



# NORTH EAST NETWORK

ANNUAL REPORT

2014-15

**20 years of NEN**





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NEN's office in Chizami, Nagaland





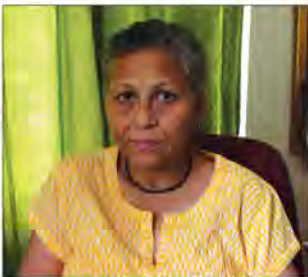
## MESSAGES



### *FROM THE CHAIRPERSON*

In this past year, as in earlier years, North East Network continued to move positively towards its vision of a society where there is social justice and where women's individual rights are acknowledged and respected. We are fortunate to still have at our helm, as Executive Director, Monisha Behal who has helped build NEN to what it is today. Though we have seen staff members come and go at a faster rate than before, yet this has not destabilized the organisation nor hampered our work in this region. NEN is now moving to thematic areas of work, using the rights-based approach and contextualised advocacy strategies. With this, we hope to strengthen our work with our partners to create networks of action and change.

*Darilyn Syiem*



### *FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

North East Network completed 20 years of its existence in 2015, and it is for us to cherish those years. The work of each and every member of our organisation can be considered a step towards NEN's progress. I recognise their efforts in striving towards equitable gender relations and the well-being of women in society. The task is difficult, and will continue to be so. This annual report represents not only the work done through 2014-15, but also touches upon the vision and mission of NEN, the values we adhere to and, finally, the way forward in the next few years. Even as we celebrate our 20th anniversary, we thank our rural women's groups, collaborating partners, associates, institutions, donors and well-wishers for the shared experiences, which we treasure and look back on with pride and respect.

*Monisha Behal*





A close-up photograph of an elderly woman with a focused expression, wearing a black knitted hat and a pink shawl. She is working on a traditional wooden loom, weaving a colorful fabric with a floral pattern. The background is blurred, showing more of the loom and the surrounding environment.

## I. OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### VISION

NEN's vision is to build a society in India's North East Region (NER) that upholds gender justice, equality and respect for human rights.

### MISSION

NEN's mission is to take forward women's human rights through collective action by:

- Creating a culture of peace, both inside and outside the homes, through women's active and informed involvement
- Strengthening women's collectives, collective action and their leadership
- Increasing women's representation in political, public and community processes
- Addressing discrimination and violence against women in both public and domestic spheres, and ensuring safer spaces
- Protecting the environment and biodiversity through innovative initiatives, by engaging youth and women

### VALUES

The principal values upheld by NEN include:

- Gender equality and social justice
- Non-discrimination, respect for diversity, plurality and secularism
- Accountability
- Community participation and leadership
- Collective decision and action through democratic processes
- Ecological sustainability

*A weaver working with thevo, a natural fibre that NEN is attempting to revive, Phek district, Nagaland*



## THEMATIC AREAS OF WORK

NEN's mission of working towards women's human rights through collective action unfolds into multiple thematic areas of work, which in turn have different aspects.

### 1. ACTION AGAINST GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Multi-pronged strategy with government and civil society to address and redress gender-based discrimination and violence against women (VAW) through trainings, policy advocacy, campaigns and action-oriented research.

### 2. GOVERNANCE AND STATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Access to entitlements and justice systems for different categories of women in conflict and post-conflict situations; promotion of women's participation in the political process at state and local levels; advocating the implementation of pro-women laws; tracking state budgets to advocate for proactive gender responsive budgeting.

### 3. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT & LIVELIHOODS

Valuing and conserving common resources such as land, forest, water, seeds, biodiversity, and traditional knowledge; ensure its effective and equitable governance, where women's participation is seen as fundamental, and advocate for sustainability and environmental justice.

*Flash mob organised by NEN Meghalaya during the One Billion Rising event in 2015, conducted by students of iLEAD Shillong*





## II. OUR INITIATIVES IN 2014-2015

### A. ASSAM

As a rights-based women's organisation, principles of equality, non-discrimination and state obligation have shaped many of our programmes and strategies. NEN has sought women's inclusion in all political and other decision-making levels for the fulfilment of state accountability so far as women's equality and rights are concerned.

#### 1. CAPACITY BUILDING OF GRASSROOTS WOMEN LEADERS

Creation of strong women leaders at the grassroots is a major aim of NEN. NEN Assam has been building capacities of grassroots women leaders to:

- Strengthen women leaders and women's organisations to take part in community/public processes in monitoring schemes and policies of the government
- Equip women leaders with the requisite skills and strategies to address the issue of violence against women (VAW) at the grassroots level.

In July 2013, NEN began the training of 28 grassroots women leaders on gender, VAW, domestic violence (DV), new laws and leadership skills. Exposure visits were organised in 2014 to community-based organisations Assam Mahila Samata Society (AMSS) and The Ant, based in Darrang and Chirang districts. The women were exposed to local systems of delivering justice such as Nari Adalat (women's courts) and collective community initiatives for empowering women.

Of the 28 trained leaders, 12 were selected and oriented to conduct a district-level pilot in 2014 to understand trends and patterns of DV cases across 30 Panchayats and 10 Village Council Development Committees (VDCs) in 14 districts of Assam. They interviewed 1200 women in abusive domestic relationships. Fact-finding on women's representation in grassroots governance was done in some districts as well. Eventually, based on this grassroots documentation and survey, NEN produced some useful advocacy reports and fact sheets in 2015.

The women leaders trained under this programme undertook 15 initiatives on issues

*Community meeting conducted by grassroots women leaders in Chirang district*





such as women and peace, women's role in Panchayat, roles of public and the state in mitigating DV, economic empowerment, representation of women in grassroots governance, etc. Around 100 community members, public representatives and government personnel participated in these initiatives. A total of 14 memorandums were submitted to appropriate government authorities, demanding fulfilment of state accountability for certain issues including:

- 50% reservation of women in VDCs
- Addressing women's issues in ongoing peace dialogues
- Formation of sustained local peace committees with equal representation of women and men
- Equal representation of men and women in all local public bodies
- Establishment of women's safety committees
- Training of Panchayat members on VAW
- Proper implementation of laws and policies on DV and witch hunting

These trained women leaders have become focal points in their communities to address and redress DV cases. Thus, they have been able to combine activism with advocacy.

## 2. ADVOCACY WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT

### (i) Witch Hunting

In collaboration with two women's organisations, AMSS and Partners in Law and Development (PLD), New Delhi, NEN conducted a study on witch hunting in 2 Blocks of Assam in which we reported on 16 cases. The outcome was the publication of a report titled *Witch Hunting in Assam: Individual, Structural and Legal Dimensions*. NEN shared the report with the Social Welfare Department (SWD), Assam Police, media and civil society organisations (CSOs). Early this year, we learnt that while putting together the draft bill, the government considered certain recommendations in our study, including one on the relief and rehabilitation of victims. NEN will continue with



*Exposure visit of grassroots women leaders to community-based organisation The Ant, Chirang*

its advocacy efforts before the Bill is passed by the government in September 2015.

### (ii) Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (PWDVA)

Based on our experiences of monitoring PWDVA implementation and the emerging concerns raised by participants in NEN's trainings and workshops, we submitted an advocacy proposal in 2014 to the nodal agency, SWD, for effective and gender-sensitive implementation of PWDVA in Assam. The highlights of the proposal are as follows:

- Appoint an independent cadre of POs in Assam
- Modify the list of service providers in Assam
- Notify the medical facilities and shelter homes
- Develop a state action plan

SWD responded to NEN's proposal and organised a convergence meeting of stakeholders, where the following resolutions were made:

- Notify shelter homes and medical facilities
- Develop a state action plan to monitor implementation of the DV Act
- Collaborate with NEN in selection procedures and conduct training for its stakeholders
- Revise the list of service providers and make an information dissemination plan.





*A protest meeting demanding safety for women*

### (iii) Safe City

NEN initiated a survey, compiled as a report entitled *Towards a Safer City for Women*, which revealed that 72.5% women face sexual harassment/violence in Guwahati city. We conducted safety audits in 32 localities as well as 22 FGDs and 15 interviews in 6 localities of Guwahati to get deeper insights into VAW from the perspective of urban planning and governance. For the audits, NEN used Safetipin, a map-based mobile phone application. NEN also partnered with the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology (CEPT) University, Ahmedabad, to understand various dimensions of women's safety in relation to accessing and using transport in Guwahati. With the aim of involving the youth in our efforts to end VAW, NEN engaged 15 young men and women volunteers to conduct the audits. Audit findings were compiled in a report format and shared during a national meeting organised by Safetipin with their partner organisations. The draft report was also shared with the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority and Deputy Commissioner's Office (Metro).

We have now moved towards assessing the city infrastructure, which has meagre provisions for the safety of women.

## 3. GLOBAL ADVOCACY

In July 2014, the Government of India reported to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (UN CEDAW) Committee (58th

session), which was an advocacy opportunity for NEN to highlight issues of women in NER.

- Sheetal and Anurita of NEN Assam participated in national meetings organised by the National Alliance of Women (NAWO) and UN Women to finalise the CEDAW Shadow/Alternative Report. NEN made contributions to issues related to internally displaced persons (IDPs), women in peace processes, support services for women in conflict zones, etc. for a chapter titled 'Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post-conflict Situation: Special Chapter on GR 30'.
- Seno of NEN Nagaland contributed to another joint chapter titled 'Article 7 & 8: Political and Public Life', highlighting women's participation/representation in Assam's peace and Nagaland's political processes.
- NEN, represented by Sheetal, was also part of the CEDAW review process of India in Geneva.

NEN had earlier reported to the CEDAW Committee in 2000 and 2007, and had managed to impress upon its members the need to include women's issues of the North East.

## 4. ENGAGING STAKE-HOLDERS TO END VAW

### (i) Police

For a long time, NEN has emphasised the importance of collaborating with appropriate government authorities to sensitise stake-





*Training session for police personnel on gender issues, Tezpur*

holders on issues of gender and women's rights. The past and current initiatives on Safe Cities, etc. have revealed the lack of an effective/visible police force in the city and inaction on the part of the police (30.1% according to a NEN survey). Even grimmer are instances of police blaming women (13%) for or trivialising such VAW incidents (28%). Mitigating VAW depends on the response of authorities to whom women turn for assistance. Being the frontline functionaries, their attitudes and behaviour have a dramatic impact on cases.

Accordingly, NEN is collaborating with the Assam Police to train the police on gender issues. So far 'Gender Sensitisation on VAW and New Laws for Change' trainings have been conducted for 74 district-level police personnel from the Northern Range and Police Training Centres of Assam, covering rights-based clarity on Sections such as 498A, laws related to dowry and child sexual abuse, Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2013 and PWDVA.

## **(ii) Media**

NEN also conducted a similar capacity-building programme in 2015 for media personnel following increasing crimes against women, and biased and insensitive portrayal of women by the media. Mitigating VAW is the responsibility of the media as well, and this training tried to entrench a sense of collective responsibility in them. A workshop on 'Women's Rights and Reporting', organised in Guwahati, was attended by 18 media persons from both print and electronic media from 9 districts of Assam. The workshop equipped the

participants with an in-depth understanding of VAW and related laws.

