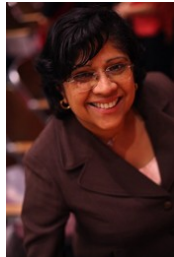


Letter from the Executive Director



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The global economic crisis has caused severe hardship for all and thus we at CWGL continue to focus on economic policy and human rights from a feminist perspective. The staff and I recently completed an intensive strategic planning and we look forward to sharing information about the development of CWGL's program areas in the coming months. Some of the Center's upcoming projects include meetings with various United Nations experts to discuss the intersections between their focus, gender and the impacts of macroeconomic policies within the framework of economic and social rights. Since fall 2009, CWGL has been working with partners to develop a training module on integrating human rights approaches to macroeconomic policies and is hoping to launch this initiative in the next year. In February, CWGL will hold a pilot student training for the 2011 Commission on the Status of Women in an effort to bring new and younger voices to the United Nations. As part of the UPR process (see below)

CWGL along with partners have been drawing attention to the development of a human rights centered macroeconomic policy in the US. Finally, CWGL, a partner in the GEAR Campaign, celebrates the establishment of UN Women and looks forward to working with the new entity in an effort to influence programmatic areas of work.

Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director, CWGL

United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Over the last ten months, CWGL has been preparing for the ninth session of the US's first [UPR](#). CWGL and several other US based NGOs under the guidance of the [US Human Rights Network](#) (USHRN) have reviewed human rights progress in the US and measured how the US is meeting its human rights obligations. During this period, CWGL along with the [International Network for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (ESCR-Net) and the [Political Economy Research Institute](#) (PERI) wrote a [report](#) on integrating a human rights centered approach to macroeconomic policy in the US. The report focuses on how the impact of the economic crisis disproportionately affected poor people and women of color and the effectiveness of the government's monetary and fiscal policy responses thereafter. Once the US's [first official UPR report](#) was public at the end of August, CWGL and partner groups disseminated a [press release](#) which called attention to the human rights gaps in the report. In early October, Margot Baruch, CWGL Program Coordinator, delivered a presentation to a handful of embassy representatives at *Closing the Gap: A Review of the United States' Efforts to Promote and Protect Human Rights within Its Own Borders*. At the event many government representatives showed interest in raising policy concerns CWGL put forth at the upcoming November 5th UN UPR in Geneva, Switzerland. Other highlights include the [USHRN's Testify Project](#) which collects stories of injustice from throughout the United States through video and testimony. The USHRN also published a [compilation of 26 stakeholder reports](#) revealing the full breadth and depth of human rights issues that US citizens continue to confront on a daily basis. Finally, on November 5th in Geneva, Switzerland, CWGL will partner with ESCR-Net, PERI, USHRN, Urban Justice Center, and Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) to call attention to human rights in the US at an event entitled, [Building Foundations for Freedom from Want in the Land of Plenty](#).

CWGL's New Report

As thousands of representatives of governments and NGOs from all across the globe converged at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City for the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2010, hundreds of women's human rights advocates gathered at a Public Symposium convened by CWGL on the occasion of its 20th anniversary to discuss achievements and remaining obstacles in the area of women's empowerment and gender equality from a civil society perspective. Held on March 6, 2010, the symposium was entitled, [Body, Economy, Movement: The Global Women's Movement at the Beijing+15 Review](#). The publication and video documenting this important landmark event are now available [online](#).

Justice for WHRDs

Women's rights defenders from Gambia were freed on bail after being arrested on October 11, 2010. Visit [WLUMI](#) for steps on how to take action now.

