

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

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November 25 – December 10, 2000

Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Campaign



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This year marks the 10th anniversary of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign. As we look back on ten years of innovative, worldwide organizing during this annual campaign, we are inspired by the strength and commitment of the movement that works tirelessly to eliminate gender-based violence in the home and in the world. Over the years, the 16 Days network has multiplied and now includes participation from more than 800 organizations in over 90 countries.

The growth of the Campaign has exceeded initial expectations – not just in the numbers of those participating but also in spirit. The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence has become an annual event in many towns, states and regions. Women's human rights activists have used this 16-day period to create a solidarity movement which raises awareness around gender-based violence, works to ensure better protection for survivors of violence and calls for its elimination. The 16 Days solidarity network welcomes those who join the campaign annually by coordinating activities in their own regions.

The organizing strategies employed by groups during the Campaign vary and are reflective of the region and its current political situation. This year we suggest organizations link to global events such as the recent five-year review of the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing +5) and the upcoming World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (August 31 – September 7, 2001 in South Africa) to pressure local and national governments to implement promises made and increase their commitment to women's human rights in the future. We encourage activists to also use this 16 day period to raise awareness in student, local, national and regional communities by coordinating events such as tribunals, workshops, festivals, etc. (See suggestions for action on reverse of page.) The International Calendar of Campaign Activities from all previous Campaigns can be found on-line at <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu> and is illustrative of the various organizing strategies that groups have used in the past.

As we celebrate ten years of organizing, we invite you to join in the organizing effort to create a world without violence.

The annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign, November 25 to December 10, has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups from around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Growing out of the Global Center's first Women's Global Leadership Institute, the Campaign links violence against women and human rights, emphasizing that all forms of violence, whether perpetrated in the public or private sphere, are a violation of human rights. The dates that participants chose for the Campaign symbolically make this link: November 25 marks the International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 10 is International Human Rights Day. The 16-day period also highlights other significant dates including December 1 which is World AIDS Day, and December 6 which marks the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

Submit your materials!

Participants in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign have been instrumental in bringing issues of violence against women to the forefront in local, national, regional and global arenas. The strategies employed by groups and activities organized during the Campaign period continue to be unique and innovative. With the 10th anniversary of the Campaign, the Global Center is initiating a project to document some of these extraordinary efforts. The Center asks that all participants of the 16 Days Campaign - past as well as present participants - send documentation from their events ie. posters, pictures, t-shirts, video footage, poems, songs, statements, reports, etc. to the Center by *January 31, 2001* (see contact information below). The Center will produce a report, prior to the 11th annual campaign, based on this documentation. The report will be distributed to all contributors, key government officials and activists who are interested in learning more about the Campaign and the work being done to eliminate violence.

Suggestions for Action...

- + Become active in preparations for the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to be held August 31 - September 7, 2001 in South Africa. Form a discussion group in your organization and/or community that looks at violence in relation to race and gender. Compile recommendations based on your discussions and submit these to your government. (For more information on the conference and activities of the Women's Human Rights Caucus, visit the Center's website, see address below.)
 - + Learn more about commitments made by your government at the Fourth World Conference on Women and at its recent five-year review in New York City, June 2000 (Beijing +5). Undertake a review of their progress in implementing and enforcing these commitments and coordinate activities and/or community actions to press for increased support of women's human rights.
 - + Contact local and national government officials and ask them to adopt November 25 as the Local/ National Day against Violence against Women as the UN did internationally in 1999. Ask them to commemorate the day and the annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence by reporting on progress made by their administrations toward the elimination of violence against women.
 - + Educate youth about violence against women and girls by inviting speakers to address students in local schools; integrate exercises from *Local Action/ Global Change: Learning About the Human Rights of Women and Girls* into the curriculum for the 16-day period (sample exercises and ordering information available online or by request); and/or provide gender-sensitivity training for teachers in the school district.
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Join the 16 Days movement!

Become part of an already existing student, community, national or international activity for the 16 Days or take actions on your own. Submit your planned activity to us for posting to the International Calendar of Campaign Activities and become part of the growing global movement organizing during this time. Your submissions will also enable the Center to refer other individuals/ organizations that are interested in your activities to you.

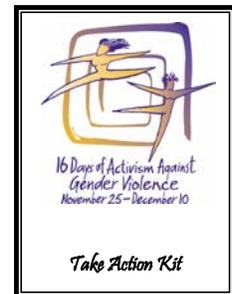
Please send a description of planned activities for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence to:

**16 Days Campaign Coordinator,
Center for Women's Global Leadership
160 Ryders Lane
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8555, USA.
Fax: (1-732)932-1180.
E-mail: cwgl@lgc.org**

Take Action Kit

Contact the Center for Women's Global Leadership to receive a free copy of the Take Action Kit for the 16 Days Campaign. The action kit includes:

- a campaign profile
- a description of dates
- a list of participating organizations and countries
- a bibliography and resource list
- a list of suggested activities
- a current Campaign announcement



Get Involved - On-line!

The Center will post all information about the Campaign online at

<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu>