The 16 Days Campaign’s focus on the linkages between gender-based violence and militarism rallies participants to challenge communities and policymakers alike with the slogan “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let’s Challenge Militarism and End Gender-Based Violence!” The 16 Days Campaign calls for awareness and action on the intersections of gender-based violence and militarism, while emphasizing that the struggle for economic and social rights and ending gender-based violence be critically connected. The theme highlights militarism as a creation and normalization of a culture of fear that is supported by the use or threat of violence, aggression, as well as military intervention in response to political and social disputes or to enforce economic and political interests.

As part of the multi-year advocacy effort on gender-based violence and militarism, the 16 Days Campaign focused on three priority areas:

1. Violence Perpetrated by State Actors: State actors use the threat or act of violence to maintain or attain power.
2. Proliferation of Small Arms in Cases of Intimate Partner Violence: Intimate partner violence continues to occur in every region of the world, with the majority of the world’s women experiencing violence inflicted by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.
3. Sexual Violence During and After Conflict: Violent conflict increases the vulnerabilities of women and girls, where rape, sexual slavery, mutilation, forced impregnation, and forced “marriage” occur against them at a higher rate than during times of relative peace.

THE 2014 CAMPAIGN

In 2014, CWGL tracked the participation of 739 organizations in a total of 93 countries across the globe. More than 5,478 organizations and other participants from 187 countries and territories have participated in the 16 Days Campaign since its launch in 1991. Overall global trends in regional participation remained consistent with the greatest participation from Africa and Asia and the Pacific.

Participation by Actions

Organizations participated in the campaign through four main types of actions: Community Mobilization, Information Sharing & Coalition Building, Media & Art, and Policy Advocacy. The two with the greatest utilization by organizations were Community Mobilization and Information Sharing & Coalition Building, which represented 30% and 28%, respectively, of all actions taken. About 21% of organizations used Media & Art while 16% used Policy Advocacy.
**Top Priority Areas Globally**

Of over 20 different themes, participating organizations focused primarily on six key sub-themes. These six sub-themes—Gender-Based Violence, Domestic Violence, Sexual Violence, Children/Girls, Harmful Practices, and WHRD—attributed to a total of 74% of all actions and events. The other 26% of actions centered on issues such as:

- Militarism
- Violence by State Actors
- Poverty/Economic Rights
- LGBTQI
- Human Trafficking
- Legislation
- Men & Boys
- HIV/AIDS
- Education/Leadership/Empowerment

**Regional Distribution**

Prevalence of these themes differed from region to region. Engagement in priority areas was dependent on issues affecting each region.

Action types also differed by region based on local priorities affecting women. However, all four—Community Mobilization, Information Sharing & Coalition Building, Media & Art, and Policy Advocacy—were used in each region to a varying frequency. The only exceptions are the lack of Policy Advocacy in the Middle East and Online organizations and the lack of Community Mobilization in International organizations.

There is a continued diversity of issues which participants of the Campaign relate back to GBV and militarism. Regional representation of actions span the globe - from countries such as Afghanistan, Botswana, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Ireland, Poland, South Africa, and many more.

**Take Action Kit**

The Take Action Kit (TAK) was produced by CWGL and translated into English, French, and Spanish as well as other languages such as Afrikaans, Bahasa Indonesia, Italian, and Dutch with the help of volunteer translators. The 16 Days Logo is available in more than 60 languages with major support from volunteer activists and advocates who have taken the time to translate and often distribute use of the logo to local participants of the Campaign.

Traditional hard copies of the Take Action Kit were sent to 135 organizations around the world, most of whom served as primary level sources that share the information with more localized groups, while the Take Action Kit online page was accessed 10,144 times.

The most popular version of the TAK was English, followed by Spanish and French. The most used TAK item overall was the Theme Announcement, which was accessed 25,974 times from both the home page and the TAK page. Utilization of the Theme Announcement saw nearly a 270% increase from 2013.

Based on survey results of participating organizations, 44% downloaded the TAK from the CWGL website, 22% received hard copies, while 34% did not use the TAK when planning their event. Organizations that did not use the whole TAK used several Information Sheets to aid their participation in the 16 Days Campaign. The most used Information Sheets were:

- Theme Announcement
- Cover Letter
- Gender-Based Violence and Women Human Rights Defenders
- Gender-Based Violence in the Workplace
- Sexual Violence During and After Conflict
Global Engagement

To kick off the first day of the 16 Days Campaign, CWGL teamed up with the Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), EngenderHealth, the Global Fund for Women, and Promundo to host an online conversation on the intersection of sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence in conflict. The aim of this Teach-In was to raise awareness on violence against women and girls in areas of crisis and conflict, focusing particularly on the issue of rape as a weapon of war and access to post-rape care. Content posted by participants also covered sexual violence in conflict, economic and social inequalities connected to gender-based violence, strategies, tips, and tools that can be used to address intimate partner violence, and restrictions and stigma around sexual and reproductive health and rights, among other issues. The full #BreakBarriers #16Days Teach-In is available online at Storify. CWGL also hosted an online-based “Teach-In” held between November 25 to December 10, 2014 with more than 50 local, regional, and international civil society organizations, including the United Nations Say-NO UNiTE Campaign. UN Women also mobilized activists, civil society, and policymakers at the regional and national levels to participate throughout the 16 days, under its monthly “Orange Your Neighborhood” efforts toward eliminating violence against women.

