



# **MEGHALAYA STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**

Annual Report  
April 2013 – March 2014

## **CONTENT**

- 1. INTRODUCTION**
- 2. COMPOSITION**
- 3. ACTIVITIES**
- 4. CAMPAIGN**
- 5. IMPORTANT INTERVENTION**
- 6. PUBLICATION**
- 7. SERVICES**
- 8. CASES**
- 9. SUCCESS STORIES**
- 10. PROGRAMME/SEMINAR ATTENDED**
- 11. SANCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION DURING 2013-2014.**
- 12. NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS**

## INTRODUCTION

The Meghalaya State Commission for Women was constituted on 15.10.2004 extending its jurisdiction to the whole state of Meghalaya, with an objective to improve the status of women, investigation of violation of safeguards for women; such as to inquire into any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex for the purpose of or which has the effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise by women of fundamental constitutional rights, or of human rights, or fundamental freedom in the political, economic, social , cultural, civil or any other field or the infringement of any right or benefit conferred on women by or under the provisions of any law for the time being in force or the mental or physical torture or sexual excesses on women including an adolescent girl and a female child.

## COMPOSITION

The Commission consists of a Chairperson; Vice- Chairperson both nominated by the State Government and at present only three members was appointed by the State Government for a period of three years.

During the year 2013-2014, the composition of the Commission was as follows:

- |    |                        |   |                   |
|----|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1. | Smti. Theilin Phanbuh  | - | Chairperson       |
| 2. | Smti. Gamchi.T.R.Marak | - | Vice- Chairperson |
| 3. | Smti. Meena Kharkongor | - | Member            |
| 4. | Smti. Angela Ingty     | - | Member            |

5. Kum. Wimon Tariang

- Member

### STAFF STRENGTH OF THE COMMISSION

Sl.No	NAME	DESIGNATION
1.	Smt. Iadalyne Tariang	Member Secretary
2.	Smt. Emilda Sohtun	U.D.A cum Accountant
3.	Smt. Annie Sohtun	Coordinator
4.	Smt. Rikynti Pyngrope	Computer Operator
5.	Shri. Cleverly.J.Nongbet	L.D.A
6.	Smt. Persara Mawlong	L.D.A
7.	Smt. Glady. M. Shabong	Peon
8.	Smt. Markynti Syiemlieh	Peon
9.	Shri. Gilbert Lyngdoh	Driver
10.	Shri. Micheal Warjri	Driver
11.	Shri. Jurbor Dkhar	Chowkidar

12.	Shri. Maxstar Rapsang	Cleaner
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## ACTIVITIES

### **MSCW Spot Enquiry:**

The members of the Meghalaya State Commission for Women visited Williamnagar and Tura on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9 April, 2013 respectively. A review meeting and follow up was held with the District Administration and all concerned departments as well as prominent NGOs in the two districts. As a result, it was recommended that the District Level Committee on Crime and Violence against Women and Children should be strengthened by the government, This will help to improve and to coordinate between the District Administration concerned departments and prominent NGOs, and that justice can be delivered in time by the Fast Track Court. The Commission also appeals to all media and publishing house to be sensitive in reporting cases involving women and children.

### **Awareness Programme:**

**(a)Sensitization & Interactive Programme on Crime and Violence against Women & Children on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 at Williamnagar :** Being the first of its kind in the district, the programme was conducted in collaboration with the District Administration, in view of the gang rape incidence & rising number of crimes against women, particularly in East Garo Hills. It was graced by Smti. Deborah C. Marak, Social Welfare Minister, who emphasized on the need for a comprehensive mechanism in order to safeguard womenfolk. The resource persons were Dr. (Mrs) Sanghamitra Barik, Assistant Director, National Institute of People Co-operation and Child Development (NIPPCD) who spoke on Domestic Violence Acts 2005, Legislations, Schemes and Programmes for women and children in difficult situation, Shri. P. L. Sebastian, Advocate Fast Track Court Tura, who deliberated on the role of stakeholders in tackling cases of violence particularly rape in the district and Smti. M.Kharkongor Members MSCW on different legislation with regards to offences against women.

