



From the Executive Director



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As the uprisings in North Africa and the Middle East continue to engage audiences worldwide, we have been particularly inspired by the courage and strength demonstrated by the women in these movements. Their actions remind us of the importance of engaged, political, feminist action and how we can all work for a more just world. Within the context of the [16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign](#), CWGL will examine the particular violations that women activists face in demanding access to participate in democratic processes. In addition, CWGL continues to expand its work on macroeconomic policy and its impact on economic and social rights. To learn more, please read about [our recent meeting on the rights to water and sanitation](#) and see our [Call to UN Women to Use ESCR Framework](#). Finally, we would like to thank our partners who helped make our participation in the 55th session of the CSW a great success. CWGL & AWID were especially pleased to host activists from all over the world at the [International Women's Day Reception & Dance Party](#). A special thank you to DJ Ashu Rai who energized the crowd with her worldly beats! Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director, CWGL

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CWGL Participates in the 55th Session of the CSW



As a result of the Center for Women's Global Leadership's (CWGL) analysis of the 2010 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Center made a commitment to sponsor activities that address economic and social rights and bring new voices to the 55th CSW. In mid-February, CWGL welcomed sixteen Rutgers University undergraduate

students for a two-day intensive training on women's human rights advocacy within the context of CSW, in preparation for their participation at the session. Many students viewed the training and their time at the CSW as transformative and were mindful of the intersections between feminism, academia and human rights activism.

On March 2, 2011, CWGL organized a workshop on economics entitled, *Applying a Human Rights Perspectives to Macroeconomic Policy*. Radhika Balakrishnan, CWGL's Executive Director, and Manuel F. Montes, Chief, Development Strategy and Policy Analysis at UN DESA, presented a strategic analysis on the use of social and economic rights as a framework through which to assess the impact of macroeconomic policy. The workshop was well attended by a diverse group of activists, UN experts and non-governmental organization representatives. See [full list of CWGL activities at the CSW](#); View [CWGL photos](#) from the CSW.

16 Days Campaign Update



On Monday, February 28th, CWGL held its second annual Open Forum on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign at the UN Commission on the Status of Women. This session provided opportunities to share [highlights and statistics](#) from last year's campaign and hear directly from women's rights activists. If you couldn't make it to the event in person, you can always send us an email about your work on the campaign! Building upon the information gathered during the 2010 campaign, this year's 16 Days Campaign will delve further into five issues that were identified as priorities by those working on the intersections of violence against women and militarism. These areas include: The proliferation of small arms and their role in domestic violence; sexual violence in and after conflict; the Women, Peace and Security agenda; political violence against women; and sexual and gender-based violence committed by uniformed personnel during times of peace. With these issues in mind, we need your input to decide on a slogan for 2011! Please send your ideas to 16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu and make sure to check back on our website in May for the 2011 Theme Announcement!

Macroeconomic Policy & The Rights to Water & Sanitation Meeting

From March 31-April 1, 2011, CWGL organized a meeting in Lisbon, Portugal on "Macroeconomics and the Rights to Water and Sanitation." The meeting was coordinated in conjunction with Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation. The gathering focused on three specific and interrelated issues: to understand how macroeconomic policy can effectively comply with human rights obligations with regards to the rights to water and sanitation; to address the connections between the theory and practice of human rights and that of revenue raising and public expenditure management in the field of water and sanitation; and to engender the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation. The meeting was designed to contribute new analysis and perspectives to inform Ms. de Albuquerque's upcoming reports in 2011. The reports focus on the following areas: the first one to the Human Rights Council on national planning to implement the rights to water and sanitation; the second is the report to the UN General Assembly on the principal challenges in the realization of the rights to water and sanitation focusing on financial resources and their allocation, as one of the major (perceived) challenges. In addition, the discussions at the meeting will feed into the production of a report for those working on economic and social rights that will shed light on some of the difficult issues that need to be grappled with when discussing the extent to which a government is complying with its obligation to realize the human rights to water and sanitation. [View photos from the meeting.](#)

GEAR Campaign Update

As a member of the [GEAR Campaign](#) facilitation committee, CWGL played an instrumental role in organizing and preparing for the campaign's activities at the 55th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Amongst its many activities including panels, caucuses and strategy meetings, most memorable was the participation in the official launch of UN Women where representatives of the campaign called attention to the absence of a [formalized civil society mechanism](#). The launch offered CWGL and other GEAR allies a moment to celebrate the creation of UN Women. During the two weeks, GEAR was active and strategically harnessed civil society influence in a number of spaces. GEAR focal points met with the leader of UN Women, Michele Bachelet, spoke with peers about the processes and decided next steps for the campaign. In the next months, campaign supporters will be working with UN Women to ensure that input for their strategic planning is inclusive of women's groups and that a formalized civil society body is established within the new entity. [View GEAR photos from the CSW](#); [Read recap from UN Women launch.](#)

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's programmatic areas are: the promotion of women's leadership, the advancement of feminist perspectives in economic and social rights and the elimination of violence against women, in local, national and international arenas. 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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Inside CWGL

CWGL is pleased to host interns from the Institute for Women's Leadership Scholars program at Rutgers University. This semester we are joined by two third-year students, Leila Brollosy (Political Science & Middle Eastern Studies) and Carolina Castro (Political Science & Women's & Gender Studies). Leila and Carolina have been valuable contributors to CWGL's work on economic and social rights and the CSW. We would also like to thank returning undergraduates, Alex Anastasia, Samantha Dugan, Ashley Roome, Connie Zhen and graduate student, Sarah Weirich.

New Resources

[Call to UN Women to Use ESCR Framework: Call to Action & Recommendations; Appel & Recommendations; Propuesta & Recomendaciones](#)

Upcoming Events

April 14, 2011 (6pm): NJ & Rutgers University film premiere of [Passionate Politics: The Life & Work of Charlotte Bunch](#), RDJC, Douglass Campus, NJ

April 28, 2011: Executive Director, Radhika Balakrishnan, will speak at the [Obama Administration and Human Rights Conference](#), Washington, DC

May 5, 2011 (4-6pm): [Student Advocacy Training on the UN CSW Public Forum](#), RDJC, Douglass Campus, NJ

Contribute

CWGL needs your support to continue its work for women's human rights. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to fund our efforts. To support CWGL, please [click here](#).