

From the Executive Director



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The backlash of conservative forces continue to take a toll on the advancement of women's rights. With immense disappointment, we witnessed the UN Commission on the Status of Women session end with no adopted agreed conclusions on the priority theme, empowering rural women. Despite this setback, the women's movement has forged ahead, working to pass a groundbreaking resolution on the theme "Adolescents and Youth" and sexual and reproductive health rights at the recent International Conference on Population and Development. Furthermore, over 2,200 women's rights leaders and activists from around the world gathered at AWID's 12th International Forum on Women's Rights and Development last month in Istanbul, Turkey, under the theme of *Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women's Rights and Justice*.

At the AWID forum, CWGL sponsored a number of events (for full list, [click here](#)) and I had the honor of speaking on the final plenary. CWGL also conducted a one day training the day before the forum, entitled *Applying Feminist Human Rights Perspectives to Macroeconomic Policy: An Economic Justice Training*. One of the highlights of the forum for me was CWGL's participation in the AWID Young Feminist Corner for a brief teach-in on macroeconomics and human rights. Meeting this group of amazing young women gives me hope and promise for our future.

Finally, this has been an exciting time for CWGL as we welcome new staff and further develop our programmatic priorities. In addition to the various presentations, interviews and talks given by staff, CWGL continues to produce research relevant to those working on economic justice. Please see the resources section to learn more. Thank you for your continued support of CWGL's work.

In solidarity,
Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director

Ending Violence Against Women – 16 Days Campaign News



In March, CWGL was proud to publish the [16 Days Campaign Analytical Report](#), which provides an analysis of the scope and depth of the Campaign. In 2011, CWGL was directly in touch with approximately 500 organizations in 106 countries, bringing the total number of Campaign participants to **4,114 organizations in 172 countries**. Approximately 400 initiatives focused on the 2011 Campaign theme, *From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and*

End Violence Against Women!, with activities ranging from theatre performances in Armenia to street marches in Zimbabwe. Many thanks to all who participated!

CWGL Launches The Security Project

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new project, ["What Does Security Mean to You?"](#), and invite your opinions. The project aims to define security from a feminist perspective from the ground up. Let **your voice** be heard, **participation is quick and easy**: (a) Complete our [one question online survey](#) and share the link with your networks and friends; (b) Tweet #mysecurity and post on social media sites; and (c) Visit our [Security Project website](#) for more information. Thank you for joining us in building a more peaceful and just world!

CWGL United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) Student Training

Over the last five months, CWGL trained 16 undergraduate students from Rutgers University through our second annual Student Advocacy Training on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW). The learning community brought together students, academics, experts and activists in discussions which bridged feminist theory and praxis. This unique training also exposed the students to understandings of feminism and human rights as tools for organizing at the local, national, and international levels. On May 2nd CWGL organized a public forum where students presented on their experiences during the training and at the CSW. Student Charlotte Longworth shared that, "The opportunity to engage with women from all different areas of the world in one room; bringing their unique experiences, views, and culture to human rights issues and shaping social change was an incredibly rich experience." [Click here](#) to view photos from the event. You can also read more about student reflections from the training through their [online blog](#). CWGL gratefully acknowledges the support of Rutgers University's Office of Undergraduate Education and Douglass Residential College Dean Litt.

Advancing Economic and Social Rights from a Feminist Perspective

As feminists advocating for the full realization of human rights and the achievement of gender equality, women's rights activists need to have knowledge of macroeconomic policies to fully comprehend systemic issues of inequality. To this end, on April 18, 2012, ActionAid International and CWGL co-sponsored an Economic Justice Training to expose advocates from NGOs to feminist human rights perspectives of macroeconomic policy. As a take away, a participant noted, "We advocate for women's employment, for example, but we do not build close linkages with macroeconomic policies. This will strengthen the power of our arguments and will provide alternative perspectives." CWGL will build on this training and hopes to convene a three and a half day training on economic justice in Fall 2012. Trainers included: Radhika Balakrishnan, CWGL; Diane Elson, University of Essex; and James Heintz, Political Economy Research Institute. Participants came from countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, North America, and the Pacific.

The American Library Association Recognizes CWGL's Poster Collection!



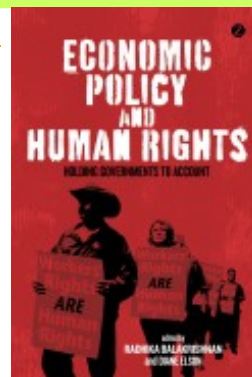
The Margery Somers Foster Center, Rutgers University Libraries, in collaboration with the Department of Women's and Gender Studies and the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), both of the School of Arts and Sciences, were awarded the 2012 Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Women and Gender Studies Section (WGSS) Award for Significant Achievement in Woman's Studies Librarianship. The WGSS award honors a significant or one-time contribution to women's studies librarianship. We would like to congratulate Kayo Denda, Alicia Graham, Rhonda Marker and Li Sun of Rutgers University Libraries and Kirsten Canfield and Lucy Vidal of CWGL for their work on the poster collection portal. The collection provides digitized access to approximately 300 posters published by women's rights organizations worldwide and housed at CWGL. The posters chronicle 20 years of transnational women's activism and advocacy, while documenting evolving issues of the global women's movement. To search the portal, visit <http://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu> and enter "CWGL Poster Collection" in the search box. We hope you will find this resource useful in your advocacy efforts.

Inside CWGL

We are pleased to welcome two new staff members: Associate Director, Savi Bisnath, PhD, and Administrative Director, Amari Verástegui. We also thank Rutgers students Jay Chopra, Samantha Dugan, Puja Jani, Sulekha Prasad and Sara West and IWL Scholars, Amani Al-Khatahtbeh, Akanksha Arya and Kara McCloskey for their excellent work this semester.

New Resources

- Balakrishnan, R. & Bisnath, S., "Feminist Economics" in [*The Elgar Companion to Marxist Economics*](#), edited by Ben Fine and Alfredo Saad-Filho, Edward Elgar Publishing (2012)
- Balakrishnan, R. & Elson, D., [*Economic Policy and Human Rights: Holding Governments to Account*](#), Zed Books (2011)
- Baruch, M., [*Engendering the UN architecture: feminist advocacy in the establishment of UN women*](#), MSc thesis, Rutgers University-Newark (2011)
- CWGL Report: [*El Derecho a la Alimentación, Equidad de Género y Política Económica*](#) (2012)
Spanish translation of the [*The Right to Food, Gender Equality and Economic Policy*](#) (2011)
- [*Center for Women's Global Leadership Annual Report 2010-2011*](#) (2011)



Contribute

The Center for Women's Global Leadership needs your support to continue its work to advance women's human rights. Please make a tax-deductible donation [here](#).

About Us

The Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) 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 works to: advance economic and social rights from a feminist perspective; promote an end to violence against women and highlight the linkages with militarism; and build coalitions and deepen capacity around those urgent issues that are critical to the global women's movement to secure policy reform at the international and national levels. Based at Rutgers University, CWGL is a unit of [International Programs](#) within the [School of Arts and Sciences](#) and a member of the [Institute for Women's Leadership Consortium](#).

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