**(b)Legal Awareness and Sensitization Programmes: Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills (30<sup>th</sup> April, 2013) –** It was conducted for Heads of the traditional institution and NGOs, in collaboration with the District Administration under Shri. A. Bhagotia, District Commissioner. The resource persons present were the Superintendent of Police (SP), Smti. Z. E. Lyngdoh, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Smti. R. Kynjing, District Child Protection Officer, and Smti. I. Kharshandi, North East Network.

**Mawkyrwat, South West Khasi Hills (19<sup>th</sup> June, 2013)** – It was organized in collaboration with the District Administration for Heads of traditional institution, prominent women organizations and higher secondary level students, The Chief Guest Shri. Rowell Lyngdoh, Honorable Deputy Chief Minister to the Government of Meghalaya graced the programme as Chief Guest, the resource persons are Superintendent of Police (SP), the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) and representative from the Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA) Smti. D. Thangkhiew and Smti. E.Lyngdoh.

**(c) Advocacy cum Interactive Programmes on Crime against Women and Children at: Mairang, West Khasi Hills (23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2013)** – It was organized for Heads of Traditional Institutions, Students and Prominent NGOs. The programme was inaugurated by Additional Deputy Commissioner In-Charge, Mairang Civil Sub-Division Shri. B.Mawlong MCS, and presided over by Shri. N. Nongsiej, Sordar Lumsohkhur The interaction was very fruitful and recommended that similar programmes should be organized for all the traditional head of the Sub- Division at the earliest.

**Sohra, East Khasi Hills (7<sup>th</sup> October, 2013)** – It was organized for Heads of Traditional Institutions and women’s groups. The programme was graced and attended by Shri. F. Syiem, Syiem of Hima Sohra, Shri. C. C. Diengdoh, Sub-Division Officer Civil, Shri. I. Swer, Sub-Divisional Police Officer and representatives from Government Departments. The participants highlighted the need for an effective mechanism and coordinative effort of the different stake holders in dealing with cases of Crime against Women and Children.

**Gender Sensitization for Health Care Providers (7<sup>th</sup> October, 2013)** - The programme was organized in collaboration with the District Administration of Jowai, West Jaintia Hills. The aim of the programme was to sensitize Medical Officers in the District in their role and responsibilities of handling cases of Crime against Women and Children. Dr. Adreena Lyngdoh, Senior Medical Officer, Ganesh Das Hospital, was the resource person for the session on the Role of Health Care Providers in addressing Crimes against Women.

### **Legal Awareness Programme**

The Meghalaya State Commission for Women in collaboration with District Administration had organized a one day Legal Awareness Programme on the Legislations for Women and Children in different Districts and Blocks of the State. These programmes were supported financially by the National Commission for Women, New Delhi.

**16 January 2014 at Nongstoin, West Khasi Hills, District-** The programme was attended by members from the Local Non Governmental Organizations, Officers from various Government Department and other Local Women's Group from the areas. The Resource person from the Police Department Shri T. R. Marwein, Officer in Charge, Nongstoin Police Station spoke at length on the role of the Police Department and the recent Criminal Amendment Act 2013 for the protection and safeguards for women in the District. The role of the Integrated Child Protection Schemes (ICPS) and the Protection of Children against Sexual Offences (POCSO) & Juvenile Justice Care and Protection Act (Juvenile Justice Act) was highlighted by Shri. T. Kyndiah District Child Protection Officer of the District. The District Social Welfare Officer cum Protection Officer West Khasi Hills District Nongstoin, highlighted on the provisions of The Protection of Women under Domestic Violence Act, The Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment at Work Place Act was delivered by Smti. A. Sohtun, Coordinator of the Commission. Smti I. Tariang, Member Secretary, in her vote of thanks requested the participants to come forward and speak out for any injustice inflicted against women and Children and to work together in closed coordination with the State Commission to help and strengthen the cause of women.

**24 January 2014 at Nongpoh, Ri Bhoi District-**The programme started with a short introduction and welcome speech by Smti. Theilin Phanbuh, Chairperson, Meghalaya State Commission for Women. Dr. Pooja Pandey (IAS), Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District was present as the Chief Guest. While addressing to the participants, Dr Pandey stated that women should be aware of their rights and which authority to approach when required. Many a times cases of crime against women go unreported because women do not know who to approach. Hence, much publicity is needed to be carried out to create awareness. Following the inaugural session there were different sessions taken by different Resource persons from Police Department, Social Welfare, Meghalaya State Commission for Women and from North East Network. Each session was followed by an interaction and discussion with the participants where they were able to clarify their doubts about the different legislations, Discussion and the sessions were chaired by the officials from the Commission, the District Social Welfare Office and by the Chairperson, State Commission for Women.

