

Join the Third Annual
Women's Human Rights Campaign

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence
November 25 - December 10, 1993

"Democracy in the Family, Democracy of Families, Democracy for every Body"

We call upon women's groups in every region of the world to join in the **Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights** and participate in the third annual **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence** (November 25 - December 10, 1993). The campaign seeks to highlight the prevalence of gender violence globally, create an awareness of such violence as a violation of human rights, and promote the effectiveness of women taking leadership on the issue. During previous campaigns women's groups in more than 120 countries have organized events, or dedicated already scheduled activities, to the **16 Days** campaign theme. Such actions included petition drives, speakouts, vigils, rallies, film festivals, radio or TV programs, lobbying campaigns, or the production of special editions of newsletters, magazines, posters or buttons.

Because of the participation of so many women's groups in the **Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights** since 1991, women had a tremendous influence on the final declaration of the United Nations (UN) World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, June 1993). In particular the worldwide petition campaign (begun during **16 days 1991**) calling upon the UN World Conference to comprehensively address violations of women's human rights, gathered close to half a million signatures in 124 countries and was translated into 23 languages. As a result of this campaign and other women's actions, the World Conference concluded that the "human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights" and urged the elimination of such human rights violations as "violence against women in public and private life." The Conference also strongly endorsed the human right of women to the "highest standards of physical and mental health throughout their lifespan" including reproductive health.

The **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence 1993** will build on the success of women in Vienna focusing on the theme: "Democracy in the Family, Democracy of Families, Democracy for every Body." The theme is appropriate given that 1994 has been declared the UN Year of the Family which has as its slogan: Building the Smallest Democracy at the Heart of Society, and that the UN World Conference on Population and Development will be held September 1994 in Cairo. Actions taken might highlight violations of women's human rights and women's bodies in the family such as battery, rape, incest, forced marriage, or forced pregnancy. The theme also encompasses discrimination against divorced, single-parent, poor or non-traditional families, as well as violations of human rights based on family status.

For more information about the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign or other Center activities, please contact Niamh Reilly, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Douglass College, Rutgers University, 27 Clifton Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08903. Tel: (908) 932-8782, Fax: (908) 932-1180.

The first **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence** in 1991 was coordinated by the *Center for Women's Global Leadership* along with the participants of the June 1991 *Women's Global Leadership Institute on Women, Violence and Human Rights*. November 25 is International Day Against Violence Against women, declared by the first Feminist Encuentro for Latin America and the Caribbean in 1981 in Bogota, Colombia. The day was chosen to commemorate the brutal murder of the Mirabal sisters by the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic on this date in 1960. December 10 celebrate the anniversary of

the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed in 1948. This period also include December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, the anniversary of the Montreal massacre when a men gunned down 14 women engineering students for being "feminists."