ACTIVITIES:

1. Training of Health Care Providers, Gender Sensitisation Training.
   Since April 2011, NEN has been constantly sensitizing and building capacities of the Health Care Providers (HCPs) to equip them to respond to cases of violence against women. So far, NEN has carried out these trainings in Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills. Special emphasis is given to doctors and nurses of Government Hospitals in both districts.

Objectives of the Training

- To sensitize the hospital staff on issues of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women,
- To build the capacity of the hospital staff in identifying and screening cases of Violence Against Women (VAW) and refer them to the support centre for non clinical healing and
- To apply the principle of peer-to-peer education by the trained Health Care Providers in their respective health settings.

2. Documentation
   Iohlynti documents all its procedures and activities to enable monitoring and evaluating its work. A Monthly report is provided to the NEN office and quarterly report of activities is provided to the National Rural Health Mission, Meghalaya.

3. Networking
   Iohlynti networks with women’s organisations, shelter homes and other groups, in Meghalaya as well other parts of India. This extends to working with survivors of domestic violence for mutual support, referral and sharing.

For further information, visit www.northeastnetwork.org
North East Network, Shillong
Beams End Cottage, Springside, Jingkieng, Nongthymmai
Shillong – 793014
Meghalaya, India

A joint initiative of Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya & North East Network
"Iohlynti" (a khasi word) meaning “the way”, is the first hospital based support centre for women established in North East India. The Centre was set up to respond to the needs of women facing violence within their homes and the community. The Centre is a joint initiative of the Health & Family Welfare Department, Government of Meghalaya and North East Network (NEN). The setting up of Iohlynti has been a long vision of NEN in its endeavor to counter violence against women. The hopes and aspirations of several people and organizations that played different roles at making this effort a reality were finally realized when Iohlynti was established on 28 November 2011.

**BACKGROUND OF IOHLYNTI**

In 2009, a convergence meeting of different Government Departments (Meghalaya Police, Health and Family Welfare, Social Welfare, Law and the Meghalaya State Commission for Women) was organised by NEN, resulting in their agreeing to jointly address violence against women affectively. Thus, Iohlynti was created.

The Hospital is considered a safe place and enables abused women to safely visit it without any restrictions, suspicions or feeling of shame.

It is also a place where women have the first contact after facing violence. That is how Iohlynti was created in 2011, formerly located at Civil Hospital and now shifted to Ganesh Das Hospital in September 2014.

**OBJECTIVES**

- To provide immediate social and psychological support for women facing violence.
- To build the capacity of Health Care Providers on Gender and Violence against Women.
- To create awareness on women’s issues.

**SERVICES**

1. **COUNSELLING**

Iohlynti provides counseling to women facing different forms of violence within a feminist framework. The Centre ensures immediate psychological and social support to women to manage crisis, encourage decision making, self-determination, future plans and her rights.

When a woman steps into Iohlynti she is first given the emotional support needed after an episode of violence has occurred. The primary goal of counseling is to help women ventilate their emotions and experiences, validate their decision, and ease their feelings.

After the first session of counseling, the counselor and the client together work out their future sessions, setting out goals for each session. When the client feels she has achieved what she wanted, she and the counselor prepare for the final session. The Counselor continues to follow up with clients through telephonic conversations and social visits.

2. **LEGAL AID**

The Counselor at Iohlynti provides women with detailed information about the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDV) 2005, Section 498 A of the Indian Penal Code, laws related to maintenance and the implications of such action. When a woman has made a decision on whether she wants to pursue legal action, Iohlynti refers the case to the Meghalaya State Legal Service Authority (MSLSA). Throughout the legal proceedings, the Counselor is with the client to support her through the process.

3. **REFERRAL TO OTHER AGENCIES**

Iohlynti networks with different stakeholders for referral services to provide holistic aid when necessary. Cases are referred to the Meghalaya State Commission for Women; the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for assistance in cases relating to child sexual abuse and child abuse; Childline to provide shelter and financial aid and medical support; the Police to file a case (E.L.R) when required.