

Letter from the Executive Director



As the new executive director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), I am thrilled to lead this organization into its next phase of feminist advocacy for human rights. I began September 1st and am thankful for the outpouring of support from CWGL's many constituencies, especially Center staff who have been incredibly helpful during this transition. As a faculty member in the Rutgers Department of Women's and Gender Studies, I have been graciously welcomed by faculty and university administration. I appreciate your confidence in my leadership and look forward to sharing my work and vision for CWGL and building on the strong foundation CWGL has forged in the global women's human rights movement. Thank you all for your warm welcome and continued support of CWGL. I encourage your participation and input as we move in the new direction of the Center.

Best wishes,

Radhika Balakrishnan

Executive Director, CWGL, Professor, Women's & Gender Studies Department

Highlights

GEAR UP Building a Stronger UN that Works for all Women!

CWGL is pleased to announce that on September 14, 2009 the General Assembly expressed strong and unanimous support in adopting a resolution that will enable the creation of the new gender equality entity to be headed by a new Under Secretary-General (USG). Women and their allies from around the world have been advocating for three years for a stronger better resourced agency on gender equality and women's empowerment, and look forward to its creation early in 2010, during the fifteen anniversary year of the historic UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. At this time, GEAR is urging Secretary General Ban Ki Moon to immediately begin the recruitment process for appointing a strong leader grounded in women's rights and gender equality as the USG who will lead this process of consolidating the four existing entities. The UN Secretariat is also preparing a report on the mission and structure of the new agency which will be ready for inter-governmental discussion and final decisions in January 2010. Women expect a resolution on these outstanding issues and a search process for the USG so that the contours of the entity and its leadership can be announced by the time of the Beijing + 15 Review at the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2010.

Human Rights Council

During the UN Human Rights Council's 12th session, CWGL new executive director Radhika Balakrishnan participated in a side event on the human rights implications of the financial crisis and the importance of using rights norms to address macroeconomic policy at global and national levels. Cynthia Rothschild, senior policy advisor, followed the [annual session on gender integration](#), resolutions on "traditional values" and on HIV, and the appointment of a new special rapporteur on cultural rights. The resolution on "traditional values" calls for OHCHR to do more work in this area, and was sponsored by Russia. Despite our NGO advocacy against it, the resolution passed on the last day of the Council, after having been further diluted through the elimination of references to conformity with international law. [READ MORE...](#)

Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights Partners

- [AWID: Feminist Analysis of the Global Economic Crisis](#)
- [Center for Popular Economics](#)
- [ECONOMICA](#)
- [Fundar](#)
- [Global Rights](#)
- [IAFFE](#)
- [INCIDE Social](#)
- [International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(ESCR-net\)](#)
- [Human Rights Internship Program, Institute of International Education](#)
- [National Economic and Social Rights Initiative \(NESRI\)](#)
- [Political Economy Research Institute](#)
- [Rights Working Group](#)
- [US Human Rights Network](#)
- [Women of Color Policy Network](#)

News

[UN Human Rights Council Appoints Farida Shaheed as Independent Expert on Cultural Rights](#)

[Uganda: 'Anti-Homosexuality' Bill Threatens Liberties and Human Rights Defenders](#)

Q & A with CWGL's New Executive Director

How do you envision your background influencing CWGL?

As an economist working in this field I believe that human rights advocates and progressive economists share common concerns. In the human rights community, there has been an increasing interest in economic and social rights, including the equal enjoyment of such rights: concerns that have often been overlooked by the dominant traditions of economics. Human rights have significant economic implications, since promoting, protecting and fulfilling them require resources and involve costs. In turn, economic policies have significant impacts on human rights; they shape the nature of the threats to the economic and social rights of different groups of people, and can both harm and assist the realization of human rights

Who is your favorite economist?

I have two, [Lourdes Beneria](#) and [Diane Elson](#).

How does feminism play a role in the work you do?

My view of the world is through a feminist, political, and activist lens. I am dedicated to looking at inequalities not just between men and women, but also racial and class inequalities. My focus in life is to fight against the oppression of all people.

Why MES with Human Rights?

Integrating Macro Economic Strategies with Human Rights

In late September, CWGL convened a meeting in an effort to develop strategies to reach diverse groups of activists and academics who would have interest in using a macro economic and human rights training module. The purpose of bringing together these actors was to identify interested organizations, activists, and critical policy makers in Mexico and the United States and name what the value added would be for these groups in understanding the human rights approach of the macroeconomic strategies project. For photos, visit [flickr](#), [READ MORE...](#)

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence



COMMIT • ACT • DEMAND:

We CAN End Violence Against Women!

The [16 Days Campaign](#) is quickly approaching, so make sure to get your copy of the 2009 Take Action Kit! If you are planning any events for the campaign, please send the details for inclusion in the online International Calendar of Campaign Activities to 16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu. You can also follow exciting campaign developments and share information about your programs by becoming a fan of the [Official 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign](#) Facebook page! The 16 Days Campaign continues to be an opportunity each year for groups and individuals to work together in solidarity and draw upon this period of heightened international attention to gain support for their local efforts to end violence against women. We look forward to hearing from you!

Upcoming Events

- **November 7-9, 2009:** [The Color of Power: Voices for Change](#), SisterSong, Washington, DC, USA
- **November 16, 2009 (6-9pm):** [The 16 Days of Activism: Ending Violence against Women](#), UNIFEM Metro New York Chapter, USA

Save the Date

CWGL will celebrate its 20th anniversary on March 6, 2010 in New York. More details to follow in the coming months.

CWGL New Media

CWGL is pleased to announce the launch of its' Facebook fan pages. Facebook is a global social networking site which will allow CWGL to provide a dynamic space for women's rights information and dialogue with new audiences. The fan pages include, CWGL's general work, [Gender Equality Architecture Reform \(GEAR\)](#) advocacy, [16 Days](#), and the [Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition](#). CWGL invites you to become a fan of these pages.

Announcements

Message from Charlotte Bunch, Senior Scholar at CWGL

In my new role as Senior Scholar at CWGL and continuing as Distinguished Professor in the Women's and Gender Studies Department at Rutgers University, I look forward to writing, teaching and collaborating with our constituency in new ways. For now, I will continue to lead CWGL's participation in the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign, and as CWGL enters a new phase and celebrates its 20th anniversary, I anticipate sharing in the future of CWGL with Radhika.

New CWGL Email Address

Please note that CWGL will be transitioning its email address from cwgl@igc.org to cwgl@rci.rutgers.edu. Be sure to update your address book.

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. CWGL is a unit of [International Programs](#) within the [School of Arts and Sciences](#) and is member 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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