

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

November 25 - December 10, 2006



The Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Women

FACT SHEET

In 2003, the General Assembly of the United Nations requested the Secretary-General to conduct an in-depth study on all forms of violence against women (resolution 58/185). The UN Secretary General's in-depth study on violence against women is now available on the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) website as a background document for the 61st session of the General Assembly:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/violenceagainstwomestudydoc.pdf>.

The study provides:

- An overview of how violence against women gained international attention on the global agenda;
- The context and causes of violence against women;
- Forms, consequences and costs of violence against women;
- Analysis of issues of data on violence against women;
- The responsibility of the State to address violence against women as a human rights obligation;
- Promising practices and challenges for implementation;
- Recommendations for action at the national and international level.

The SG study reinforces an understanding of violence against women as a human rights violation and can be used to support local demands for action on this issue and for holding state and non-state actors accountable. Read Chapter VIII: Conclusion and Recommendations for a summary of the study and its recommendations for action.

The General Assembly will consider a resolution based on the study this fall, and other organizations are developing responses to it. For example, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) is issuing a regional report on violence against women and Madre is publishing a companion piece that focuses on violence against Indigenous women. For continued updates, please visit: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>.

What is violence against women (VAW): *“Violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (Article 1, DEVAW, 48/104).*

Center for Women's Global Leadership

Rutgers University, 160 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8555 USA

Phone (1-732) 932-8782, Fax: (1-732) 932-1180

E-mail: cwgl@igc.org

<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>