**04 February, 2014 at Khliehriat, Jaintia Hills District-** The programme started with a short introduction and welcomed address by Smti. Iadalyne Tariang, Member Secretary, MSCW. The Inaugural address was delivered by the Smti. T. Phanbuh, Chairperson, MSCW. In her speech, she highlighted the role played by the Commission in addressing the issues and challenges affecting women and children. It is committed in safeguarding the rights and in delivering justice. Shri. W.R. Lyngdoh, Deputy Commissioner, Khliehriat Jaintia Hills District was present during the programme. He lauded the initiative taken by the Commission in organizing such important programme for legal awareness on various legislation in helping women and children who are the vulnerable groups in the society. The programme was then followed by sessions taken by resource persons from various departments. Towards the end of the programme there was an interaction and discussion between the participants and officials from the Commission, District Social Welfare Office where doubts were clarified on the different legislations.



**12<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 at Pynursla, East Khasi Hills District**-The programme started with a short introductory speech and welcome address by Smti. Iadalyne Tariang Member Secretary, MSCW. The Inaugural address was delivered by the Smti. T. Phanbuh, Chairperson MSCW followed by a speech from Smti. S. Shadap, Deputy Superintendent of Police, East Khasi Hills, who highlighted the role of the police in dealing with crimes committed against women and children as the top most priority of the Department, the representative from the women cell of the main Thana. Smti. W. Wanshnong, Sub Inspector, briefed on her experiences in dealing with such cases and alerted the audiences on the important of informing the police at the right time for seeking necessary redressal and that justice and speedy disposal will help women. Others who spoke in the programme as Resource persons are representative from Social Welfare and Meghalaya State Commission for Women. Clarifications on various topics were made after the end of each session. The programme ended with a vote of thanks to all participants and extended appreciation to all who had assisted in coordinating the programme.

**18<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 at Ampati, South Garo Hills District**-The programme was attended by Shri. Ram Singh, (I.A.S), Deputy Commissioner South-West Garo Hills and Shri. R. Muthu (I.PS), South West Garo Hills, Ampati officials from various departments and participants from local NGOs. Shri. Ram Singh, IAS, talk on the issue and reiterated that legal awareness should be organized regularly at the grassroot level. Resource persons from various departments delivered speech on various topics. Shri. S.N.Sangma, DSEO suggested that Legal Awareness regarding Crimes against women and children's should be included in school curriculum. He also said that society has strong tendency to suppressed crime but it is important to report the matter and be proactive. Mr. Muthu, IPS Superintendent of Police, South-West Garo Hills said that Persecution Provisions are there to ensure justice for all. However most cases go unreported or unregistered. He encouraged the public to come out and co-operate. Shri. C. D. Shira, C.I, spoke on Crime against Women, Smti. L. J. Sangma, District Social Welfare Officer highlighted the various provisions under the PWDV Act. Smti. Angela W.Ingty, member of Meghalaya State Commission for Women, spoke on the need for legal awareness as crimes against women is increasing in leaps and bounds in Garo Hills due to lack of awareness and ignorance of civil procedure, true justice cannot be delivered due to intervention of the Maharis. Shri. P. L. Sebastian PP, Fast Track Court spoke on Legal rights of women and Shri. S. Boro, ADM, South West Garo Hills, Spoke on the needs of Law to be implement in the right spirit for the welfare of the society and the citizen/public. The programme ended with a vote of thanks by Smti. Angela Ingty, member Meghalaya State Commission for Women.

**20<sup>th</sup> February, 2014 at Siju South Garo Hills-**The programme started with an inaugural session. This was followed by sessions facilitated by resource persons from different Departments. Smti. Gamchi Timre R. Marak, Vice Chairperson, Meghalaya State Commission for Women spoke about the crime scenario in Garo Hills, the role of the Commission and the need for having Legal Awareness Programme. Shri. P. L. Sebastian, Public Prosecutor, First Track Court Tura enlightened on the Legal Rights of women. He encouraged the deserted wives either to apply for maintenance directly to the magistrate to cut at source or to go to court. Smti. Margaret Sangma O/C Women Police Station, Baghmara spoke about Crimes against Women and the different legislations. She encouraged people to come forward for any help required from the police and sought their co-operation. Shri. Silnang B. Marak, District Child Protection Officer, South Garo Hills highlighted on the Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, Rights of children, offences against children, protection of children and identified homes and sponsorships. The Nokma, village Chief, Smti. K.A. Sangma spoke a few words on the importance of the programme and gratefulness towards the Commission for organizing the same. A vote of thanks was proposed by Headmaster he expressed his thanks to the Meghalaya State Commission for Women for organized the programme.

