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## Greetings

The Center for Women's Global Leadership has been incredibly busy this season. In July, CWGL convened a strategic conversation on [Next Steps on Global Strategies on Violence Against Women](#) where women's human rights activists met to discuss the complexities of VAW in the global arena and how to move forward. Please click [here](#) to view photos from this meeting. In August, Cynthia Rothschild, CWGL's Senior Policy Advisor, attended the [International AIDS Conference](#) (IAC) in Mexico where women's rights and human rights activists joined scientists, researchers, government representatives and UN officials discussing HIV & AIDS pandemic. CWGL is pleased to be hosting Mary Jane Real, Coordinator of the [Women Human Rights Defenders](#) (WHRD) network for two months at Rutgers University as a Visiting Global Associate. CWGL will participate in the upcoming [Association for Women's Rights in Development](#) (AWID) 11th Forum in Cape Town, where staff will highlight some of CWGL's current advocacy and campaign initiatives including, GEAR UP, the Next Big Ask for VAW, 16 Days & *Human Rights for Women* ↔ *Human Rights for All*, WHRD, and more. Please continue to visit the [CWGL website](#) for more information about events and activities at the Forum. Finally, a warm welcome to [Keely Swan](#), the new 16 Days Coordinator. Please read her message below on the upcoming [16 Days](#).

## Highlights

### [GEAR Campaign](#)

**GEAR UP – Building a Stronger United Nations that Works for all Women!**

### **STATES ADOPT RESOLUTION ON GENDER ARCHITECTURE IN FINAL DAYS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY!**

In September, at a final meeting of the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly, member states adopted by consensus a resolution that will officially move forward the gender architecture discussion into the next GA session. This means that states have agreed to take next steps toward strengthening the UN system in relation to gender equality and women's empowerment. States also called for the Secretary General to develop a new paper outlining the potential structure and governance of a new entity, which will be discussed in the next GA session. The GEAR Campaign has been advocating for a structure that would have strong country presence, significant funding capacity, high level leadership and a strategic normative and policy making function. Click [here](#) for more information on advocacy to support this project.

### [Human Rights Council](#)

### **HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL TAKES NEXT STEPS IN GENDER INTEGRATION DISCUSSIONS**

Governments and NGOs participated in the Human Rights Council's second major session on *Integrating a Gender Perspective in the work of the Council and its Special Procedures* during its September session. This discussion built on last September's groundbreaking panel on the same theme, which stressed the concepts behind integrating a gender perspective as well as concrete ideas for how to do this within the Council's mechanisms and processes. Recommendations emphasized the need for

## Resources

### [Global Women's Activism: Selected Sites](#)

Rutgers University Libraries with contributions from CWGL has developed a new global women's rights portal. These sites represent entities devoted to worldwide women's activism. They include significant documents, UN affiliated NGOs, government agencies, academic institutions, research centers, as well as focus-specific organizations working on issues such as advocacy, empowerment, human rights, social justice, HIV/AIDS, prevention of violence against women, etc. Each site contains links to the organizations' publications and other online resources useful for investigations on women and gender.

## Announcements

Congratulations to Charlotte Bunch, CWGL's Executive Director, for receiving the Joyce Warshaw Lifetime Achievement Award at the 30th Anniversary Gala & [SAGE](#) (Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders) Awards. For photos, click [here](#).

special procedures (such as Special Rapporteurs) to address gender and experiences of women and girls within their mandates; and for states to integrate gender concerns into the Council's Universal Periodic Review process. The session was created through the work of a coalition of NGOs including CWGL that has been promoting gender integration at the Council since its inception. To read the civil society statement, click [here](#).

### Launch of VAW Video Series

CWGL is excited to share with you a [new video series](#) in an effort to educate the public about violence against women (VAW), including its intersectionalities and linkages. As an organization that advocates for gender equality and calls for the elimination of violence against women (VAW) worldwide, CWGL recognizes that an important part of violence prevention lies within education.

The videos feature international women's human rights experts presenting various VAW intersectionalities from regional perspectives. In each presentation a specific linkage is made between VAW and disability, VAW and culture, VAW and sexuality, and more.

The entire collection of videos is featured on the social-networking and video-sharing site, YouTube.com. For more information, please visit [YouTube](#).

### Celebrate Women

Visit Friedrike Merck's website [For the Greater Good](#), an online photo exhibit featuring women who spend their days working to serve others, including CWGL's Executive Director, Charlotte Bunch.

### Actions

[Campaign: Urgent solidarity needed with women in Nicaragua](#)

### Thank You

CWGL sends a special thank you to the [New York Society of Ethical Culture](#) for its recent donation. Last July, the Center was selected to share in the Sunday collection, which provides contributions to various groups and charities. We appreciate this special recognition.

### Message from the New 16 Days Coordinator

Planning for this year's [16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign](#) is well underway, with groups from as diverse locations as South Africa, Bangladesh, Puerto Rico, Armenia, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, and the local Rutgers community working to link their local activism to the larger movement. The theme for the 2008 campaign is [Human Rights for Women \(—\) Human Rights for All: Celebrating 60 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR is a historic moment that provides women's organizations with an opportunity to both reflect on the past six decades of work in the field of human rights as well as to identify the next major goals for groups working to end VAW. For more information on how to get involved this year, please download the [2008 Take Action Kit](#) (available in English, French, and Spanish) or [contact us](#) to request a hard copy in the mail.

CWGL is organizing a panel on VAW at the upcoming [AWID Forum](#) in South Africa and will hold an informal lunch discussion with groups that are participating in the 16 Days campaign. If your group will be attending AWID and you are interested in meeting to discuss strategies for strengthening the campaign, please contact [Keely Swan](#), the new 16 Days Coordinator. **Please remember to forward us descriptions of any events you plan so that they can be posted on the online International Calendar of Events!** Additionally, CWGL would like to receive other materials, (e.g. posters, fliers, photographs, t-shirts, videos, poems, songs, reports) for the campaign archives. If you have photographs, documents, or other examples of your work please send an electronic version and we will post it on the website.

### Upcoming Events

- **October 17-19, 2008:** [Stand Up and Take Action](#) sponsored by the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) and the UN Millennium Campaign
- **October 27-29, 2008:** [First International Congress on Women and the Media](#), *Violence Against Women, Information or Spectacle?*, Valencia, Spain
- **November 14-17, 2008:** 11th International [AWID Forum](#), Cape Town, South Africa
- **November 25-December 10:** [16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence](#)

### Contribute

CWGL needs your support to continue our work for women's human rights. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to fund our efforts.

To support CWGL, please [click here](#).

## About Us

The Center for Women's Global Leadership develops and facilitates women's leadership for women's human rights and social justice worldwide. It was founded as a project of Douglass College in 1989 and is a unit of the [Institute for Women's Leadership \(IWL\)](#)—a consortium of women's programs at Rutgers University created to study and promote how and why women lead, and to develop programs that prepare women of all ages to lead effectively.



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