## **(iii) Community**

NEN collaborated with a local organisation, Centre for Development Action & Appropriate Technology (CADAT), to organise two public meetings on witch hunting in two village Panchayats under Baghmara Block in 2014. Both meetings were accompanied by street plays, which drew an enthusiastic response from the community to collectively fight against gender-based violence.

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*Media workshop on 'Women's Rights and Reporting'*





## 5. RESEARCH AND FACT-FINDING

### (i) Conflict Scenarios

Assam witnessed violence between different communities in May and December 2014 leading to large-scale displacement in Baksa, Kokrajhar and Sonitpur districts. NEN conducted a fact-finding visit to Baksa and Kokrajhar along with the National Commission for Minorities in May 2014. In December 2014, we also mobilised resources for the affected population, such as relief aid for camp inmates of Sonitpur and Kokrajhar districts and affected high school students of Chirang.

Given the alarming situation of displacement and special vulnerabilities of women, NEN conducted a primary-level need assessment in February 2015 amongst IDPs and IDP-returnees of areas of Kokrajhar affected by violence in 2012. Further, community-level intervention regarding access to entitlements and justice was mapped. NEN has advocated for a state-level IDP policy addressing critical gender needs of woman.

### (ii) Women in Police Force

NEN, in collaboration with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, New Delhi, is conducting an exploratory study on the status of policewomen of Assam and Meghalaya. A report on women in the police, of Assam and Meghalaya, will be produced. This will be for the purpose of advocacy to the government and will have a set of recommendations for police reforms. The study aims to explore the following:

- Obstacles and challenges regarding women's entry into police force

- Functioning of women in police force and their responsibilities in both states; degree of decision-making opportunities among them
- Trainings received by police women so far and future strategies
- Recruitment, positions held, promotion and working conditions of women police.

## 6. NEN RESOURCE CENTRE

A space for learning, sharing and supporting work on women's issues from a feminist perspective, the resource centre at the Guwahati head office is frequently visited by students, academics, media persons, activists, women looking for support and government personnel. We have also been invited by the government and NGOs to share our feminist resources on specific issues of women.

### (i) Alliance Building

This year, we collaborated with national groups to organise NE regional workshops on:

- 'Women and Inequality' (with the Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability, Oxfam India and Wada Na Todo Abhiyan)
- 'Civil Society and Police Reforms in South East Asia' (with the Centre for Human Rights Initiative)
- 'Gender Justice and Peace in North East India' (with the Centre for Social Justice and TISS, Guwahati)

### (ii) The Green Hub Project

The Green Hub is a collaborative project between NEN and Dusty Foot Productions, in the town of Tezpur, to train young people in documenting wildlife, the environment and

*Video training in progress under NEN's Green Hub project*





communities' biodiversity through the use of the camera, both still and video. The Green Hub will offer local communities opportunities to video-document, connect, share and design outreach and preservation programmes, and join the conservation network.

NEN hopes to see the Green Hub becoming a dynamic and interactive space, both physical and virtual, which expands the idea of conservation action. At one level it will create a platform for the young people in the North East to have a new window of learning and livelihood, and at another level it will create an archive of work happening on the ground. We hope the Green Hub will contribute as a 'knowledge centre' for NER.

## B. MEGHALAYA

In Meghalaya, despite strong matrilineal traditions, the status of women is not positive, as far as our findings go. It is for this reason that NEN Meghalaya works directly with state agencies to ensure that gender-sensitive practices are incorporated. Trainings, awareness programmes and advocacy continue to be important approaches in our work. We target both women and men from diverse professions (police personnel, health care providers, social workers and community leaders) in our programmes for greater understanding of gender issues, VAW and women's health and legal rights. lohlynti, set

up by NEN, is working as an efficient One Stop Crisis Centre in the state.

### 1. WORKING WITH THE STATE GOVERNMENT

In Meghalaya, NEN works with the Police, Health and Social Welfare Departments and the legal service authorities to ensure that women have access to justice and their rights are upheld. A major achievement of NEN Meghalaya is its strong collaboration with these state agencies.

#### (i) Health Department

Building a gender-sensitive response in terms of health to women facing domestic violence and sexual assaults has borne fruit – lohlynti, the One Stop Crisis Centre for women finally received space at Ganesh Das Hospital in September 2014, after continuous advocacy with the Department of Health & Family Welfare. Since the hospital caters specifically to women and children, it provides access to medical care to women from all areas of Meghalaya. This has also given an opportunity for doctors and nurses, trained by NEN in matters of gender and VAW, to refer cases for counselling and services such as legal aid to lohlynti.

The immediate outcomes of these trainings are:

- 114 nurses and 49 medical officers have been trained by NEN. Capacities of these

*Capacity building of nurses of Ganesh Das Hospital, Shillong, in terms of responding to VAW, 2014*





trained health professionals have been strengthened on the issue of VAW (in particular domestic violence and sexual violence), including its health implications, and the legal and ethical role they are duty-bound to perform in responding to them.

- 1 trained Additional District Medical & Health Officer of Jaintia Hills district performed a catalytic role as facilitator of change by organising a gender-sensitisation programme for the community health workers of her district in March 2015.

## IOHLYNTI, THE ONE STOP CRISIS CENTRE



Iohlynti (which means 'The Way') provides holistic counselling and efficient access to justice for women who are in distress.

The crisis centre was established in 2011 with the following aims:

- To provide immediate psychological and social support to women who have faced trauma or violence and to those at risk
- To build capacity of hospital staff on issues of gender and VAW so that they are able to identify cases of such nature and refer them accordingly
- To network with the Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority for free legal aid, with other government and non-government agencies providing services to women, and with organisations

working on women's issues for mutual support and sharing.

Since its establishment, Iohlynti has received a total of 211 cases. The cases reported are mostly DV, the complaints ranging from physical, emotional, sexual to economic violence. Others are that of sexual harassment, trafficking and forced prostitution. The majority of the cases were referred from state hospitals, police personnel, service providers, Dorbars and friends. Some of the cases have been referred to other agencies such as the Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority, Meghalaya State Commission for Women, Child Welfare Committee, Protection Officers, Child Line, etc. for further assistance.





*Training for legal remedies for VAW for Sub-Inspectors of Meghalaya Police in progress*

In another endeavour to develop a gender-sensitive health response to VAW, 3 medical officers from hospitals in Shillong and a Social Welfare Officer of Jaintia Hills were sent for training to the workshop of the Centre for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes (CEHAT) in Mumbai. On returning, these officers have taken it upon themselves to train their own staff and colleagues in responding to victims of violence.

## **(ii) Police Department**

With police personnel being the first point of contact for crimes against women and children, NEN is determined to ensure that they are able to handle such cases in a gender-sensitive manner. We have been working with the Meghalaya Police since 2007, a long and complex history indeed. NEN has developed comprehensive, structured programmes aimed at attitudinal development in adult trainees.



*Release of the 2nd edition of the police training manual, 1 August 2014*

In August 2014, the second edition of the training manual for the police was released after intensive consultations with and the support of the Meghalaya Police and the North Eastern Police Academy. The Meghalaya Police has taken some initiatives in the use of the manual: letters have been sent to Superintendents of Police and the Principal of the Police Training School instructing them to use the manual in all trainings conducted by them. The Meghalaya Police Training Department has decided that all officers of the state are to receive training on gender and

*Awareness programme on teenage pregnancy being conducted for students of Laitkseh village, July 2014*







*The Sub-Committee on Violence Against Women, Dorbar Shnong of Nongrah*

legal remedies. NEN has been entrusted with conducting these trainings throughout 2015. These are strong indications of the police force making efforts for positive changes. During the reporting period NEN has trained 183 police personnel on gender, VAW and legal remedies available for women and children.

## 2. WORKING WITH TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS (DORBAR SHNONG)

One of the most complex tasks taken up by NEN is working with the Dorbars or local authorities of the state; the work was first started in Shillong. The idea is to create awareness of gender-based violence and other social aberrations, as well as of legal remedies. Changing the perspectives of Dorbars has been a daunting task in the initial years. The main challenge is to make these traditional institutions more inclusive, with women constituting a decisive part.

Some achievements:

- Through the collective efforts of 5 Dorbar Shnong – Jaiaw Laitdom, Lawsohtun, Law-

jynriew, Lumsohphoh and Nongrah – NEN has formed a community-based support system, known as Sub-Committees on VAW. The idea is to create a holistic approach towards addressing VAW, as members of the committees include people of all ages, professions and prominent figures, thereby creating a sense of collective responsibility. NEN has strengthened the capacity of the appointed members of each Dorbar Sub-Committee to deal with legal remedies for women, cyber crime and early pregnancy in their respective localities.

- The youth group of Dorbar Lawjynriew took the initiative in organising an awareness programme on cyber crime where women are victims of harassment via e-mail, cyber stalking, cyber defamation, morphing, hacking, etc. College students were sensitised on the types of legal remedies available to combat such crimes.
- The members of the Sub-Committees also carry out safety vigilance in their localities to ensure that women and girls residing there are safe. The members have been very diligent in referring cases to lohlynti and in ensuring that strict legal action is taken against perpetrators.



### 3. SURVEYS AND STUDIES

- 2nd Phase Survey of the implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place, Act, 2013.
- Study on standard operating procedure for the handling and management of the medico-legal case of Ganesh Das Hospital. Findings of this study were shared with the senior officials of the Directorate of Health Services, Government of Meghalaya. Stress was laid on devising a gender-sensitive protocol for handling such cases of sexual assault (by medical officers), with empathy and sensitive interaction.

NEN Meghalaya will continue to work with state agencies till the stage is reached where most medical officers, doctors, police personnel and social welfare officers have a positive attitude and perspective on issues of gender relations.

## C. NAGALAND

### 1. ACTION AGAINST GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION AND VAW

NEN Nagaland has been documenting women's experiences of discrimination and violence, to better understand the status of women in Nagaland and use the findings for future interventions. The research process adopted has led NEN to build new collaborations with women's and community-based organisations (CBOs), and strengthen the capacities of a team of young women working on women's rights and feminist research. During this process, it was observed that the women participants became conscious about their status in society and improved their articulation of their lived experiences. The process involved consultation meetings with stakeholders, training of the research team, fieldwork and data collection through FGDs and interviews; the research report will be published soon.

*NEN research team conducting an FGD during a study at Hudangru, Kiphire district*





*'In our village, women did not know how to go about raising and addressing issues of women's concerns because we were not conscious of the inequalities and discrimination in our society. Only after becoming aware of these realities have we identified issues and started taking them forward in our meetings and in other decision-making bodies. But most importantly, we have realised the importance of engaging men in such issues.'* – Women of Enhulumi village

## 2. GENDER AND GOVERNANCE

As in the other two states, NEN in Nagaland has been working on enhancing women's capacities – by imparting documentation skills, organising perspective-building trainings – to participate in/influence decision-making processes. There has been a significant increase in women-led initiatives in Nagaland, where women's agendas are being forwarded in various platforms. Several women collectives in rural areas of Phek district have begun advocating for parity of wages, monitoring and demanding the effective implementation of state support services and schemes (such as old age pension, housing schemes), and even mobilised the entire community in 2 villages in the district to collectively adopt millet-based biodiverse agriculture.