**28<sup>th</sup> March, 2014 at Dilma Mendipathar, North Garo Hills-** The programme started with a welcome address by, Shri C. Momin, Astt Headmaster, Dilma Secondary School. Smti Gamchi Timre Marak, Vice-Chairperson, MSCW, gave the introductory speech, sensitizing the role of MSCW in safeguarding the rights of women and the need for organizing legal awareness programmes. She encouraged the participants to come forward and complain to the commission in the event of any offences against women and children. Smti I. Tariang, Member Secretary, MSCW, in her speech highlighted that besides crime and violence there are other problems of unemployment, illiteracy, high rate of school drop- outs among girls, teenage pregnancy which needs immediate attention and has to be dealt with effectively. She suggested the formation of District level committee to handle cases of crime against women. She also gave a brief presentation on PWDV Act, JJB and POCSO Act. The Chief Guest, Smti. Susana K. Marak spoke about the Protection of women and children and gave special reference to PWDV Act. Other resource persons, Smti Grikchi M Momin, Advocate, spoke about Legal Rights of Women, Constitutional Rights, Equal Rights, and Judicial Separation etc, Smti Viviyana Ch. Marak, Officer in Charge, Women Police Station, Resubelpara enlightened the gathering on crimes against women, filing of FIR and what to do in the event of rape etc. She also spoke about Mahari/ clan interventions and requested the house to fight for justice. This was followed by an interaction where Smt. Merica D.Shira School teacher gave her views and encouraged the gathering to take precaution against the possibility of crimes against women. The Chairperson advised the young girls to be careful with their dressing even as she informed the gathering that there is no justification of any crime. The vote of thanks was proposed by Smt Angela Ingti, member, MSCW.

## **Recommendations & Suggestions of the above Legal Awareness Prorammes:**

1. To conduct more Legal Awareness programmes in the rural areas.
2. To disseminate more information in the form of leaflets and pamphlets for awareness rising.
3. To have strong and effective coordination amongst the different department responsible for cases of crime against women and children
4. To report cases of sexual assault especially rape within 24 hours to ensure that there is no loss of evidence.
5. There is a need to involve Traditional Heads of the Local Governing bodies including the Syiem's, Sordars and their members in such programmes and workshops
6. There are many children who end up in trouble; such cases should be reported to the Juvenile Police Unit or to Child Protection Officer for help and assistance.
7. Women should approach the office of the District Child Protection Officer to seek help for children who have been abandoned or orphans and getting Sponsorship & Foster Care programme under ICPS.

## **WORKSHOP**

### **State Level Convergence Workshop on Socio Economic development for Women**

The Meghalaya State Commission for Women in collaboration with the State Resource Centre for Women had organized a State Level Convergence Workshop on Socio Economic Development for Women on 21 March 2014 at Shillong Club. Shri K.S. Kropha, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya was the Chief Guest. In his inaugural address, he pointed out that "the whole issue of gender and convergence is where people give up their prejudices and practices and people try to reach out to each other.

The objective of the workshop was to disseminate information to women about the various development programme initiated by the Government, to enable women to gain access and information to the different schemes and where to approach; to bring together women from all over the State to a common platform to discuss their issues and challenges; to create a pathway and empower women to come to the forefront and exercise their rights.

The Resource Persons were from different Government Departments who had highlighted about the various development scheme and programmes for Women.

Some of the important issues & suggestions emerging out of this workshop are:

- The amount of the old age pension scheme & Widows Pension Scheme is very low. There is a need for the policy makers to revise and increase the amount.
- In case of any discrepancies with any scheme, women should come forward to file a complaint with the higher authorities
- Subsidized loans should be provided for women entrepreneurs. Rate of interest should be reduced from the existing rate.
- The same information and workshop should be held at District level.
- The Meghalaya State Commission for Women may perhaps take up with the Government to ensure effective implementation of all schemes and programme for women.

