

Center for Women's Global Leadership



RUTGERS
THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW JERSEY

20
Years

The Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) develops and facilitates women's leadership for human rights and social justice worldwide. CWGL, based at Rutgers University, is part of International Programs in the School of Arts and Sciences and is a member of the Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL)—a consortium of women's programs created to study and promote how and why women lead, and to develop programs that prepare women of all ages to lead effectively. CWGL's programs promote the leadership of women and advance feminist perspectives in policy-making processes in local, national and international arenas. Since 1990, CWGL has fostered women's leadership in the area of human rights through women's global leadership institutes, strategic planning activities, international mobilization campaigns, UN monitoring, global education endeavors, publications, and a resource center. CWGL works from a human rights perspective with an emphasis on violence against women, sexual and reproductive health, and socio-economic well-being.



Radhika Balakrishnan

As the new executive director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) and Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University, I am thrilled to lead this organization into its next phase of women's human rights advocacy. For the last twelve years, I was a professor of economics and international studies at Marymount Manhattan College. I hold a Ph.D. in Economics from Rutgers University and am pleased to be returning to my alma mater. I currently serve as the Board Chair of the U.S. Human Rights Network and the treasurer for the board of the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York City.

For almost three decades, I have worked with activists around the world promoting gender and economic justice. At CWGL we continue to strengthen our ongoing work in women's human rights advocacy, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, the Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign, the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition, and have now started to integrate work on macro economics and human rights into our programmatic agenda. We are also exploring the possibility of a 2010 16 Days Campaign theme related to structures of violence and/or the intersections between militarism and gender violence. I look forward to working with all of you to build the future of CWGL's work.



Charlotte Bunch

As the founding director of the Center for Women's Global Women's Leadership, I am very proud of its achievements over the past 20 years and look forward to its next decade under new leadership. From what was once marginal

at best, the movement for women's human rights has placed women on the agenda in every field from war crimes and transitional justice to freedom of expression and economic & social rights. Yet the challenges of realizing those rights for all women and girls in times of backlash and crisis remain. CWGL remains committed to this mission, and I have great confidence in its future as part of this movement.

It has been a great privilege for me to have worked with so many incredible defenders of the human rights of women as partners and friends in both CWGL's institutional work and in my own thinking and writing. It is the energy and commitment of the movement that has fueled the activities of CWGL and of my own work. While no longer the Executive Director, I continue to serve as Senior Scholar at CWGL and as a professor in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. I look forward to continuing to be active in the global women's movement and to developing these relationships from a different seat at the table.

1989

Charlotte Bunch named Director of the new Center for Women's Global Leadership, housed at Douglass College, Rutgers University. CWGL opens in September in the basement of Voorhees Chapel. Its goal is to provide a multicultural, multinational, interdisciplinary environment in which women can learn from each other and explore strategies from a global perspective.

1990

International Planning Meeting held in May with twenty-two activists from around the world who discuss women, violence, and human rights, providing the focus for the first three years of the Center's work.

1991

First Women's Global Leadership Institute (WGLI) takes place in June. First 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence annual campaign is initiated November 25th and petition calling for the inclusion of women's rights on the agenda of the upcoming UN World Conference on Human Rights is launched.

1992

Petition campaign gains momentum and on March 13, the first round of petitions, with 75,000 signatures from 78 countries, is delivered to the Secretary General of the UN World Conference on Human Rights. CWGL organizes its first hearing on "500 Years of Violations of Women's Human Rights in the Americas" in New Brunswick, NJ.

1993

Strategic Planning Meeting for UN World Conference on Human Rights convened by CWGL, which leads to organizing



"Global Tribunal on Violations of Women's Human Rights" at Vienna. Petitions calling on the conference to address violations of women's human rights delivered on conference podium with 175,000 signatures from 115 countries. CWGL given award by Feminist Majority Foundation for working to make women's human rights seen as human rights.

1994

"From Vienna to Beijing: The Cairo Hearing on Reproductive Health and Human Rights," organized by CWGL at the UN World Conference on Population and Development. Strategic Planning Meeting on women's human rights in the U.S. convened at Rutgers University. CWGL active in regional preparatory meetings and global networks preparing for Beijing Women's Conference.

1995

"Copenhagen Hearing on Economic Justice and Women's Human Rights" is held by CWGL at the UN World Summit on Social



María Gerardina López Cortés from Costa Rica (left) delivers her testimony at the *Global Tribunal to Celebrate and Demand Women's Human Rights* as Claudia Hinojosa (right) translates her testimony from Spanish to English, 1998. (Photo by Joan Roth)

Development. CWGL organizes women's human rights caucus, strategic planning meeting, lobbying efforts and the "Global Tribunal on Accountability for Women's Human Rights" for the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. Second round of petitions delivered, bringing total to 1 million signatures.

1996

CWGL goes "cyber" with the launch of its first "gopher." Charlotte Bunch inducted into the U.S. National Women's Hall of Fame. Fourth Women's Global Leadership Institute held at Rutgers University and plans begin for regional institutes.

