

From the Executive Director



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As we reflect on the successes of 2010, we also recognize the many challenges that lie ahead. We hope you will join CWGL as we continue to work on strengthening women's rights advocacy on economic and social justice, ending violence against women and enhancing women's leadership at the global level. Please take a moment to read this issue and learn about CWGL's engagement in a number of collaborative processes and campaigns. In February 2011, CWGL will sponsor a wide range of activities at the [55th session of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#). If you are in New York for the CSW session, we look forward to seeing you there!

Wishing you a peaceful 2011,
Radhika Balakrishnan, Executive Director, CWGL

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CWGL Participates in the United Nations Universal Periodic Review

Ninth Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) United Nations, Geneva, Switzerland: November 5, 2010

Over the last year CWGL has been [involved in civil society advocacy](#) for the United States' first United Nations Universal Periodic Review which includes the development of a [cluster report](#) on integrating human rights into macroeconomic policy in the U.S. On November 5, 2010, the UN and Member States reviewed the status of human rights in the U.S. Over 200 recommendations were received from over 80 Member States inscribed to speak. Topics ranged from treaty body ratification of [CEDAW](#), [CRC](#), [CRPD](#), [CMW](#), and [ICESCR](#) to the abolishment of the death penalty to the elimination of extraterritorial torture. The U.S. administration sent over 30 representatives from the housing, labor, education, and health offices, although CWGL did note the absence of a representative from the Treasury Department. The webcast of the review can be viewed on the [UN Human Rights Council website](#). After the review, CWGL along with [CESR](#), [ESCR-Net](#), [PERI](#), [Urban Justice Center](#), and [USHRN](#) organized a side event entitled, "[Building Foundations for Freedom from Want in the Land of Plenty](#)." Speakers focused on economic and social rights violations in the U.S. including progressive realization of rights, the distribution of resources, amounts of resources used on social expenditure, the implications of unemployment for women and people of color. Finally, CWGL participated in a U.S. government sponsored Town Hall meeting where civil society participants asked questions regarding the processes for follow-up and addressed human rights violations in the U.S. The Center and partners will continue to monitor the U.S.'s UPR process. CWGL joined a number of other organization involved in the UPR process in late December in sending a [letter to the U.S. State Department](#) about follow-up to the UPR and expectations for the March 2011 proceedings. View CWGL UPR related [video](#), [photos](#) and press releases ([November 3, 2010](#) and [November 10, 2010](#)). For more information, please visit the [CWGL UPR page](#).

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence a Success!



Organizing under the international theme *Structures of Violence: Defining the Intersections of*

Militarism and Violence Against Women, more than 1,000 organizations and individuals in 103 countries participated in this year's 16 Days Campaign. We were thrilled that our [new website](#) received over 38,000 hits during the campaign from *every country* around the world. As CWGL continues to explore new ways to connect with activists through online media, our 16 Days Campaign [Facebook page](#) surged from 3,000 fans prior to the campaign to more than 14,000 fans this year, thanks in part to our collaboration with [Stardoll](#). To read more exciting highlights from the 2010 campaign, please visit [CWGL's Issue site](#) where there are several e-Updates posted. A review of the campaign in pictures can be found on our [16 Days Flickr page](#). If you haven't had a chance to submit your feedback, reports, or pictures yet, please be sure to send them to 16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu. Also, please don't forget to complete the [campaign questionnaire](#) online (available in English, Spanish, and French). We look forward to sharing a more detailed report later in February!

UN Women Becomes Operational

UN Women, the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women became operational on January 1, 2011. CWGL is a member of the facilitation committee that coordinates the [Gender Equality Architecture Reform \(GEAR\) Campaign](#). CWGL, GEAR Campaign supporters and women's rights activists worldwide welcome the entity as it makes decisions about its programmatic focuses and strategic plans. The GEAR Campaign has encouraged its constituency to proactively engage with the shaping of UN Women's program. In November 2010, GEAR developed a [toolkit](#) to mobilize and organize supporters and serve as a guide for involvement in next stages. One of the content pieces in the guide calls for input from women's rights groups in an effort to share recommendations on civil society participation and thematic visions for UN Women. CWGL has worked on suggestions to ensure that there are strong connections built between women's rights programming and economic and social rights. CWGL has recommended that UN Women: enhance the analytical capacity and practical programming to support governments in meeting economic and social rights obligations; support women's organizations in holding governments accountable for how states design and implement economic policies; expand its programming in economic and social rights by creating expert programming units at the global, regional and national level with qualified economists; and create a civil society taskforce made up of thematic and regional experts that provide expertise on economic and social rights. The GEAR Campaign is in the process of collating all input received from organizations and plans to share the outcome of this with UN Women once it is finalized. During the CSW, GEAR advocates are preparing for an event on February 24th from 4-5:30pm in the Main Auditorium of the Salvation Army. The working group leaders will discuss UN Women's accountability to civil society, funding issues, and programmatic concerns. This event will lead into the official [UN Women's launch](#) which to take place on February 24th at 6:30pm in the UN Headquarters.

Preparations Begin for the 55th Session of the CSW

Women's rights advocates, Member States, and UN entities will assemble from February 22-March 4, 2011 for the 2011 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. The priority theme is, "access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work. The review theme is "the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child." The emerging issue is, "gender equality and sustainable development. Please mark your calendars for the 16 Days Open Forum on February 28th (2-3:30pm) at the Salvation Army and CWGL's first economics workshop at the CSW, "Applying a Human Rights Perspectives to Macroeconomic Policy" on March 2nd from 4-8pm on the 10th floor of the Church Center. The workshop is supported by [AWID](#), [DAWN](#), [IAFFE](#) and [ESCR-Net](#). CWGL is involved with a number of other events including a panel organized by [MADRE](#) on the reconstruction process and women's experiences in Haiti post earthquake; a panel sponsored by the [Women Won't Wait](#) coalition on violence against women and HIV/AIDS; a discussion sponsored by the [AWID](#) on the global economic crisis; and a panel sponsored by the [Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition](#). Please continue to check the [CWGL CSW](#) website for updates.

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's programmatic areas are: the promotion of women's leadership, the advancement of feminist perspectives in economic and social rights and the elimination of violence against women, in local, national and international arenas. 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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Meeting Summary

From December 13-14, 2010, CWGL convened a meeting to analyze and unpack the human rights concept of *maximum available resources* (MAR), which was introduced in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). For summary, [click here](#).

New Resources

[List of Materials and Resources for Women Human Rights Defenders](#), AWID, in collaboration with the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition

[Activist's Guide to the Yogyakarta Principles](#), YP in Action

Upcoming Events

- **January 25, 2011:** Program Director, Natalia Cardona, will participate in a webinar on why we need human rights to achieve economic security in the U.S. [Register Now!](#)
- **January 27-28, 2011:** Executive Director, Radhika Balakrishnan, will participate in an *Expert meeting on the potential impact of fiscal contraction on those living in extreme poverty*, Geneva, Switzerland
- **February 13, 2011:** Premiere Screening of *Pasionate Politics: The Life & Work of Charlotte Bunch*, New York, NY. [Buy tickets!](#)
- **February 22-March 4, 2011:** [CWGL activities at the CSW](#), New York, NY
- **March 18, 2010:** Program Director, Natalia Cardona, will participate on a panel at the west Philadelphia library, Philadelphia, PA

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](#).