One significant milestone achieved in the long history of women's struggle in Nagaland is the inclusion of women in the highest apex body of Naga villages – the Village Council. The beginning of 2015 saw two women being included in the Enhulumi Village Council.

## 3. WOMEN AND LIVELIHOODS

### (i) Organising Women Workers

In Nagaland, women are largely involved in the unorganised sector, which includes farming, vending and home-based work such as weaving, food processing, etc. Because of the prevailing lack of awareness of the rights of unorganised workers, it became necessary for NEN to bring in a sense of collective activism and an inclusive 'rights' movement. In the last two years NEN has brought together

1196 women, from Kohima, Dimapur and Phek districts, under the umbrella of the Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Nagaland. The organisation is now being structured, from the local units to the district and state levels. Numerous meetings/input sessions on women workers' rights and financial literacy training have been organised for the SEWA members. An exposure visit to SEWA Gujarat and Delhi was facilitated for field mobilisers, which has opened up opportunities for the SEWA members, vendors in particular, to advocate for a State Policy on Street Vending in Nagaland. They have articulated their concerns related to vending spaces and taxation, inclusion in discussions of the marketing committees, etc.

### (ii) Chizami Weaves

NEN's livelihood project 'Chizami Weaves' lays stress on ensuring the sustainability of the Naga textile weaving tradition and women's income. In 2014-15, 362 weavers from 11 villages of Phek district participated in the programme. Products developed by these weavers were displayed and sold at 3 events – the Hornbill Festival, Kisama (December 2014), Women of India exhibition, Dilli Haat Delhi (November 2014), and NEDFI, Guwahati (September 2014). In addition, products such as cushion covers, pouches and many more are sold at various outlets in Chizami, Kohima and Guwahati;

*Pouches by Chizami Weaves*







*Millets on display at the agro-biodiversity festival, Sekrezu, Phek district, 2015*

The Ant, Bengaluru; Kamala Shop, Delhi; Museum Shop, Mumbai; Nagaland Handloom & Handicrafts Development Corporation (NHHDC) stores; Mora; Bring Home the North East (online), and through designers and individual entrepreneurs. The increasing popularity of the products of Chizami Weaves has led to a spike in demand for the products and queries from potential buyers.

### **(iii) Revival of Natural Fibres**

In partnership with Mora, a fashion business concern, NEN has ventured into the revival of natural fibres and dyes of the Chakhesang community; the aim is to create a sustainable livelihood model as well. An office has been set up at Phek district's Zapami village, which was officially inaugurated on 11 November 2014 in the presence of women weavers and Chakhesang community leaders. Project activities include surveys, research and documentation; mobilisation of weavers; collection of raw materials; and yarn development experimentation and trainings. About 40 weavers from Zapami, Lasumi and Leshemi villages have been enrolled in this project.

## **4. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Committed to raising environmental consciousness and supporting sustainable food and livelihoods of the farming communities, NEN has developed different ways to raise awareness through biodiversity festivals, farmers' meetings, farmers' trainings, and exchange and learning programmes. NEN's networking with various stakeholders (CBOs, NGOs, church-based groups, media, and government) and its dissemination of information have created a strong awareness amongst farming people. For example, following a video documentation training by NEN for women farmers of 5 villages in Phek district, women have begun conceptualising and documenting community issues, touching upon topics such as jhum agriculture, terrace paddy harvesting, agro-biodiversity, etc. to highlight agrarian and livelihood issues.

### **(i) Millets-based Biodiverse Farming**

Because of NEN's continued attempts to raise awareness on the nutritional and ecological





*Naga-Myanmar farmers' exchange programme at Moreh, November 2014*

values of millets-based biodiverse food, the community's interest in reviving and consuming millets-based food has increased. A few villages in Phek district have made a collective declaration to revive millets cultivation and consumption.

Some highlights:

- In a village in Tuensang, a farmer has innovated a millet dehusking machine which has encouraged millet cultivation and consumption.
- NEN facilitated the setting up of 2 community seed banks in Tuensang's Thang and Sikure villages, where women are conserving traditional seeds through collection, sharing and exchanges.

In an effort to bring millets-based biodiverse agriculture to the food and farming policy discourse, NEN organised a regional workshop in Kohima in January 2015, where farming communities, policymakers, researchers, academicians, NGOs, media and entrepreneurs were brought together, and topics pertaining to climate change, food security and livelihoods were deliberated upon.

## **(ii) Connecting Farmers**

Through farmers' learning exchange programmes, NEN has played the role of a facilitator in connecting farming communities within and outside the region. For example,

2 women farmers from Phek district participated in the conference and exhibition of uncultivated forest foods organised by Living Farms, Kalpavriksh, Delhi/Pune, and South Asian Dialogues on Ecological Democracy (SADED), New Delhi, in December 2014. A Naga-Myanmar farmers' learning exchange programme held at Moreh in November 2014, organised and supported by Inter Pares (Canada), was attended by 6 Naga farmers along with NEN members; emerging concerns related to food and farming were discussed and seeds shared. Communities from several Naga tribes and from Meghalaya participated in 2 biodiversity festivals organised by NEN with local partners NCM Sekrezu and KBCA Noklak in Nagaland's Phek and Tuensang districts, where seeds and knowledge were shared/exchanged.

## **(iii) Networks and Collaborations**

NEN has connected with new partners and networks while strengthening existing ones, in this field. The organisation joined MAKAAAM, a women farmers' rights forum at the national level; established a new partnership with InsightShare Oxford, and North East Slow Food & Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS) on 'participatory video'; and collaborated with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research Krishi Vigyan Kendras (ICAR-KVK) to discuss various emerging concerns, such as pests, crop diseases, etc.





*Hoolock Gibbon Eco Club members, Chizami, complete NEN's 3-year nature education course*

#### (iv) Nature Conservation Education

NEN's Biodiversity & Wildlife Conservation Education programme, which expanded to Kiphire and Kohima districts in 2013, seeks to reconnect young people with nature and channelise hunting skills into the exploration of forests. The aim is to build a cadre of young environmental activists and expose them to alternative career options, and to create consciousness of the importance of wildlife and biodiversity conservation in the community. Following the setting up of eco clubs for children and youth in Fakim and Khonoma villages, run by local Master Educators (MEs) for over a year, several significant outcomes emerged from our continued engagement with young people and the community.

Some achievements:

- While NEN continued to guide and give inputs to MEs on community mobilising, awareness raising, research and documentation, etc., MEs' capacities have been enhanced and they are independently running the programme in various locations with confidence.
- The programme has facilitated intergenerational communication and exchange of information: the eco club members interact with community elders, documenting traditional knowledge and practices related to ecology, forests, wildlife and biodiversity while sharing concerns related to the degradation/destruction of forests.
- The eco clubs joined various global and national environmental and wildlife campaigns/events by organising local events/activities as part of their observance of World Environment Day, Earth Day, Big Bird Day, etc. Activities included talks, photography exhibitions, tree planting, community birding, etc., in collaboration with the church, youth, students' unions, and the government's Forest Department.
- The documentation of their communities' biodiversity has led to the publication of a booklet, 'Wildlife of Fakim' (listing 101 species of butterflies, 44 species of birds and some reptiles), and a poster of 'Butterflies of Khonoma' (72 species of butterflies have been documented in the village). At Chizami, the eco club's documentation work on the butterflies and birds of Chizami has resulted in the publication of booklets and posters. These publications have helped in garnering more visibility and support for the conservation education effort from the community and the government.
- Due to the dedication and continued engagement of the Fakim eco club with the community leaders, a dialogue to ban hunting and a reconciliation process with neighbouring villages to have a community conservation area has been initiated.





*'Awakening March' during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign, Shillong, 2014*

## CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

Campaigns on significant days to promote and protect women's rights are carried out by all branches of the organisation, often in collaboration with local/district-level organisations trained by NEN. Initiatives of grassroots women, in collaboration with NEN, to mark such days are especially significant: women are able to connect local issues with the global campaigns/events, indicating the awakening of collective consciousness of these issues.

### **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence**

During the international campaign 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence (25 November-10 December), NEN Assam collaborated with Karbi Human Rights Watch and Karbi Zilla Mahila Samiti to organise a 100-people strong meeting on 'Women and Peace' in Diphu, in Karbi Anglong. NEN Nagaland, too, observed

*A protest march against gender-based violence in Shillong*







*Dance by iLEAD, Shillong, during the One Billion Rising event organised by NEN*

campaigns and events such as 16 Days of Activism, International Women's Day and One Billion Rising where activities included talks, discussions, film screenings and performances.

Local women groups in Phek district, Nagaland, organised events in collaboration with NEN to mark significant days. In Chizami village, as part of the 16 Days of Activism event, the women's society members with NEN organised a discussion on customary laws and practices related to women to deepen women leaders' understanding on gender gaps and inequalities existing within such laws and practices.

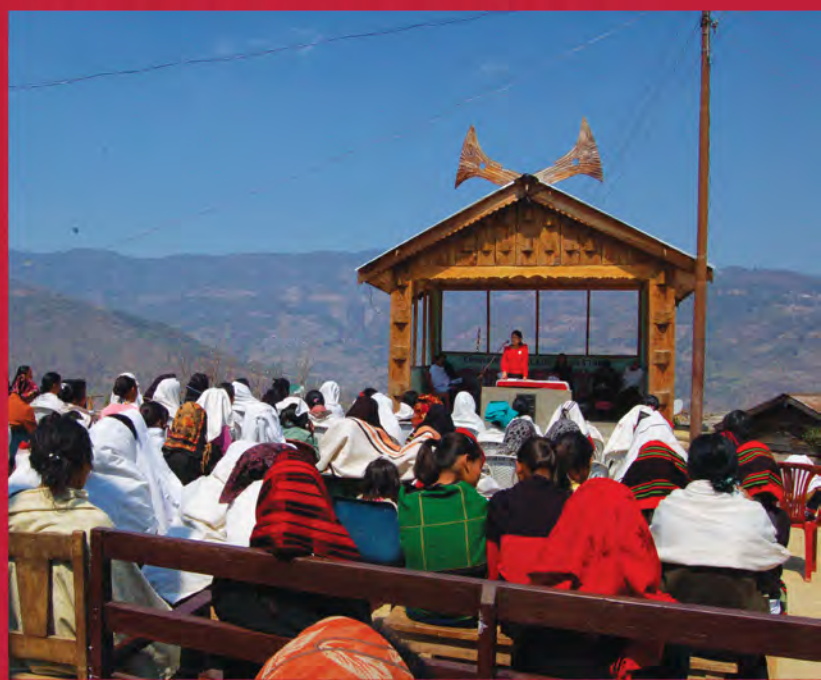
### **One Billion Rising**

Like other NEN offices, NEN Meghalaya observed the global campaign One Billion Rising by organising a flash mob and movie screening based on the campaign's theme of love, peace and equality. The students of iLEAD Shillong conducted the flash mob

at Khyndailad, spreading the message of peace, love and equality through their dance and dress code. NEN Nagaland, too, observed the day at Patkai Christian College, Chumukedima, through dance, music and a signature campaign

### **International Women's Day**

On International Women's Day, in collaboration with Asom Mahila Sangha, All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) and YWCA, NEN Assam organised



*International Women's Day 2015, Enhulumi, Nagaland*





*The Lightning Testimonies exhibition at the Assam State Museum, Guwahati*

a public meeting, which included poem recitations and forming of a human chain. The gathering called for collective action for social justice and a violence-free society. In Meghalaya, the day was observed with a film screening by NEN and the Sub-Committee on VAW of Dorbar Shnong Lumsophoh. In Nagaland, women of Enhulumi, Lasumi, Leshemi and Chizami villages in Phek district took the initiative in observing the day in their respective villages for the first time. At Zuketsa, the women's collective organised a workshop on women's health and leadership that was attended by over 150 women.

