



## Letter from the Executive Director



Over the last three months, CWGL has been involved with a variety of projects ranging from programming at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March to our day-long 20th anniversary symposium and celebration to writing a cluster report on macroeconomics for the Universal Periodic Review process (see below). It has been an exciting period where we celebrated the 20 years of CWGL and strategized around the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action. To honor the vision of CWGL's founder and to mark the organization's 20 years of activism in the global women's human rights movement, we have established the [Charlotte Bunch Women's Human Rights Strategic Opportunities Fund](#). The fund will provide opportunities for CWGL to annually support initiatives that are of strategic significance in seizing important political moments for the advancement of women's human rights globally. For instance, the fund may be utilized to organize strategic conversations among diverse actors in the advocacy for women's human rights; to finance research and/or writing on critical issues related to women's human rights; or to support women human rights defenders. Finally, I would like to thank everyone who joined CWGL in celebrating its 20th anniversary and especially, CWGL affiliates and staff. The staff and I look forward to dancing with you all again next year.

Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director, CWGL

## 20th Anniversary Symposium

In parallel to intergovernmental discussions on progress made on women's empowerment and gender equality during the 54th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), CWGL convened a Public Symposium on March 6, 2010 at the Hunter College Assembly Hall in New York City to celebrate its 20th anniversary and reflect on the past two decades of activism for women's human rights worldwide. The day-long event provided feminist advocates with an opportunity to share experiences and analyses on the global women's human rights movement and how it has advanced women's rights, notably through targeting the UN and other institutions. CWGL is preparing a substantial report from the Symposium around three major thematic pillars: the body, the economy and the movement. Firstly, the report will provide a synthesis of conversations at the Symposium between feminist leaders working on issues of the body. This section will discuss the persistence of gender-based violence, the backlash on women's sexual and reproductive rights and threats to women human rights defenders and new strategies to build the capacity of the movement in advancing these issues. The second section of the report will focus on women's human right to economic justice, pondering what directions activism around economic justice should take, and how a human rights framework can advance women's economic and social rights. In the third section on sustaining and strengthening the global women's human rights movement, the report will compile and build on the observations of Symposium panelists, articulating some of the enduring challenges to the sustainability of the movement as well as some of the ways in which it can become more diverse. Finally, the report will reflect on women's role in reconstructing Haiti after the recent earthquake and how Haitian women's leadership in this devastating humanitarian crisis can yield valuable lessons for women's participation in restructuring society at every level.

## Symposium Media

Visit the [CWGL Symposium page](#) to listen to podcasts and read the upcoming report, and [Flickr](#) to see photos.

## UPR Update

On April 19, 2010, CWGL along with ESCR-Net and PERI, and in collaboration with a number of other organizations, submitted a report on [Macroeconomics - "Towards a Human Rights-Centered Macro-Economic and Financial Policy in the U.S."](#) to the Human Rights Council 9th Session of the UPR. This submission focuses on the human rights implications of the financial crisis and subsequent domestic policy responses. In particular, it focuses on the human rights obligation to protect and fulfill economic and social rights as well as the need for transparency, accountability and participation in the making of macroeconomic policy.

## 54th Commission on the Status of Women

The 54th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was held from March 1-12, 2010. In commemoration of the fifteenth anniversary of the UN Fourth World Conference on Women that took place in Beijing, China in 1995, this year the CSW focused on a review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. The BPfA, which identified twelve critical areas of concern for women's rights, still stands as one of the most comprehensive and progressive UN documents to address the realities of women's lives. CWGL sponsored a 16 Days Campaign Round-Table Discussion, the organization's 20th Anniversary Symposium, and an International Women's Day Celebration and Dance Party. CWGL co-sponsored events pertaining to issues such as women human rights defenders, the new gender entity, violence against women, and economic rights. For a complete list of activities and follow-up information, please visit the [Beijing + 15 web page](#) and for photos, please visit [Flickr](#).

## GEAR Update

GEAR was highly visible during the 54th Commission on the Status of Women. GEAR partners hosted a small strategy meeting with focal points and two public parallel events to engage with the larger group of CSW delegates. During the CSW the GEAR Campaign focused on raising awareness and attracting media to highlight the successes of GEAR and the crucial next steps for advocacy. In the first week of the CSW, GEAR campaigners distributed thousands of copies of the spoof newspaper that announced the creation of the new UN women's entity, *The New Times for Women* in the UN headquarters. For more information about the current process, please visit the [GEAR web page](#).

## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence



On March 3rd at the 54th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, CWGL held a "16 Days Campaign Round-Table Discussion." Approximately 120 activists from around the world attended this session, and we had a very productive, open conversation about what participants would like from the 16 Days Campaign. We're very excited to announce that after much discussion with the groups that attended the CSW and based on all of the favorable [questionnaire](#) responses we have received, CWGL will be moving forward with a 16 Days Campaign theme on the intersections of militarism and gender-based violence! CWGL is working to bring new energy to the 20th year of the 16 Days Campaign, and we're hoping to make the issue of militarism and VAW a multi-year theme to allow for more consistent feedback from local activists. We will be working to develop the formal theme announcement in the next few weeks, so please feel free to continue sending us your thoughts!

## Upcoming Events

- **June 10-11, 2010:** *No Violence Against Women: Strategic Imperatives for Ending Violence Against Women*, New York, NY
- **June 22-26, 2010:** *US Social Forum: Another World is Possible, Another U.S. is Necessary*, Detroit, Michigan
- **July 22-24, 2010:** *IAFFE Annual Conference*, Buenos Aires, Argentina

## News

[\*Making the International Monetary Fund Accountable to Human Rights\*](#) in the *Huffington Post* by Radhika Balakrishnan, CWGL and James Heintz, PERI

[\*Why Human Rights are Indispensable to Financial Regulation\*](#) in the *Huffington Post* by Radhika Balakrishnan, CWGL and James Heintz, PERI

Radhika Balakrishnan, CWGL, interviewed on [Law and Disorder Radio \(33:30\)](#)

[\*Bringing Human Rights to Bear in Times of Crisis\*](#) by Center of Concern, Center for Economic and Social Rights, Association for Women's Rights in Development, CWGL, and ESCR-Net

[\*Rights Activist Dis-invited as Keynote Speaker on Violence Against Women Due to Right Wing Pressure\*](#) by Charlotte Bunch, CWGL

## Reflecting on Our Spaces at the 54th CSW

*This reflection was written by Keely Swan & Margot Baruch.*

As young women working in a feminist and women's human rights organization based in the global North, we attended the 54th session on the UN Commission of the Status of Women and have the following thoughts about our experiences.

To read more, please [click here](#).

## 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. 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 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@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:cwgl@rci.rutgers.edu) · <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>

To remove your name from our mailing list, please send an email with subject line UNSUBSCRIBE to [cwgl@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:cwgl@rci.rutgers.edu).  
© 2010 Center for Women's Global Leadership