As conveners of the Teach-In, participants shared information and resources on particular issues related to gender, gender-based violence, and human rights. The aim of the Teach-In was to strengthen awareness on the linkages between gender-based violence and militarism and to highlight information, stories, and resources of genders, individuals, and communities possessing marginalized identities - based on race, ethnicity, sexuality, caste, and socioeconomic, transgender, and indigenous status - that can intensify experiences of violence and examine through information sharing the complicity of State and non-State actors in perpetrating acts of gender-based violence and other human rights violations.

Over 50 local, regional, and international based organizations participated, however there was an organic participation of dozens more inspired by the Teach-In. Participants saw the activity online and were prompted to share their own data and strategies with far away activists and other individuals. These participants took to Twitter for one or multiple days of the sixteen days to highlight a specific issue in which they have an expertise on, linking back to the theme of ending gender-based violence and militarism. Examples of these impressive participants include:

- Amnesty International Women’s Rights on Arms Trade Treaty, SRR, and GBV
- Girl Rising on girls’ education
- UNWOMEN Say-NO UNiTE on VAW and Beijing+20
- International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict on three keys to ending sexual violence in conflict
- Nazra for Feminist Studies (Egypt) on political/social issues affecting freedom & development
- Girls Not Brides (a global partnership of over 400 organizations) on child marriage in situations of conflict
- MATCH International Women’s Fund on grassroots women’s organizations and the role of innovation in ending GBV
- MADRE on women’s human rights by meeting urgent needs
- Mama Cash on funding and supporting women’s rights initiatives
- Coalition for African Lesbians (South Africa based) on bodily autonomy and Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE)
- FEMNET (regional Africa group) on views of men and boys on masculinity and patriarchy
- Huairou Commission on grassroots women’s organizations making public spaces safer for women
The online-based "#16Days #GBVTeachin" meant to serve a similar function as traditional teach-ins, where individuals and groups with knowledge or experience on a particular topic share with other participants. This online Teach-In was a success in turnout of participants and sustained exercise of questioning and sharing of knowledge throughout the sixteen days. Each day of the Teach-In is archived online at Storify.

As part of the Rethinking the Asia Pivot conference on militarism, activities took place in multiple cities. An international webinar, orchestrated and moderated by Annie Isabel Fukushima, PhD, was convened between women human rights and anti-militarism activists from the Asia Pacific region and Mexico. Co-sponsored by the 16 Days Campaign, the webinar speakers included: Kozue Akibayashi, PhD, Professor, Ritsumeikan University, Japan and the new International President of WILPF; Sung-hee Choi, a Jeju Island activist from South Korea; Cristina Hardaga Fernandez, the Strategic and Political Engagement Coordinator at JASS Mesoamerica in Mexico; Corazon Valdez Fabros, the Secretary General of Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition in the Philippines; Lisalinda Natividad, PhD, Professor, at the School of Social Work at Guam University in Guam; and Suzuyo Takazato, Co-Chair of Okinawan Women Act Against Military Violence based in Okinawa.

Speakers described the current challenges facing them and other civil society activists as well as the general public as a result of militarism. Suzuyo Takazato spoke about the militarization of Henoko Bay with a new US Marine base and contamination of land by military bases in Okinawa. Cristina Hardaga pointed to the crisis in security structures with increased violence against women human rights defenders in the Mesoamerican region, including homicide, rape and other sexual violence by military and paramilitary forces, and the need to share experiences and strategies at the local levels in demanding change against this tide. Lisa Natividad discussed the colonization of Guam by the US since the Spanish American War, the effects of which reverberate on the environment and health of communities on the island. Kozue Akibayashi underlined the importance of international solidarity to end militarism, especially among groups working in isolation from each other. Sung-hee Choi gave an account of activists' struggle for demilitarization of Jeju Island, where national security is used as an excuse for greater military presence. Corazon Fabros spoke about sexual violence by US military in the Philippines and the difficulty for women and children to obtain justice for violence committed by US military personnel.
Blog: Activist Writings on the Intersections of Gender-Based Violence & Militarism

For the third year, the series “16 Blogs for 16 Days” brought together activists’ voices on a range of issues that affect and are affected by gender-based violence and militarism. Activists penned blogs on disability and gender-based violence (Stephanie Ortoleva, Esq., Women Enabled International); militarization in North East India (Sumshot Khular, Naga Women’s Union); violence and women’s activism in Honduras, Mexico, and Guatemala (Cristina Hardaga Fernández, JASS Associates); reconciling social media advocacy with more traditional forms of advocacy (Nebila Abdulmelik, FEMNET); finding peace and justice after a legacy of militarization in Colombia (Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE)); and gendered attacks on education (madeleine kennedy-macfoy, Education International).

Their voices focused on overarching and specific issues affecting communities and individuals around the globe. An overarching theme that runs through these blogs is the continuing lack of impunity enjoyed by perpetrators of violence against women, men, LGBTQI people, young girls and boys. Noted by these activists’ writings is the intersectional nature of how violence is experienced by all and the critical need for accountability.

Join the Campaign!

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