



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

1948-1998 *all human rights for all*



The Right to Development: More Than Just Freedom

A woman learns that her brother was last seen being bundled by armed men into a car. A newly-elected government, promising a better life for its citizens, promptly learns it cannot afford to build roads or power lines. A worker is afraid to complain to his employers after his family becomes sick from the effects of pollution created from the factory where he works. Women and children are hacked to death because they belong to a different ethnic group from their killers.

Each situation, frequently reported but always shocking, illustrates the importance of human rights and development. The examples differ in their horror but share a theme: all relate to the importance of moral, social, political, and economic development.

The observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1998 gives more importance than ever to the right of every human being to a decent life. The anniversary comes at a time of debate: how best can human rights and the right to development advance throughout the world? With the accelerating pace of economic change around the world since the end of the Cold War, the debate acquires growing significance.

What is the right to development? In 1986, the United Nations General Assembly defined it as the right "to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development". The origins of the definition go back much earlier, however, to the Second World War and the impulses that led to the creation of the United Nations.

The origins of the modern human rights movement: what arose from the ashes of 1945

The signing of the Charter of the United Nations came after a war in which about 50 million people had perished. The ideals of the Charter appeared amid devastation and confusion around the world. The industrialized nations — all but the United States, which emerged physically unscathed from the war — lacked the means to rebuild their economies amid the deprivations of rationing and the hardening attitudes of the Cold War. In Asia, uncertainty and bloodshed marred the elation of spreading nationalism. Africa remained largely subjected to the European colonial empires, while in much of Latin America, citizens' rights and aspirations were being stifled.

Against this backdrop, Article 55 of the Charter laid out some of the critical precepts that guide the organization. In particular, it provides that the United Nations shall promote higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development; solutions of international economic, social, health, and related problems as well as international cultural and educational cooperation; and universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, unanimously approved by the General Assembly in 1948, set forth the interdependent nature of human rights and the right to development. It did so by affirming the existence of common values, which would be upheld only by cooperation and the creation of the necessary conditions. Besides asserting rights such as freedom from torture, asylum from persecution,



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and rest and leisure, Article 28 of the Declaration states that “everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized”.

The right to development: coming into focus

In succeeding years, UN meetings articulated the relationship between human rights and development. In 1966, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, a legally-binding treaty, declared the recognition by States parties of “the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family ... and to the continuous improvement of living conditions”.

At the same time, questions arose which the world continues to confront: how can human rights gain the same attention as economic development, and how should the often bitter human cost of economic development be dealt with? Complicating the matter is that many poor countries are just on the way to development, and that they remain far from achieving even a measure of prosperity. The reason is often attributed to the foreign debt burden in the developing world that has grown increasingly severe in recent decades. At the same time, primary commodity prices, to which the survival of many developing economies have been tied, have sunk to their lowest point since the 1930s. The political and social consequences are easy to detect: Governments of nations suffering from under-development and bearing a crippling debt burden lack the means to provide their citizens with the material resources to pursue a better life. Amid economic want, goes one argument, citizens are less likely to appreciate and heed the principals of human rights.

The difficult relationship between human rights and development is not tied merely to countries in absolute poverty versus those with powerful economies. A developing nation in the throes of unfettered development also presents a harsh picture. However important the quest for economic prosperity, the specter of rivers choked with industrial waste and slums filled with illiterate, hungry, and disenfranchised families — often living metres from enclaves of great wealth — reveal the kind of situation which stifles both human rights and the right to development.

By 1986, the international community articulated the need for a comprehensive view of human rights and development. The Declaration on the Right to Development represented a new approach to the pursuit of the ideals of the United Nations by proclaiming: “Since human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible, the full realization of civil and political rights without the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights is impossible”.

