



## CWGL e-newsletter · Issue 9 · Spring 2008

If you have difficulty viewing this newsletter, [click here](#) to access it in PDF format.

### Greetings

Welcome to the ninth issue of the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) quarterly e-newsletter. CWGL has had a productive and active winter, being involved in a range of new initiatives and campaigns as well as sponsoring a number of events. At the end of January, CWGL along with the [Defending Women Defending Rights International Coordinating Committee](#) convened an organizational meeting to map out the future of the campaign. The [52nd Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#), brought thousands of activists to the United Nations this year. CWGL participated in and sponsored [numerous events](#) during the CSW. The [Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign](#), also known as GEAR, was launched at an event during the CSW and received an overwhelming amount of support from CSW attendees. Currently, GEAR has over 265 organizational endorsements from around the world.

In March, CWGL convened an event entitled [Human Rights for Women <-> Human Rights For All](#): Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Please view the [gallery of photos](#) from the event, as well as [interviews](#), conducted by CWGL and [The Hub](#), of activists highlighting campaigns and discussing current issues on the global women's human rights agenda.

### Highlights

#### [GEAR Campaign](#) and the [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#) United Nations, New York City: February 25-March 7, 2008

The UN Commission on the Status of Women concluded its 52nd session with strong civil society momentum to strengthen the gender infrastructure of the UN system, and with weak government commitments to provide better resourcing for gender equality. The theme for the 2008 CSW was *Financing for gender equality and empowerment of women*. At the CSW, thousands of advocates gathered in New York to press their governments to make available funding and other resources that would create meaningful change for women around the world. In its capacity as a co-facilitator, CWGL helped to launch the [GEAR campaign](#) (for gender equality architecture reform in the UN); in a show of global solidarity, over 265 organizations have now endorsed the campaign. Gender architecture advocates will focus efforts on the next session of the General Assembly in June. To GEAR UP and join the campaign email [gearcam-paign@gmail.com](mailto:gearcam-paign@gmail.com). As in previous years, CWGL co-organized with the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO) and the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York the linkage caucus meetings and produced a [Caucus statement](#) that analyzes outcomes of the CSW. To read the official Agreed Conclusions from the CSW, click [here](#). For a recap of CWGL's activities at the CSW please visit the [program highlights](#) page.

### News

[Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society](#)

[UN Secretary General Campaign on Violence Against Women](#)

[Amnesty International Safe School: Every Girl's Right!](#)

[New UNIFEM Director Named](#)

### Announcements

Congratulations to Lucy Vidal, CWGL's Information Manager, who gave birth to Alexander Manuel Vega, on February 25, 2008.

CWGL sends best wishes to our colleague Sunila Abeysekera, as she works in consultation at [IWRAW Asia Pacific](#).

Ethel Brooks and Dorothy Hodgson, both Women and Gender Studies faculty at Rutgers University, edited [Activisms](#) for the [Women and Studies Quarterly Journal](#).

## Human Rights Council

United Nations, Geneva: March 3-28, 2008

The UN Human Rights Council finished its seventh session in March, during which member states reviewed the mandates of a number of independent experts known as “special procedures”. Some mandates were seen as controversial, such as the human rights defenders mandate, which was renewed, but which was also shifted from a Secretary General Special Representative to a Special Rapporteur position. Advocates celebrated the work of Hina Jilani, the current mandate holder on defenders and a ‘91 [Women’s Global Leadership Institute](#) (WGLI) graduate ([WHRD statement](#)). In the same session: the violence against women mandate was renewed; the Special Rapporteur on torture issued a groundbreaking report that focused on women and gender-based violence ([Statement on torture and gender](#)); and member states began to review one another’s human rights records under the Universal Periodic Review process. Sexual rights advocates submitted civil society reports for all sixteen countries reviewed.

## 16 Days Campaign

November 25 -  
December 10,  
2008



CWGL is pleased to announce the theme for the 2008 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign, will be dedicated to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR. This 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary reminds us that human rights are universal and cannot be achieved without the realization of human rights for all women. CWGL invites our partners, activists, organizations and individuals to join us in this year’s 16 Days Campaign and to promote the message *Human Rights for Women ↔ Human Rights for All*.

## Human Rights for Women ↔ Human Rights for All: UDHR 60

During the month of March, CWGL took the lead in highlighting women’s rights as human rights as part of the [Every Human Has Rights](#) celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) campaign, and worked in collaboration with human rights groups and women’s rights activists to promote the message [Human Rights for Women ↔ Human Rights for All](#).

On March 4th, at the time of the CSW, CWGL, partnered with Amnesty International, AWID, Global Fund for Women, MADRE, and the Women Won’t Wait, End HIV/AIDS and Violence Against Women. Now! campaign, to host an event celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UDHR. The sponsors presented a number of global campaigns for women’s human rights and speakers from Sri Lanka, Kenya, Mexico and Zimbabwe gave inspiring accounts of women’s activism while also reminding us of the violations and discrimination that women, including women human rights defenders continue to face. They also reflected on the role women have played in expanding and securing women’s rights as part of the human rights framework.

CWGL celebrated the 8<sup>th</sup> of March as a part of the UDHR60 *Every Human Has Rights* Campaign and Executive Director Charlotte Bunch traveled to Lima, Peru, where over 80 civil society groups sponsored a wide range of activities under the banner “*Canto a La Vida - sing to life*”, to recognize and celebrate the past 60 years of women’s advocacy for human rights. Some of “The Elders” spent the 8<sup>th</sup> of March paying tribute to the achievements of women and reaffirming their commitment to women’s human rights in various locations: Mary Robinson in Dubai, Mohammad Yunus in Bangladesh and Ela Bhatt in India.

CWGL also contributed to the newly developed [Every Human Has Rights layer on Google Earth](#). By providing profiles of women’s human rights defenders worldwide CWGL hopes to give recognition to the courageous and dynamic work being done by women around the world.

## Upcoming Events

- **June 5-7, 2008:** *Hitting the Ground Running: Research, Activism, and Leadership for a New Era*, [National Council for Research on Women](#) (NCRW).
- **June 10-11, 2008:** [UN General Assembly on HIV/AIDS](#) (UNGASS).
- **June 16-18, 2008:** [CIVICUS Youth Assembly 2008](#), *People, Participation and Power...*, Scotland.
- **July 3-9, 2008:** [Women's Worlds 2008: 10th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women](#), Spain .

## 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. 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.



Center for Women's Global Leadership · 160 Ryders Lane · New Brunswick, NJ USA  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
1-732-932-8782 · 1-732-932-1180 (fax) · [cwgl@igc.org](mailto:cwgl@igc.org) · <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>

To remove your name from our mailing list, please send an email with subject line UNSUBSCRIBE to [cwgl@igc.org](mailto:cwgl@igc.org).  
© 2008 Center for Women's Global Leadership