### ***Human Rights Day***

To mark Human Rights Day on 10 December 2014, NEN Meghalaya released the 'Pink Book of Record', which was distributed to the members of the Sub-Committees on VAW of 5 Dorbar Shnongs. The book includes contact details of all emergency services in the state, including hospitals and police. It also has the relevant sections of the law that deal with protecting women and children.

### ***The Lightning Testimonies***

Other events during the year include The Lightning Testimonies (TLT), an eight projection video installation by Amar Kanwar that was screened at the Assam State Museum during March-July by NEN. The installation depicts women's experiences of sexual violence in conflict situations in India. Organised in collaboration with the Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, New Delhi, and Assam State Museum, Guwahati, the exhibition saw a footfall of around 3000. NEN exhibited several other documents alongside TLT.

### ***Human Chain for Peace***

On New Year's Day, NEN in collaboration with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Guwahati, Asom Mahila Sangha, AMSS and Sadou Asom Pragatishil Nari Sanstha organised a human chain for peace, appealing to the government to ensure safety and security of common people at all times. This was in response to the violence and displacement in Kokrajhar, Sonitpur and Chirang districts in December 2014.



## D. THE WAY FORWARD

NEN aims to continue as a progressive women's rights organisation for the next 5 years, guided by its values and mission. It will carry on working for gender equality, challenging patriarchal and unequal structures in personal as well as the public domain/spaces. We will continue to promote strong governance, developing good research tools on the important thematic areas it focuses on, and establishing strong advocacy strategies.

The organisation plans to continue building a cadre of young women activists in the region through its work in rural grassroots communities as well as in urban areas. We are attempting to build the capacity of young activists to effectively utilise social media and interact well with the media to publicise the important work the organisation is doing. This has numerous benefits, from aiding key advocacy work and objectives to mobilising community support, raising the profile of the organisation, and tapping into new global networks and research, potentially attracting more funding and increasing staff morale as well.

NEN hopes to expand the scope of work or take on pressing or unprecedented issues. With the possibility of the 3 NEN offices setting up

extensions in more areas in the next 5 years, there is every indication of expansion of work in the coming years. Nagaland's office in Chizami, for instance, has extended to Kohima, the capital city of Nagaland; Assam NEN now has an office in Tezpur (the Green Hub office).

There is also an ongoing discussion to expand the work of Chizami Weaves, and make it an independent unit of NEN with a separate administrative and financial functioning. We have chalked up a plan to run the programme on this basis as an experiment for 12 months and then determine the viability of such a step.

The 3 NEN offices have distinctive strengths, which need to be further, harnessed and strengthened. Greater cooperation, knowledge sharing and understanding among them can enhance the impact of the work done by each branch. Along with setting up a plan for the next 5 years, it is also important to have a rigorous process of self-appraisal and critical thinking. This will help to identify the gaps and go forward with renewed strength. With two decades of exceptional experience behind it, NEN can look forward to continue using its experience and expertise to influence policy and advocacy efforts.

*NEN Nagaland's office in Chizami*





### III. DONORS, PARTNERS AND RESOURCE PERSONS

*'Your support is our strength ... thank you.'*

#### Project Funders

- Action Aid, *New Delhi, India*
- Brot Für Die Welt, *Germany*
- Cattani, *Belgium*
- Centre for Budget and Governance Accountability (CBGA), *New Delhi, India*
- Centre for Environment Planning and Technology (CEPT), *Ahmedabad, India*
- Friedrich Naumann Strifffung Foundation (FNF), *New Delhi, India*
- Millet Network of India (MINI), *Hyderabad, India*
- Misereor, *Germany*
- MORA
- Nagaland Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation Trust (NWBCT)
- National Foundation for India, *New Delhi, India*
- SEWA Bharat, *New Delhi/Unitarian Universalist Holden India Program (UUHIP)*
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *New Delhi, India*

#### Other Donors

- Arjun Runganadhan
- Chizami Women Society
- Derek Mitchell
- Dr. A.S. Ganguly, M.P., *Rajya Sabha*
- Enhulumi Village Council
- Inter Pares, *Canada*
- Neilhikha Mero, *Chizami*
- North East Slow Food & Agrobiodiversity Society (NESFAS), *Meghalaya*
- Women and Youth Departments, *Sacred Heart Parish, Chizami*
- Women Resource Development Department, *Nagaland*

#### Project Partners/Collaborators

- Akehda Sangtamlaru Thsingnujang (AST), *Kiphire*
- All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA), *Assam*
- Angami Miapfu Krotho (AMK), *Kohima*
- Asom Mahila Sangha
- Assam Mahila Samata Society (AMSS), *Guwahati*
- Assam Mahila Suraksha Samiti
- Assam Police
- CADAT-Assam
- CBGA
- Centre for Human Rights Initiative, *New Delhi*
- Centre for Social Justice, *New Delhi*
- CEPT, *Ahmedabad*
- Civil Society Women's Organisation, *Shillong*
- Dorbars of Nongrah, Lumsophoh, Lawjynriew, Jaiaw and Lawsohtun
- Dusty Foot Productions, *New Delhi*
- Exotic Echo, *Diezephe*
- Faith Foundation, *Shillong*
- iLEAD *Shillong*
- Indian Association for Women Studies, *New Delhi*
- InsightShare, *Oxford, UK*
- Jagori, *New Delhi*
- Karbi Human Rights Watch, *Assam*
- Karbi Zilla Mahila Samiti
- Khamnuingan Baptist Church Association (KBCA), *Noklak, Tuensang*
- Kriti Documentation Centre, *New Delhi*
- Lympung ki Seng Kynthei, *Shillong*
- Mahila Kisan Adhikari Manch (MAKAAM)
- Manbha Foundation, *Shillong*
- Martin Luther Christian University, *Shillong*



- Millet Network of India (MINI)/Deccan Development Society, *Hyderabad*
- Naga Mothers' Association (NMA)
- NESFAS, *Shillong*
- New Creation Ministry, Sekrezu, *Phek*
- One Sky, *Mumbai*
- Oxfam India
- Partners for Law in Development (PLD), *New Delhi*
- Pochury Mothers Association (PMA), *Meluri*
- Prodigals Home, *Dimapur*
- Safetipin, *New Delhi*
- Seng Kynjoh Shaphrang Ki Kynathai
- Seng Kynjoh Shaphrang Ki Kynthei
- SEWA *Gujarat and Delhi*
- Sisterhood Network, *Dimapur*
- Social Welfare Department, *Government of Assam*
- SPARK, *Shillong*
- St. Edmunds College, *Shillong*
- Sustainable Development Forum of Nagaland (SDFN), *Kohima*
- Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), *Guwahati*
- The Ant, *Assam*
- Thma U Rangli Juli, *Shillong*
- Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), *New Delhi*
- Women's College, *Shillong*
- Women's Social Welfare Organisation, *Laitkseh*
- Women's Societies of Chizami, Enhulumi, Sakraba, Mesulumi, Thetsumi, Phuhgi, Sumi, Dzulhami, Zapami, Leshemi, Lasumi, and Zuketsa
- Yimchunger Women Organisation, *Kiphire*
- Young Indians, Patkai Christian College, *Chumukedima*
- YWCA-Assam

## Resource Persons

Aditi Banerjee • Amar Kanwar • Amba Jamir • Angela Rangad • Ango Konyak • Anke Schuermann • Annie Sohtun • Aseem Mishra • Asmita Basu • B. Majaw • Bano Haralu • Byllaimon Swer • Chingtei Lushing • Chitra Joshi • Dharmeen Gabil Momin • D.N. Jyrwa • Dr. A.S Panwar • Dr. Adreena Lyngdoh • Dr. Carl Rangad • Dr. Gabriele Dietrich • Dr. R. Allya • Dr. R.K Singh • Dr. Roshmi Goswami • Dr. Subha Chirmule • Dritiman • Elana • Enakshi Dutta • Gururaj K • Hanny B. Sangma • Hewoto Sema • I. Kharshandi • Jayenti Keishing • Joshomayee Devi • Joyshree Khanikar • Kaberi Kochari Rajkonwar • Khenemvu L. Mero • L. Jamithung Loha • Liza Barwa Bharali • Madhu Mehra • Manisha Choudhury • Mark Meru • Martina Shitire • Mrinal Gohain • Nalini Nayak • Neelesh Dahanukar • Neingulo Krome • Neipelo Thopi • Nick Lunch • Nilanju Dutta • P.J. Baruah • Payal B. Molur • Prasanta Pratim Agarwala • R. Suting • Raj Spurgeon • Rajesh Deshmukh • Ratna Bharali Talukdar • Renu Sharma • Rita Banerji • Rongseninla Ao • Rovina Bastian • Samhita Barooah • Samudra Gupta Kashyap • Samuel Thomas • Sailesh and Anand • Sania Seth • Sanjay Barnela • Soma K.P. Supriya Khound • Triveni Vernal Goswami • Vengota Nakro • W. Pharlyngki

*Workshop on biodiversity and wildlife conservation at Sacred Heart Higher Secondary School, Chizami*





## IV. THE NEN TEAM

### Chairperson

Darilyn Syiem

### Executive Director

Dr. Monisha Behal

### Governing Body Members

Bandana Hazarika  
Baruni Barua  
Dr. Anungla Aier  
Dr. Roshmi Goswami  
Farida Warjri  
Jnanashree Pathak  
Joshomayee Devi  
Iamonlang Mawthoh Syiem

### NEN Assam Team

Programme Manager: Anurita Hazarika  
Project Manager (UN Women Project on GRB): Supriya Khound  
Finance Manager: Gitimoni Das  
Administrator: Monmi Baruah  
Accountant: Bipul Telenga  
Senior Programme Associate: Sheetal Sharma

Programme Assistants: Bhaswati Deka •  
Devyani Borkataki

Office Assistant: Pramila Begum  
Driver: Jihuwa Daimary  
Short term: Programme Associate:  
Sayista Baruah  
Field Researcher: Tinam Borah

### Green Hub Team

Programme Director: Rita Banerji  
Programme Manager: Imrana Khan  
Accountant (part-time): Biswajit Das  
Office Assistant: Mamoni Devi  
Security In-charge: Krishno Upadhya  
Short Term: Accountant: Jubee Agarwal  
Programme Associate: Tinam Borah,

### NEN Meghalaya Team

Programme Manager: Joy Grace Syiem  
Project Manager: Namrata Rynjah  
Senior Administrative Officer: Gina Phanbuh  
Programme Associate: Balarisha Lyngdoh  
Programme Counsellor: Ainamlin Dkhar

