

## Human Rights for Women ↔ Human Rights for All: UDHR60

The 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Reclaiming the UDHR Campaign marks the adoption by the United Nations of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR) – the landmark document which outlines the basic human rights guaranteed to all people. The [Center for Women's Global Leadership](#) (CWGL) is proud to be a partner in the [UDHR 60 NGO](#) campaign, which comes at a time when the legitimacy of both women's rights and human rights are being challenged in too many settings. This NGO campaign is led by [The Elders](#) project, and is being held in conjunction with the [UN's celebration](#) of this anniversary... In the month of March, using International Women's Day (March 8<sup>th</sup>) as an anchor, CWGL will take the lead through highlighting a spectrum of women's human rights issues and the importance of women's leadership in realizing human rights for all.

Human rights cannot be universal without human rights for women. The UDHR60 campaign offers an opportunity to advocate for women's rights and the quest to end gender inequality, and to create a world free from violence, discrimination and injustice, as critical to building a just, peaceful and sustainable world where human rights for all are respected. Over the past 60 years, women around the world have created groundbreaking global and local efforts to challenge gender inequality and now, feminist approaches to human rights are being developed and used around the world. Women's advocacy has brought about pioneering change in areas such as education, health, law, and political participation – and, in interpretations of the human rights framework itself. The global frameworks for realizing women's rights have been spelled out in the Women's Convention ([CEDAW](#)), and in documents from other UN processes, such as the [Vienna Human Rights Declaration](#), the [Cairo Programme of Action](#), the [Beijing Platform for Action](#), the [Millennium Development Goals](#), and the [World Summit](#). Women have successfully demanded state political will to create meaningful change, but the implementation and resources to fulfill these promises are still lacking.

CWGL's focus in this campaign is not exhaustive, but what we *will* do is build on, celebrate and honor this global momentum, particularly in areas most closely related to our nearly two decades of work on women's human rights. CWGL's primary areas of focus will be:

- Support Women Human Rights Defenders
- End Violence Against Women
- Strengthen Gender Equality Structures in the UN
- Expand Financing for Gender Equality

We invite all to join in celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration, and honoring decades of landmark women's rights advocacy as we work to put in practice the UDHR60 campaign slogan, [Every Human Has Rights](#). We encourage groups to focus in March and throughout the year on activities that address the many human rights challenges facing women around the globe and to celebrate the leadership of women in defending human rights.

### Resources

Center for Women's Global Leadership: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>

UDHR60 Campaign: <http://www.everyhumanhasrights.org>

UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/60UDHR.aspx>

## I. Support Women Human Rights Defenders

**Demand:** Protect the rights of women human rights defenders and defenders of women's rights so they can engage in advocacy free from threats to their physical and mental well-being.

Around the world, women engaged in defense of all human rights are attacked in many ways because of their political agendas, their identities as activists, and simply because they are women engaging in advocacy. Men and women activists are also antagonized precisely because they are working on women's rights and sexual rights issues. As forms of punishment and to thwart political agendas, individuals are threatened with physical violence and harassment, their rights to organize, to freedom of assembly and to freedom of speech are limited, and their organizations are threatened with closure or other legal punishments.

- Protect rights of women defenders and defenders of women's rights, and ensure violators, whether state, non-state, family, or community actors, are brought to justice.
- Document and report on violations of rights of women defenders and all defenders of women's [and sexual] rights
- Confront political contexts such as the global rise in fundamentalisms that affect rights of women defenders
- Challenge regulation of consensual sexuality and attacks on women's sexuality as a form of punishment for their advocacy
- Call on governments and donors to commit resources for implementing the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

### Resources

- [Claiming Rights, Claiming Justice: A Guidebook on Women Human Rights Defenders](#)
- [Defending Women Defending Rights campaign](#)
- [Declaration on Human Rights Defenders](#)
- [Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders Annual Reports](#)(2007 report includes focus on women and LGBT defenders)
- [UN Summary Information on the Declaration](#)
- [Written Out: How Sexuality is Used to Attack Women's Organizing](#)

## 2. End Violence Against Women

**Demand:** Ensure women's rights to live free from violence and end impunity for all perpetrators.

Violence against women continues to be a pervasive human rights violation that affects all women all around the world. The experience of violence by women is shaped by the intersection of gender with factors such as race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, culture, religion, age, class, sexual identity, disabilities or citizenship. The prevalence of violence against women constitutes a global public health crisis and is an obstacle to equality, development, security and peace.

