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## Greetings

Welcome to the second issue of the Center for Women's Leadership's (CWGL) quarterly online newsletter. Since our last update, CWGL has been involved in various exciting initiatives. We recently participated in the five year review of the 2001 UNGASS Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, where we stressed the need to link violence against women and HIV/AIDS. We are also closely following current United Nations reform efforts, specifically engaging in discussions about the new Human Rights Council and pushing for attention to women's units and gender equality to be on the reform agenda. This year will mark the 16th anniversary of the [16 Days campaign](#). Planning for the campaign is underway, with an emphasis on achievements and challenges remaining after 16 years of activism. Please [browse the website](#) to learn more about our activities. We look forward to receiving your comments and feedback!

Best wishes,

Center for Women's Global Leadership

Program Highlights	News
<p><b>UN Reform: Strengthening Women's Rights!</b></p> <p><u>Gender Architecture &amp; Gender Mainstreaming</u> CWGL has been working with global and local partners to monitor and advocate for women's human rights and gender equality in the UN reform process launched as part of the World Summit in 2005. We have monitored the human rights processes (see Human Rights Council below) as well as gender mainstreaming and the "gender architecture" of the UN (the infrastructure of women-specific UN bodies) in this process.</p> <p>CWGL and WEDO presented a position paper, "Gender Equality Architecture and UN Reforms," as a submission to the Secretary General's High Level Panel on System-wide Coherence in the areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment. To read, <a href="#">click here</a>. Signed by over 110 organizations from around the world, the paper calls for the creation of a strong women's entity that can "deliver" at policy levels as well as in UN country-level offices and dramatic increases in resources for and the status of women's work within the UN. It argues that gender mainstreaming within the UN can only be successful if it is coupled with strong women specific entities. In large part because of women's advocacy, the Panel held a one-day consultation with civil society to hear concerns and suggestions about structural issues in and functioning of the UN system. CWGL, WILPF, WEDO and other partners from around the world helped to coordinate the gender theme within the Panel's consultation, which took place in Geneva on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will continue to monitor and report on this work as it goes to the General Assembly in the fall.</p> <p>To read the CWGL and WEDO briefing note issued after the consultation, <a href="#">click here</a>. For a description of the Panel and its work as well as gender-related concerns, <a href="#">click here</a>. To read about the civil society consultation, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p> <p><u>Human Rights Council</u> The Human Rights Council (HRC), which replaced the Commission on Human Rights, met for the first time in June 2006. At its inaugural session, the Human Rights Council, among other successes, adopted two landmark new draft human rights mechanisms: a new treaty, the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances, and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. For more information about the first HRC Session and to view CWGL statements on the Council and the CHR, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p> <p>CWGL is about to publish an article on the Council and the concerns and interests of the women's human rights community, such as preservation of the special procedures and of NGO access to Council meetings. To read <i>Human Rights Council: Women Monitor Advances and Note Concerns</i>, <a href="#">click here</a>. CWGL attended the second week of the session and gave the final regular NGO oral intervention in a feminist statement that focused on human rights education. To read the statement, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>	<p><b>New Report: <a href="#">Strengthening Resistance: Confronting Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS</a></b> <i>Strengthening Resistance</i> focuses on the intersections of the social, political and public health crisis of violence against women and HIV/AIDS. The report uses a human rights lens to view critical political challenges and innovative strategies used by activists worldwide as they respond to the links between violence against women and HIV/AIDS. <a href="#">Click here</a> for ordering information.</p> <p>CWGL Executive Director, Charlotte Bunch, receives the Rutgers University Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Research for the year 2005-2006. For details, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p> <p>Position Available: <i>16 Days of Activism Campaign Coordinator/Gender-based violence program</i>. For more information, <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>
	<p><b>16 Days Campaign</b></p> <p><b>November 25 - December 10, 2006</b> The <a href="#">16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence</a> is a global campaign that highlights the links between violence against women and human rights. This year's theme is <i>Celebrate 16 Years of 16 Days: Advance Human Rights, End Violence Against Women</i> and will celebrate the work of campaign activists and the historic impact of the movement as well as re-focus attention on violence against women as a human rights violation. Stay tuned for the theme announcement and Take Action kit!</p>

## Women's Global Leadership Institute (WGLI)

*This new section of the newsletter will inform our supporters of leadership development updates and share important news of WGLI graduates from the first Institute in 1991 to the most recent in 2002. We would greatly appreciate hearing from WGLI graduates.*

Updates can be sent to [cwgl@igc.org](mailto:cwgl@igc.org).

We applaud 1997 WGLI graduate **Lesley Anne Foster** for recently receiving an honorary doctorate in social science at the University of Fort Hare. She is the founder and director of the Masimanyane Women's Support Centre in South Africa and played a seminal role in the initial drafting of the country's Domestic Violence Act.

We also congratulate 2002 WGLI graduate **Lydia Alpízar Durán** for her recent appointment as the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)'s next Executive Director. For the last three years she has managed AWID's Feminist Movement and Organization programme.

Finally, we report with sadness the passing of **Nasreen Huq**, a 1992 WGLI graduate, who lost her life in an auto accident this past April. Nasreen was an ActionAid country director and a prominent social activist in Bangladesh. We mourn the loss of this accomplished and dedicated woman and give our condolences to her family, friends and colleagues.

Upcoming Events	Contribute!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>August 13 - 18, 2006:</b> <a href="#">CWGL activities at the XVI International AIDS Conference</a>, Toronto, Canada</li> <li>• <b>September 14, 2006 (6:30pm):</b> Where do Human Rights Begin?, presented by <a href="#">Breakthrough</a> and the Mission and Social Justice Commission of The Riverside Church, co-sponsored by Amnesty International USA, CWGL, US Human Rights Network, and Global Action Project, The Riverside Church, New York</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Click here for a complete list of upcoming events.</a></p>	<p>CWGL needs your support to continue our work for women's human rights. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to fund our efforts.</p> <p>To support CWGL, please <a href="#">click here</a>.</p>

## 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 six 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  
Douglass College · Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
1-732-932-8782 · 1-732-932-1180 f ax · [cwgl@igc.org](mailto:cwgl@igc.org) · <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>

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