

**NORTH EAST INDIA WOMEN INITIATIVE FOR PEACE**

**Newsletter**

**Volume 1 No 6 Issue April 2011**

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.

Our office also organized the Fourth Consultative Conclave & Creative Sessions on the Northeast India Women Initiative for Peace which is a framework for action for democracy, human rights, economic justice & conflict prevention in India's Northeast region was held on 19 and 20 January, 2011 at Conference Hall No 1, India International Centre, New Delhi from 9 am to 5 pm. The two days Conclave and Creative Session was organized by Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network and Control Arms Foundation of India with the support of Heinrich Boell Foundation, New Delhi. Member of Parliament, Educationists, Film Makers, Designers, Academicians, Women's Groups, Journalists, students and members of civil society groups were some of the resource persons as well as participants for the meeting. There were five women participants from Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Manipur who travelled to Delhi for this meeting. The meeting was held with great success and many recommendations were suggested to encourage and make amends as to how to bring about women's participation and increase the role of women in peace building. Please visit <http://neiwip.blogspot.com/p/reports.html> to read more

Here is the Volume 1 No 6, April 2011 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.

With kind regards,

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

**Naga Women's contribution not recognised adequately in past census**  
Source: Morung Express 2 February 2011

As per 2001 Census report, there are 260 'Gender Critical' districts in the country on the basis of poor sex ratio, poor female literacy, and poor work participation of females. Nagaland too has 3 districts (Mon, Tuensang and Dimapur) which falls under this category. Whatever could be the worth of this report in the context of Nagaland, (as the Census 2001 of Nagaland has been rejected by the State Govt), this report gives much food for thought for the upcoming Census 2011 (from February 9th to February 28th with a revisional round from 1st March to 5th March), the need to seriously study the reality and Census 2011 to be a true mirror of reality and show the status of women in its true light. [Read More](#)

**Women Empowerment and Entrepreneurship through SHGs**  
Source: Sangai Express 8 February 2011

During the Vedic and Mughal periods, women were exploited. However, during the medieval and post-second World War periods, women enjoyed greater freedom in the society and family. After independence, eminent women and other reformers in the society started massive campaigns for women's emancipation and liberation. These movements helped women to attain constitutional backing for assuring equality, dignity, justice, stability and prosperity. [Read More](#)

**Dispensation of Justice and Conceptualization of the Ethics of Equality to the Empowerment of Women**  
Source: Sangai Express 21 February 2011

The lofty height of idealism on "Equality" as enshrined in the preamble to the Constitution of India is a manifestation of anti climax of inequality which has been in the existence in the traditional Indian society. Equality being the cardinal value of the Constitution of India as against the backgrounds of elaborates valued and clearly perceived inequalities to secure justice, social, economic, and political to all its citizen has to be premised. [Read More](#)

**Thanga women vendors cry foul**  
Source: Imphal Free Press 7 March 2011

**IMPHAL March 7:** The members of the All Thanga Schedule Caste Ima Khwairamband Keithel Nga Yonbi Lup condemned the Thanga MLA T Mangibabu of favoritism among the women fish vendors and ignoring the plight of the women of the organization. A press release states that the women had pressed the government to allot them seats for vending fish at the market and after several round of talks with the concerned officials, a total of 314 seats were allocated for the women. The development was purely the credit of the women organization as the local MLA had turned a deaf ear to the issue when taken up to his notice before, the release states. [Read More](#)

**Children of the State & Meira Paibis Meet the President**  
Source: Imphal Free Press 6 March 2011

**IMPHAL, March 6:** An Educational Tour for Students, Teachers and Meirapaibis of Manipur to Delhi and Agra organized by 15 Assam Rifles of HQ 9 Sect under the aegis HQ IGAR (South) had the distinguished honour of meeting Pratibha Patil, the President of India, on March 4 at Rashtrapati Bhavan. According to a release of PRO, IGAR (South) Imphal, the President while speaking to the students, meira paibis and teachers, discussed the social and educational aspects in Manipur. She also encouraged the children to work hard and do well in life. [Read More](#)

**Sharmila remanded into judicial custody for 15 days**  
Source: Imphal Free Press 11 March 2011

**IMPHAL, Mar 11:** Just after a day of her release from the security ward of JNIMS yesterday, the police today arrested from Sharmila and produced her before the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Imphal East, Ronald Keishing at his Dewlahland residence. The CJM remanded Sharmila into judicial custody for a period of 15 days under section 309 of IPC (attempt to commit suicide). [Read More](#)

**Child Marriage, Drug Abuse and Unemployment in Manipur**  
Source: Sangai Express 25 March 2011

Spring season is the most enchanting and serene of all seasons. Plants revitalize and bloom with colourful scented flowers. This season is where every weather elements are synchronised providing the finest time of marriage. Cosmic factors and other factors also favour marriage and this is the reason for the widespread incident of marriage in the State currently. The article is not going to dig on the determinants of marriage or child marriage per-se, but to address the Legal measures prohibiting child marriage and its relevance in the State. [Read More](#)

