

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN

November 25 – December 10, 2010



Instructions for November 29th Global Day of Action

As part of the international 16 Days Campaign Global Day of Action, we ask groups to organize public vigils, nonviolent demonstrations of one or more people in a public location, or peaceful marches* on Monday, November 29th – International Women Human Rights Defenders Day. No specific form for the vigil is required, and individual groups should create an action that best fits local campaign initiatives. To unify our actions, we simply ask that you reflect the commitments articulated in the Global Call to Action:

1. Challenge militarism and end violence against women
2. Strengthen women's leadership to promote peace
3. Realize human rights for all to achieve genuine security

Groups are also encouraged to add two additional demands that reflect local campaign goals (see the Call to Action). Please submit additional demands to 16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu to be shared with other campaign participants.

Tips for planning your action:

- ✓ Request up to 10 free white bandannas with the 16 Days logo from CWGL. When you write to 16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu, include your mailing address.
- ✓ Have everyone wear the same color (e.g. black) as a symbol of protest.
- ✓ Plan the vigil for a public location where many people will see you.
- ✓ Vigils can be stationary or may include a march.
- ✓ Vigils may be silent or may include spoken word, chanting, music, or other forms of expression.
- ✓ Make signs and banners with messages against violence against women and militarism.
- ✓ Distribute flyers or symbolic materials (e.g. ribbons) that communicate the purpose of the event.
- ✓ Publicize the action ahead of time and get media attention (see the sample press advisory on the back of this sheet or the media section of the *Suggested Actions* document in this kit for more ideas).
- ✓ **Take pictures and submit them to CWGL – this is a powerful, visible way to document and show our solidarity with one another!**

November 29th is International Women Human Rights Defenders Day - a day set aside to recognize women human rights defenders and commemorate activism, advocacy and courageous acts of resistance. In 2004, an international campaign Defending Women Defending Rights was launched for the recognition and protection of women human rights defenders who are activists advocating for the realization of all human rights for all people. The campaign asserts that women fighting for human rights and all activists defending women's rights face specific violations as a result of their advocacy or their gender. For more information, check the women human rights defender campaign website: <http://www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org/>.

*These suggestions are based on Women in Black's long tradition of protest and anti-militarist actions. "Women in Black is a world-wide network of women committed to peace with justice and actively opposed to injustice, war, militarism and other forms of violence." For more information on the network, visit <http://www.womeninblack.org/>.

Contact Information

[Name, Title, Address, Phone Number, Email]

RELEASE DATE: []

[Your Organization's Logo]

Location, Country - Date: Women human rights defenders, peace activists and women's rights advocates will join together this Monday, November 29 in an act of global solidarity to challenge militarism and demand an end to all forms of violence against women. Public vigils and peace marches will be taking place in every region of the world on this day of action as part of the international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign. **[NAME OF ORGANIZATION]** will be participating with **[TYPE OF EVENT, LOCATION, TIME]**.

[INSERT quote from community/organization leader about the value of international solidarity and the specific issues that your campaign will focus on. Provide your own "spin" on the campaign by describing the ways you see militarism intersecting with violence against women locally/regionally.]

This day of global action falls on International Women Human Rights Defenders Day (Nov. 29) - a day set aside to recognize women human rights defenders and commemorate activism, advocacy and courageous acts of resistance. In response to the Call to Action, activists will be urging their communities to challenge militarism and end violence against women, strengthen women's leadership to promote peace, and realize human rights for all to achieve genuine security. **[INSERT information about local demands]** To read more about these key actions and this year's international campaign theme, see the 16 Days website: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>.

This global action is part of the 16 Days Campaign, which takes place annually for the 16-day period beginning on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25) and continuing through International Human Rights Day (December 10) to emphasize that violence against women is a human rights violation. The 16 Days Campaign originated at the first Women's Global Leadership Institute organized by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991, and over the course of the last 20 years, more than 2,800 organizations in 156 countries have participated in the campaign.

[INSERT information about any additional events you've planned during the campaign.]

[For more information, contact NAME at (Email address or phone number) and website]

For information on the 16 Days Campaign: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>

For information on Women Human Rights Defenders: <http://www.defendingwomen-defendingrights.org/>