*NEN retreat in Mirik, West Bengal, June 2014, which discussed gaps, challenges and inter-office cooperation relating to projects*





Accountant (part-time): Donkumar Wahlang  
 Office Assistant: Sushila Swer  
 Short term: Doreen Shylla • Wanpoihun  
 • Mynso • Phiamon Rapsang • Dean  
 Marbaniang • Ember Massar • Rilangka  
 Lyngdoh

## NEN Nagaland Team

Programme Manager: Wekowieu Tsuhah  
 Project Team Leader: Seno Tsuhah  
 Administrator: Vitsino Tsuhah  
 Accountant: Amit Thapa  
 Programme Associates: Neimhanu Kulnu •  
 Dolly Wotsa • Hraveine David  
 Programme Assistants: Neitshope-u Thopi •  
 Kezunype-u Tsuhah  
 Project Assistants: Kewekhrozo Thopi •  
 Tshetsholo Naro  
 Office Assistants: Alole Thopi • Tshetzote-u  
 Lasuh • Wekhrolo Lohe  
 Driver: Vilie Tsuhah  
 Night Watchman: Medowelo Kapfo  
 Short term: Wetsolu Wezah • Alfina Tromai

## Interns/Volunteers/Field Researchers

**Assam Interns:** Deepshikha Baishya (Tezpur University) • Lili KC (Tewa, Nepal) • Nuzhat Nasreen Islam (National Law University and Judicial Academy) • Puja Das (Don Bosco University) • Sunita KC (FWLD, Nepal) • Trisanki Saikia (Christ University, Bangalore) • Vinita Singhi • Minakshi Bujarbaruah

**Assam Volunteers:** Anayan Bora • Antara Buzarbaruah • Harshita Agarwal • Indrakshi Dutta • Jesmin Ahmed • Maharshi Goswami • Mohit Sharma • Mukleswar Rahman • Nashique Ahmed • Pranami Tamuly • Ragamala Rahi Datta • Rittika Bhattacharjya • Rojan Varghese • Shafqat Mustaba Hussain • Sumit Gharphalia • Bhaswati Deka

**Meghalaya:** Kelmamery Nongrum • Lasudaki Kyndiah • Lahunlang Rapsang • Vilo K. Awomi • Meher Jelkie • Sapphira Lidia Tynsong • Danette Mary Blah • Mendila Aier

**Nagaland:** Merab Vilomina • Pooja Badarinath (CREA) • Lhouvisatsu • Tsusekie Yimchunger • Y. Limthure • Tsuvilie • Khrisino Rikha • Ashale Semy • Pongom Chai • Atsope Sangtam • Kuthonulu Ringa • Cicily Y • Khontele Seb • Kevilekhonuo Pheinuuo

## STRENGTHENING THE NEN CORE GROUP

- Anurita participated in Asian and Pacific Conference on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: Beijing +20 Review held at Bangkok.
- Sheetal attended a specialisation course on 'Women in Armed Conflict' in 2014 organised by the Austrian Study Centre for Peace & Conflict Resolution, in Stadtschlaining, Austria. She also attended the 'From Global to Local' Programme: A Convention Monitoring and Implementation Project organised by the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP) in 2014 in Geneva preceding the CEDAW lobbying process for India.
- Joy Grace Syiem and Devyani Borkataki attended the 'Young Women's Parliament, Beijing and Beyond: Gender Equality & Development Agenda' organised by the National Alliance of Women Organisations at the Constitution Club, New Delhi.

## NEN as Speaker/Resource Person

- Academic Staff College, Gauhati University
- Bethany Social Service Society of North East India
- Church Women's Group, Khasi Jaintia Presbyterian Synod, Meghalaya
- Consultation workshop on 'Sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem resilience in mountain landscapes', New Delhi, organised by UNDP and Govt of Nagaland
- Forest Ecology and Biodiversity, Phuhgi village, Phek
- Handique Girls College, Assam
- IGSS, Assam





16 Days of Activism campaign at Zuketsa village, Phek district, Nagaland

- Martin Luther Christian University, Shillong
- Meghalaya Police Training School
- Meghalaya State Women's Commission
- National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD), Assam
- NEN's Women's Leadership Programme, Kohima
- North East Diocesan Social Service Society
- North Eastern Police Academy
- North Eastern Regional Institute of Management (NERIM), Assam
- Oxfam India
- Sacred Heart Higher Secondary School Chizami, Phek district
- Shillong Doordarshan Kendra
- Snehalaya, Assam
- Social Welfare Department, Government of Assam
- SPARK, Shillong
- UTSAH (child rights' group), Assam
- Women's College, Shillong
- Women's Empowerment Leadership Summit, Kisama, Nagaland

### NEN as Member of Committees

- Expert Committee, Assam State Commission for Women
- Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM)
- Meghalaya State ASHA Mentoring Group
- Nagaland Alliance for Child and Women's Rights (NACR)
- Nagaland State Social Security Board
- Phek District Food Security Mission
- Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act for Operation Smile, a health programme of the Government of Assam
- State Level Committee on Crimes Against Women, headed by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya (NEN Chairperson Darilyn Syiem)
- Sustainable Development Forum of Nagaland (SDFN)

Gender sensitisation training by NEN for organisations providing services in Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya, March 2015





### Dissemination Meet on Witch Hunting

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE Guwahati, 23 December 2014

The North East Network and Assam Mahila Samata Society would organise a dissemination meeting of a joint publication 'Witch Hunting in Assam: Individual, Structural and Legal Dimensions', in Hatigaon here tomorrow. The report, brought out by Assam Mahila Samata Society, Partners for Law in Development and North East Network, is based on a study undertaken collaboratively by the three organisations. It draws its findings from 16 case studies of victims from Goalpara and Sonitpur districts of Assam, as well as police records on the subject from Goalpara.

The report highlights the continuum of violations connected with witch hunting. It also brings into focus structural causes that make it possible to rationalise conflicts and losses through witch hunting. It points towards gaps in law and justice, in terms of lack of awareness, police inaction, and most importantly, lack of preventive measures that enable a continuum of violations and also emphasises on policy solutions. The purpose of this dissemination workshop is to discuss witch hunting as a problem to be dealt with on three counts: Knowledge giving to civil society and for public action, police accountability and Government's accountability in terms of redress to victims.

### Study Points to Witch Hunt Trauma

THE TELEGRAPH Guwahati, 24 December 2014

Survivors of 'witch hunts' in Assam face not only psychological and physical abuse but also economic consequences like being stripped of property and denied access to public resources, according to a study. The study, conducted by the Assam Mahila Samata Society, jointly with North East Network, two local women's rights NGOs, and Partners for Law in Development, a New Delhi-based NGO, was released here today. It included case studies of 16 victims, mostly from the Rabha community in Goalpara and tea tribes in Sonitpur district.

Victims and their families face serious economic consequences after being branded witches. In six cases, the victims lost their source of livelihood or property. This can take many forms like having to pay a large sum of money to local ojhass or villagers, shops destroyed and trees in backyards slashed,

loss of houses or mortgage of land, livestock sold and fishes exploited, the report said.

'A person is targeted owing to jealousy because of economic prosperity. Loss of livelihood and other material resources appear to be the intended consequences. Loss of access to public resources like hand pumps, local shops, markets, community meetings and prayer halls are also common in these cases,' it said.

In the 16 case studies, four women were brutally murdered, two of them bore physical violence and 10 faced threats and physical attacks that could have turned serious. The study revealed the victims' families were collateral sufferers. 'In five cases, the victim's entire family also suffered. In one case, the children were separated, while in another case, the entire family was murdered along with the victim,' the report said.

It included instances of women being brutally attacked with bamboo sticks and daggers, yanked by the hair, slapped, punched and beaten up after being tied to a pillar. 'There were instances where the victim was made to undergo agonising "tests" like sitting on stool of thorny wood, holding iron balls or chewing betel nuts to prove they were not witches. In one extreme case, the deceased victim, daughter and her husband were raped by a group of seven, rods inserted in their private parts following which they were burnt by acid,' the report said.

'Superstition was suspected to be the main reason behind the attacks but our study revealed it was a tool to also settle scores owing to personal enmity, jealousy or to grab property. The actions were approved by the community and many victims died owing to the lack of a support system,' Anurita P. Hazarika of North East Network said. Sixteen of the 27 Assam districts have reported witch-hunt attacks, in which over 150 people have died since 2002.

#### CASE STUDIES

- Case 1: A Rabha woman in Goalpara district, murdered on suspicion of being a witch, had four sons and three daughters. After her death, her daughters have not received marriage offers from the community.
- Case 2: A Rabha woman from Goalpara, 45, had married a widower. The instigators were her stepdaughter and husband's nephew, who wanted to grab their property. After the attack, her husband died and she was not allowed to meet her two children. Traumatized, she was evicted from the village.
- Case 3: An unmarried Adivasi Munda girl,



15, was a school student in Sonitpur district. She was held responsible for her neighbour's illness and branded a witch. The neighbours were jealous of her relationship with a boy and even tried to assault her.

- Case 4: A widow of the Munda community, 60, in Sonitpur district was branded a witch as she had demanded share of a pig she sold to her neighbour, but he sold it off to a relative. The buyer's daughter fell ill after consuming it. Villagers held the widow responsible, branded her a witch and murdered her.

## Human Chain Formed to Say No to Violence

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE Guwahati, 2 January 2015

Concerned citizens, educational institutions, women and youth groups came together at 1 pm today to form a 'Human Chain for Peace'. It was done in order to raise consciousness on the many senseless acts of violence across the State at an event held at the Guwahati Club rotary. Around 100 men and women, including children, gathered to pledge, 'Yes to Peace and No to Violence'. The gathering condemned any act of violence on any person in the society.

It appealed to the government to ensure safety and security of common people at all times for peaceful and dignified life, along with immediate relief, rehabilitation and reintegration of affected people, which has to be systematically planned. It also appealed to government to establish permanent peace committees in all districts of Assam to prevent further violence and killings.

The human chain united to appeal for sustainable peace through creative expressions, poems and songs. It unitedly sang Bhupen Hazarika's immortal number 'O Mur Apunar Desh' and stood in solidarity with the affected persons, said a statement.

## Video Projection of Conflicts in Indian Subcontinent

THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, Guwahati, 1 March 2015

The Lightning Testimonies (2007), a multiple projection video installation reflecting a history of conflicts in the Indian subcontinent through experiences of sexual violence, would be exhibited at the Assam State Museum here from 1 March to 31 May. During this period, the exhibition will be open from 10 am to 5 pm from Tuesday to Sunday (closed on Govt holidays, Mondays and the second and the fourth Saturdays).

The Lightning Testimonies creates an experience that emerges from a constellation of eight synchronised video projections with sound tracks

that lead to disparate narratives, which then converge into a single projection. As the stories unfold, women from different times and regions come forward and the multiple projections speak to them directly, in an effort to understand how such violence was resisted, remembered and recorded by individuals and communities.

The Lightning Testimonies, a video work by artiste Amar Kanwar, plays in a 32-minute cycle continuously throughout the day. Visitors can enter at any time and stay as long as they like. The screens can be seen in any order, altogether or in parts. It is being shown for the first time in Assam, with support from Assam State Museum, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art and the North East Network.