**Naga Women's contribution not recognised adequately in past census**  
Source: Morung Express 1 February 2011

As per 2001 Census report, there are 260 'Gender Critical' districts in the country on the basis of poor sex ratio, poor female literacy, and poor work participation of females. Nagaland too has 3 districts (Mon, Tuensang and Dimapur) which falls under this category. Whatever could be the worth of this report in the context of Nagaland, (as the Census 2001 of Nagaland has been rejected by the State Govt), this report gives much food for thought for the upcoming Census 2011 (from February 9th to February 28th with a revisional round from 1st March to 5th March), the need to seriously study the reality and Census 2011 to be a true mirror of reality and show the status of women in its true light. [Read More](#)

**First 'Ladies Army' Commander dies**  
Source: Morung Express 4 February 2011

**DIMAPUR, FEBRUARY 3 (MExN):** Isak Chishi Swu, president 'Yaruwo' of the Government of the People's Republic of Nagalim has mourned the death of Lt. Col (Retd) Kaphungwon Hrangbung, Kilonser [minister] describing her as a woman of bravery, efficiency and honesty. "As a ladies army commander, she served the Naga army faithfully," Swu today said in a message and recalled Kaphungwon joining the movement in 1981 and how she led the ladies army as commander from 1999 till her retirement in 2003. He said the commander served the Nagas in "different battlefields with bravery". [Read More](#)

**Naga woman admits trafficking children as domestic helps**  
Source: Morung Express 5 February 2011

**Dimapur | February 4 :** A ten-year old girl, sold off as a domestic help, was rescued by the Nagaland Domestic Workers' Movement (NDWM) on February 3. After three years of toiling, Meena (name changed) was finally reunited with her family, thanks to the efforts of the NDWM. The story dates back to the year 2007, when Meena alongwith her elder sister fell innocent victims to human trafficking. The girls were given custody to one Naga woman by their mother, on the understanding that the children will be given monthly wages. Instead the children were sold off by the woman for a sum of Rs. 10, 000. The rescued girl's family resides at the Assam-Nagaland border, near Dillai. [Read More](#)

**Three women kidnapped WWF volunteers released**  
Source: Eastern Mirror 8 February 2011

**KOKRAJHAR (ASSAM), FEB 8 (PTI):** Three women WWF volunteers, abducted along with three male colleagues, were released today somewhere along the Assam-Bhutan border, two days after being taken away. The three were freed unharmed at a remote place along the border by the abductors, Bongaigaon Superintendent of Police Nitul Gogoi told PTI. The three are Srabana Goswami hailing from Guwahati, Pallavi Chakravarty from Shillong and Tarali Goswami of Nalbari. [Read More](#)

**"Is there Peace in Nagaland?"**  
Source: Morung Express 5 February 2011

Leaders of state party in power are in the habit of claiming off and on that there is Peace in Nagaland or that it at least has been better than Congress ruled state, but if peace is tranquility, serenity, mental calm without civil disorder then Peace in Nagaland now is in its lowest ebb. Extortion and Kidnapping in Nagaland especially in Dimapur as far as one can see has become the most rampant in these 3 (three) months, with various groups and individual taking advantage of the vulnerable environment provided. Voicing concern over kidnapping and extortion, the Dimapur and Kohima Chamber of Commerce and Industries in the Month of November has rightly stated that the state Government has not been 'vigilant enough' and that this 'epidemic' might spread across Nagaland if the state Government do not take effective measures at the earliest. [Read More](#)

**SBAK women conference concludes**  
Source: Eastern Mirror 15 February 2011

**Dimapur, Feb 15 (EMN):** Women Department of SBAK Nito Mount has successfully completed the 65th Annual Session of Women Conference held at Baimho Baptist Church from February 11-13 on the theme 'Mother's legacy.' Hukheli, women secretary, has delivered the message basing on the theme, while Hukatoli, women evangelist, led the Bible study from the life of Queen Vashti which opened the eyes of the congregation in reading the bible with new eyes. [Read More](#)

**Civil Society bats for peace in trouble-torn Tirap**  
Source: Sentinel 1 February 2011

**ITANAGAR, Jan 31:** In its mission to restore peace in trouble-torn Tirap District which is currently embroiled in a cross-fire between rival factions of NSCN over the past two months, a seven member delegation from various civil society organizations from the State called on metor the leaders for Naga Reconciliation Rev Dr Wati Aier and visited Khehoi and Camp Hebron and convened the forum of both factions of NSCN (K) and (IM) on Friday. [Read More](#)

