

Letter from the Executive Director



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In May 2010, a close friend and mentor passed away. Rhonda Copelon was a pioneering human rights attorney, law professor, vice president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, and passionate feminist activist. Her courage and humble leadership inspired me in a myriad of ways and I am thankful to have personally known her. In particular, it was working with Rhonda on translating feminist economics analysis on structural adjustment policy into human right demands in Haiti that inspired me to start working on economic and social rights. Her influence in the human rights and women's rights movements will be felt for years to come.

Rhonda was a founding faculty member of CUNY Law and later she co-founded the Law School's [International Women's Human Rights Clinic](#) (IWHR). Under her leadership, the IWHR clinic enabled students and activists around the world to participate in a range of precedent-setting legal and advocacy campaigns. For example, IWHR's amicus briefs in the International Criminal Tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia contributed to the recognition in international law of rape as a crime of genocide and torture. Rhonda also cofounded the [Women's Caucus for Gender Justice](#) and organized with partners globally ensuring that the Rome Statute was written to take gender into account. For those who would like to contribute in her memory, she asked that people make a donation to the [Rhonda Copelon Fund for Gender Justice](#) at the [Center for Constitutional Rights](#).

Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director, CWGL

GEAR Update

CWGL is pleased to announce that after [five years of campaigning for the new United Nations gender entity](#), the resolution to establish [UN Women](#) was passed on July 2, 2010. The Center has been working with a group of women's rights and human rights groups [since 2006](#) to ensure that the UN delivers on promises it has made to establish a new entity that works for all women. CWGL is delighted that after years of campaigning and strategizing with colleagues, the [UN resolution](#), paragraph 49-90, (A/64/L.56) was adopted unanimously by the UN General Assembly which, "requests the head of the entity to continue the existing practice of effective consultation with civil society organizations." In the coming months, the UN will undergo a transitioning phase so that [UN Women](#) will be operational by January 2011. The Secretary-General will appoint the Under-Secretary-General by the beginning of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly in order to oversee the transitional arrangements of the entity before its operationalization. The GEAR Campaign will continue to monitor this process through its establishment and will share more detail about next steps for advocacy shortly.

USHR Network Summer Institute

From July 16-18, 2010, CWGL hosted the [US Human Rights Network](#) Summer Institute. The training provided advocates and organizers with practical analytical tools to aid with demand development, campaign messaging, strategy development, and policy recommendations on macroeconomic policies and economic, social and cultural rights. For photos, please visit [Flickr](#).

MDGs & Social Protection

[Facilitating Gender Equality and Social Protection for the achievement of the MDGs, Switzerland: June 1-2, 2010](#)

This meeting was organized by the United Nations Independent Expert on the question of Human Rights and Extreme Poverty and CWGL and examined the gender dimensions of social protection and how they relate to the MDGs. The meeting focused on developing a clear gendered analysis of social protection systems and their relationship with human rights obligations and social policy in general. For a brief synopsis, click [here](#).

UPR Update

View all [24 reports](#) coordinated by the USHRN and submitted to the UN's first [UPR](#) of the US, in November 2010. See CWGL's UPR Report [Macroeconomics - Towards a Human Rights-Centered Macroeconomic and Financial Policy in the U.S.](#)

Inside CWGL

Message from CWGL's New Program Director, Natalia Cardona



I am delighted to be the [new Program Director at CWGL](#) and part of the Center's long-standing legacy that promotes the mantra Women's Rights are Human Rights. I look forward to supporting the Center's work in human rights and contributing to the feminist movement. I am especially excited about CWGL's current developments including a feminist critique of militarism and women's social and economic rights through the lens of macroeconomic policy. My previous employment, at American Friends Service Committee, was focused on the connections between militarization and unjust economic policies in the Latin American and Caribbean Region and most recently I had the pleasure of working for Social Watch, one of the largest networks working on tackling poverty from a human rights perspective and gender equity. I am hopeful that these experiences will contribute to the Center's growth and work.

Messages from CWGL Student Interns

Alex Anastasia: I am a Political Science Major and a double minor in Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology at Rutgers University focusing on Human Rights and more specifically, on issues facing women and children. Eventually, I hope to work with an organization that aims to enact policy change directly related to local and global human rights issues. I am currently interning with the 16 Days Campaign, working on funding research, document compilation, local and global outreach, and social media sources.

Ashley Roome: I am a rising senior at Rutgers University, majoring in Human Rights and minoring in Women's and Gender Studies. I am working on outreach and developing campaign materials for the 2010 16 Days Campaign. Through my work, I hope to build support networks for survivors and engage youth and adolescents in this year's campaign.

Katy Naples-Mitchell: I primarily work on social media and information resources at CWGL and I am currently in the process of reorganizing and streamlining our web resources to make them easier to access for students, faculty, and other advocates and activists. I also work with the Center staff on the development of our role in the campaign for U.S. ratification of CEDAW. A rising sophomore at Yale College, I will likely major in political science or international relations. On campus, I am a regional coordinator for Yale's chapter of Amnesty International.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence



This year marks the 20th year of the 16 Days Campaign! If you have not seen the 2010 theme announcement on "Structures of Violence: Defining the Intersections of Militarism and Violence Against Women," make sure to read it on our [website](#) (available in English, Spanish, French, Italian, Kiswahili, Japanese, BHS and more forthcoming).

Right now we are developing some exciting, new campaign materials to help activists plan their activities and since this is the first year of a multi-year effort on the topic of militarism and violence against women, we really want to focus on getting information from you! Over the next few months, we will be working on more ways to collect feedback and channel your input directly into the campaign through surveys, blogs, new social media, and more. [Please feel free to send us your comments.](#)

Upcoming Events

- **July 21, 2010 (6:30-9pm):** [Born Into War: An Exhibit of Photos and Drawings by Former Child Soldiers in Colombia and Uganda](#), MADRE, New York, NY
- **July 22-24, 2010:** [IAFFE Annual Conference](#), Buenos Aires, Argentina
- **August 16-20, 2010:** [Women's Rights are Human Rights! CEDAW for Change](#), Toronto, Canada

In the News

[Corporate Control of Our Democracy: Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission](#) by Radhika Balakrishnan, CWGL's Executive Director, and James Heintz in The Huffington Post.

[The U.S. Needs a Human Rights Treaty for Women Domestically](#) by Margot Baruch, CWGL's Program Coordinator in [NCRW CEDAW Forum](#).

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.



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