PREFACE

On behalf of the Meghalaya State Commission, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the State Government for their kind support and cooperation in strengthening the functions and roles of the Commission.

The Commission has taken up many issues and interventions to overcome many challenges, yet, we still have to go the extra mile to achieve the objective as laid down in the Act. We look forward for all the help and support from all likeminded Civil Societies and Organisations/ Institutions and Individuals for achieving the hope and aspiration of women who are in need of our assistance and services.

Smti. Theilin Phanbuh
Chairperson
Meghalaya State Commission for Women
1. MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

2. COMPOSITION

3. ACTIVITIES

4. SURVEY ON THE SOCIO ECONOMIC, LEGAL & POLITICAL STATUS FOR THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

5. CASES

6. SUCCESS STORIES

7. LIST OF PROGRAMMES ATTENDED

8. SANCTIONED AND IMPLEMENTATION 2015-2016

9. NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON......

The Meghalaya State Commission for Women has completed ten long years of its journey and endeavour to protect and safeguard the rights of women in the State. The complexities of issues concerning women in the present context are very challenging to the Commission. To a certain extent, we have managed to address many critical issues faced by women in their day to day lives.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Meghalaya and all the concern Department and its officials, Members of the Commission and well wishers who have rendered their support to make all our programmes/intervention a fruitful one. A special thanks to the Chairperson and other Members of the National Commission for Women, New Delhi for their guidance and support in our effort to better the lives of many affected woman in the State.

At this juncture, I personally felt that the Commission need to be strengthened and enhance in terms of personnel, infrastructure and budgetary allocation to carry forward the cause of women in the State.

I look forward for your continuous help and support.

Smti. Theilin Phanbuh
## COMPOSITION

### MEMBERS MSCW

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Designation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Smti. Theilin Phanbuh</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Smti. Gamchi Time R. Marak</td>
<td>Vice-Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Smti. Nakilin G Shylla</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Smti. Rebina Subba</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Dr. N. Sutnga</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Smti. Charlotte M. Momin</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Sister Judith Shadap</td>
<td>Co-opted Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Smti. Iadalyne Tariang</td>
<td>Member Secretary</td>
</tr>
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### STAFF STRENGTH OF THE COMMISSION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>DESIGNATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Smt. Annie Sohtun</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Smt. Emilda Sohtun</td>
<td>U.D.A cum Accountant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Shri. Cleverly J. Nongbet</td>
<td>L.D.A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Smt. Persara Mawlong</td>
<td>L.D.A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Smt. Markynti Syiemlieh</td>
<td>Peon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Ms. Glarity Lyngdoh</td>
<td>Peon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Shri. Gilbert Lyngdoh</td>
<td>Driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Shri. Micheal Warjri</td>
<td>Driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Shri. Jurbor Dkhar</td>
<td>Chowkidar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Shri. Maxstar Rapsang</td>
<td>Cleaner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Meghalaya State Commission for Women had organised a National Consultation on Issues related to Single Mothers on the 20th and 21st April 2015 in Shillong supported by the National Commission for Women, New Delhi in collaboration with the State Government.

The objective was to bring together women representative from the State Women’s Commissions and civil society organizations to discuss on the grim issues of single mothers, the causes and its implication in the society; to come up with strategies and advocate for change in the existing system and to put forward suggestions and recommendations and to advocate for change in the existing system.
VISIT TO GARO HILLS

From 27th to 30th April 2015, the Chairperson, Meghalaya State Commission for Women along with its members in its visit to different Districts in the State came across issues and concerns affecting women and children. During the visit, the Commission held a series of meetings with the Administrative Head, Police, Judicial and District Officials at Williamnagar, East Garo Hills, Baghmara, South Garo Hills, Tura, West Garo Hills and Resubelpara, North Garo Hills to discuss about the pending cases in the respective districts and on issues concerning women and children. Concrete suggestions came out of the meetings and the Commission will take up with the Higher Authority in the State. The Commission also visited the Community Health Centre at Baghmara and interacted with the Medical Officer in Charge and Staffs.
Doctors and Members of the Commission at Baghmara

Follow up on the cases of tortured girls at Tura

Meeting with members of NGOs at Resubelpara
PUBLIC HEARING AT NONGSTOIN

A Public Hearing was held at Tysem Hall, Nongstoin on the 8th of May 2015 to settle the matter of a woman from Mawsikar village whose house was alleged to have been burnt by her husband. The matter has been sorted out amicably with the Sordar and his members along with the family members of the aggrieved woman.

