

WHAT IS THE GEAR CAMPAIGN?

Since its founding, women have seen the United Nations as a galvanizing force for efforts to define a comprehensive global agenda for peace and security, human rights, gender equality, women's empowerment, poverty eradication and sustainable development. With the creation of UN Women, the UN has committed to strengthen its programming globally on gender equality and the empowerment of women more systematically, promising to make women's rights a critical priority in every aspect of the UN's work.

The GEAR Campaign is a global network of over 300 women's, human rights and social justice groups that have advocated for five years for a stronger UN agency on women's rights. Since the creation of UN Women, the GEAR Campaign has continued to engage with the new entity to monitor its implementation of promises made, to advocate for the integration of a human rights-based approach to its work and for meaningful participation of civil society in its proceedings at all levels – national, regional, and global. GEAR has also continued to advocate with Member States for robust funding for the new entity.

To read more about the history of the GEAR Campaign & UN Women read the GEAR Campaign Transitional Toolkit for Civil Society Organizations,

http://www.gearcampaign.org/news_events/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/November-2010-GEAR-Campaign-Toolkit.pdf

The Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign

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PRIORITY AREAS

As it continues to monitor the development of UN Women, the GEAR Campaign has identified priority areas developed in consultation with GEAR members. In the next stages of advocacy, GEAR will monitor the development of UN Women using the following critical benchmarks. The GEAR Campaign thematic focus areas include:

- Incorporation of a human rights-based approach throughout UN Women's programmatic areas of work;
- Development of partnerships and strengthened engagement between UN Women & Civil Society both through a formalized advisory body and integrated throughout each program area;
- Enhancement of UN Women's operational capacity by strengthening its effectiveness and presence on the ground nationally and in the regional hubs.

GEAR will also raise the issue of resource mobilization amongst member states that are committed to gender equality and women's empowerment to ensure that UN Women is given a solid foundation to make a difference in the lives of millions of women, their families and communities around the world.

What can you do? During the 16 Days – partner with UN Women and other organizations to discuss UN initiatives to end violence against women (VAW) and militarism. Remember that VAW and Women, Peace and Security are on UN Women's list of priorities areas!

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