

Joint Statement to Promote an End to Gender-Based Violence submitted to the United Nations 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on behalf of 16 Days Campaign Partners

We, the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) at Rutgers University and women's and human rights organizations dedicated to gender equity and the elimination of gender-based violence, welcome the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and States' consideration of the priority theme on the "elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls."

Since 1991, CWGL's international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign has mobilized thousands of activists and organizations worldwide to increase awareness of gender-based violence and call governments to respond, protect, and prevent such violence. Women's security and well-being are compromised by both the threat and experience of violence, particularly in conflict and post-conflict situations. Over the last three years the 16 Days Campaign has worked to highlight linkages between gender-based violence and militarism, including: (i) political violence against women; (ii) the proliferation of small arms and their role in domestic violence; (iii) sexual violence during and post-conflict; and (iv) the role of state actors as perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence.

As set out in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 1993, Member States asserted that "gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and exploitation...are incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person, and must be eliminated" (paragraph 18). Since that time, States have reaffirmed their commitment to ending violence against women through the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the agreed conclusions of the 42nd and 51st sessions of the CSW, and Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, and 1960.

Despite these commitments, violence against women persists as a widespread and pervasive human rights violation. States have clear and concrete obligations to prevent such violence, prosecute and punish perpetrators, and provide redress and relief to victims and survivors of violence. We, the members of civil society organizations worldwide, call on Member States to:

- (a) Pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating violence against women, strengthening the rule of law and the capacities of civilian and military justice systems to address gender-based violence;
- (b) Recognize that a culture of militarism promotes and reinforces a culture of violence and take necessary measures to facilitate disarmament and promote peace, including through ratification and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty;
- (c) Invest in those programs and projects that promote human security; and
- (d) Respect, protect, promote and fulfill all human rights and take urgent and concrete measures to secure gender equality.

We call on the CSW to facilitate leadership to support States in fulfilling their human rights obligations. We remain committed to working with women's organizations and the United Nations in building a more peaceful world.

Signatories:

1. Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University
2. A Common Future-Cameroon
3. ActionAid International
4. ActionAid International Zimbabwe
5. ActionAid Liberia
6. ActionAid Nigeria
7. African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS)
8. African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
9. Agricultural Missions, Inc
10. Waheed Ahmad
11. Karen Alexander, Dean of Junior and Senior Year Programs, Douglass Residential College, Rutgers University
12. Alliance against discrimination of LGBT, Albania
13. Alliances for Africa
14. Samreen Anwar, Director, The Peace Hope Foundation
15. Arab campaign for Education for All (ACIA)
16. Arus Pelangi Indonesia
17. Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)
18. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)
19. Association des Badinga du Congo - ABADIC ONG/ASBL
20. Association des Femmes pour la Promotion et le Développement Endogène (AFPDE)
21. Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
22. Association for Women in Development (AWID)
23. Association of War Affected Women
24. Australian Women's Health Network
25. Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)
26. Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights - BSEHR
27. BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights
28. Rada Boric, Croatia
29. Boston Area Solidarity Economy Network (BASEN)
30. Ethel Brooks, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Women's and Gender Studies Department, Rutgers University
31. Center for Peace Education
32. Center for Women Policy Studies
33. Centre Women and Modern World
34. Lauren Choplin, English Department, Rutgers University
35. COC Nederland
36. Concertación Interamericana de Mujeres Activistas por los Derechos Humanos CIMA Costa Rica
37. CONNECT

38. Cordaid (Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid)
39. Khadim H. Dahot, Managing Director, Sewa Development Trust Sindh-SDTS
40. Department on the Status of Women, City and County of San Francisco
41. Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era
42. Eng. Aja Eze Foundation
43. Engender
44. Episcopal Women's Caucus
45. EQUAL GROUND, Sri Lanka
46. Equality Now
47. Shirin Ershadi, International Criminal Court Alliance, Los Angeles
48. Ugoji Eze, Eng. Aja Eze Foundation
49. FemLINKPacific
50. Femmes Junior
51. FOKUS-Forum for Women and Development
52. Fórum Mulher – Coordenação Para a Mulher no Desenvolvimento
53. Free the Marginalized Women Advocates Ghana
54. Gesellschaft fuer bedrohte Völker, Göttingen / Society for Endangered People
55. Amanda Glynn
56. The Grail
57. Vivien Green, London, United Kingdom
58. Grupo de Información en Reproducción Elegida (GIRE)
59. Lesley Hedges, Kirklees LGBT Community Network, United Kingdom
60. Lois A. Herman, Coordinator WUNRN, Women's UN Report Network
61. House of Diversity and Education, Lithuania
62. Human Rights Centre "Tlachinollan"
63. Human Rights Project at the Urban Justice Center
64. INCIDE Social A.C. (Mexico)
65. INFORM Human Rights Documentation Centre, Sri Lanka
66. International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo
67. International Federation of Business and Professional Women
68. International Federation of Women Lawyers, FIDA Nigeria
69. International Federation of Women in Legal Careers
70. International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC)
71. International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association
72. International Movement Against all Forms of Discrimination and Racism (INGO)
73. International Planned Parenthood Federation, Western Hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR)
74. International Women's Development Agency
75. International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific (IWRAW Asia Pacific)
76. Isis International
77. Isis-WICCE
78. Ngozi Nwosu Juba, Vision Spring Initiatives, Lagos, Nigeria
79. Kirkina House
80. Armand Kouakoukan, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
81. KULU-Women and Development, Denmark
82. Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas
83. Lokiaka Community Development Centre