**MWS starts 'helpline' for women, children in distress**  
Source: Sentinel 2 February 2011

**ITANAGAR, Feb 2:** "An ideal society can be realized only if women enjoy equal rights and position with their male counterparts. For this, we need to improve the quality of life of our womenfolk. The best way to do that is to provide them better education and training," said Chairperson of Muskaan Welfare Society (MWS) Anupama Singh while inaugurating the month-long Skill Development Programme on Computer Literacy and Spoken English at the IGNOU regional Center, Naharlagun today. The courses are being conducted by the MWS in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). [Read More](#)

**Nagaland Prayer Festival to pray for peace, prosperity**  
Source: Morung Express 9 February 2011

**Dimapur | February 9 :** The Nagaland Baptist Churches Council (NBCC) today stated that Nagaland Prayer Festival will be held from February 11 to 13 at Agri Expo Ground, 4th Mile, Dimapur. The timings of the prayer festival will be from 4pm-7:30pm. The main speaker for the prayer festival is renowned christian speaker, motivator, Chancellor of Karunya University (Coimbatore) and co-founder & president of 'Jesus Calls International Ministries (chennai)', Dr. Paul Dhinakaran. His son Paul Dhinakaran will also address the prayer festival. Earlier Dr. Paul has also been the speaker of similar prayer festivals held in Chekiy, Dimapur (2006), Kohima (1998) and Mokokchung (1978). [Read More](#)

**Lady MLA nominated for award**  
Source: Sentinel 5 February 2011

**ITANAGAR, Feb 5:** The New Delhi based Friendship Forum of India has nominated Chayangtajo MLA Karya Bagang for the prestigious North Eastern Golden Achiever Award for her outstanding works in public service. She is the only other woman in the 60-member legislative assembly of the State. She had defeated veteran Kameng Dolo in the last assembly elections ending Dolo's dominance in State politics since inception. The award carries a gold medal and a certificate, which would be presented to Bagang on February 13 in a function to be held at New Delhi. [Read More](#)

**Spurt in crime against women in State**  
Source: Assam Tribune 16 February 2011

**GUWAHATI, Feb 14** – Though the level of violence involving the militant groups is coming down with their male counterparts. For this, we need to improve the quality of life of our womenfolk. The best way to do that is to provide them better education and training," said Chairperson of Muskaan Welfare Society (MWS) Anupama Singh while inaugurating the month-long Skill Development Programme on Computer Literacy and Spoken English at the IGNOU regional Center, Naharlagun today. The courses are being conducted by the MWS in collaboration with the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). [Read More](#)

**Mizo churchwomen want women ordination**  
Source: The Sentinel 9 March 2011

**Aizawl, March 8:** The Women Ministry of Mizoram Presbyterian Church, the states largest Christian denomination, has reiterated its stand for women ordination in the strict patriarchal Christian society. An assembly of Presbyterian Kohhran Hmeichhia (women wing) which concluded at Kawnpui in Mizoram, unanimously passed a resolution demanding pastoral posts for women. [Read More](#)

**Dialogue necessary for bringing peace in Manipur**  
Source: The Sentinel March 10, 2011

**Imphal, March 9:** Manipur Governor Gurbachan Jagat yesterday said dialogue among representatives of academia, media and all sections of the society on current problems particularly insurgency in the state was necessary for safe-guarding the democracy and peace. Addressing the Manipur legislative assembly, Jagat said the government has increased the police manpower significantly during the last two years as per the instructions and advice from the Union Home ministry to strengthen the state police. [Read More](#)

**Women felicitated for their hard and struggling life**  
Source: The Sentinel March 2011

**SILCHAR, March 9:** The members of the Women Cell of the NGO 'The Greens' as a part of their observance of International Women's Day interacted with the female undertrial prisoners in the central jail here. During interaction, the prisoners were made to give an insight into their prison life, how far their human rights were protected and the facilities extended to them. The Superintendent of the jail in course of discussion was advised to make provision of a library, reformation exercises as well as arrange for their technical and general education, besides making them available the daily newspapers considering their mental stresses. [Read More](#)

**Human trafficking manual helps police in North East**  
Source: The Assam Tribune 20, February 2011

**Shillong, Feb 20 (IANS):** *What does human trafficking mean, why is it done, what punishment can it attract and how do we rehabilitate victims?* A manual on human trafficking brought out by an NGO is proving a boon for police in the Northeast where trafficking is a major issue. Impulse, the NGO, has simplified the law and put it together in a handbook which has been adopted in police training schools across the Northeast and it is bringing in winds of change in the region. [Read More](#)