## **CAMPAIGN**

### **Report of the campaign protesting violence against women**

The Meghalaya State Commission for Women in collaboration with Government Departments and NGO's observed the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2013. The Commission had organized a rally to mark the importance of this day and to raise awareness of the fact that women in the State and around the world are subject to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence. The rally started from Madan Iewrynghep (Fire Brigade) Ground and concluded at State Central Library.

Hundreds of students, representatives of different organizations, media and individuals took part in the rally and carried placards and posters with messages and slogans shouted to protest against the alarming rise of crime against women in the State. As part of the campaign the Commission had also organized Poster and Slogan Competition for College students. Winners of the competition were awarded at the Valedictory function.

During the Valedictory function, Chairperson Meghalaya State Commission for Women, Smti. T. Phanbuh said, "Rape is the worst crime as it has a devastating effect on to victim.

There is an urgent need to set up fast track courts to deal with such cases and maximum punishment should be awarded to perpetrators of such crimes". Shri. B. R. Rana, IGP (CID), Meghalaya Police was also present at the function. He stated that there is a rise in crimes against women and children in the state of Meghalaya, and rape is a major concern for the Government. Till September 2013, there are around 151 rape cases registered. According to him, there is an upward trend in rape cases and informed that in 2010 there was 164 rape cases registered, 130 in 2011 and 225 in 2012, adding that children below 18 years of age are more vulnerable to such crimes. Shri Rana, however, assured the gathering that the police are taking rape as 'special report case' and are taking regular review on cases related to crime against women and children. He also informed that police have taken out outreach programme to educate and involve participation right from the grassroot level in its effort to eradicate this menace from the society.

**On 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2013** – The Meghalaya State Commission for Women had organized a one day workshop on Cases Related to Women: How are they dealt with effectively by your Department, in collaboration with the District Administration at Tura, West Garo Hills.

## **IMPORTANT INTERVENTION**

### **Meeting with the Chief Minister Dr. Mukul Sangma, Government of Meghalaya**

The Chairperson, along with the Members of the Commission, met Dr. Mukul Sangma, Chief Minister, on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 and submitted the recommendations which needed prompt attention by the Government to address the alarming rise of crime against women, the failure of justice delivery mechanism and to strengthen the function of the MSCW.

### **The Commission recommended the following action point:-**

- A. To have a full time Member/ Secretary of the State Commission for the smooth functioning of all the programmes and activities of the Commission.
- B. The Meghalaya State Women Commission (procedure) Regulation 2005. Rules 16 clearly provide setting up of Legal Cells, Counseling Cell, Monitoring Cell, Research and Library of the Commission which has not been complied in accordance with the Act. It is therefore imperative on the part of the Commission to request the State Government to expedite full implementation of the said provision as per rules and for the Rights and Interest for equal justice in the protection of women and children in our state.

- C. To notify Assistant Protection Officer in all the Block Headquarters for accessibility of justice and for strengthening the implementation of the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence Act 2005 in the entire State.
- D. From an experience it has been felt that the Commission requires urgently a Short- stay Homes for the needy destitute as Temporary Shelters for destitute women in different circumstances.
- E. To allow the Commission to have its own Investigation Cell on deputation from the Police Department.
- F. All educational Institutions should appoint trained Counselor's to deal with various issues affecting school children in the State.
- G. To strengthen women police cell and staff with adequate man power and facilities in all the police stations in the state and to designate one superior Lady Police Officer to supervise and handle all crimes and violence against women and children. To set up Mahila Mobile Suraksha (police –on- Wheel) or Rapid Action Women Commander force in all sensitive areas of Shillong and other vulnerable areas in all the District Headquarter to prevent and tackle the incidence of crime and violence against women.
- H. To have a specific pool of experienced Lawyers as Legal Aid Counsels.
- I. To upgrade the infrastructure and manpower in the Forensic Science Laboratory with adequate DNA facilities.
- J. To upgrade the existing Observation/Children's Home of the Government with adequate infrastructure including outdoor space, transportation facilities, educational & vocational training skills, recreations and to segregate all juvenile in the Shelter/Children and Observation Home as per the nature of offences committed.
- K. The setting up of emergency helpline 24x7 for immediate/ timely intervention for urgent needs of women and girls in distress.
- L. To bifurcate the Department of Social Welfare and to set up a separate Directorate for Women and Children to deal specifically with all related cases and to implement the flagship Programmes/Schemes both Central and State Government efficiently and promptly for the Welfare of Women and Children in the State.

