

## 2013 CAMPAIGN THEME

*From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!*

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign continues the theme of **“From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!”** in 2013. The 16 Days Campaign advocates for awareness and action on the multi-faceted intersections of gender-based violence and militarism, while highlighting the connection between the struggle for economic and social rights and ending gender-based violence.

The theme focuses on militarism as a creation and normalization of a culture of fear that is supported by the use or threat of violence, aggression, as well as military intervention in response to political and social disputes or to enforce economic and political interests.

The 16 Days Campaign will focus on three priority areas while underlining the intersections of economic and social rights with militarism and gender-based violence.

### 1. **Violence Perpetrated by State Actors:**

State actors use the threat or act of violence to maintain or attain power.

### 2. **Domestic Violence and the Role of Small Arms:**

Domestic violence continues to occur in every region of the world, with the majority of the world's women experiencing violence inflicted by an intimate partner at some point in their lives.

### 3. **Sexual Violence During and After Conflict:**

Violent conflict increases the vulnerabilities of women and girls, where rape, sexual slavery, mutilation, forced impregnation, and forced “marriage” occur against them at a higher rate than during times of relative peace.

## CENTER FOR WOMEN'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP (CWGL)

CWGL was founded in 1989 and has coordinated the 16 Days Campaign since its establishment in 1991. It is located in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University, in New Jersey, USA.

CWGL's mission is to develop and facilitate women's leadership for women's human rights and social justice worldwide. The Center works to:

- Advance economic and social rights from a feminist perspective;
- Promote an end to violence against women and highlight the linkages with militarism;
- Build coalitions and deepen capacity around those urgent issues that are critical to the global women's movement to secure policy reform at the international and national levels.

For more information, visit the CWGL website: <http://cwgl.rutgers.edu>.



**Center for Women's Global Leadership**  
School of Arts and Sciences  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
160 Ryders Lane  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8555 USA

**RUTGERS**  
School of Arts and Sciences

## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN



*From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!*

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign is a global campaign dedicated to ending gender-based violence. It runs each year from November 25<sup>th</sup>: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, to December 10<sup>th</sup>: Human Rights Day.

Coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership, the Campaign has seen over 5,167 organizations in 187 countries participate since 1991.

The 16 Days Campaign is dedicated to:

- Raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue;
- Strengthening local work around violence against women;
- Providing a forum to develop and share strategies;
- Demonstrating the solidarity of activists around the world; and
- Calling governments to account, respond, protect, and prevent violence against women.

<http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu>

## WHY GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE?

"[...] violence against women constitutes a violation of basic human rights and is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace."

– Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)

### What is Gender-Based Violence?

Gender-based violence is a pervasive human rights violation, a public health crisis, and an obstacle to equality, development, security, and peace. In 1993, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defined violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." The terms "violence against women" and "gender-based violence" are used to refer to the range of abuses committed against women and men that stem from gender inequality, beliefs about traditional gender roles, and women's subordinate status in society relative to men.

- The World Health Organization estimates that at least one of every three women globally will be beaten, raped, or otherwise abused during her lifetime. In most cases, the abuser is a member of her own family.<sup>1</sup>
- Research shows that having a small arm in the home increases the overall risk of someone being murdered by 41%; for women in particular the risk was nearly tripled.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> World Health Organization. (2005) "WHO Multi-Country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women: Initial Results on Prevalence, Health Outcomes and Women's Responses." Available at: <http://www.who.int>

<sup>2</sup> Wiebe, D.J. (2003) 'Homicide and Suicide Risks Associated with Firearms in the Home: A National Case Control Study', *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, Volume 41, American College of Emergency Physicians. Available at: [http://parliamentaryforum.org/sites/default/files/2%20-%20Violence\\_against\\_women\\_and\\_salw\\_parliamentary\\_handbook.pdf](http://parliamentaryforum.org/sites/default/files/2%20-%20Violence_against_women_and_salw_parliamentary_handbook.pdf)

## CAMPAIGN DATES

The 16 Days Campaign began in 1991, and uses the 16 days between International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25<sup>th</sup>) and Human Rights Day (December 10<sup>th</sup>) to reinforce that acts of gender-based violence are human rights violations, and eliminating all forms of gender-based violence is a human rights issue.

### November 25<sup>th</sup>: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

The Campaign begins on November 25<sup>th</sup> to call for increased attention to gender-based violence. This date was chosen in honor of the Mirabal sisters, who were assassinated in 1960 by the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. In 1999, November 25<sup>th</sup> was officially recognized by the United Nations.

**December 10<sup>th</sup>: Human Rights Day** is a celebration of the 1948 adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Campaign uses Human Rights Day as an opportunity to commemorate the signing of this historic document and promote the principles that it embodies.

**November 29<sup>th</sup>: International Women Human Rights Defenders Day**, a day to recognize women human rights defenders, and commemorate activism, advocacy and courageous acts of resistance.

**December 6<sup>th</sup>: The Montreal Massacre**, remembering the 1989 gender-based murder of 14 female University of Montreal School of Engineering students.

### Additional Dates

- **November 29<sup>th</sup>:** International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
- **December 1<sup>st</sup>:** World AIDS Day
- **December 2<sup>nd</sup>:** International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- **December 3<sup>rd</sup>:** International Day of Disabled Persons

## GET INVOLVED

### Start Your Own Campaign!

The 16 Days Campaign is open to activists around the world, and the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) encourages participants to connect with the Campaign theme, *From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!*, in ways most appropriate to your contexts.

### We Support You!

- **Take Action Kit:** Each year, CWGL produces a Take Action Kit that participants can use to help plan their own Campaign activities. Download the Take Action Kit materials or request a hard copy: <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu>
- **Online Campaign Calendar:** Search the 16 Days online Campaign Calendar to find participating organizations in your area, or to post your own initiatives: <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/campaign-calendar>
- **16 Days Discussion Forum:** Check out the online discussion forum to connect with other participants, share resources, and learn more about the issues: <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/get-involved/16-days-discussion-forum>

### Stay Connected!

- **Web:** <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu>
- **Email:** [16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu](mailto:16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu)
- **Join the 16 Days Listserv:** [https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/16days\\_discussion](https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/16days_discussion)
- **Facebook fan page:** <http://www.facebook.com/16DaysCampaign>
- **Twitter:** #16days; @16DaysCampaign; @CWGLRutgers
- **Flickr:** <http://www.flickr.com/photos/16dayscampaign>
- **Skype:** cwgl\_16days
- **Tumblr:** <http://cwgl.tumblr.com/>