The Declaration includes the provisions that the human being is the central subject of development and should be the participant and beneficiary of the right to development; that all human beings have a responsibility for development; and States have the primary responsibility for creating national and international conditions favorable to the realization of that right. Put another way, any denial of human rights constitutes an obstacle to development, while development without consideration for all human rights is in itself incomplete. The Declaration also stresses international cooperation, declaring in Article 3 that “States have the duty to co-operate with each other in ensuring development”. It urges in Article 7 that States, particularly developing countries, direct the savings from disarmament measures to comprehensive development, and it notes in Article 8 that States should encourage popular participation in all spheres.

From the Declaration on the Right to Development, both debate and agreement followed. Some industrial countries argued that the civil and political rights of the individual had to be met before development could follow. Some developing countries, in contrast, responded that development must occur before civil and political rights could emerge. Although the 1986 Declaration asserted the interdependence of all categories — economic, social, cultural, and political — the debate continued through the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993.

From Vienna to the eve of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Vienna Conference of 1993 brought together 7,000 participants from Governments, academia, national institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Their task was to assess progress in human rights since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to identify obstacles and ways to overcome them. After difficult negotiations, the ensuing Vienna Declaration established consensus on these main points:

- ◆ Human rights are universal, indivisible, and interdependent.
- ◆ The human rights of females of all ages are an integral part of universal human rights.
- ◆ The promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are a priority of the United Nations, in accordance with its principles, particularly in international cooperation.
- ◆ Democracy, development, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

The signatories of the Vienna Declaration, mindful that the five-year review that follows each UN global conference would come at the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, asked the United Nations Secretary-General to gather a progress report. They requested that the Secretary-General invite all States, relevant United Nations agencies, human rights groups, and NGOs to report to him on the progress made in the implementation of the Declaration's recommendations.

Given the importance of the right to development, the UN Commission on Human Rights in 1993 established a Working Group on the Right to Development, composed of experts, to formulate measures to eliminate obstacles to the implementation of the 1986 Declaration. The Group's recommendations, issued in 1995, noted that:

- ◆ the right to development required a long-term strategy.
- ◆ States should create the domestic conditions conducive to the realization of the right to development.
- ◆ States should establish policies and programmes that ensure an equilibrium between economic growth and improvements in social conditions.
- ◆ popular participation in the right to development should extend to people of all ages and ethnic, linguistic, and religious backgrounds.
- ◆ an educational campaign by Governments is necessary to improve people's awareness of their rights and responsibilities.
- ◆ unprecedented levels of armed conflict in recent years and the consequent increase of demands on humanitarian efforts require vigorous international measures to create the necessary conditions for peace and security.
- ◆ given the growing number of least developed countries — defined as those in which the standard of living of most of the population is insufficient to meet their minimum need — the possibility of a system of international taxation should be considered by international organizations.

Institutional reaffirmation

Evidence of progress towards the Working Group's recommendations appeared in 1996, when the Commission on Human Rights noted at its 53rd Session that the right to development had become more closely integrated in programmes by the UN Centre for Human Settlement (Habitat), the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organization (WHO). That year, the General Assembly also adopted a medium-term plan for 1998-2001, in which the UN human rights programme would develop a strategy for implementing the Vienna Declaration by UN agencies, human rights treaty bodies, international development and financial institutions, and NGOs.

The next month, furthermore, the Commission passed a resolution which included having the High Commissioner for Human Rights ensure the promotion of the Declaration on the Right to Development by means of workshops and seminars, in cooperation with States, intergovernmental organizations, academia and NGOs. The resolution also noted that the High Commissioner had begun discussions with the World Bank, with the aim of contributing to activities promoting the right to development.

In June 1997, the adoption of the Agenda for Development by the UN General Assembly reaffirmed the interwoven nature of development and human rights: "Respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, democratic and effective institutions, combating corruption, transparent representative and accountable governance, popular participation, an independent judiciary, the rule of law and civil peace are among the indispensable foundations for development. At the same time, we reaffirm that the right to development is a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of human rights".