- M. Since crimes against minors are rising rapidly, it is imperative that the District Child Protection Officers (DCPOs) be allotted vehicle in the Districts.
- N. To set up temporary Shelter Home /Short stay home for women in the entire District for destitute and distress women during crisis situation
- O. Establishment of Fast Track court in Ri-Bhoi district, East Jaintia Hills, South West Khasi Hills and the entire districts of Garo Hills.
- P. Report on all kinds of crime and violence against women in the State has to be submitted to the Commission by the police department and each court in all districts of the state in every quarter for necessary follow up of the cases.
- Q. Status and of the Chairperson/ Vice- Chairperson and Members is not clear and honorarium of Members is too meager when compared with other State Commission and hence request for enhancement of the same.
- R. The term of office of the Commission to be extended from the existing 3 (three) years to 5(five) years as is the practice with the other Commissions outside the State. This will help the Commission to discharge its responsibilities smoothly.
- S. To set up family courts in all the districts of Meghalaya.

The Commission will further listed out on priority basis recommendation from time to time to the Government for necessary consideration.

#### **Meeting with the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya**

The Chairperson, along with the Members of the Commission, met Shri. W. M. S. Pariat, Chief Secretary, Shri. P. W. Ingty, Principal Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department, Shri. T. Dkhar, Commissioner & Secretary, Social Welfare Department and Shri. H. M. Shangpliang, Director of Social Welfare on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2013.

The purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the recommendations that had been submitted to the Government prior to the meeting. As a result of this intervention, the Law Department informed that the recommendation to set up Family courts in all district is being examined by the Deputy Commissioners and District & Session Judges and follow up action of other Departments are in the process of compliances.

### **MSCW members met with Chief Justice, Meghalaya High Court**

The Members of the MSCW met with Shri Prafulla. C. Pant, Honorable Chief Justice of the Meghalaya High Court to discuss on a number of issues concerning the growing crimes against women in the State on 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2013. With cases left pending at the District Council Court and other District Courts, the members of the MSCW discussed with him on the ways and means needed to be taken to speed up the cases, including those in the Fast Track Court. The Chief Justice has offered his full cooperation on any matters concerning the problems of women and children in the State when they are brought to his notice.

### **MSCW writes to Director General of Police, Meghalaya**

The Chairperson of the MSCW, on behalf of the Commission, sent a formal letter to the Director General of Police (DGP), Meghalaya, on the issue of a minor girl who had been abducted and sexually assaulted in the city. The Commission strongly urged the Police Department to issue strict instructions to all traffic police to regularly check and verify documents of public vehicles, particularly that of taxis, the safety and security of women and girls being the need of the hour.

This was promptly addressed by the Police Department which sent a circular the Officers In-Charge of different Police Stations which gave directions to:

- (i) Verify and check documents of all Public Transport vehicles (especially Local Taxis/Tourist Taxis)
- (ii) Verify character and antecedents of the taxi drivers regularly
- (iii) Conduct Effective Mobile Patrolling at all tourist spots.
- (iv) Provide safety and security to all women and girls in all public spaces



## **PUBLICATION**

During this financial year, The Meghalaya State Commission for Women produced one Newsletter for the Year 2013. This issue focussed on the work and important intervention done by the Commission to provide important information to the public.

## **SERVICES**

**(a)Hearing:** is conducted every month and from time to time base on the demand of the case report brought by the complainant. The Commission handles cases effectively and appropriately. A case that cannot be settled is forward to the concern department or authority for further investigation.

**(b)Counseling:** The Commission set up a Counseling cell recently and appointed Ms. Ivoreen Warjri as the Counselor. The objective of the unit is to provide social, psychological and emotional support to women, men and children in need of Counseling.