## Meghalaya's Matrilineal Society Also Tops in Domestic Violence

THE SHILLONG TIMES Shillong, 16 December 2014

With increasing number of cases of domestic violence against women during the past few years, a major question mark has been raised over the status of women in Khasi matrilineal society. According to North East Network (NEN) chairperson Darilyn Syiem, the State has the dubious distinction of having a very high rate of domestic violence.

'We have done a sample study in the three localities (Lawjyrnriew, Jaiaw Laitdom and Lawsohtun) to have an insight into the status of women in our society. We had conducted the survey with the support of the Dorbar Shnong of these three localities,' Syiem said while addressing a press conference at the opening of the permanent office of the Iohlynti Support Centre for Women at Ganesh Das Hospital here on Monday.

'During the course of the interaction with the women in these three localities we found out that three out of every five have been victims of domestic violence,' the NEN chairperson said. Syiem admitted that the matrilineal society has been a source of great pride to the State. 'But in several areas of life the condition of women in a matrilineal society could be even more precarious than that of their counterparts in patriarchal societies,' she said.

The NEN chairperson pointed out that many Khasi women were not forthcoming in admitting that they were victims of domestic violence and assault due to 'social stigmatisation'. 'In Meghalaya the large majority of women still feel that domestic violence is an internal and private matter between the wife and husband. It is because of this reason that many of the cases go unreported,' Syiem said. She however informed that till date, this Support



Centre has received a total number of 133 cases of domestic violence, sexual assaults, attempted suicides and sexual abuse. Going by district-wise figures, Syiem said that the highest number of cases which the Centre received was from East Khasi Hills with 117 followed by Jaintia Hills with seven and Ri-Bhoi and West Khasi Hills with four cases each. 'Out of the total 133 cases, 108 of them are from tribal women and only 25 cases are from among non-tribal women. This is also an indicator that all is not well in the Khasi matrilineal society,' Syiem said.

While speaking about this Support Centre, she informed that the support centre was started on 28 November 2011 from the temporary apartment at Shillong Civil Hospital before shifting to the permanent apartment in Ganesh Das Hospital. Syiem also pointed out that as per the World Health Organization (WHO), support centres for women facing sexual assaults and domestic violence should be close to the health centres, adding that that the primary reason for having the centres near the hospital is to enable a victim of domestic violence to visit the centre without any fear.

'We provide immediate psychological and social support to women survivors and victims of violence that come to the centre. We also build the capacities of hospital staff on issues of gender and violence against women so that they may be able to identify such cases when they come to the hospital and then refer them to the support centre for non-clinical healing,' the NEN chairperson said.

Informing that the centre also looks into the holistic development of women, she said that counsellors of the centre also help victims in filing of maintenance through the Meghalaya State Legal Services. She further added that doctors and police officers have well-defined roles in such situations and need to be sensitive while dealing with victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. She said that the changing trends in society emphasise the need for forensically trained doctors, who have the expertise to handle cases of medico legal nature. 'We need to have doctors who are sensitive about this issue,' Syiem emphasised.

## One Billion Rising Campaign Organised in City

THE SHILLONG TIMES Shillong, 15 February 2015

The North East Network, Shillong, observed the One Billion Rising Campaign through dance, drums and songs on 14 February.

According to the data issued by the United Nations, one billion women are subject to violence in the world. An American playwright and activist Eve Ensler gave a call in 2012 for one billion people to rise against violence and demanded an end to

violence against women. 14 February 2013 was chosen as the symbolic day to spread the message of love and create peaceful homes, and to make all public spaces free of violence. Since then, nearly 200 countries have joined the OBR movement.

A flash mob was organised at Khyndailad on the occasion by young dancers from the organisation iLead. A movie screening, photo campaign and signature campaign was organised by NEN at the State Convention Centre and attended by people from all walks of life.

## International Women's Day

THE SHILLONG TIMES Shillong, 8 March 2015

The Meghalaya United Women's Organization has wished the womenfolk of the state on the occasion of Women's Day. Women's College, Shillong celebrated the International Women's Day on 7 March. The Guest Speaker for the occasion was Chairperson of North East Network (NEN), Darilyn Syiem. She interacted with the students and faculty members on the theme 'Commodification of Women Perpetuates Gender Stereotypes'.

## One Billion Rising: Campaign to End Violence against Women & Girls

THE MORUNG EXPRESS Dimapur, 15 February 2015

As part of the One Billion Rising (OBR) global campaign that calls for action to end Violence against Women & Girls (VAW), the North East Network (NEN), Nagaland, with Young Indians of Patkai Christian College (PCC) organised a rising event on the theme 'Revolution for Love, Peace & Equality' at Bundrock Chapal Hall, PCC Chumukedima, on 14 February. Around 300 young people attended the event which was held to raise local awareness on a global issue, and extend solidarity to women and men who are part of the OBR campaign in ending VAW, informed a press release.

K. Ela, Director of Prodigals Home, Dimapur, in her solidarity message highlighted that cases of violence against women and girls in Nagaland that get reported in the news are just the tip of the iceberg because not many cases get reported in news or in police stations. She pointed that the silence and the indifferent attitude of the people towards the issue of VAW perpetuates VAW, and that societal attitude of blaming and stigmatising the victim instead of extending support must stop. While challenging the young men to respect women, and the young women to be aware of their rights and confidently assert their rights, Ela urged all the participants to break the silence, raise their voice and act to end VAW.



Seno Tsuhah from NEN, in her note of 'call to action', asserted, 'We are humans before we are Christians, Muslims, Hindus. We are humans before we are rich or poor. We are humans before we are a man or a woman. And as humans, we all have a right to love, peace and equality.' Stating that real women and men do not fear equality and peace, she challenged all women and men to rise up and say no to VAW, and to be the change they want to see.

Informing that One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action to end VAW in human history, the release said it was a call for action to the staggering statistic that 1 in every 3 women on the planet will be beaten and raped in her lifetime. Launched on 14 February, Valentine's Day, people across the world came together to express their outrage, strike, dance and RISE in defiance of the injustices women suffer, demanding an end to all forms of VAW, and highlighted the impunity that lives at the intersection of poverty, racism, war, plunder of environment, capitalism, imperialism and patriarchy, the note added.

The event in Patkai Christian College concluded with a signature campaign where all participants signed their names pledging to 'Break the silence and Join the Campaign in ending Violence against Women & Girls'. Meanwhile, bold, colourful and varied performances by talented young musicians and dance crews from PCC campus, Dimapur, Kohima and Mokochung marked the event. The release also mentioned that OBR events took place in more than 200 countries.

## Elucidating Collective Strength, IWD in Phek

THE MORUNG EXPRESS Dimapur, 8 March 2015

Five villages from Phek district celebrated the International Women's Day (IWD) 2015, in their respective villages ushering a new phase of 'collective strength and elucidation for women'. The villages were Enhulumi, Chizami, Leshemi, Lasumi and Sumi villages in Phek district.

According to a press note, on the eve of the IWD, the Enhulumi Village Women Society on 7 March organised a cultural day to mark the IWD in their village. Attended by 200 women and a few members of the Village Council, the celebration was marked with folk songs, speeches, local drinks and snacks.

The Programme Manager of North East Network (NEN), Nagaland, Wekoweu Tsuhah, speaking on the topic 'Women Rights and their Responsibilities' highlighted the various rights – Civil & Political,

Economic, Social, Cultural & Ecological Rights – which the women are entitled to claim. She also stressed on the obligations of the State in fulfilling those rights, and community's responsibility to enable their rights and entitlements.

'We have come a long way from where we were two generations ago ... girl child education was not given importance then but today we have many of our women and girls who are well-educated,' she said, adding that the mobility of women which was restricted before is improving, enabling them to work outside and participate in other social activities. However, maintaining many challenges are yet to be achieved to bridge the gender gap, she asserted that the women are yet to see 'equal participation' in decision-making in the public sphere and the parity of wages.

'We have the right to a life free from all forms of discrimination and violence and to achieve this, we need to change mindset, engage both men and women, build solidarity, put in place gender-just policies, amongst others,' Tsuhah stated.

Former Women Society Chairperson of Enhulumi village, Zutenyi-u Lohe, also exhorted and reminded the gathering that 50 years ago, women contributed remarkably towards maintaining peace and harmony, and feeding the community both in times of conflict and peace. 'Though they never attended schools and were illiterate, women leaders of the village were accountable, honest and committed. But today, though we have much more education and have progressed, yet we have lost those values,' she lamented.

On 8 March, 60 women leaders representing the Self Employed Women Association (SEWA) and Women Societies of Chizami, Enhulumi, Sumi villages and Chizami Town Women Welfare Society came together at NEN Resource Centre, Chizami. A documentary on trafficking of women and girls titled 'The Day My God Died' was screened, followed by a discussion on the status of women, particularly on women's health, women's labour and economic status, women in decision-making, and Violence Against Women (VAW).

At Leshemi and Lasumi villages, the Village Women Societies organised meetings highlighting the history and significance of IWD, and discussing issues that concern women. Altogether around 250 women and men from the community attended the meetings. 'It is the first time that we are observing IWD in our village and this is a significant beginning though small,' stated a member of the Women Society of Leshemi village.

Women performing a agricultural work song at IWD Enhulumi 2015.  
DIMAPUR, MARCH 8 (MExN): Five villages from Phek district celebrated the International Women's Day (IWD) 2015. forms of discrimination and violence to achieve this, we need to 'change mindset, engage both men & women, build



## Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture

THE MORUNG EXPRESS Kohima, 29 January 2015

The North East Network (NEN)'s two-day regional workshop on sustainable agriculture gets underway. It is being organised on the existing and potential policies, practices and partnerships, with a special focus on millet-based biodiverse farming. Farming communities from Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland along with different stakeholders and resource persons from north east states, north Bengal, Hyderabad and the UK are participating in the two-day workshop which began Thursday morning at Jubilee Memorial Centre, Kohima.

Delivering an introduction to the programme at the inaugural session, NEN project team leader Seno Tshah explained that though the north east region is considered one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, the unique ecosystem of the region is under threat as a result of commercial logging, rampant hunting and other human induced development, making the region highly vulnerable to climate change. She pointed out the effect of climate change on the vast diversity in the farming systems of the region, most of which depend on rain, and how the farmers are having to shift from traditional cultivation of food crops to horticulture and cash crops.

In this context, there is a need to look for answers within existing food and agricultural practices which can be regarded as sustainable, she stated. Millets being climate change compliant with an ability to grow in poor soils, the NEN observes that millet-based biodiverse farming, or biodiversity at large, is the keystone of sustainability, she added. She indicated that millets have multiple attributes that could provide for food, nutrition, fodder, livelihood and ecological securities. However, the crop has been relegated to the margins and its cultivation and consumption have diminished in the present agricultural policies and practice.

