



From the Executive Director



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As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2011 and the ongoing challenges of creating a more just and equal world for women and girls, we are inspired by, and honored to have worked with, women and men who have struggled for the achievement of economic and social rights and an end to violence against women. In 2011, we once again successfully coordinated the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence which inspired tens of thousands of activities around the world, including murals in Argentina, radio shows in Fiji, anti-violence billboards in Lebanon, a panel discussion on political violence in Liberia, marches in Portugal and campus wide screams in the United States. The 16 Days Campaign brought to the fore the solidarity which exists across countries and communities to end violence against women and create a more peaceful world.

This has been an incredible year all over the world, with people taking to the streets from Cairo to New York to Madrid. The time is ripe for increased pressure on governments and international agencies to use economic and social rights as a lens through which to formulate economic policy. Let us hope that last year's activism will lead to real and lasting change that benefits us all.

We are pleased to share with you that we are among Philanthropedia's top five expert-recommended high-impact nonprofits. On behalf of the staff of CWGL, I would like to thank Philanthropedia's experts and our supporters for appreciating and investing in women's leadership worldwide.

Happy New Year!

In solidarity,
 Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director

Philanthropedia recently named CWGL among top 5 expert-recommended high-impact nonprofits.

[Read press release](#)

and many thanks to our supporters!



Ending Violence Against Women – 16 Days Campaign News



CWGL was thrilled and humbled to work in solidarity with activists from around the world during the 2011 16 Days Campaign. Advocating under the theme *From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!*, thousands of groups participated, with our [website](#) receiving over **41,000 visits from 194 countries and territories**. We encourage all participants to [email us](#) campaign materials and complete the [Post-Campaign Questionnaire](#). Resounding thanks to all who helped to make the 2011 Campaign a success!

What Does 'Security' Mean to You?

Often when we hear about security it's in terms of the State (the military or police). Through CWGL's Security Project we are aiming to document what human security really means to women worldwide. Join us in answering "what does human security mean to you" by submitting your views at the [project website](#). Thank you!

Planning Ahead: Advancing Economic and Social Rights from a Feminist Perspective Promoting Feminist Women's Leadership and Human Rights at the AWID Forum

At the [2012 AWID Forum](#), *Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women's Rights and Justice*, CWGL will engage in a variety of activities focused on economic and social rights and violence against women. The Center will both convene a panel with specific UN Special Rapporteurs to discuss engendering issues related to economic and social rights and facilitate a skills-building workshop on the basics of macroeconomics from a feminist perspective. Prior to the Forum, CWGL and Action Aid International will conduct an Economic Justice Training on applying feminist human rights perspectives to macroeconomic policy.

CWGL and GEAR Participate in UN Women Executive Board



CWGL, with GEAR Campaign partners, participated in the UN Women Executive Board Meeting held December 5-7, 2011. During this meeting the budget for 2012/13 was discussed. Charlotte Bunch, CWGL's founding director and senior scholar, read the [GEAR statement](#) which calls attention to the need for increased funding for UN Women as well as formalized engagement with civil society. Member States were pleased with the work of UN Women, but expressed concerns about strengthening country level engagement, the participation of civil society, and the allocation of resources for programming.

CWGL Prepares for 2012 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Facilitating Human Rights from a Feminist Perspective, scheduled for February 28, is a panel discussion with experts and activists in the areas of feminist economics and economic and social rights. CWGL will also host an *Open Forum on the 16 Days Campaign*, scheduled for February 27, and sponsor a panel of experts to discuss the links between the perpetuation of militarism and its consequences for the safety and security of all, on February 29. For up-to-date information about CWGL's events at the CSW please visit [CSW webpage](#).

CWGL Contributes to USHRN's National Conference

From December 9-11, 2011, CWGL participated in the US Human Rights Network's annual meeting in California. To further the application of human rights in macroeconomic policies, the Center convened a workshop on the links between macroeconomics and human rights from a feminist perspective. CWGL's Visiting Global Associate and Bolivian water rights activist, Marcela Olivera, presented on the Cochabamba water wars in Bolivia, and transnational strategies for progress. Radhika Balakrishnan, CWGL's executive director and USHRN's board chair, highlighted linkages between human rights and macroeconomics in the U.S. during the closing plenary.

Inside CWGL

CWGL welcomes [Alex Anastasia](#), administrative assistant, to the staff and would like to thank students Genevieve Cato, Jay Chopra, Samantha Dugan, Jordan Greenstein, Puja Jani, Melissa Moskowitz and Sarah Weirich for all their hard work last semester. We would also like to thank Ria DasGupta for all her help over the years and wish her well in her new position at Douglass Residential College. Congratulations, Ria!

Resources

- [The Right to Food, Gender Equality and Economic Policy](#), CWGL
- [Macroeconomics and the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation](#), CWGL
- [Huffington Post: Occupy Wall Street from a Human Rights Lens](#), Radhika Balakrishnan and James Heintz
- [What the Women Say: The Arab Spring and Implications for Women](#), ICAN
- [Water is Where Everything Intersects: Water in the Global Commons](#), Marcela Olivera

Events

- **February 27-March 9:** UN Commission on the Status of Women, New York, USA
- **March 19-22:** World Conference of Women's Shelters, Washington, DC, USA
- **March 30:** Looking Forward: Rhonda Copelon's Legacy in Action and the Future of International Women's Human Rights Law, New York, USA
- **April 19-22:** AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development, Istanbul, Turkey

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 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. CWGL is a unit of [International Programs](#) within the [School of Arts and Sciences](#) and a member of the [Institute for Women's Leadership](#), 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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