INTERACTIVE MEETING AT MAIRANG

The Meghalaya State Commission for Women initiated an Interactive Programme at Mairang Community Hall on the 27th August 2015. In this meeting, participation from both men and women including Sordar and Headman from different localities and nearby villages of Mairang actively participated on pertinent issues identified.
A Meeting was held at the office of the Meghalaya State Commission for Women during the visit of Smti Preeti Madan, Member Secretary NCW on the 5th October 2015.

The objective of the meeting was to share about a propose project “Violence free home- a Woman’s Right” implemented on a pilot project by National Commission for Women in collaboration with TISS, Mumbai and Delhi Police.
FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION ON
WOMEN POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, MADANRITING

The Meghalaya State Commission for Women had organised a Focus Group Discussion on Women’s Political Participation on the 26th October 2015 at Madanriting, Nongthymmai, Shillong. Shri. E. Kharkongor, Headman of the locality, appreciated the initiative taken by the Women’s Commission.

Some of the recommendations that came out of the discussion are as follows:-

1. Competent authority (Autonomous District Council) for issuing a uniform direction/instruction to include women in the Executive Committee of the Local Village Durbar
2. District Council to frame rules and norms for inclusion of women in the Local Village Durbar
3. 33% reservation of seats for women in the Local Village Durbar
4. Training and capacity building for selected women leaders
The Meghalaya State Commission for Women organised a Legal Awareness Programme at Patharkhmah on the 30th October 2015 with the objective to create awareness on the rights of women and to empower them on legal issues and the existing support system.

**INTERACTIVE MEETING WITH WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**

An interactive meeting was organised at the office premises of Syiem Mylliem at Lewdah on the 15th February 2016 with the objective to discuss the problems and constrains faced by women traders/ entrepreneurs.

The issues and problems identified and the recommendations are to set up a separate women’s market with better infrastructure and facilities; to create awareness and information on the availability of different schemes for women by the Government and other Institutions and strict rules and regulations to be formulated in letter and spirit.
The Commission had observed the 16 days Campaign Protesting Violence against Women from 25 November to 10 December 2015 which began on November 25th in Shillong, Khliehriat and Williamnagar. A debate competition on the topic of violence against women and girls in East Khasi Hills was held on the 25th November 2015 supported by the Deputy Commissioner, East Khasi Hills under the Voluntary Action Fund. A “talk show” or panel discussions on the issue of ending violence against women and girls in Shillong was broadcasted by All India Radio Shillong during the Campaign period. The Panellists for the talk show was Smti.Theilin Phanbuh, Chairperson, Meghalaya State Commission for Women, Shri.W.Diengdoh, Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Legal Services Authority and Shri. H.Kharkrang (MPS), Superintendent of Police, East Khasi Hills.
CONSULTATION WITH WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS, KHLEHIHRIAT

A consultation with local businesses and women entrepreneurs to discuss how corporations and small businesses can contribute to efforts to end violence against women and share information about initiatives to make work places safe spaces for women and girls, and how economic inequality can contribute to exploitation and violence against women and girls was held on the 2nd of December 2015 at Khliehriat, East Jaintia Hills.

OBSERVATION OF WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, WILLIAMNAGAR

The District Multi-Purpose Socio Economic Development Organization (DMSEDO) observed WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY in collaboration with Meghalaya State Commission for Women (MSCW) on 10th December 2015 sponsored by Action Aid Association (AAA) to commemorate and honour the adoption of Universal Declaration of Human Rights with an aim for building Peace and Harmony and to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender based Violation.
A Legal Awareness Programme was held in Phulbari, West Garo Hills District and Nongpoh, Ri Bhoi District on the 26 February and 17 & 18th March 2016 respectively supported by the National Commission for Women New Delhi.

Dr. P. Pandey, Deputy Commissioner, Ri Bhoi District inaugurated the Programme in Nongpoh. The Legal Awareness Programme aims to empower women and girls with the knowledge of their legal rights and duties, ultimately to be able to share power equally, gain full access to the means of development and to inspire a whole generation of women to work together towards achieving gender equality and justice.