**Naga women's association meet calls for equal rights**  
Source: The Sentinel 11 March 2011

**Kohima, March 10:** The Nagaland State Women Commission (NSWC), the Naga Mothers' Association (NMA) and the Naga Women Hoho Dimapur (NWHHD) in unison have raised strong voice for the empowerment of women and equal rights for all in every sphere of life. Observing the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day during a workshop at Dimapur on "Women's Rights and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005" yesterday, NSWC chairperson Sano Vamuzo appreciated the Domestic Violence Act for giving protection to women, but felt the need for amending of the Act. " [Read More](#)

**All-women battalion welcomes first lady President of the country**  
Source: The Sentinel 12 March 2011

**IMPHAL, March 11:** The President of India Pratibha Devisingh Patil arrived at the Imphal Airport on a special Indian Air Force flight from Dimapur this afternoon at around 1.15 pm on a two days maiden visit to the State and later rode through the empty streets of ground up to Raj Bhavan Imphal under tight security arrangement. The President on her arrival at the airport was accorded a warm reception by the Governor of Manipur Gurbacharan Jagat who was joined by the Chief Minister of the state Okram Ibobi Singh and his council of ministers at the airport and later the she was given guard of honour by a strong contingent of the Manipur Women Police led by the SDPO, Lamphel Police Station Pushpanjali, IPS. [Read More](#)

**Naga body appeals for peace**  
Source: The Assam Tribune 8 March 2011

**DIMAPUR, March 7** – Following the March 5 firing and bloodshed at Khoupung area under Nungba sub-division in Tamenglong district of Manipur between the NSCN-IM and ZUF, the Zeliangrong Baurai (Assam, Manipur, Nagaland) has made strong appeal for any particular and non-violence and restraint by all concerned. Stating that it is not against or in favour of the peace outfit, the Bauri in a statement issued by its president Raitu Chawang and general secretary Elu Ndong, however, cautioned that any form of violence initiated from any quarter in Zeliangrong areas will not be tolerated. [Read More](#)

**Crimes against women rising in Tripura**  
Source: Assam Tribune 19 March 2011

**AGARTALA, March 18** – Crimes against women continues to haunt the law enforcement agencies in Tripura with spiralling number of cases of rape, molestation and dowry death. The State witnessed maximum number of rape cases in 2010 when compared to 2008 and 2009. According to statistics, while a total of 238 rape cases were recorded with police in 2010, the number was 204 in 2008 and 190 in 2009. [Read More](#)

**Women urged to exercise franchise**  
Source: Assam Tribune

**GUWAHATI, March 20** – The Assam Sate Commission for Women has called upon all the eligible fairer sex in the State to participate in the ensuing greatest democratic exercise – that is the Assembly elections. Chairperson of the Commission Mridula Saharia while talking to *The Assam Tribune* said that the Commission in all its awareness-generating programmes have been stressing on the need of women to come out in large and exercise their franchise. It needs to be mentioned here that the Commission has been voicing for political empowerment of women so that they get a chance in the decision making process. [Read More](#)

**Dr. Shurhozelie to have consultations on women quota in Mokokchung**  
Source: Morung Express

**Mokokchung, April 10 (DIPR):** Urban Development and Higher & Technical Education Minister, Nagaland, Dr. Shurhozelie scheduled to visit Mokokchung town on 12th April 2011 for a consultative meeting in regards to Municipal and town Council Election and 33% Reservation for Women has been rescheduled. The Minister will visit Mokokchung tomorrow, the 11th April (Monday) and the consultative meeting will be held at Mokokchung Municipal council conference hall at 3 pm. Therefore, all the listed NGO's organization & village Council are requested to attend the consultative mee-ting. They include the Ao Senden, MCC&I, All Advisory. [Read More](#)

**State 2nd lowest in complaints to National Commission for Women**  
Source: Nagaland Post 13 April 2011

While Uttar Pradesh topped the list of states from where maximum number of complaints have been received by the NCW, since its inception, Nagaland was listed in the second lowest. The lowest number of complaints came from Mizoram (25) and Nagaland (50), says the study sponsored by NCW and conducted by Jawaharlal Nehru University associate professor Mondira Dutta. According to statistics, the commission got 27,435 complaints from UP so far, followed by Delhi (7,452), Rajasthan (4,206), Haryana (2,683) and Madhya Pradesh (2,067), Expressindia reports. [Read More](#)

**Ao Senden turns down 33% women quota**  
Source: Morung Express 13 April 2011

**MOKOKCHUNG, APRIL 12 (DIPR):** Minister for Urban Development and Higher & Technical Education, Dr. Shurhozelie on Monday (11th April 2011) held a consultative meeting at the conference hall of Mokokchung Municipal Council with representatives from Ao Senden (HOHO), Mokokchung Municipal Council (MMC), Mokokchung Chamber of commerce & Industries (MCCI), Village Council of Ungma, Chuchuyimpang, Mokokchung, Khensa villages and District Administration of Mokokchung. [Read More](#)