Sustainable Development Forum of Nagaland (SDFN) programme coordinator Vengota Nakro highlighted the erratic rainfall pattern in Nagaland since 2010 and how this has made many farmers change their cultivation. On the characteristic features of various types of millet, he said it was found that the crop is resistant to drought, that it has a long shelf life of at least 30 years, it can be cultivated as monocropping, and it has more yield per unit area than jhum rice. Nakro stressed that the nutritional aspects of millet have to be studied properly and promoted. He said production cost

and benefits also need to be assessed as well as exploration of the market.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) division of Natural Resource Management principal scientist (Agronomy), Dr. A.S. Panwar lauded the NEN initiative to explore the potentials of an underutilised crop. He pointed out that despite its nutritional and medicinal properties, millets have been under-cultivated and were overtaken by rice and wheat. He said that crops of value, yielding natural vitamins such as millets, deserve importance and should not be made to disappear. Dr. Panwar also highlighted the ways in which the ICAR can help the farmers and their local crops which would benefit the community as a whole.

Representing the farming community of Meghalaya, Byllaimon Swer, a farmer from East Khasi Hills, shared her experiences from the field. She also recalled that she took some millets seeds during a visit to Phek district two years back and how she is continuing to cultivate the crop. She observed that considering the values of millets, farmers in the region have to be encouraged to cultivate the same.

Other speakers at the first day of the workshop included NEN executive director Dr. Monisha Behal, Department of Agriculture Nagaland joint director Rongseninla Ao, TLI Women Resource Centre senior programme manager Mark Meru, Organic Love (Guwahati) director Supriya Khound and Mrinal Gohain from Action Aid (Guwahati), among others.

The two-day workshop aims to understand the vulnerability of the region to climate change, its impact on food security and livelihoods, and help design an adaptation strategy to ensure a sustainable food and farming system; create a platform for dialogue between farming communities of the region and stakeholders such as policymakers, researchers and academicians, NGOs, media and entrepreneurs. The objective of the workshop also encompasses building a network of millet farmers for advocacy and action, and to bring millet-based biodiverse agriculture in the policy discourse that will pave way for building a conducive support for millet-based food and farming.

On Friday, InsightShare Oxford (UK) director Nick Lunch, NWBCT managing trustee Bano Haralu, Food & Nutrition specialist Manisha Chowdhury, Dritiman from Centre of Micro-Finance & Livelihoods and Niethsopeu Thopi from NEN will be the resource persons.

of millets, farmers in the region have to be encouraged to cultivate the same.

Other speakers at the first day of the workshop included NEN executive director Dr. Monisha Behal, Department of Agriculture Nagaland joint director Rongseninla



## VI. NEN PUBLICATIONS

Using law to address  
sexual harassment  
against women in the  
workplace in India  
A guide for working women

North East Network

ভাৰতবৰ্ষত কৰ্মস্থানত মহিলাৰ  
ওপৰত হোৱা যৌন উৎপীড়নক  
সম্বোধন কৰিবলৈ আইনৰ প্ৰয়োগ  
কৰ্মৰত মহিলাৰ বাবে এখন নিৰ্দেশিকা

নৰ্থ ইষ্ট নেটৱৰ্ক

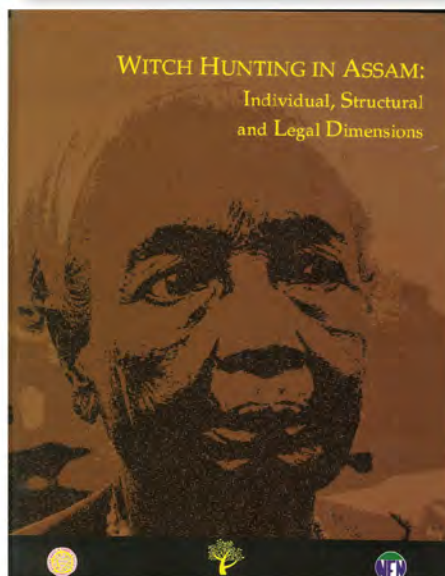
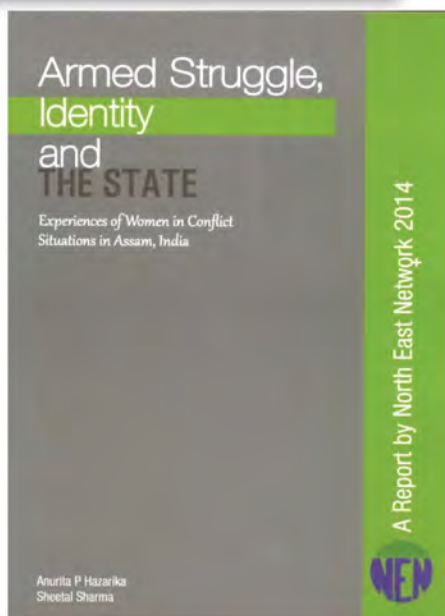


### AFSPA ৰ বিৰুদ্ধে শৰ্মিলাৰ ১৫ বছৰৰ সংগ্ৰাম

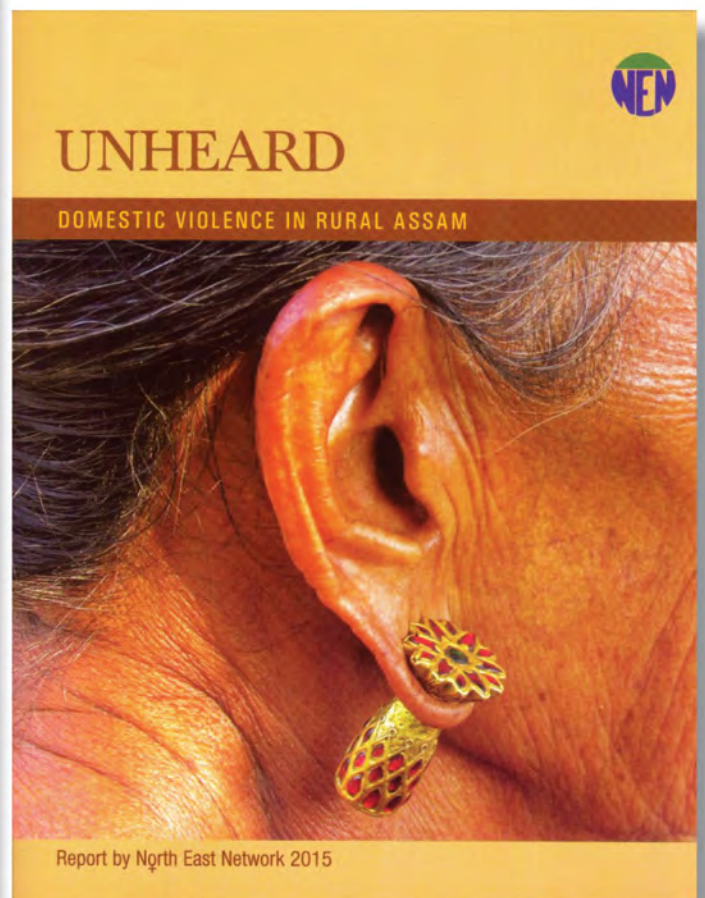
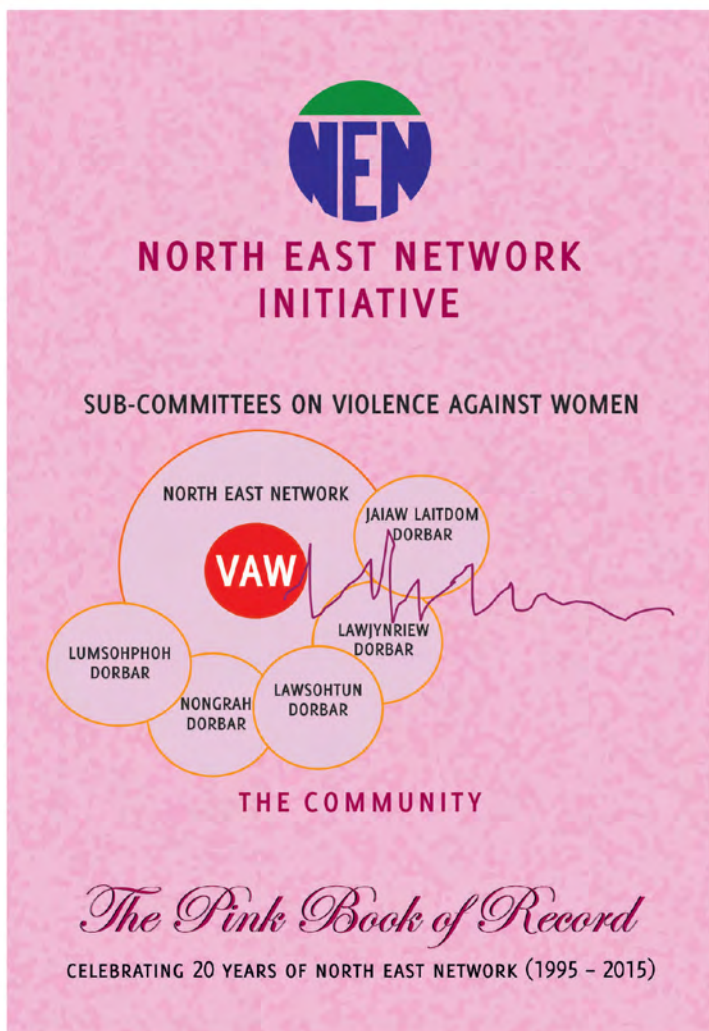
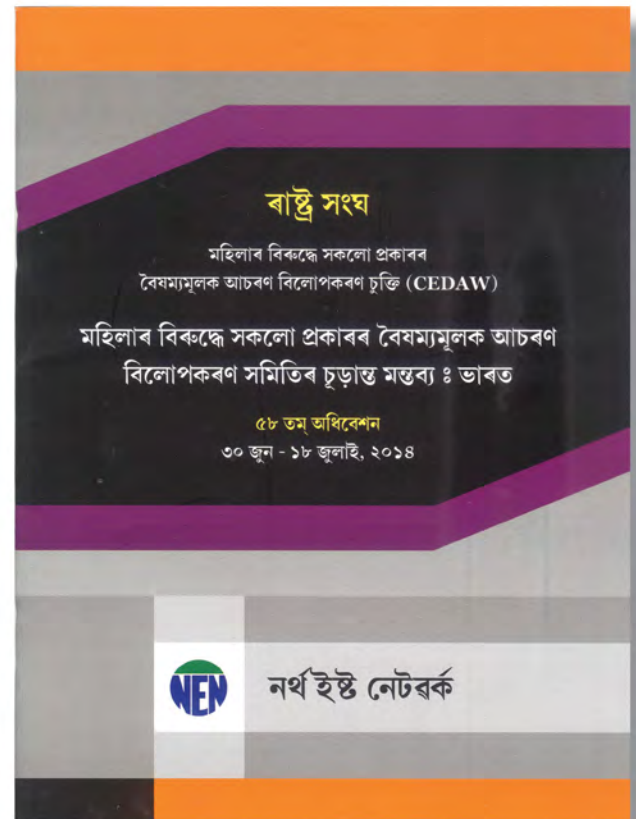
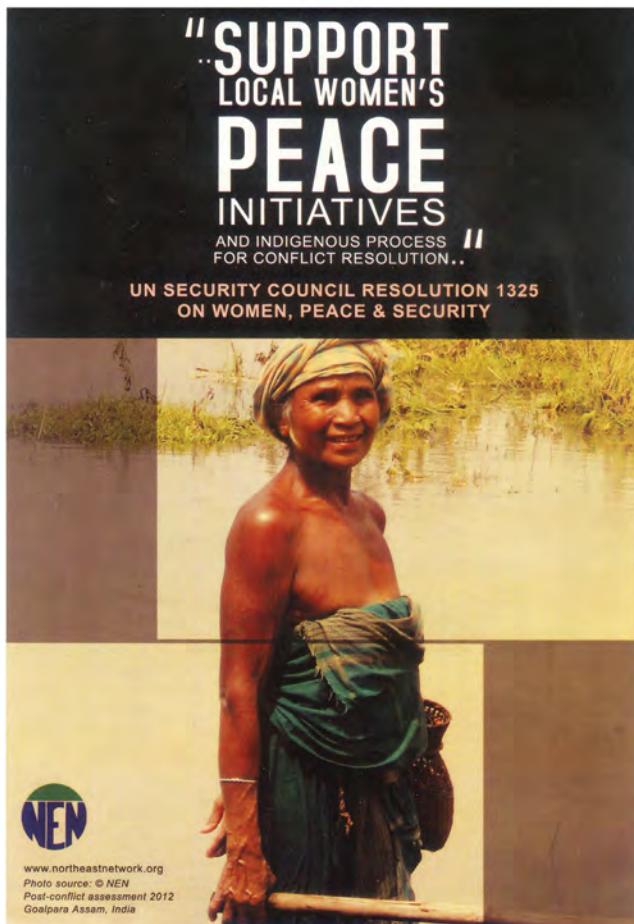
AFSPA অৰ্থাৎ সশস্ত্ৰ বাহিনী বিশেষ ক্ষমতা আইনখন অসম আৰু মনিপুৰত ১৯৫৮ চনত প্ৰণয়ন কৰা হৈছিল। এই আইনে ভাৰতীয় সশস্ত্ৰ সৈন্য বাহিনীক সংঘৰ্ষ পীড়িত হিচাপে চিহ্নিত অঞ্চলসমূহত কিছুমান বিশেষ ক্ষমতা প্ৰদান কৰে। কাৰোবাক সন্দেহৰ অজুহাতত ৰায়েকটো নোহোৱাকৈ তালচী চলাবোৱা, বন্দী কৰা বা মাৰগাত্ৰ প্ৰয়োগ কৰা ইত্যাদি বিশেষ ক্ষমতাৰ লগতে উক্ত আইনখনে সশস্ত্ৰ বাহিনীৰ সকলো কৰ্মীকে আইনী সুৰক্ষাও প্ৰদান কৰে যিহেতু তেওঁলোকৰ বিপক্ষে সাধাৰণ আদালতত গোচৰ চলু কৰা নহয়।

