CWGL e-newsletter · Issue 4 · Winter 2007

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Greetings

A happy and a healthy new year to everyone! Welcome to the fourth issue of the Center for Women's Global Leadership's (CWGL) quarterly online newsletter. In the past months, CWGL has continued to advocate for women's rights worldwide through a series of special events and activities. In late October, CWGL convened a four day Strategic Conversation on Leadership Development in which 14 international feminist activists gathered to discuss the future of women's human rights leadership development. During the meeting, CWGL hosted a public event at Rutgers University where participants from the Conversation were able to meet with students, faculty and other activists. Also, CWGL celebrated the 16th year of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign from November 25 - December 10 and held an event entitled, Claiming Our Rights, Defending Our Future: Celebrating 16 Years of 16 Days of Activism in New York City on December 7th to review progress on work on violence against women from a human rights perspective (click here to view event photos).

The new year brings new initiatives as well as follow-up work on the many issues affecting women worldwide, so please continue to browse the CWGL 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

Leadership Development Updates

Strategic Conversation on Women's Leadership Development: October 24-29, 2006

The Center for Women's Global Leadership convened a strategic conversation about the future of leadership development with fourteen international feminist activists from October 24th through the 29th. The Conversation assessed what has happened in the field globally and reviewed successful approaches to leadership in this area. (A report will be available early in 2007.)

New Resources Compiled

For activists interested in women's human rights leadership development, CWGL has compiled a valuable list of resources that are now available on the CWGL website.

UN Reform

Coherence Panel Releases Final Report: Issues Recommendations to Strengthen Work on Gender Equality in the UN

The UN High Level Panel on Systemwide Coherence released its final report on UN infrastructure on November 9th . Over the last nine months, the Center for Women's Global Leadership has been working with women's organizations from around the world to ensure the Panel made strong recommendations about strengthening the gender architecture of the UN. In its final report, the Panel has indeed made critically important recommendations, which, if endorsed by governments during an upcoming General Assembly session, would substantially increase the status and resources of work on gender equality within the UN. (See website for continuous updates.)

Submission to the OHCHR on HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence

The Center for Women's Global Leadership, in collaboration with various international organizations, submitted a briefing paper on HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. This paper will contribute to an upcoming UN Secretary General report on steps taken to promote and implement programs to address the urgent HIV-related human rights of women, children and vulnerable groups in the context of prevention, care and access to treatment to be submitted to the Human Rights Council.

16 Days Campaign

Launch of International Women Human Rights Defenders Day

The 16 Days campaign with global partners launched International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, November 29th, as a date to recognize the activism of women defenders and those defending women's rights. Click here for the Women Human Rights Defenders campaign website.

News

Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award

Sonia Pierre, Director of the Movement for Dominican Women of Haitian Descent (MUDHA) in the Dominican Republic was presented the 23rd Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award on November 17, 2006 in Washington D.C. Ms. Pierre testified as part of CWGL's tribunal at the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) on the issue of migration and immigration. Her testimony is available in *Women at the Intersection of Racism and Other Oppressions: A Human Rights Hearing* (CWGL publication).

Women, Ink. Releases Latest Catalogue

Women Ink., a project of the International Women's Tribune Centre, has just released its latest catalogue of books and training resources on women and development. (*Women, Ink. is the distributor of CWGL's publications.*)

New Release:

MADRE recently released a companion piece to the UN Secretary General's in-depth study on VAW entitled *Mairin Iwanka Raya: Indigenous Women Stand against Violence*.

In Memoriam

Rita Raj

Long time associate of the Center and Editor of CWGL's publication *Women at the Intersection,* Rita Raj, passed away in November after a long illness. Rita was an advocate for women's health for over 30 years. We mourn the loss of this accomplished and dedicated woman and give our condolences to her partner Marilen, family, friends and colleagues.

Women's Global Leadership Institute (WGLI)

This section of the newsletter informs our supporters of leadership development updates and shares 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.

1991 WGLI graduate, **Qiyamah A. Rahman**, successfully defended her dissertation research on October 19, 2006 at Clark Atlanta University. Her dissertation research is titled *By the Shores of Babylon We Wept: An Exploration of the Institutional Response of the Unitarian Universalist Association to Clergy Sexual Misconduct.*

Anissa Hélie, 1992 WGLI graduate, recently joined Mount Holyoke College as a Visiting Assistant Professor. She teaches undergraduate courses on a number of issues related to and including the politics of identity and sexuality in Muslim contexts and religious fundamentalisms' and their impact on women and minorities.

CWGL would also like to applaud **Mónica Alemán Cunningham**, a 2001 WGLI graduate, on the spearheading of *Mairin Iwanka Raya: Indigenous Women Stand against Violence*, a companion report to the Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Women.

Upcoming Events

- **January 20 - 25, 2007**: People's Struggles, People's Alternatives, World Social Forum, Nairobi, Kenya.
- **January 23, 2007**: *Thundering Ovaries, Myth and Metaphor in the Biology of Women*, a lecture by Joan W. Bennett, Promoting Women in Science, Engineering and Mathematics hosted by the Institute for Women's Leadership, New Brunswick, NJ.
- **February 26 - March 9, 2007**: Commission on the Status of Women, 51st Session, UN Headquarters, NY.
- **March 8, 2007**: Launch of International HIV/AIDS and Violence Against Women Campaign, NYC and other locations around the world.

Click here for a complete list of upcoming events

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. 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.

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