The Legal Awareness Programme was initiated to empower women and girls with the knowledge of their legal rights and duties, aiming to enable them to share power equally, gain full access to the means of development, and inspire future generations of women to work towards achieving gender equality and justice.
The Commission has undertaken several strenuous and exhaustive exercises to review and finalise the findings and recommendations of the Draft report and finally on the 18th of March 2016, the report has been submitted to the Chairperson National Commission for Women, New Delhi. It is expected that the outcome of the survey Report will be published soon.
CASES RECEIVED AT THE COMMISSION
FROM APRIL 2015  MARCH 2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SL. NO</th>
<th>NATURE OF THE CASE</th>
<th>NO OF CASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Domestic Violence</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Harassment/Threatening</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Rape and Murder</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Sexual Harassment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Other Complaints</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>95</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
An aggrieved woman filed a complaint of Harassment against the owner of a shop at Police Bazar and its representatives from Assam. She has been employed as Beauty Advisor of an Herbal Agency from North East region, Guwahati for three months. She did not get her full payment salary. She was given additional work by the Shop Owner and was told not to complain. Later the shop owner began to insult and verbally abused her for no reason at all. This hurt her prestige and reputation. She later lodges an FIR at Sardar Police Station against the shop owner. She was pressurised by the Police to withdraw the case or else she might have to spend the whole night in jail. Finally she agreed to withdraw the case but demanded a written apology that they will behave and will not ill treat her again. Both parties agreed and signed on a paper. Later she came to know that she was tricked to sign a paper written that she will never file case against him in future. She resumed duty in the said shop. But the shop owner kept repeating his action and abusing her. She also informed her Advisor when the shop owner refuses to hand over the keys to open the counter. The Company from Guwahati intervene into the matter and asked her to compromise and took side with the shop owner. Later the aggrieved woman submitted a complaint to the Commission. Both the Company and shop owner were summoned for hearing and with the intervention of the Commission this case has been thoroughly examined and finally an amicable solution has been settled by both parties.

An aggrieved woman filed a complaint of Domestic violence against her husband and in laws who tortured and harassed her for Dowry. Her father-in-law when he was intoxicated attempted to burn her alive. She was tortured if she could not fulfil their demands and was not given food nor water. She was threatened that they will hire militant to kill all her family members. She was taken to Delhi on false deception that they will settle there but instead was mentally and physically abused. She was forced to give all her personal belongings and money. Both the parties were summoned for hearing and after several intervention by the Commission, an agreement was signed whereby the husband will have to return all her belongings as well a sum amount of Rs. 53,320 (Rupees Fifty Three Thousand, Three hundred and twenty) only. The husband has returned all her personal belonging including her jewellery at the office of the Commission and has also paid the money back to her.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
<th>DELEGATION FROM MSCW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Consultation and Dissemination Workshop on Empowerment of Women with emphasis on Sexual and Reproductive Rights organised by State Resource Centre for Women, Shillong on 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; April, 2015</td>
<td>Smti. T. Phanbuh Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Workshop on the Meghalaya Victim Compensation Scheme in the Multi-Purpose Convention Hall of NEHU on 22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; June, 2015</td>
<td>Smti. T. Phanbuh Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Workshop on Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at Work Place organised by Accountant General (A&amp;G) Meghalaya on the 14&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July, 2015</td>
<td>Smti. Rebina Subba Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Symposium on the Dorbar Shnong in the context of Khasi Society on 10&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July 2015 at Synod College and presented a paper on Participation of Women in the Village Council</td>
<td>Smti. T. Phanbuh Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>National Seminar on the Challenges of women in the Himalaya region in Uttarakhand organized by the India World Foundation, New Delhi in the 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; September, 2015</td>
<td>Smti. I.Tariang Member Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Interactive Meeting with State Commission for Women on the 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; September, 2015, New Delhi</td>
<td>Smti. I.Tariang Member Secretary Smti. Nakilin. G. Shylla Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Workshop on “Status of Women’s Studies in North East India” organised by Omeo Kumar Das Institute of Social changes and Development, Guwahati jointly with Chandraprabha Saikiani Centre for Women’s studies in Tezpur University on 26&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; &amp; 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; November, 2015</td>
<td>Smti. T.Phanbuh Chairperson Smti. Gamchi T R Marak Vice- Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Legal Awareness Programme on Women’s Right on 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; September, 2015 at Lumpdeng</td>
<td>Smti. T.Phanbuh Chairperson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Awareness Programme organized on CAW &amp; Children by Village Defence Party at Mawkneng, Sohiong on 8&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; September, 2015</td>
<td>Smti. T.Phanbuh Chairperson Smti. I.Tariang Member Secretary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Awareness Programme on the Rising Crimes Against Women &amp; Children organized by KSU, Nonglang South West Khasi Hills on 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July, 2015</td>
<td>Smti. T.Phanbuh Chairperson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. **Awareness programme on ‘Women in Recovery for Sobriety a Challenge in North East India” organized by Alcoholic Anonymous (AA) in Co-operation with Kripa Foundation at Don Bosco Youth Centre, Shillong on 20th February, 2016.**