মানৱ অধিকাৰ উলংঘন আৰু বিশেষকৈ মহিলাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত ধৰ্ষণ, যৌন উৎপীড়নকে আদি কৰি AFSPA ৰ দ্বাৰা সুৰক্ষিত বহুতো সশস্ত্ৰ সৈন্যই বিভিন্ন অমানৱীয় কাৰ্যকলাপ সংঘটিত কৰি আহিছে। ইয়াৰ প্ৰতিবাদত বিভিন্ন দল-সংগঠন, সমিতি আৰু জনসাধাৰণে এই আইনখন বদ কৰাৰ দাবী জনাই আহিছে। ২০০৫ চনত ভাৰত চৰকাৰৰ দ্বাৰা গঠিত ন্যায়বীৰ জীৱন বেজী সমিতিখনেও এই আইনখন প্ৰত্যাহ্বান হৈ থকাৰ বিবেচনা কৰিছিল। দুৰ্ভাগ্যবশতঃ সমিতিৰ তথ্যসমূহ ধাপ দি ৰখাৰ ব্যৰ্থ প্ৰচেষ্টা কৰা হ'ল। এক বিশেষ তথ্য অনুসৰি, ২০০১-২০১২ ৰ সময়ছোৱাত কেৱল অসমতে ৬,০২০ টা মৃত্যু সংঘটিত হৈছে ভূৱা মুখামুখি সংঘৰ্ষৰ নামত। ১৯৯১-২০১২ ত মনিপুৰত এসা হত্যাৰ সংখ্যা ৮,৯২০ টা।

মনিপুৰত এই সন্দৰ্ভত ১৯৮০ চনৰে পৰা কঠোৰ প্ৰতিবাদ চলি আহিছে বিভিন্ন মাধ্যমেৰে। ২০০৪ চনত মধ্যবয়সীয়া মনিপুৰী ম হিলাসকলে ভাৰতীয় সৈন্য বাহিনীৰ মুখ্য কাৰ্যালয়ৰ সন্মুখত মনোবমা আৰু অন্য ধৰ্ষণ-হত্যাৰ প্ৰতিবাদত কৰা উলংগ প্ৰতিবাদে গোটেই পৃথিৱীতে তোলপাৰ লগাই গৈছিল। ইন্দ্ৰম শৰ্মিলাৰ প্ৰতিবাদে তেনে এক অভিন্ন পন্থা, তেখেত এগৰাকী সামাজিক অধিকাৰ সুৰক্ষাকামী হোৱাৰ লগতে এগৰাকী লেখিকাও। ২০০০ চনৰ পৰা তেখেত আমৰন অনশনত আছে আৰু প্ৰশাসনে বাৰে বাৰে কাৰাবন্দী কৰি অনিচ্ছা সত্ত্বেও তেখেতক নাসিকা গ্ৰহীৰে বাদ্য খুৱাই আছে। এইয়াই হয়তো বিশ্বৰ সবাতোকৈকৈ সুদীৰ্ঘ অনশনৰ মাধ্যমত কৰা প্ৰতিবাদ।









# VII. AUDITED ANNUAL REPORT

## NORTH EAST NETWORK GUWAHATI, ASSAM

### RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 2015

| RECEIPTS                        | AMOUNT (Rs.)  | PAYMENTS                      | AMOUNT (Rs.)  |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| To Opening Balance              |               | By Project Expenses           |               |
| Fixed Deposit                   | 18,404,487.18 | (Schedule 'A')                | 16,853,694.00 |
| Cash at Bank                    | 5,517,791.03  |                               |               |
| Liabilities                     | (236,428.00)  | By Administrative Expenses    |               |
| Advances                        | 295,389.00    | Salary & Honorarium           | 775,013.00    |
| Cash in Hand                    | 100,058.00    | Rent                          | 20,000.00     |
|                                 | 24,081,297.21 | Audit Fees                    | 21,180.00     |
| * Foreign Contribution Received |               | Printing & Stationery         | 33,288.00     |
| Project Fund (Schedule 'A')     | 17,800,539.56 | Bank Charges                  | 5,178.00      |
| General Fund                    | 1,339,560.26  | Books & Periodicals           | 1,000.00      |
|                                 | 19,140,099.82 | Travelling & Conveyance       | 139,197.00    |
| * Interest on savings Account   |               | Postage & Courier             | 40,668.00     |
| Project Fund                    | 54,981.17     | Telephone & Internet          | 43,219.34     |
| General Fund                    | 221,296.10    | Transportation Cost           | 21,010.00     |
|                                 | 276,277.27    | Repairs & Maintenance         | 27,123.00     |
| * Interest on FD Account        |               | Donation                      | 1,999.00      |
| General Fund                    | 1,853,690.54  | General and Office Expenses   | 41,914.11     |
|                                 |               | Insurance Premium             | 98,888.00     |
| * Weaves Sale                   | 1,711,190.00  | Food & Accomodation Cost      | 293,831.00    |
| * Other Receipts                | 740,369.00    | Electricity Charges           | 2,525.00      |
|                                 | 2,451,559.00  | Vehicle Running & Maintenance | 382,422.00    |
|                                 |               | Advertisement Expenses        | 2,250.00      |
|                                 |               | Miscellaneous Expenses        | 24,009.00     |
|                                 |               | Professional Fee              | 7,529.00      |
|                                 |               |                               | 1,982,243.45  |
|                                 |               | * Relief materials            | 36,036.00     |
|                                 |               | * Weaving Materials & Wages   | 1,937,619.00  |
|                                 |               | * Carriage Charges            | 10,040.00     |
|                                 |               | * Purchase of Millers         | 2,700.00      |
|                                 |               | * Capital Expenditure         |               |
|                                 |               | Xerox Machine                 | 37,249.00     |
|                                 |               | Construction of Building      | 64,706.00     |
|                                 |               |                               | 101,955.00    |
|                                 |               | * Closing Balance             |               |
|                                 |               | Fixed deposit                 | 19,879,330.62 |
|                                 |               | Cash at Bank                  | 6,581,575.67  |
|                                 |               | Liabilities                   | (876,053.60)  |
|                                 |               | Advances                      | 1,055,307.70  |
|                                 |               | Cash in Hand                  | 238,476.00    |
|                                 |               |                               | 26,878,636.39 |
| Total (Rs.)                     | 47,802,923.84 | Total (Rs.)                   | 47,802,923.84 |

For and on behalf of  
North East Network

*Memoranda Beka*

Place : Guwahati  
Date : 08.07.2015



As per our report of even date  
For : H.K. Agrawala & Associates  
Chartered Accountants

FRN/319293E

*CA Harish Kr. Agrawala*  
Partner  
Membership No : 54776



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2015

| LIABILITIES                                     |              | AMOUNT (Rs.)  | ASSETS                                      |               | AMOUNT (Rs.)  |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <u>FC FUND ACCOUNT</u>                          |              |               | <u>FIXED ASSETS</u>                         |               |               |
| Opening Balance                                 | 8,647,264.71 |               | (As per Schedule 'B')                       |               | 4,399,897.00  |
| Add: Net surplus transferred from I & E Account | 1,330,960.45 |               | <u>CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS &amp; ADVANCES</u> |               |               |
|                                                 | 9,978,225.16 |               | Fixed deposit                               | 19,879,330.62 |               |
| Less: Transfer from Project Fund                | (3.00)       | 9,978,222.16  | Advances                                    | 1,055,307.70  |               |
|                                                 |              |               | Cash at Bank                                | 6,581,575.67  |               |
| <u>PROJECT FUND ACCOUNT</u>                     |              |               | Cash in Hand                                | 238,476.00    | 27,754,689.99 |
| (As per Schedule 'A')                           |              | 3,421,788.23  |                                             |               |               |
| <u>CORPUS FUND ACCOUNT</u>                      |              | 17,878,523.00 |                                             |               |               |
| <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>                      |              | 876,053.60    |                                             |               |               |
| TOTAL (Rs.)                                     |              | 32,154,586.99 | TOTAL (Rs.)                                 |               | 32,154,586.99 |

## Schedule 'C' - Notes on Account and Significant Accounting Policies

For and on behalf of  
North East Network

As per our report of even date  
For : H.K.Agrawala & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN 319293E

Place : Guwahati  
Date : 08.07.2015



CA Harish Kr. Agrawala  
Partner  
Membership No : 54776











# NEN OFFICES

## ASSAM

Head Office  
J. N. Borooah Lane, Jorpukehuri  
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