16 Days of Activism: Campaign Profile

For the past twenty-four years, the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign has been dedicated to advocacy and coordination of work in support of ending gender-based violence at the local and international levels. It originates from the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership in 1991 at Rutgers University. The dates, November 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) and December 10th (Human Rights Day), were chosen to emphasize the links between ending gender-based violence and human rights values and highlight that gender-based violence is an international human rights violation.

This 16-day period also highlights other significant dates, including November 29th, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1st, World AIDS Day, and December 6th, the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre. The 16 Days Campaign has been commemorated by individuals and groups around the world who use a human rights framework to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by raising awareness at the local, national, regional and international levels.

What is this Year’s Theme?
The year 2015 marks the 24th year of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, initiated in 1991 and coordinated by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership. Participation in the Campaign has seen over 5,478 organizations, policymakers, governments, UN agencies and countless individuals from over 180 countries worldwide. Together we have brought attention to issues of racism, sexism, cultures of violence, homophobia and called for the implementation of human rights obligations, including the right to health and reproductive rights, and end to militarism and gender-based violence, among others. The strength and longevity of the Campaign is due to these thousands of participants like you.

“For Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All!”

This year, the 16 Days Campaign will focus specifically on the relationship between militarism and the right to education in situations of violent conflict, in relative peace, and variety of education settings, while continuing to make the links with militarism, as an encompassing patriarchal system of discrimination and inequality based on our relationships to power.

Education is a public good and fundamental human right recognized in Article 26 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and upheld in various international and regional human rights conventions and treaties. Nonetheless, the right to education is subject to political, economic, and social shifts and upheavals, leaving certain groups (especially women, girls, people with disabilities, LGBTQI people, migrants, and indigenous people) particularly vulnerable and liable to being denied this crucial right.

Past Actions include:

- Film screenings, poetry readings, panel discussions, tabling, musical performances and fashion shows, as mediums of awareness raising and critical discussion focusing on gender, violence, militarism, dating violence, domestic and intimate partner violence; technology and activism; and solitary confinement of women, children, LGBTQI persons.

Visit our website (http://16days.cwgl.rutgers.edu) to download the TAK materials.

Share the Take Action Kit!
The Center for Women’s Global Leadership has made materials for the 2015 Take Action Kit (TAK) available online and through hard copy. Share with other activists interested in participating in the 16 Days Campaign!

Visit our website (http://16days.cwgl.rutgers.edu) to download the TAK materials.
Join the 16 Days Campaign!
We encourage groups to:

- Focus their plans for the 16 Days Campaign 2015 on activities that address the many challenges facing women on campus, in the US, and/or around the globe;
- Feel free to engage in action on these issues in ways that are relevant to your specific context. Participants know best on what and with whom they can engage – whether other students, campus administrators, or the local New Brunswick community – to challenge and change in positive terms the structures which perpetuate gender-based violence;
- Use the hashtag #16Days when tweeting!

Past Campaign Themes
To date, over 5,478 organizations in over 180 countries in every region of the world have participated in the 16 Days Campaign! Over the years, CWGL has worked in consultation with women’s human rights defenders worldwide on themes and priority areas. These themes have included:

- 1993: Democracy without Women’s Human Rights . . . is not Democracy
- 1995: Vienna, Cairo, Copenhagen, Beijing: Bringing Women’s Human Rights Home
- 1996: Bringing Women’s Human Rights Home: Realizing Our Visions
- 1997: Demand Women’s Human Rights in the Home and in the World
- 1998: Building a Culture of Respect for Human Rights
- 1999: Fulfilling the Promise of Freedom from Violence
- 2000: Celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the Campaign
- 2001: Racism and Sexism: No More Violence
- 2002: Creating a Culture That Says ‘No’ to Violence Against Women
- 2004/2005: For the Health of Women, For the Health of the World: NO MORE VIOLENCE
- 2006: Celebrate 16 years of 16 days: Advance Human Rights ↔ End Violence Against Women
- 2007: Demanding Implementation, Challenging Obstacles: End Violence Against Women!
- 2008: Human Rights for Women ↔ Human Rights for All: Celebrating 60 Years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 2009: Commit • Act • Demand: We CAN End Violence Against Women!
- 2010: Structures of Violence: Defining the Intersections of Militarism and Violence Against Women
- 2015: From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All!

Where Can I Find More Information About Global Events Planned For This Year?
Check out the online International Calendar of Events at: http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/campaign-calendar/events. If you have a campus event planned, please submit your organization's name, the date, the location, a short description of the program, and contact information to 16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu.

Get Connected!

- 16 Days Campaign: http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu
- Email: 16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu
- Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/16DaysCampaign
- Twitter: @16DaysCampaign
- Join the 16 Days Listserv: https://email.rutgers.edu/mailman/listinfo/16days_discussion
- International Campaign Calendar: http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/campaign-calendar
- Read our blog: https://cwgl.wordpress.com