   Smti. T.Phanbuh Chairperson

12. **National Seminar on Gender and Folklore in North East India Belief and practices at the Guest House, Conference Hall, NEHU, on 30th & 31st March, 2016.**

   Smti. T.Phanbuh Chairperson

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### SANCTIONED AND IMPLEMENTATION 2015 2016

- An amount of Rs. 26, 00,000/- (Twenty Six Lakhs) only was sanctioned by the Govt. vide memo No. MSCW/BA/2004/Pt.II/6157 Dated Shillong the 1st December 2015.

- An additional amount of Rs. 72,000 (Seventy Two Thousand) only was sanctioned by the Govt. vide memo No.MSCW/BA/2004/Pt.II/ 10299 dated 4th March 2016

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### NEWS PAPER CLIPPINGS

22
‘Assaulted’ woman demands justice

Seeks intervention of Women’s Commission

The victim, Josna Nongsiej addresses the media in the city on Friday. Her children can also be seen in the photo. (ST)

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: After being denied proper assistance by the village dorbar as well as an NGO, a woman from a remote village in West Khasi Hills sought the intervention of the Meghalaya State Women’s Commission (MSWC) to take up her cause.

Josna Nongsiej, a resident of Mawnikar, a village near Langpih revealed how her former husband, Ronaling Lyngkhoi allegedly assaulted her and burnt down her house. "He (Lyngkhoi) burnt down my house while I was in my mother’s place on March 20," Nongsiej told newsmen here on Friday.

Nongsiej also alleged that she was a victim of physical assault during her stay with her husband, adding that she finally decided to leave him after she had two miscarriages.

"Even after the separation, he threatened to hire contract killers to kill me and my two minor children," she alleged.

She complained to the village dorbar about the incident, but to no avail.

"Trying to seek justice, Nongsiej sought the help of an NGO, the women’s wing of the Hynniewtrep National Achik Movement (HANM). It only extended some relief to the (Contd on P-10)

(Contd from P-3) woman in the form of clothes and CGI sheets but failed to help her in filing a police complaint.

Despite the fact that she had earlier filed a police complaint, Lyngkhoi managed to get bail.

In an effort to reach out to the concerned authorities the aggrieved woman finally decided to take the support of the media.

"I have come here today to urge the authority concerned through the media to help me and ensure that my husband is booked under relevant section of the law," she said here on Friday.

Meanwhile, the MSWC immediately took up the case and took Nongsiej’s statement.

"We would immediately ask the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police (SP), West Khasi Hills District to take necessary action in the matter," MSWC chairperson, Theiilin Phanbuh told reporters on Friday.
Call for separate schemes for single mothers

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: National Commission for Women (NCW) member Laldanglani Sallo has said single motherhood is one of the growing problems in the country, which requires the more attention by the Centre and commitment of more resources towards their betterment.

"It (single motherhood) is perhaps one of the major growing problems in the country and the world. In the light of this, single mothers deserve a separate set of schemes and programmes for their well-being," Sallo said while addressing a National Consultation on issues related to single mothers here on Monday.

"We also need to take note that this is not just for the sake of single mothers alone but also because of the ramifications this has for society," she said urging the Centre to take a holistic look and adopt "integrated approaches" towards them.

"It is not a bad idea to create a separate schemes and programmes for the single mother. I would suggest that this conference should debate and consider whether single mothers should be considered as a separate category as they have their own (Contd on P-10)

Call for separate schemes...

(Contd from P-1) special problems," Sallo said.

Sallo observed that till few years ago, the government did not even recognize single mothers as a category that needed special schemes.