84. Loretto Community
85. Ma'a Fafine mo e Famili Inc / For Women and Families Inc, Tonga
86. MADRE
87. Mairead Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate, Nobel Women's Initiative
88. Malta Gay Rights Movement
89. Masimanyane Women's Support Centre East London South Africa
90. Rahab Njeri Mbugua, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya Network of Women Living with HIV/AIDS, and Nairobi University
91. Alicia Masiá Moreno, Paiporta, Valencia, España
92. Julie Matthaei, Professor of Economics, Wellesley College
93. MENA Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflicts (MENAPPAC)
94. Metro Centre Ltd
95. Masego Mogwera, Vice President-Gender and Human Rights, Botswana Public Employees Union
96. MOSAIC - Training, Service & Healing Centre for Women
97. Mothers and Daughters of Lanka
98. Movimiento Manuela Ramos
99. NACOSA
100. National Alliance of Women Human Right Defenders Nepal
101. Nigerian Association for the Defense of Human Rights
102. National Council for Research on Women
103. Makiko Oku, Center for the Study of Genocide, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights (CGHR), Rutgers University
104. Ong Ehuzu Africa International
105. Onservatorio Género democracia y Derechos Humanos
106. Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) Inc
107. Nancy Pamula
108. Peace Boat
109. Permanent Peace Movement (PPM)
110. Promundo
111. Réseau des Associations et Groupements des Femmes Handicapées du Tchad (RAGFHT)
112. Return to Manhood
113. Blanca Rico, Semillas, Sociedad Mexicana pro Derechos de la Mujer A.C.
114. Rights for Change, the Netherlands
115. Robin Chandler Consulting Group
116. Harriet Gimbo Robinah, ActionAid Uganda
117. Aanu' Rotimi, Nigeria
118. Rozaria Memorial Trust
119. Marilyn P.Safir, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology, University of Haifa
120. Salamander Trust
121. Jeanne Sarson, Canada
122. SERR/Servicios Ecumenicos para Reconstruccion y Reconciliacion
123. Sewa Development Trust Sindh-SDTS
124. Hauwa Evelyn Shekarau, Nigeria

125. Mona Sherpa, Knowledge, Policy and Campaign Manager, ActionAid Nepal
126. Mabel Sikhosana, Zimbabwe
127. Soroptimist International
128. SOS Sexisme Organization
129. SRIA Rwanda
130. Sudanese Network for Education for All (SNEFA)
131. Tandem Project – WUNRN
132. U. A. Eze Consulting, INC.
133. The United Methodist Church General Board of Global Ministries
134. United Nations Association-USA East Bay
135. United Nations Association-USA Northern California Division
136. United Nations Association of San Diego
137. University of Miami Human Rights Clinic
138. Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights
139. US Federation for Middle East Peace (USFMEP)
140. US Human Rights Network
141. Violence Against Women 365 International Poster Exhibition
142. Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF)
143. WILPF International
144. WoMen Against Rape Trust, Maun, Botswana
145. Women Engaged in Action on 1325 (WE Act 1325)
146. Women in Business in South Africa
147. Women in Leadership and Development (WILAD)
148. Women in Security Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP)
149. Women Living Under Muslim Laws International Solidarity Network
150. Women Peacemakers Program
151. Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling in Jerusalem
152. Women's Health in Women's Hands CHC
153. Women's Information Center
154. Women's Intercultural Network (WIN)
155. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, DRC
156. Women's Network Croatia
157. Women's Political Academy - Sri Lanka
158. Women's Rights Center, Armenia
159. Women's Welfare Center (India)
160. Woodhull Sexual Freedom Alliance
161. WOREC Nepal
162. World YWCA
163. Worldwide Organization for Women
164. Women for Women's Human Rights – New Ways
165. Yemen Organization for Defending Rights and Democratic Freedoms
166. Zonta International