Whose development? The debate continues

Despite determined efforts to increase international appreciation of the right to development, the Declaration on the Right to Development has yet to be implemented. Debate continues, exemplified in March 1997 by the exchange of views among delegates of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva:

- ◆ Werner Corrales Leal of Venezuela stated that in the 10 years since the adoption of the Declaration, the international community had become more convinced of the inexorable growth of poverty and social exclusion in the face of purely economic strategies. Economic growth was not automatically followed by development.
- ◆ Tae-Yul Cho of the Republic of Korea noted that Koreans had learned that economic and social development was a crucial element, if not a precondition, for the promotion and protection of human rights and democracy.
- ◆ Hernan Plorutti, in contrast, declared, after noting that Argentina was pushing ahead for economic integration with its neighbors, that economic growth could only materialize with the improvement of the quality of life and the strengthening of human rights.

Delegations at the March meeting also noted obstacles that continue to stand in the way of progress. Peter Wille, representative of Norway, pointed out that nearly one third of all States were still not parties to either of the International Covenants that govern human rights, and only one half of all States had ratified the Convention against Torture. Despite the establishment of committees to monitor the implementation of human rights instruments, the very proliferation of reporting obligations in recent decades had imposed a considerable burden on States.

Recommendations to improve monitoring came from an independent expert, Philip Alston. To achieve the universal ratification of the core human rights treaties, he called for concrete measures. He also recommended the consolidation or reduction of the number of treaty bodies; identification of measures to address problems in the reporting system; and the elimination of comprehensive reports in their present form, to be replaced by reporting guidelines tailored to each State's individual situation.

Human rights and the right to development: their legacy

The success of United Nations laborious and often difficult efforts to promote the rights of every human being is evident in the central importance that human rights and development occupy in international debate. At the same time, the manifold forms of misery which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights sought to banish fifty years ago remain obvious throughout the world. Through its work, the United Nations calls the world's attention to what is wrong, and presents avenues for answers.

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THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

A CELEBRATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**ADDRESS ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE
UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEHRAN**

Tehran, 10 December, 1997

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Students and Friends,**

It is a special pleasure for me to address you today, at this distinguished university, in the heart of your great and ancient land. I have long looked forward to visiting Iran, and I am grateful for the generous welcome I have received. Iran is living through a time of great promise and change. The eyes of the world are upon you. With vision, pride and compassion, you are renewing your nation. I congratulate you on your success.

I speak to you on a world-wide day of celebration. December 10th marks the beginning of the 50th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It gives me a special pleasure therefore to speak to you and through you to the rest of the world today.

You, the students and leaders of tomorrow -- here in



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The Message of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Beginning of the 50th Anniversary Year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

10 December 1997

Today we mark the beginning of the 50th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In every part of the world, men, women and children of every colour and creed will gather to embrace our common human rights.

Human rights are the foundation of human existence and co-existence. Human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent. Human rights are what make us human. They are the principles by which we create the sacred home for human dignity.

When we speak of the right to life, or development, or to dissent and diversity, we are speaking of tolerance. Tolerance promoted, protected and enshrined will ensure all freedoms. Without it, we can be certain of none.

Human rights are the expression of those traditions of tolerance in all religions and cultures that are the basis of peace and progress. Human rights are foreign to no culture and native to all nations. Tolerance and mercy have always and in all cultures been ideals of government rule and human behaviour. Today, we call these ideals human rights.

It is the universality of human rights that gives them their strength. It endows them with the power to cross any border, climb any wall, defy any force.

The struggle for universal human rights has always and everywhere been the struggle against all forms of tyranny and injustice: against slavery, against colonialism, against apartheid. It is nothing less and nothing different today.

Young friends all over the world,

You are the ones who must realize these rights, now and for all time. Their fate and future is in your hands. Human rights are your rights. Seize them. Defend them. Promote them. Understand them and insist on them. Nourish and enrich them.