"Most states have now recognised the need for making provision of pension for single mothers in their plans. But, the pensions are low... just around Rs 1,000 a month," Sallo said.

The NCW member emphasised the need to increase the pension for single mothers to a level that would enable the women to look after themselves and her children.

Highlighting that skill development was important to alleviate the problem, the NCW member said providing vocational training to such women was as critical to enhance their lives.

She said that another scheme of Central Government "Swaddhar Greh" under the Ministry of WCD which caters women in difficult circumstances.

"The home or greh also includes mother along with their children (girls below 18 and boys below 12). This is a very laudable scheme. But the numbers of beneficiaries for this scheme are limited," NCW member said.

On the issue of economic opportunities of women, Sallo said that even in the matrimonial society like Meghalaya and Kerala, things may not be different because there would not be many women who own a property that gives them an income.

"Many are too poor to own a property and others may at best own a small dwelling unit. It is commonly seen that many of the single mother are not able to meet their expenses on food, clothing, children’s education, electricity and medicine," Sallo said.

The State Assembly Speaker AT Mundah also spoke on the occasion.
Ki rangbah na ka thain Mairang ki pdiang ban kynthup ia ki longkme ha ki Dorbar Shnong

Nongsain Himu

Shillong, Nalit 29:
War la ban ki rangbah ki pyrshah ia ka jingtrung ki longkme kum ki dikhot jong ka Dorbar Shnong, bytere ki long bahi ungrpyshulla bi ki rangbah jong ka thain Mairang, West Khasi Hills ki pyrshah lai don kano kano ka jingtrung shah lai ki longkme ki long ki dikhot jong ki Dorbar Shnong.

Kany ka dai jingthangewong jong ki vangshah kiba la wun ban iahsham bysta ha ka jingshah la la prnysh June la la Meghalaya State Commission for Women ha ka jingthang long bai ka taad Social Welfare ban iatang la ka jingshah jong ki longkme kah la long bahi ka iing community full jong ka Mairang Dorbar Shnong la ka egi pote.

Ha ka huk airen shah ki wun ban iahsham bysta hoh da ki longkme lai ka jingthang Tophor bysher jong ka thain Mairang.

Ning don dai ka jingpryshah na ka bysta ban pitang ia ki longkme shahiel ki Dorbar Shnong. Ning byshah lai kina kawri a ki jingshah na ka iang ban ki longgung ki mad ka long longkme ha u lok jong ki (domestic violence).

Kany ka jingthangewong jong kibt ko ha wun sa kane ki jingkshoh ki pyrshah da ka jingkshob u lok la ka lok lai long kawel ka dawbak ka byser ia u khawt jai jong ban tiyl lai lingng.

Ka la don ban ki jingthangewong lai ka jingthangewong ban pitangshub haob lai ka an. Compulsory Registration of Marriages bill kah lai dang sahtung biad ka Sokal Jylla.

Shah shah, la long longkme jingmat hahor ka jingthou ban thang lai ki phomph ban ai jingthai (protection officer) lai ka block bysher bysher khun lai ka jingthang kah byser ha Protection of Women under the Domestic Violence Act 2005.

Ka long don ban ki jingmat hahor ka jingthangewong ban pitangshub kah byser haob ai ka minhaw byshah lai ka dang ri

MSCW chief laments inadequate number of judicial officers in Meghalaya

**Slow trials embolden criminals: Phanbuh**

**By Our Reporter**

**SHILLONG:** Slow trial and conviction due to inadequate number of judicial officers in the state has emboldened the criminals resulting in a rise in the number of cases of crimes against women.

In an interview to The Shillong Times, Thelmin Phanbuh, Chairperson, State Women’s Commission, has expressed her dissatisfaction over the slow trials for conviction that lead to high incidences of violence against women.

She maintained that when the women departments were doing its part, the process of conviction is slow as there is less number of judicial officers in the court slowing down the trial process.

"It is a letdown because of less conviction cases and the accused get the opportunity to go scot-free," she added.

Moreover, less number of convictions has also affected the justice delivery system adding to the miseries of women victims of various crimes in the State, she stated.

There are 62 recorded cases of violence against women in the state since January till date, the MSCW chief informed.

Speaking on the reasons behind crimes against women, Phanbuh said, "Crimes against women are committed within the family also and due to prevalence of drug addiction, easy access to the internet and pornography which affect the young minds."

