

Letter from the Executive Director



As we begin 2010 with images of the devastating earthquake in Haiti, we are reminded of the fragility of life, but also mindful of the work that people are doing all over the world to help shape a new future. At CWGL we have continued 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 [WHRDIC](#), and have now started to integrate work on macro economics and human rights into our programmatic agenda. In the past months, we have partnered with the [ESCR-Net](#)—together with the [Center of Concern](#) and the [Center for Economic and Social Rights](#) on a questionnaire about the human rights response to the economic crisis and have begun plans to engage in a report on macro economic strategies with the [USHR Network](#) for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review of the United States. I have also participated at the international level on panels at the United Nations Human Rights Council and more recently spoke at a Colloquium on Human Rights in the Global Economy. In March 2010, CWGL will be involved in a number of activities and will have scheduled programs at the [54th U.N. CSW](#). Events include a discussion on gender, the global financial crisis and strategizing about ways to move forward; a 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence round-table discussion to explore the possibility of a 2010 theme related to structures of violence and/or the intersections between militarism and gender violence; and GEAR related activities. On March 6, 2010, we invite you to an all-day symposium to reflect on the past 20 years of CWGL and later in the evening, please join us for CWGL's first annual International Women's Day celebration. Wishing you a peaceful new year.

Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director, CWGL

20th Anniversary Symposium Update

On Saturday, March 6, 2010, we invite you to join us at an all-day symposium at Hunter College in New York, to reflect on the past 20 years of CWGL. It will provide an opportunity to discuss current challenges and envisage the future of the global women's rights movement. The aims of the symposium are to provide a space to reflect on lessons learned in the advocacy for women's rights and share the experiences of different generations of activists involved in the women's movement from around the world. At 9pm on the same day, CWGL will sponsor its first annual International Women's Day celebration. For more information, visit [CWGL's CSW page](#).

Inside CWGL

A warm welcome to the following new student affiliates at CWGL: Desiree Ficula, Program Assistant; Ariana DasGupta, Program Assistant; Hera Mir, IWL Scholar; Jalilah Muhammadi, Graduate Assistant; Lesley Pairol, IWL Scholar; and Banu Nadide Olcay, Graduate Assistant.

Charlotte Bunch, CWGL's Founding Director and Senior Scholar, is on sabbatical from January-August 2010 and will not be in the office. She continues to work on the GEAR process and other projects and writing from her home in New York City. To contact Professor Bunch, please direct inquiries to [Mika Kinose](#), CWGL's Office Manager.

In early December 2009, [Radhika Balakrishnan](#), CWGL's Executive Director and [Charlotte Bunch](#), CWGL's Founding Director and Senior Scholar, were filmed in videos to mark the anniversary of Human Rights Day.

Margot Baruch, CWGL's Program Coordinator, was featured in the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE)'s [Fall 2009 newsletter](#).

Highlights

Human Rights in the Global Economy

From January 11-13, 2010 Radhika Balakrishnan, CWGL's Executive Director, participated in a Colloquium on Human Rights in the Global Economy in Geneva convened by the [International Council on Human Rights Policy](#) and [Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative](#). The Colloquium focused on a multidisciplinary dialogue to analyze and address more effective human rights questions and challenges arising from macro economic policies. Participants included economists, human rights practitioners, members of advocacy groups, international lawyers and policy experts from intergovernmental organizations. The widespread impacts of the financial and economic crisis have underlined the importance of going beyond dominant disciplinary wisdom as well as established policy prescriptions and institutional practices in economic policy-making.

Economic, Cultural, and Social Rights

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Project

CWGL along with a number of other U.S. based human rights organizations are involved with the U.N.'s first Universal Periodic Review of the U.S., which is scheduled to take place December 2010. This important opportunity offers organizations both to measure how the U.S. is meeting its human rights obligations and to continue pressuring the government to live up to those obligations. The UPR assesses each country's adherence to its human rights obligations under the U.N. Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), human rights treaties ratified by the country, its voluntary commitments, and applicable international law. During the review, in addition to the "national report" provided by the country under review and the reports of U.N. bodies, the Working Group considers reports from other "stakeholders" such as civil society and national human rights institutions. CWGL will coordinate a cluster report on macro economic policies focusing on the impacts of the economic crisis and reframing of budgeting policies.

GEAR Update

In 2010, GEAR advocates are hopeful that the United Nations will deliver on promises it has made over the last four years to build a stronger U.N. agency for all women. In September, the General Assembly expressed strong and unanimous support in adopting a resolution that will enable the creation of the new gender equality entity to be headed by a new Under Secretary-General (USG). In late December, the U.N. Secretariat put forward a proposal that outlines the mission statement and summarizes how, "the composite entity will be the center of the gender equality architecture of the United Nations system." Over the next two months, while governments are negotiating over contentious issues, women's rights and civil society organizations must put pressure on member states to move the process with a GA resolution without delay. As we head into the 54th Commission on the Status of women, March 1-12, 2010, the GEAR team is planning a number of activities to rally support and illustrate that women worldwide are expecting governments to act and for the Secretary General to appoint an Under Secretary-General to lead the new gender equality entity.

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence



COMMIT • ACT • DEMAND

During the 2009 16 Days Campaign, CWGL was in direct contact with more than 275 organizations in [80 countries](#)! It was inspiring to hear how activists - from Zambia to Mongolia, Barbados to Lebanon - [took to the streets](#), made their voices heard in the media, communicated with policy-makers, and [raised awareness](#) among friends and neighbors. CWGL also saw an increase in the use of the internet and social networking sites this year, including regular blogs, online rallies, video shares, and new facebook pages (even [CWGL's](#) - which now has more than 1,700 fans!). UNIFEM also launched its interactive [Say NO - UNiTE website](#) for activists working to end violence against women. If you haven't had a chance to tell CWGL about your 16 Days activities, make sure to fill out the [Campaign Survey](#) and send it to 16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu. Congratulations on another wonderful campaign!

Upcoming Events

- **January 28, 2010:** [The Center for Constitutional Rights fundraiser and Bhangra Party](#) featuring Red Baraat, New York
- **March 2, 2010:** International Tribunal on Crimes Against Women of Burma, convened by [Nobel Women's Initiative](#) and [Women's League of Burma](#), New York
- **March 6, 2010 (9:30am-5:30pm):** [CWGL's 20th Anniversary Symposium](#), Hunter College Assembly Hall, New York

News

In October 2009, Cynthia Mellon, long time affiliate with CWGL, [facilitated three Newark, New Jersey residents in testifying before the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing Rights](#).

Is your government respecting its human rights obligations in confronting the economic crisis? [Participate in a questionnaire on the Human Rights Response to Economic Crisis](#) sponsored by ESCR-Net— together with the Center of Concern, the Center for Economic and Social Rights and the Center for Women's Global Leadership.

The [U.S. Human Rights Network's Campaign for a New Domestic Human Rights Agenda](#) calls for strengthened commitment to human rights at home and abroad, and seeks to build a political culture from coast to coast that supports and advocates for human rights at home and abroad.

Job Announcement

[CWGL seeks a full time director to oversee the Center's programs and projects](#). The Program Director will be responsible for projects and assigned staff that further the integration of human rights into the work of international institutions like the United Nations, that coordinate annual international campaigns addressing violence against women, and that support leadership development and human rights advocacy.

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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