They are the best in us. Give them life.



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High Commissioner for Human Rights Encouraged by African Efforts to Address Human Rights Challenges

The following is a message from Mrs. Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on Human Rights Day, 10 December 1997. The theme of Human Rights Year is "All Human Rights for All".

I am sending this message from Africa where I am visiting Uganda, Rwanda and South Africa — three countries in a region which has suffered greatly and where the full enjoyment of human rights remains a constant struggle.

What is encouraging is that there are now efforts throughout the region, with support from the international community, to address past wrongs, tackle current challenges and prepare the ground for a better future.

The problems described to me in the past days were also found in other regions of the world: murderous violence and rape, ethnic tensions, discrimination, inequality of economic opportunity, the legacies of abusive regimes, pervasive poverty and denial of basic rights to women. The currency of these violations is a sobering reminder that we have no basis for self-satisfaction or complacency.

With this in mind, I urge that Human Rights Day be an occasion to re-affirm our commitment to work for change and to demonstrate that the principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are not theoretical or abstract. This must be given practical effect with the results measured by the improved well being of individuals around the world.

This Human Rights Day begins the year-long review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, a time when the United Nations system and all Governments seriously assess their successes and shortcomings in living up to the solemn obligations made at the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993. I look forward to this year of review leading up to the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It should be a year of discussion and debate on the continuing relevance of international human rights standards in the international system, in national administration and the work of civil society.

Human rights commitments are dynamic—developing with new understanding and awareness. I would especially encourage purposeful debate on economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development in ways which open up better understanding on how these human rights can be implemented in international and national programmes.

As High Commissioner for Human Rights, I draw strength from being part of a broad human rights community encompassing organizations and individuals, representing all cultures, traditions and backgrounds. The Universal Declaration is the well-spring, the inspiration for our efforts and the standard by which we measure our achievement.

My Office is dedicated to working in support of all whose work is guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its opening lines:

"recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world".



THE WHITE HOUSE .

Office of the Press Secretary
(New York, New York)

For Immediate Release

December 9, 1997

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
IN HONOR OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAYThe Museum Of Jewish Heritage
New York, New York

8:55 P.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Gay, for your introduction and for your superlative work. Thank you, Ambassador Richardson, for your distinguished representation of our country and for the campaign speech you gave for Gay -- (laughter) -- proving that diplomacy and politics can never be fully separated and shouldn't be.

Thank you, Mr. Morgenthau, for all you have done for the people of New York and for the contributions that you and your family have made, which are memorialized in this wonderful place. And I thank you and David Althshuler for the tour I had before we started tonight.

I'd like to thank the others who are here in our administration who have worked on areas of human rights: OAS Ambassador Victor Marrero, ECOSOC Ambassador Betty King, Ambassador Nancy Rubin, our representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission. And I'd like to say a special word of thanks to John Shattuck, the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, who has really worked hard for a very long time under enormously adverse circumstances -- sometimes when his President couldn't do everything he wanted him to do. Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

I thank Congresswoman Nita Lowey for being here and for her alert leadership on so many issues, and we thank the President of the General Assembly and all the members of the Diplomatic Corps who are here as we launch the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As human rights advocates, defenders, and educators, more than anyone else, the people in this room and those whom you represent give life to the words of the Universal Declaration; you shine the light of freedom on oppression, speak on behalf of the voiceless, spark the conscience of the world. Again I want to thank Gay for her tireless commitment to justice and equality.

MORE

But I thank all of you for the work you do every day to make human rights a human reality.

The idea of a global declaration of rights emerged from the trauma of global war -- in which human rights were the first casualty. Here at the Museum of Jewish Heritage, we remember the evil of the Holocaust. But thanks to the marvelous conception of this unique place, we can also celebrate the strength of the human spirit, the will to endure and to preserve human dignity.

Under the wise, compassionate leadership of Eleanor Roosevelt, half a century ago 18 delegates from China to Lebanon, Chile to Ukraine forged the first international agreement on the rights of humankind. On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration without a single dissenting vote. I am very proud that the First Lady, who has traveled the world to advance human rights, especially for women and young girls, will take part in tomorrow's United Nations commemoration.

Over the past half-century, the Declaration's 30 articles have formed a constellation of principles to which all people can aspire. They have entered the consciousness of people all around the world. They're now invoked routinely in constitutions and courts. They set a yardstick of humanity's "best practices" against which we must all now measure ourselves.

But as Eleanor Roosevelt said, words on paper bring no guarantees, and I quote: unless the people know them, unless the people understand them, unless the people demand that they be lived. Promoting respect for human rights is a fulfilling -- but never fulfilled -- obligation. Fifty years since the charter was forged, communism has been discredited, but threats to freedom and human rights still persist. Human rights are still at risk from Burma to Nigeria, from Belarus to China. Although more than half the world's people now live under governments of their own choosing, democracy's roots are still fragile in some countries; others are besieged by forces ranging from drug cartels to organized crime. And even in democracies, human rights, which so often mean minority rights, are not guaranteed.

And while we celebrate the end of communism and the fact that it has enabled so many people to affirm their special differences -- religious, ethnic, and cultural -- we have also seen from Bosnia to Rwanda that old hatreds can become the newest human rights abuses. And let us remember in this museum that having a people who are well-educated and prosperous, even having a government that is popularly elected are not in themselves sufficient to guarantee human rights. But let us also remember that being educated by Western standards and prosperous are not necessary conditions for human rights or for people who want them.

MORE

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Men and women from Cambodia to Romania, Argentina, south Africa, and Russia have shown that, regardless of the economic condition of a nation, freedom is not, contrary to what the critics of the Declaration say, an American or a Western or a wealthy nation right; it is a human right and a universal aspiration.

Advancing human rights must always be a central pillar of America's foreign policy. Looking back over the last five years, we see notable achievements; we also see missed opportunities. And looking ahead, we see an enormous amount of work still to be done.

I am proud that we stood down a brutal dictatorship and restored Haiti's destiny to its own people, but there is more to be done there if democracy and economic prosperity and basic human rights are to be safeguarded.

I am proud of the role of the United States in stopping the unspeakable slaughter in Bosnia, the bloodiest conflict in Europe since World War II, a veritable cess of human rights abuses. But now we have to persevere in strengthening Bosnia's democratic institutions, promoting its reconstruction, enabling refugees to return to their homes, helping those who can't, building institutions of democracy that have real integrity and durability. This year, the United States resettled 22,000 Bosnians. Next year, there will be more.

We also have to keep striving to bring to justice to those who caused the bloodshed -- not only because it's right, but because it is necessary for full reconciliation. Our nation is now the major contributor to the international war crimes tribunals. We'll increase our support next year. We must bring Bosnia's war criminals to justice. And I believe strongly that before this decade and this century end, we should establish a permanent international court to prosecute crimes against humanity. This week delegates from many nations are meeting to undertake that task. The United States strongly supports them.

We have led in strengthening international institutions, including the creation of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. Now, we have to ensure that Mary Robinson has the resources to do her job -- and I am committed to increasing substantially America's support for that effort. (Applause.)

We've put the promotion of women's rights in the mainstream of American foreign policy, and I am very proud of that. (Applause.) This was highlighted, of course, by the First Lady's speech in Beijing, but I want to emphasize its major elements. We want to lead the world's efforts in combatting trafficking in women. We want to steer more of our assistance to

MORE

women and young girls. We want to recognize women's roles as democracy builders by encouraging full political participation.

Now, as I urged a year ago, I call on the senate to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. (Applause.) Surely, this is not an issue of party but of principle. It is time to show the world that America joins those 161 countries which have gone on record to oppose discrimination and violence against women around the world.

We continue speaking out for human rights without arrogance or apology, through our annual human rights reports, in meetings with foreign officials, and intensified advocacy for religious freedom around the world. As long as America is determined to stand for human rights, then free people all around the world will choose to stand with America.

But for all our efforts to prevent abuses, promote accountability, and push for reform, enduring progress must come from changes within the nations themselves. Democracy, the rule of law, civil society -- those things are the best guarantees of human rights over the long run. We have helped democracies on every continent solidify their reforms. We are working with China to promote the rule of law and institutions which will regularize it. We're helping post-conflict societies like El Salvador, Bosnia, Rwanda, Mozambique, to build a durable foundation for peace. We support NGOs working to support human rights and political liberalization. And we want to expand these efforts.

Supporting the spread of democracy, with respect for human rights, advances the values that make life worth living. It also helps nations in the Information Age to achieve their true wealth, for it lies now in people's ability to create, to communicate, to innovate. Fully developing those kinds of human resources requires people who are free to speak, free to associate, free to worship, and feel free to do those things. It requires, therefore, accountable, open, consistent governments that earn people's trust.

The key to progress on all these issues is for government and civic groups to work together. The NGO community is a vital source of knowledge and inspiration and action. We will keep faith with those working around the world, often at tremendous personal risk, for change within their societies. And in this 50th anniversary year, Amnesty International has asked world leaders to affirm that we will do all we can to uphold the principles of the Universal Declaration. I make that pledge to you today. (Applause.)

Finally, I commend the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation for their efforts to teach a new generation of Americans that the future of human rights is "in their hands."

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**women's
human
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1998 global campaign

Demand Human Rights in the Home and in the World
Derechos Humanos en el Mundo y en la Casa

Exigeons les Droits Humains à la Maison et dans le Monde

Human Rights Depend on Women's Rights

Una Cultura de Derechos Humanos Depende de los Derechos de las Mujeres

Une Culture des Droits Humains Dépend des Droits des Femmes

There Are No Human Rights Without Women's Rights

Sin los Derechos de las Mujeres No Hay Derechos Humanos

Pas de Droits Humains Sans Droits des Femmes

Imagine a World Where All Women Enjoy Their Human Rights

Imaginemos un Mundo en el que Todas las Mujeres

Gocen Plenamente de sus Derechos Humanos

Imaginons un Monde où toutes les Femmes

Jouissent Pleinement de Leurs Droits Humains

Women's Rights are Human Rights

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 1998 global campaign

Mr. Secretary General,

In this year of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we call upon you to make a bold public commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all women. Five years ago in Vienna, the World Conference on Human Rights made an historic step forward by recognizing that the "human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights" and by stressing "the importance of work towards the elimination of violence against women in public and private life." The Beijing Platform for Action from the Fourth World Conference on Women amplified this international commitment by spelling out the steps necessary to realizing the human rights of women in our time. Yet, little has been done by governments or the UN to effectively implement this human rights platform.

Bold actions are needed now to remind the world that there can be no security for the human rights of any without respect for the human rights of all. On this auspicious occasion, the UN must take leadership and move toward gender parity in its operations and resources. We recommend two concrete actions to help ensure that the 21st century is one in which the human rights of all are respected:

1. Designate 50% of new donations, such as the recent one billion dollars from Ted Turner, to addressing women's rights and needs within all UN bodies and activities.
2. Take immediate steps to implement the Beijing recommendation of "full integration and mainstreaming of the human rights of women throughout the UN system."

We urge you to mark this 50th anniversary by taking firm action to implement the Beijing Platform that can lead the way toward respect for women's human rights and inspire action by governments and citizens alike.



**Kofi Annan
 Secretary General
 United Nations Secretariat
 New York, NY 10017 USA**

signature _____

country _____

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 Rutgers University. fax: 1. 732. 932. 1180 e-mail: cwgl@igc.apc.org

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Imagine a world where all women enjoy their human rights

Use this postcard to create your visions or messages for a world where all women enjoy their human rights.

Send the postcard to the Center for Women's Global Leadership and we will collect, display and deliver your creative visions to the United Nations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1998.



Center for Women's Global Leadership
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey
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celebrate & demand

**women's
human
rights**

1998 global campaign

Center for Women's Global Leadership



Center for Women's Global Leadership

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Dear friends:

Enclosed please find a preview of our *Take Action Kit* for the *Celebrate and Demand Women's Human Rights 1998 Global Campaign*. The full kit will be available by the beginning of January.

During 1998, a series of events will take place that provides a unique opportunity to refocus world attention on women's human rights. It is a chance for women's and human rights organizations to celebrate and demand women's human rights by insisting that **there are no human rights without women's rights**. December 10, 1998 will mark the 50th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. It is also the fifth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights and its historic recognition of women's rights as human rights and a time when the UN Commission on Human Rights will review implementation of the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*. In addition, the 1998 session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women will review four key human rights sections of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*: Human Rights of Women; Violence Against Women; Women and Armed Conflict; and, the Girl child.

It is critical to link these events in order to bring world attention to the human rights of women and state unequivocally that **human rights depend on women's rights**. The *1998 Global Campaign* seeks to provide public education, advocacy and mobilization tools that can be used by local, national, regional and international organizations. The overall theme of the campaign is *celebrate and demand women's human rights*, emphasizing the need to affirm the progress that has been made, while maintaining a vigilant eye continuing violations of the human rights of women. The campaign will provide common themes for diverse activities and focus attention on global commitments necessary to realize women's human rights. These themes include:

* ***Imagine a world where all women enjoy their human rights...And then take action to make it happen.*** Utilizing a variety of events, materials, cultural activities, essays and other contests, including a poster and postcard developed by the Center for Women's Global Leadership, the *1998 Global Campaign* will emphasize the importance of developing affirmative visions and concrete images of women's human rights in daily life.

* ***Human rights depend on women's rights.*** Through letter-writing campaigns, public events and speak-outs, mobilization and a postcard to Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the United Nations, activities will emphasize the centrality of women's human rights to constructing a world in which human rights are truly respected.

* ***There are no human rights without women's rights.*** In mobilization activities, advocacy campaigns, cooperative actions with traditional human rights organizations, and a series of substantive demands developed by the Global Center and its collaborating partners, this theme will underscore that all organizations--governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental-- must take the indivisibility and universality of human rights seriously and therefore incorporate a recognition that women's rights are a core principle of human rights.

In order to engage the public in dialogue and awareness of women's human rights and to focus on the accountability of governments and the UN, a wide range of activities will take place at the local level. These will include exhibits and performances in which local artists give tangible expression to a vision of women's human rights, human rights educational efforts such as photo and essay contests, and actions demanding that governments act upon their commitments to protect and promote women's human rights. These actions also seek to ensure that the message that creating a culture of human rights requires women's participation reaches global policy making arenas.

1998 Campaign Materials and Resources

The Global Center has developed the enclosed materials in consultation with an international advisory committee in order to encourage the widest participation of women in the 1998 debates and activities. The dissemination of these materials through a wide range of contacts will facilitate collaboration between women's and human rights groups in different regions and assist in mobilization, public education and advocacy by linking local, national, regional and international events. The specific materials and resources are:

- A poster (available in January) and corresponding postcards around the theme "Imagine a world where all women enjoy their human rights";
- A ***Take Action Kit*** with general information about the campaign, an evolving set of "50+ Demands and Questions for the 50th," and a growing list of suggested activities for 1998 (full kit available in January);
- Periodic Calendar of Events and information and action alerts on events, meetings and other activities;
- Center for Women's Global Leadership 1998 Campaign website which includes all of the above in electronic form (<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cwgl/humanright>);
- Translated materials (available in the spring of 1998) produced by the Global Center, including publication in Spanish and French of the book *From Vienna to Beijing: A Human Rights Journey of the World's Women*.