- Ensure that states take action to protect women from and punish acts of violence by state and non state actors through implementation of the [Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women](#), which recommends governments have an obligation to:
  - Secure gender equality and protect women's human rights.
  - Exercise leadership to end violence against women.
  - Close the gaps between international standards and national laws, policies and practices, including access to justice and redress for all women who suffer from acts of violence.
  - Strengthen the knowledge base on all forms of VAW to inform policy and strategy development.
  - Build and sustain strong multi-sectoral strategies, coordinated nationally and locally.
  - Allocate adequate resources and funding to this issue.
- Urge intergovernmental/international agencies such as the United Nations, World Bank, World Trade Organization and International Monetary Fund to use the prevalence of VAW as an indicator for measuring a state's progress in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals, when reporting back on obligations met under UN Conventions and as an indicator in the determination of a country's Human Development Index ranking.
- Call on regional mechanisms to be robust in monitoring and/or adjudicating cases where the state has failed to uphold women's human rights.
- Appeal to individuals and communities to be responsible agents of change by speaking up and intervening to prevent and report acts of violence against women.
- Promote greater understanding by all actors, of the intersection of violence against women with issues of armed conflict, poverty, [HIV/AIDS](#), global warming and identity based discrimination including being targeted based on race, sexual orientation, class or religion.
- Increase significantly government, international agency and donor resource allocations to eliminate discrimination against women, promote gender equality and prevent all forms and manifestations of violence against women ([Where is the money for women's rights](#)).

### Resources

- [16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence](#)
- [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)
- Radhika Coomarswamy, [Economic and Social policy impact on VAW \(E/CN.4/2000/68/Add.5\)](#)
- [Secretary-General's in-depth study on all forms of violence against women](#)
- [Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences](#)
- [Strengthening Resistance Confronting Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS](#)
- UNIFEM report, [Not a Minute More: Ending Violence Against Women](#)
- WHO report, [The economic dimensions of interpersonal violence](#)

### 3. Strengthen Gender Equality Structures in the UN

**Demand:** Guarantee the creation of a stronger UN women’s organization that can advance women’s human rights and gender equality, implement global policies, and deliver results on the ground for women.

Within the UN system, women’s units are fragmented, underfunded and understaffed, and their leaders do not have enough status to participate in high level decision-making. Further, gender perspectives and women’s rights are not adequately woven into UN organizational priorities at centralized or country levels. A strong new entity with higher status, additional resources, and greater staff capacity is needed to advance work on women’s empowerment and to ensure that gender equality is truly integrated within the UN system.

- Ensure that the new women’s organization has a country presence and a strong “operational” mandate.
- Create a new Under Secretary General position to head the new entity, which would enable high-level representation for women in UN decision-making and policy-development at both global and field levels.
- Ensure the new women’s organization is initially funded at a minimum level of \$500 million to \$1 billion USD, and that its budget continues to grow substantially.
- Promote the integration of gender equality and women’s human rights throughout the UN system, including in all UN reform processes such as the One UN Country Pilots.
- Promote accountability within the new women’s organization including meaningful involvement of non-governmental organizations, particularly women’s organizations, in its ongoing processes at national and global levels.

#### Resources

- Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign Statement (Spanish, French, English)
- [Gender Equality Architecture and UN Reforms: Submission by Women’s Groups to the UN Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on System-wide Coherence \(submitted by CWGL and WEDO\)](#)
- Regional Statements on UN Gender Equality Architecture Reform ([International](#), [CEE](#), [Europe](#), [South Asia](#), and [Africa](#))
- Q/A – [in development]
- 52<sup>nd</sup> Commission on the Status of Women, GEAR Written Submission ([Spanish](#), [French](#), [English](#))

## 4. Expand Financing for Gender Equality

**Demand:** Deliver the funding to meet promises to achieve gender equality and women's human rights at all levels worldwide.

Significant progress toward achieving gender equality requires greater sustained political and financial commitment. Organizations working for women's rights have highlighted that the inconsistency in the allocation of financial resources by states, aid agencies and international financial institutions as well as their failure to fully demonstrate commitment to gender equality has had an adverse affect on the realization of women's human rights ([Fundher](#)).

Governments, donor states, aid agencies, development agencies and international bodies should:

- Commit sustainable resources for organizations working for gender equality and women's human rights.
- Invest in the advancement of services for women in areas such as health care and education.
- Enable greater access to financial resources for women by promoting employment opportunities and access to capital, loans and credit programs and by ensuring that laws of property ownership and inheritance are not discriminatory toward women.
- Create and implement gender budgets in all institutions at all levels local to global.
- Meet the promises made by donor countries to deliver 0.7% in official development aid, ensuring that it is not bound by restrictive conditionalities and that it is responsive to the needs of women on the ground.

### Resources

- [Association for Women's Rights in Development \(AWID\) Resources](#)
  - [Money and Movements](#)
  - [Where is the Money for Women's Rights](#)
- [Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness](#)
- [The Monterrey Consensus, 2002](#)
- [UNIFEM Gender Budgets Resource Center](#)
- [Women Won't Wait: End HIV & Violence Against Women. Now. \*Show Us the Money: Is Violence Against Women on the HIV&AIDS Funding Agenda?\*](#)