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Greetings

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Center for Women's Global Leadership's (CWGL) quarterly online newsletter. CWGL continues to be engaged with a variety of entities and organizations working to promote women's rights worldwide. Staff and affiliates have also represented CWGL at a number of meetings and conferences. In February, CWGL was busy planning for the 51st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). During the CSW, CWGL and the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) spearheaded an international effort to support a strengthened "Gender Equality Architecture" at the United Nations. In March, CWGL participated in the fourth session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and focused on violence against women, human rights defenders, HIV/AIDS, and integration of gender into the Council's work and that of other UN bodies. In addition, CWGL helped launch the [Yogyakarta Principles](#), "a groundbreaking set of principles on sexual orientation, gender identity, and international law."

Please take a moment to visit CWGL's [Take Action](#) page and sign a global petition that supports independent experts within the UN system (such as Special Rapporteurs), who report on human rights issues, including women's human rights, human rights defenders, and sexual rights. The mandates of these experts are under review by the Human Rights Council; join the worldwide effort to support their work!

As always, we look forward to your comments and feedback.

Best wishes,
Center for Women's Global Leadership

Program Highlights	News
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES & UPDATES Last fall, CWGL hosted a strategic conversation on leadership development in the women's human rights movement. In this conversation, participants noted the need for additional spaces to discuss concrete solutions to some of the challenges facing movements on a global level, including those related to building and strengthening multigenerational leadership. Later in 2007, CWGL, in collaboration with Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (CREA) and The Youth Coalition , will host another strategic conversation on multigenerational leadership. Participants will explore issues facing diverse generations in the women's rights movement, and will recommend strategies toward building stronger leadership in our movements, networks and organizations.	Campaign Launch On March 6, 2007, ActionAid International and various other organizations including CWGL launched a new global campaign entitled Women Won't Wait, End HIV & Violence Against Women, Now . The campaign calls for major funders to allocate greater resources for work at the intersection of HIV and VAW. Welcome CWGL would like to welcome the Institute for Women and Art (IWA) to the Rutgers University community. IWA is the most recent addition to the Institute for Women's Leadership consortium. The new Institute supports and sponsors scholarship, research, exhibitions and programming on topics pertaining to women in art, including attention to past inequities, and promotes the transformation of policies, institutions, attitudes and social structures.
UNITED NATIONS ADVOCACY UPDATES Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) United Nations, New York City: February 26 - March 9, 2007 CWGL staff and affiliates were hard at work during the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in February and March. In addition to co-convening the Linkage Caucus, CWGL helped to spearhead international advocacy supporting a strengthened gender equality architecture at the United Nations. With WEDO , CWGL convened a global strategy meeting on the proposed restructuring of women's agencies at the UN and related advocacy before and during the General Assembly later this year. In addition, CWGL convened or participated in a number of panels on UN reform, sexual rights, HIV/AIDS and violence against women. If you are interested in receiving email updates about UN Reform, please email cwgl@igc.org . Human Rights Council (HRC) United Nations, Geneva: March 12 - March 30, 2007 Staff attended and participated in the spring session of the HRC. CWGL hosted a small meeting that brought together activists working on strengthening gender in various UN areas (including in the Council itself and in treaty bodies). CWGL is collaborating with several groups to integrate human rights of women into the focus of the Council, including in work of the Special Procedures, in the universal periodic review of States and in the Council's programme of work/agenda. CWGL co-convened and participated in panels on violence against women, women human rights defenders, HIV/AIDS, sexual rights and gender equality architecture. See the joint statement on gender and the HRC , as well as the following CWGL oral interventions on defenders and violence against women .	Resources Action on Gender Based Violence and HIV/AIDS: Bringing Together Research, Policy, Programming and Advocacy - Meeting Report In August 2006, the Program on International Health and Human Rights, Harvard School of Public Health , and CWGL organized a consultation to discuss the linkages between Gender Based Violence (GBV) and HIV with a view to understanding common challenges and informing research, advocacy, policy and practice.

Women's Global Leadership Institute (WGLI) Update

This section of the newsletter shares updates on leadership activities and news of WGLI graduates from the first Institute in 1991 to 2002. We would greatly appreciate hearing from WGLI graduates. Updates can be sent to cwgl@igc.org.

Sharon Bong, a 1999 WGLI graduate, recently authored a book entitled *The Tension Between Women's Rights and Religions: The Case of Malaysia* (2006). She is currently teaching Women's Studies and Creative Writing at Monash University in Malaysia.

Widney Brown, a 1997 WGLI graduate, has a new position at Amnesty International as Senior Director, International Law, Policy and Campaigns. She was previously the Deputy Program Director at Human Rights Watch.

Cynthia Mellon, a 1997 WGLI graduate, is a first-year law student at Rutgers Law School-Camden, focusing on international law. She recently worked for the Research and Education Fund of the United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE), where she introduced a human rights perspective into the union's work and analysis.

Upcoming Events	Contribute!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May 14 - June 1, 2007: CEDAW, 38th session, UN Headquarters, NY.• May 16, 2007: A special event to honor Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Iranian human rights attorney and the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, at Rutgers University. RSVP necessary.• May 23 - 27, 2007: CIVICUS World Assembly, Glasgow, Scotland where CWGL's executive director will speak.• July 4-7, 2007: YWCA conference on Women's Leadership and HIV/AIDS, Nairobi, Kenya, where CWGL will participate and organize two workshops. <p>Click here for a complete list of upcoming events.</p>	<p>CWGL needs your support to continue our work for women's human rights. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to fund our efforts.</p> <p>To support CWGL, please click here.</p>

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 seven 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.