyam Deka has come to seek Goddess Durga's blessings at the Silpukhuri puja pandal with his 6-year old son Ritupaban. While Deka tries hard to find a good place in the pandal before it gets crowded, Ritupaban refuses to go inside till his father buys him an AK-47 toy. The growing fascination for toy pistols among children can be seen in this year's Durga Puja celebrations, with kids like Ritupaban preferring toy pistols over balloons. "I am very happy today. Now I can tell my friends that I too have an AK-47," said an excited Ritupaban. When asked what Durga Puja means to him, the little kid said, "I don't know. People carry Durga Maa from here and there." [Read More](#)

Source: Sentinel, 14 October 2010

### Women want Village Council Act amendment

The need for amendment of the Village Council Act, effective implementation of VDB Act and immediate implementation of Nagaland Municipal Amendment Act (2006) were among the many recommendations emerging from the two day consultation on "Securing women's rights-challenges and strategies" held in Kohima from October 12 to 13. Amendment of Village Council Act to harmonize the Act with constitutional provisions and international obligations, immediate implementation of Nagaland Municipal Amendment Act (2006) and to work out modalities for its effective implementation had figured in the recommendations. [Read More](#)

Source: Morung Express, 13 October 2010

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