



From the Executive Director



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We mourn the passing of Professor Wangari Maathai, founder of the Green Belt Movement and 2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. She was an amazing light to the women's and environmental movements. She will be dearly missed, but her spirit will be with us always. As we mourn her death we also celebrate the announcement that three courageous women activists and kindred spirits of Dr. Maathai, won this year's Nobel Peace Prize: Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberian Leymah Gbowee and Tawakul Karman of Yemen; and that former CWGL Visiting Global Associate Wanda Nowicka was elected to the Polish parliament.

In a manner that would bring a smile to Dr. Maathai's face, the youth of America are letting their dissatisfaction with the economic inequalities facing the United States known. The movement to [Occupy Wall Street](#) (OWS) has taken hold of the nation's, and increasingly the world's, imagination through a simple demand for fairness. In my visit to Zuccotti Park as well as OWS' general assembly meeting, I saw an energized grassroots movement find its voice and its footing. It is movements such as these—humble and democratic—striving for equality and justice that serve as the voice of conscience and the agent of change around the world. We celebrate this and hope that this will galvanize change that will bring economic and social rights for all.

In solidarity, Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director, CWGL

Ending Violence Against Women – 16 Days Campaign News



The 2011 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign theme, *From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women*, seeks to explore some of the deeper socio-economic structures that promote and perpetuate violence against women and girls. This theme emerged from a meeting with experts in the area of violence against women and militarism. The final meeting report is now [available](#). This year, we are seeking to better understand the different ways women and girls define security. To contribute to this effort, please visit our website and [participate in our survey](#). Thank you!

CWGL also produces an annual 16 Days Take Action Kit that contains a variety of resources aimed at supporting organizations and individuals from around the world in planning their own Campaign activities. This year's kit includes an overview of the 2011 theme, a historic profile of the Campaign, a list of key dates, a planning guide, a resource list, conceptual information on five thematic issue areas, and promotional materials. The kit is currently available for download in English, French, and Spanish on the [16 Days website](#).

Advancing Economic and Social Rights from a Feminist Perspective – The Right to Food, Gender Equality and Economic Policy

The Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) organized a two-day experts meeting, "The Right to Food, Gender Equality and Economic Policy," from September 16-17, 2011. The meeting aimed to contribute to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food's work on gender equality, including a final report for the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2012. To this end, CWGL brought together feminist economists, including Diane Elson, Stephanie Seguino and Madhura Swaminathan, researchers and advocacy specialists working on various aspects of the food system to offer analysis and recommendations. The meeting: (i) addressed the connections between the realization of the right to food and economic regulation from a feminist perspective; (ii) tabled recommendations to the Special Rapporteur as a means to fulfill his mandate; and (iii) strengthened analyses and policy advocacy of civil society groups around macroeconomics and human rights.

Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign Update



CWGL, as part of the [GEAR Campaign](#) facilitation committee and as a Global Focal Point, continues to follow the developments of UN Women using the following critical benchmarks: (i) incorporation of a human rights-based approach; (ii) development of partnerships and strengthened engagement between UN Women & Civil Society; and (iii) enhancement of UN Women's operational capacity. GEAR also plans to raise the issue of resource mobilization amongst Member States.

CWGL Welcomes Fall 2011 Visiting Global Associate Marcela Olivera



Building on our work with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, CWGL is pleased to host [Marcela Olivera](#), Latin American coordinator for the [Water for All campaign](#), as this year's Visiting Global Associate. At Water for All, she coordinates "Red Vida," a citizens network based in Cochabamba, Bolivia which works to preserve/establish water as a public good and human right. Marcela notes, "I am honored to be here at Rutgers University working at the Center for Women's Global Leadership. This opportunity to continue working on global water issues within both an academic and research context in North America is expanding my understanding of the challenges we have ahead. My interactions with students and the differing perspectives that this learning environment offers are having an enormous impact in my work and life. My work is particularly enlightened by our emphasis on the value which a feminist perspective brings to global affairs, and specifically to the struggle for the human right to water throughout the world."

Inside CWGL

The Center is pleased to welcome [Savitri Bisnath](#), Senior Policy Advisor, and [Julie Ann Salthouse](#), Program Coordinator overseeing the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign and the overall violence against women and militarism portfolio.

With gratitude, we say goodbye to **Jewel Daney**, who was with the Center for over a decade, and **Natalia Cardona**. Jewel has moved on to the Office of the Dean of Students at Rutgers University and Natalia is now at the Association for Women Right's in Development (AWID). We thank them for their commitment and contributions to CWGL's work.

Resources

- New CWGL Briefing Paper! [NEXUS: Shaping Feminist Visions in the 21st Century, Making Macroeconomics Work for US: A Feminist Perspective](#)
- Rights Groups Submit Joint Letter to Congress Demanding a Human Rights Perspective On Budget Decisions: [Joint Letter](#); [Press Release](#)
- [Intersections of Violence Against Women and Militarism Meeting Report](#)
- [Addressing Gaps in the Defense of Women Human Rights Defenders: A Report on the Strategic Conversation](#)

Events

- **October 25, 2011 (4pm):** Public lecture by Marcela Olivera, Bolivian water rights activist & IWL Visiting Global Associate, RDJC Building, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
- **November 25-December 10, 2011:** [16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence](#), CWGL
- **December 5, 2011 (7:30pm):** 3rd annual Human Rights House coffeehouse, NJC Lounge, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ



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About Us

The Center for Women's Global Leadership strengthens and facilitates women's leadership for women's human rights and social justice worldwide. CWGL envisions a world in which all people are equal and gender equality is systematically realized by the achievement of human rights for all. 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 that examines leadership issues and advances women's leadership in education, research, politics, science, the arts, the workplace and the world.

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