On being asked as to which district was more vulnerable to such crimes, she said, "I cannot pin-point any district or place. There is no difference between urban and rural crime figures."

She, however, emphasized that (Contd on 21)
Slow trials embolden...

(Contd from P-1) the western part of Meghalaya was neglected.

On the role of the Commission, Phanbuh said it was working to ensure that crimes against women are reduced. The Commission mainly focuses itself in rural parts of Meghalaya, where they conduct street plays and awareness programmes in collaboration with NGOs, Phanbuh said, adding, "These women from the rural areas do not even know that there is law that protect their rights."

"We have to go through every process, to work together with the village heads at the community level.

The Commission has approach schools on the outskirts of Shillong to participate in the initiatives to create awareness on the issue," she said, while mentioning that the response has been fairly good.

Phanbuh informed that one of the initiatives taken up by the Commission was to engage young girls in leadership training. "It is high time for girl students to participate in these programmes," she said.

"There is a need to mobilize people at the community level, mostly the teachers, to come forward and lead. The Commission has a follow up routine as well," she added.

She informed that the Commission will go deep into the issue of increasing violence against women and will conduct a survey in this connection. "There are numerous cases that the Commission is being approached for, for instance, single mothers who are denied maintenance by their husbands, seek the Commission's help; the Commission has helped families reconcile as well," she said.

While mentioning that the Commission refers some cases to the Protection Officer if it is unable to solve them, Phanbuh bemoaned the lack of infrastructure. "We are overloaded, there is no investigative cell, counseling cell or legal cell," she said, adding that with the formation of such cells, cases will speed up.

On the issue of non-prevalence of the cells, Phanbuh said, "The Government has expressed fund constraints."

On replying to a query as to why women chose to veil themselves, she said, "It is because of the stigma attached and they are reluctant to approach the police."

In this regard, State Women's Commission has been set up to help and provide the basic needs and counselling for women, Phanbuh said. In her message to women who are being abused but cannot come out publicly, she said, "I would like to encourage them to come forward."
Donkam ia ki Jingshari ba kyrpang na bynta ki kam batbor : Kong Theilin

Shillong, Rymphang 08

"Ngi donkam ia ki Jingshari ba kyrpang (Special Court) na bynta ki kam (case) batbor khinang ba ki jingbishar kinh iaid shakhmat bad ym sah kut hajuh," ong ka Kong Theilin Phanbuh, Chairperson ka Meghalaya State Commission for Women (MSCW).

Haba kren shaphang ki kam–batbor kibba la nang jyllei hapoh ka jylla katba dang mih ki sngi, ka Kong Theilin haba iakren bad u nongthoh khubor mynta ka sngi, ka la ong, "Nga sngewkhia shi kat deh eh ia kine ki jingjia, hynrei ...Pule Sla 9"

Ka daw ba hakhmat eh ha kaba iadei bad ki kam batbor ka de ni amar ba bun na onto kiba leh ia kiete ki kam sang kei de ki ju milien ban punbyrninga ialadei ha ki phlim jabo lbngba ka kor treikam jong ka 'internet.' Kan jin da long kaba bha na kiba bha tam lada lah lan khang (block) noh ia ki 'kite' kiba ju pyni ia kiba kum kiete ki jait phlim. Kiwee ki daw ka lah ban kynttup ia ka jingdih drok, leyad bad kiwee kiwee jingdih ba pynbuaid," ong ka Kong Theilin.

Ka la istuhub ba kawee na ki rad ki lynni ban teh lakam ia kiete ki jingniew pyrnhah ia ki 'new kynthei ka long sa tang kei jingtseirei lang na ka liang ka shongne, ki seng kynthei, bad ruh ka sorkar.

Katee ka khliehduh ka MSCW ka la pynpaw ba bun na ki 'case' ba iadei bad ki kam batbor, ki ju iaid lbngba ki 'District Council Court' bad amar kiba bun ki jyrvit jyrwat, lehe kum ka jingbym shimbhia, bun na kiete ki 'case' ki sah kut sah khlem pio shano shano, pynhban ha kawee ka liang ka nang ai myniem ia ki nongleb ban tai brec xia ia kum sniex jong ki.'

"Kunta lah de ni ban wanrah ia kiba kum kine ki jait 'case' ha ki 'District Court' ne lada long kaba lah lan thaw na ki Jingshari ba kyrpang na bynta jong ki," ong ka Kong Phanbuh.