## CASES

From APRIL 2013-MARCH 2014

No of cases registered- 84

SI No	Type of Cases	No of cases	Remarks/Status of cases
1.	Maintenance	31	13 cases disposed and settled 8 cases referred to concerned authority 6 cases under process or pending 1 withdrew 3 did not appear for hearing
2.	Domestic Violence	25	4 cases disposed and settled 14 cases referred to concerned authority 4 cases under process or pending 3 did not appear for hearing
3.	Harassment/Assault/ Molestation	7	5 cases referred to concerned authority 1 cases under process or pending 1 did not appear for hearing
4.	Child Custody	2	2 cases referred to concerned authority
5.	Attempt to murder & kidnapped	1	1 case referred to concerned authority
6.	Discrimination	1	1 withdraw
7	Alleged rape and attempt murder	1	1 case referred to concerned authority
8 (a)	Rape (Minor)	5	3 Sought status report & referred to Concerned Authorities 2 cases referred to concerned authority
(b)	Rape ( Young Girl)	4	1 Sought intervention from Police & Higher Authority 3 Sought status report & referred to Concerned Authorities
9.	Others	7	4 cases referred to concerned authority 1 pending 2 solved

## SELECTED SUCCESS STORIES

1. An aggrieved woman approached the MSCW with a complaint against her husband for physical assault, harassment, destruction of property and documents, and for having extra-marital relations with his own nephew's wife. The aggrieved woman had requested the MSCW to help her to claim maintenance from him as she is fully dependent on him, having no other relative or occupation of her own.
2. An aggrieved woman had registered a complaint against the Village Headman of her locality, who had refused to verify and countersign the Death Certificate of her mother-in-law as per a Court Order issued by the Directorate of Health Services (DHS). The aggrieved woman had also mentioned that this refusal on the part of the Headman was a conspiracy with two of the deceased's relative. The Headman was summoned to the office of the MSCW so as to clarify the allegations and settle the matter amicably.
3. On 23<sup>rd</sup> August, 2013, the maintenance was settled in which the aggrieved woman's husband had agreed to pay a substantial amount within the 10<sup>th</sup> day of every month from September, 2013 onwards.
4. After being summoned and appeared before the MSCW, the husband agreed to pay the maintenance in which he had failed to do so, as is evident from the second complaint made by the aggrieved woman. The MSCW informed the Officer in-charge at the Government department where the husband is employed for necessary action from their end.

## PROGRAMMES ATTENDED

<b>PROGRAMMES/SEMINARS/CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION</b>		
SL.NO	EVENTS	DELEGATION FROM MSCW
1.	Inter - State Women Commission Dialogue (19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> February, 2013) organized by the National Commission for Women (NCW), New Delhi	Smti. T. Phanbuh, Chairperson Smti. I. Tariang, Member Secretary Smti. M. Kharkongor, Member
2.	Seminar on empowerment of women (27 February 2013) organized by the State Resource Centre for Women, Shillong	Smti. T. Phanbuh, Chairperson Smti. I. Tariang, Member Secretary
3.	Interactive session on women and their legal rights (28 March 2013) organized by the State Resource Centre for Women, Shillong	Smti. T. Phanbuh, Chairperson Smti. I. Tariang, Member Secretary
4.	Celebration of International Day of Family (15 May 2013) organized by SOS Village, Ri Bhoi District, Meghalaya	Smti T Phanbuh, Chairperson
5.	Consultation on the Women Reservation Bill (27 <sup>th</sup> August, 2013) organized by the National Commission for Women (NCW), New Delhi.	Smti. T. Phanbuh, Chairperson
6.	Celebration of birth centenary of Swami Vivekananda (10 August 2013) organized by Seng Raj, Shangpung, Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya	Smti. T. Phanbuh, Chairperson
7.	Regional Consultation Meet on Bill of Rights for Women (5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> September, 2013), New Delhi.	Smti. T. Phanbuh, Chairperson
8.	Training and Sensitization Programme (4 <sup>th</sup> October, 2013) organized by the National Commission for Women (NCW), New Delhi.	Smti. T. Phanbuh, Chairperson Smti. I. Tariang, Member Secretary
9.	Attended Interactive meeting of State's Commission for Women at Hyderabad (30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> January, 2014)	Smti. Theilin Phanbuh, Chairperson Smti. I. Tariang, Member Secretary
10.	Training on Human Rights (19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2014) organized by the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), New Delhi.	Smti. I. Tariang, Member Secretary Smti. M. Kharkongor, Member

11. SANCTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MEGHALAYA STATE COMMISSION FOR WOMEN, SHILLONG DURING THE YEAR 2013-2014.

Rs. 30, 00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh) only