GEAR Campaign

On September 14, 2010 [CWGL](#), the [GEAR Campaign](#), and women around the world we're thrilled to hear that the Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General, appointed Michele Bachelet, former Chilean President, to the position of Under-Secretary-General (USG) of [UN Women](#). Charlotte Bunch, CWGL Founding Director and Senior Scholar and GEAR Campaign advocate shared that, *Bachelet is a top notch choice and has long been one of GEAR's dream candidates. An effective leader of great integrity, Bachelet has demonstrated strong commitment to women's empowerment and the ability to shape gender equality policies in a variety of areas. She also has the stature to mobilize the resources crucial to make UN Women a success.* For more information about the GEAR Campaign's opinion on Bachelet, see the [press release](#). In the coming weeks, the GEAR Campaign Facilitation Committee hopes to schedule a meeting with the newly appointed USG to discuss the relationship between UN Women and civil society in this transitional stage and beyond. Campaign allies and women's rights groups globally are also initiating meetings with NGO networks and UN staff in national and regional offices in an effort to strengthen and build mechanisms for civil society engagement and discuss input into programmatic areas. For more information about the GEAR Campaign, email gearcampaign@gmail.com.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

CWGL is thrilled to announce the launch of the new [16 Days Campaign website!](#) Now you can directly submit your own campaign information and documents to the online International Calendar of Campaign Activities. Spread the word and start sharing your activities today! Preparations are also underway for the November 29th *Global Day of Action*, during which campaign participants will be planning peace vigils and marches around the world. If you haven't read about it yet, see the *Call to Action against Violence Against Women and Militarism* in the [Take Action Kit](#). Don't forget to send us your local demands and photos from the day so they can be posted on the website! CWGL has also produced white bandanas and promotional posters for the Day of Action. We can send a limited number to you by mail, but supplies are running out so write to us soon! Keep an eye on the new website for updates as the campaign approaches, and please feel free to send us your [feedback](#).

Save the Date! - 16 Days Upcoming Event

On November 29, 2010, CWGL will co-sponsor an event with the [Global Fund for Women](#) and [Ipas](#) on *Feminist Approaches to Critiquing Militarism and Military Intervention, Promoting Women's Rights, and Creating Alternative Strategies*. We are planning to hold the program at the UN Church Center in New York City, followed by an outdoor peace vigil. Please check our [website](#) for updates about the time and location.

Upcoming Events

- **October 27, 2010 (3-4:30pm):** [Building Peace: Exploring the Intersections of Militarism and Violence Against Women](#), NY
- **October 28, 2010 (4:30pm):** 2010 Laurie Chair, Diane Elson, University of Essex, [Budgeting for Women's Rights: Why Ministers of Finance Need to Know about CEDAW](#), New Brunswick, NJ
- **November 5, 2010 (1-3pm):** UN UPR Ninth Session, [Building Foundations for Freedom from Want in the Land of Plenty](#), sponsored by CWGL, ESCR-Net, PERI, USHR Network, CESR, and UJC, Geneva, Switzerland
- **November 25-December 10, 2010:** [16 Days Campaign](#)

Actions

Support Brazilian HRDs

Brazilian human rights defenders launched a manifesto against the way the abortion issue is being exploited in the current electoral period in Brazil. [Support and sign the online petition.](#)

CWGL Supports

CWGL, on July 14, 2010, signed a letter to Commissioners and Secretariat staff of the UN Commission on [HIV and the Law regarding the advancement of women's sexual and reproductive rights](#).

On October 19, 2010, CWGL endorsed a letter to the UN addressing [civil society participation at the 2010 Summit of the Millennium Development Goals](#).

CWGL in the News

Radhika Balakrishnan, CWGL Executive Director, served as rapporteur for the roundtable on poverty and hunger at the [2010 UN Private Sector Forum on the Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#).

Natalia Cardona, CWGL Program Director, wrote [The MDGs: Addressing the enabling environment through the ethical framework of human rights](#).

Jewel Daney, CWGL Administrative Director, is a safe-space liaison to the LGBT student community at Rutgers. In the recent loss of a gay student to suicide, [she worked with students on a vigil and call for action](#).

Charlotte Bunch, CWGL Founding Director and Senior Scholar, was featured in [Michelle Bachelet's Appointment to Head UN Women Widely Applauded](#).

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 a 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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