Ka la ong ruh, "Ka jingpynshiem ka de ni amar iad kathum ka aihn, hynrei haba phai sha ka jingshat batbor ki khyllung khyynnah, kata deh ban set patek shi jingim."

Shuuh shuuh ka Kong Theilin ka la byntap ba ki 'case' thombor pyrnhah ia ki 'new kynthei kibba ka MSCW ka la ohpdiang myna u snem ba lah deh, ki long kumba 103 tylli ei ei.
Gender inequality in several domains of life is a pressing issue that requires immediate attention. The Shillong Times, March 20, 2016

Gender inequality is prevalent across various sectors, from the educational sphere to the workplace, reflecting societal biases that restrict women's opportunities and rights. In her recent interview with The Shillong Times, Thelina Phanbuh, a prominent women's rights activist, voiced her concerns about the persistence of gender inequality, calling for a paradigm shift in societal perceptions and practices.

In the article, Thelina Phanbuh emphasized the importance of recognizing women's contributions and valuing their abilities, suggesting that traditional institutions and roles are outdated and need to evolve. She pointed out that women, particularly in rural areas, face numerous challenges, including lack of access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Phanbuh's insights highlight the need for comprehensive policies and programs aimed at empowering women and ensuring their rights are fully recognized and respected.

Thelina Phanbuh further stated that women's participation in decision-making processes is crucial for the progress of society. She highlighted the importance of including women at all levels of governance and in leadership positions, noting that this would not only benefit women but also lead to more inclusive and equitable societies.

The article concludes with a call to action, urging policymakers and society at large to work towards gender equality, recognizing that this is not just a moral imperative but also a necessary condition for sustainable development. Phanbuh's words serve as a reminder that addressing gender inequality requires collective effort and sustained commitment from all segments of society.

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Rape and murder of 19-year-old
Women's body chairperson demands justice

By Our Reporter

SHILLONG: Expressing concern over the alleged rape and murder of a 19-year-old girl at Purnaw, 484 Mile on March 1, Chairperson of Meghalaya State Commission for Women, Thelina Phanbuh, has urged women to be more alert and cautious in their movements.

Phanbuh, who is also the president of Lumping Xi Seng Kynthi, met the members of the bereaved family at their residence on Saturday. Condemning the perpetrators of the crime, Phanbuh called for strict action against the offenders.

The culprits have committed a heinous crime. We urge the concerned authorities to take strong punitive action against them and hope that the investigation bears fruit, she said.

In her capacity as the chairperson, she assured that the commission will follow up the case.

Meanwhile, Phanbuh called upon the police and guardians to supervise and be more vigilant about the activities of their wards in order to ensure their safety.

The CSWO, however, expressed concern over the loopholes in the police investigation into the case. "It is strange that the police did not bother to bring a sniffer dog to the crime scene which would have solved the crime in a systematic way as first the police detained and harassed the uncle of the victim for the whole night instead arresting the culprits," CSWO President Agnes Khariongh, who visited the family on Saturday, said.

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Gender inequality... (Contd. from P-1)

The problem of single mothers is due to the death of spouses or the husbands leaving the wife.

"The death of a spouse is mostly due to alcoholism while the wife is left to fend for herself. But single mothers send their children to school despite the struggles," she said. On the declining moral principles of the society, she lamented that there are many cases of frauds as women are unprotected and with the burden of poverty they are easy prey of fraudsters. Commenting on awareness, she pointed out that women are unaware of their rights and this lack of knowledge makes them the most vulnerable sections of the society.

Ignorant of CM scheme

In the interactive session attended by 16 women, it was found that only 1 woman is aware of the Chief Minister's Social Assistance Scheme and enjoyed the benefits of Rs 800 per month, Phanbuh added.

The beneficiary, a single mother, added that the amount has been of great help in buying text-books for her children. She added, "DPD through the public address system can take the initiative to address people in the market places about the schemes offered by the Government." However, she urged the Government to provide more schemes to single mothers and women's organizations. She felt there is a need to upgrade the skills and development of women to deal with the changing times.

Specialized Women Center

Phanbuh informed that a pilot project called Specialized Women Center is in collaboration with the Institute of Social Sciences, an initiative of the National Commission for Women will be implemented by the State Commission for Women.