

*WOMEN FROM AROUND THE WORLD GATHERED AT THE FIRST
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE OF THE CENTER
FOR WOMEN'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP CALL FOR A WORLD CAMPAIGN
AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE*

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS

*ACCORDING TO THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIFE, LIBERTY AND
SECURITY OF PERSON (ART. 3). FURTHER, NO ONE SHALL BE
SUBJECT TO TORTURE OR TO CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING
TREATMENT (ART. 5).*

Yet, everywhere women and girls are systematically more vulnerable than men and boys to violence, coercion, sexual exploitation, ill-health and economic deprivation:

* In the United States, battery is the leading cause of injury to adult women with 4,000 women beaten to death each year by their partners, and a woman is raped every six minutes.

* In Peru, 70 percent of all crimes reported to police involve women who are beaten by their partners; and in Lima (a city of 7 million) 168,970 rapes were reported in 1987 alone.

* In India, eight out of ten wives are victims of violence, either domestic battery, dowry-related abuse, or murder.

* In France, 95 percent of victims of violence are women, 51 percent at the hands of a spouse or lover.

* In Barbados girls are 4 times more likely to die before the age of 4 than boys because of neglect and malnutrition.

The 16 days of Activism to end Gender Violence will commence on November 25, the International Day of Activism Against Violence Against Women designated by the Latin American Women's Movement, and will run through December 10, International Human Rights Day. This period includes December 6, the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. We hope you will join in the campaign to recognize that "Violence Against Women Violates Human Rights".