1997

CWGL initiates Geneva advocacy and mentoring program at the UN Human Rights Commission, building on its advocacy there for several years. CWGL receives award from the Center for Anti-Violence Education for its work to make violence against women a human rights issue.

1998

First regional institute, "Feminism in the Muslim World," co-organized with Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) in Istanbul, Turkey. "1998 Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights" launched to bring women onto the agenda of the 50th anniversary of the UDHR with the slogan: "Imagine a world where all women enjoy their human rights." Women's

human rights tribunals held in 15 countries, including one organized by CWGL in New York.

1999

Second joint leadership institute with WLUML held in Lagos, Nigeria. Human rights education manual, *Local Action/Global Change: Learning About the Human Rights of Women and Girls*, co-published with UNIFEM. CWGL participates in preparatory meetings for the Beijing +5 Review and plays central role in civil society monitoring of it. Charlotte Bunch receives Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton.

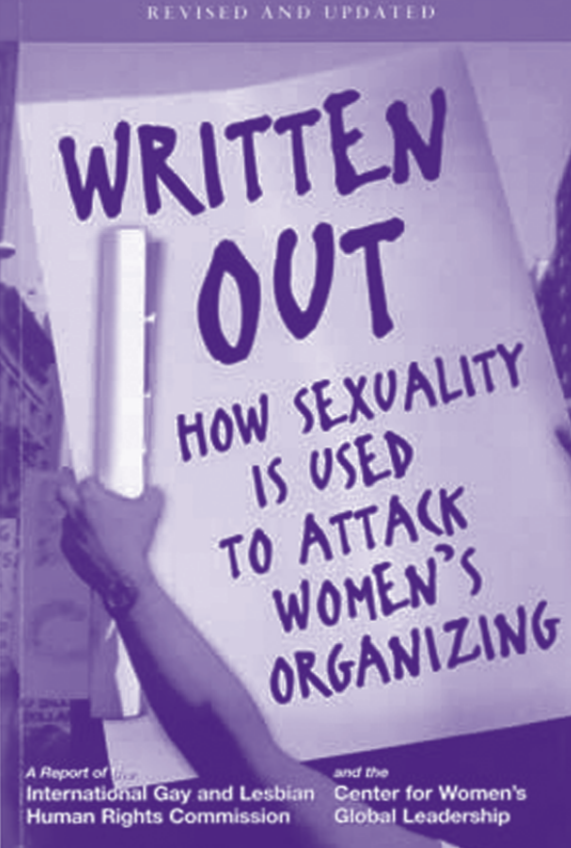
2000

CWGL marks 10th anniversary on March 9, with forum at Rutgers: "Women's Leadership on Global Issues: Next Challenges." "International Symposium on Women's Human Rights" organized by CWGL at Columbia University on the eve of the UN General Assembly Special Session for Beijing +5 Review. Tenth anniversary of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign includes activities in over 90 countries.

2001

CWGL holds "Women at the Intersection of Racism and Other Oppressions: a Human Rights Hearing" at the UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa. Work continues on monitoring proceedings and convening events focused on VAW and gender integration at Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.





2002

The ninth Women's Global Leadership Institute takes place in June. CWGL and partners present workshops/caucuses at AWID's Ninth International forum in Guadalajara, Mexico. Central and Eastern European Regional Women's Leadership Institute in Warsaw, Poland co-sponsored by the national Women's Information Center of Poland (OSKa) and CWGL.

2003

CWGL convenes International Strategic Directions Consultation along with an e-consultation survey to look at new directions for women's human rights movement and its work. CWGL advises the World YWCA in hearings on women's human rights held at their International Women's Summit in Brisbane, Australia. Institute for Women's Leadership establishes Visiting Global Associates Program at CWGL with an endowment from the Ford Foundation.

2004

In preparation for Beijing +10, CWGL holds global strategy meeting and works with partners to coordinate "Beijing and Beyond: the Global Week of Action for Women's Rights." CWGL hosts meeting of the Women's Human Rights Defenders International Coordinating Committee to prepare an international consultation

on this issue. CWGL convenes meeting on the Intersection of Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS to shape the 2004-05 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaigns.

2005

CWGL and partners organize for Beijing +10 at the Commission on the Status of Women and to advance gender equality in UN reform processes as part of the 2005 UN World Summit. CWGL becomes co-convenor of the violence against women task force of the Global Coalition on Women and AIDS. As member of the steering committee of the global campaign, "Defending Women Defending Rights," CWGL helps organize the International Consultation on Women Human Rights Defenders in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

2006

CWGL and WEDO organize for and present a position paper, "Gender Equality Architecture and UN Reforms," signed by over 100 organizations at the Gender consultation of the Secretary General's High Level Panel on System-wide Coherence. CWGL convenes a global strategic conversation about the future of work on women's leadership development. The 16 Days of Activism Campaign celebrates its 16th anniversary with major events around the world.

2007

Global Strategy Meeting for Gender Equality Architecture at the UN convened by CWGL and WEDO as part of growing campaign for change in the UN's structures on women's rights. CWGL leads workshops at the World YWCA's International Women's Summit on HIV/AIDS in Nairobi, Kenya and in the World AIDS conference in Toronto, where it co-sponsors a strategic conversation on VAW and AIDS. With CREA and the

Participants and staff of the strategic conversation on "Addressing Gaps in the Defense of Women Human Rights Defenders," June 2009.



Highlights

Youth Coalition, CWGL hosts "Listening to Each Other: a Multigenerational Dialogue on Activism and Women's Rights."

2008

The Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign is launched with CWGL and WEDO as co-facilitators. CWGL organizes *Human Rights for Women ↔ Human Rights For All: Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* as part of the "Every Human Has Rights" NGO Campaign. CWGL hosts "Next Steps: A Global Consultation on Strategies on Violence Against Women" to explore new directions for this work with partners.

2009

The Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition and CWGL organize a strategic conversation on "Addressing Gaps in the Defense of Women Human Rights Defenders."

Radhika Balakrishnan becomes second Executive Director of CWGL and joins Women's and Gender Studies faculty at Rutgers University; Charlotte Bunch remains as CWGL Senior Scholar. CWGL convenes "Rethinking Macro Economic Strategies and Human Rights" to develop strategies for a macro economic and human rights training module.

2010

CWGL participates in Colloquium on Human Rights in the Global Economy in Geneva convened by the International Council on Human Rights Policy and Realizing Rights. GEAR Campaign continues monitoring UN re-structuring of its women's rights architecture. To celebrate its 20th anniversary, CWGL organizes an international symposium in New York, followed by its first International Women's Day Celebration and Dance Party.

- A Human Rights Response to the Economic Crisis in the U.S. (2009)
- Repensando Estrategias Macroeconómicas desde una Perspectiva de Derechos Humanos: Por qué EME y Derechos Humanos II (2009)
- Rethinking Macro Economic Strategies from a Human Rights Perspective: Why MES with Human Rights II (2009)
- Listening to Each Other: A Multigenerational Feminist Dialogue, CREA, Center for Women's Global Leadership and the Youth Coalition (2008)
- Strengthening Resistance: Confronting Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS (2006)
- Women Testify: A Planning Guide for Popular Tribunals and Hearings (2005)
- Written Out: How Sexuality is Used to Attack Women's Organizing (Updated) (2005)
- Women at the Intersection of Racism and Other Oppressions: A Human Rights Hearing (Study Guide) (2003)
- Women at the Intersection of Racism and Other Oppressions: A Human Rights Hearing (Video) (2003)
- Woman at the Intersection: Indivisible Rights, Identities and Oppressions (Publication) (2002)
- Holding on to the Promise: Women's Human Rights and the Beijing +5 Review (2001)
- Feminism in the Muslim World Leadership Institutes: 1998 & 1999 Reports, Center for Women's Global Leadership and Women Living Under Muslim Laws (2000)
- Los derechos de las mujeres son derechos humanos: Crónica de una movilización mundial (2000)
- Les voix des femmes et «les droits de l'homme» (2000)
- Lesbians Travel the Roads of Feminism Globally/La travesía de las mujeres lesbianas por el feminismo internacional (2000)
- Written Out: How Sexuality is Used to Attack Women's Organizing (2000)
- Local Action/Global Change: Learning About the Human Rights of Women and Girls (1999)
- Migrant Women's Human Rights in G-7 Countries: Organizing Strategies (1997)
- Without Reservation: The Beijing Tribunal on Accountability for Women's Human Rights (1996)
- The Indivisibility of Women's Human Rights: A Continuing Dialogue (1995)
- From Vienna to Beijing: The Copenhagen Hearing on Economic Justice and Women's Human Rights (1995)
- From Vienna to Beijing: The Cairo Hearing on Reproductive Health and Human Rights (1994)
- With Liberty and Justice for All: Women's Human Rights in the United States (1994)
- The Vienna Tribunal: Women's Rights are Human Rights! (Video) (1994)
- Demanding Accountability: The Global Campaign and Vienna Tribunal for Women's Human Rights (1994)
- Testimonies of the Global Tribunal on Violations of Women's Human Rights (1994)
- Gender Violence and Women's Human Rights in Africa: A Symposium (1994)
- International Campaign for Women's Human Rights: 1992-1993 Report (1993)
- Informe del Instituto de Liderazgo de la Mujer: Mujer, Violencia y Derechos Humanos (1992)
- Women, Violence and Human Rights: 1991 Women's Global Leadership Institute Report (1992)
- La Violence Faite Aux Femmes: Une Question de Développement et de Droits Humains (1991)
- Violencia de Genero: Un Problema de Desarrollo y Derechos Humanos (1991)
- Gender Violence: A Human Rights and Development Issue (1991)

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