The ***Take Action Kit*** will include general information about the campaign, suggestions for activities, and an evolving list of "50+ Demands and Questions about Women's Human Rights on the 50th." This will link efforts locally and globally through common questions that women everywhere ask their governments and the UN about their commitment to promoting and protecting the human rights of women. The questions will be released in clusters over time as they will be addressed to specific events. Three major clusters of demands and questions will be addressed to:

the Commission on the Status of Women (NY: March), the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva: March/April), and the General Assembly's 50th anniversary commemoration activities in New York in the fall of 1998. The Global Center has requested questions from many women's human rights advocates throughout the world, and will be refining their responses into the various clusters that will comprise the "50+ demands/questions" that are generated around the Campaign's substantive concerns.

An **interactive 1998 Campaign Website** has been developed by the Global Center in order to expand the outreach of the campaign. The contents of the website will include: basic information about the *1998 Campaign*; background materials on women's human rights; the contents of the action kit, including an interactive version of the poster and postcards; an updated calendar of events; information about upcoming UN sessions with hyperlinks to other websites (the joint UNIFEM/DAW/INSTRAW website WomenWatch, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, etc.); alerts and tips; and other campaign resources.

The campaign was kicked off with the **1997 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence**, the theme of which is "Demand Human Rights in the Home and in the World...Derechos Humanos en el Mundo y en la Casa...Exigeons les Droits Humains à la maison et dans le monde." A postcard to the Secretary General of the United Nations is now being circulated, calling upon him to take bold steps in 1998 toward the implementation of the Beijing Platform and emphasizing that *human rights depend on women's rights*.

The campaign poster is designed with images of a world in which all women enjoy their human rights. The poster will serve as a tool to educate women about the 50th anniversary and women's human rights as well as to encourage the creation by women of their own representations of their rights. These can become part of other human rights educational activities such as essay or poster contests in schools, displays of local or regional work on women's human rights in public places, etc. Further, we encourage local use of women's own images and/or those from the poster to create more postcards to send to appropriate national or regional bodies that groups would like to address during 1998. They may also lead to letter writing campaigns or other activities around the particular concerns chosen by the local group.

Finally, there is one blank postcard to be sent back to the Center for Women's Global Leadership with messages and/or images that women would like to have displayed and delivered to the UN together as part of the final campaign event on December 10, 1998.

Monitoring the work of the **United Nations Commission on Human Rights (CHR)** and the **United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** is integral to this campaign. The confluence of the reviews to be done by these two important UN meetings during the 50th anniversary year provides an opportunity for global education and action around women's human rights. A series of demands and questions will be distributed internationally conveying some common messages from women's human rights advocates, making clear that *there are no human rights without women's rights*. The Global Center will continue to work with a wide range of

organizations to ensure that coordinated efforts help make these reviews focus the attention of the United Nations and the public on the concrete meaning of universality and indivisibility of human rights, and the centrality of women's human rights within that context.

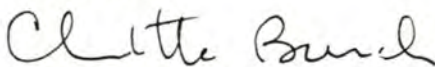
The 1998 General Assembly session will include a one-day plenary on **December 10th**, to commemorate the adoption of the UDHR. The *Celebrate and Demand Women's Human Rights 1998 Global Campaign* will include a large-scale public event as the culmination of the Campaign focused around this day. The details of the event will be developed over the next few months, but it will include a large display of the postcards with the images and messages sent to us on the blank postcards in the *Take Action Kit*. The event will be coordinated with local actions by women around the world on this date; a number of organizations are collaborating with the Global Center in planning this last phase of the Campaign and a final decision about December 10, 1998 will be taken at the time of the CSW in NYC in March.

The **1998 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence** (Nov. 25-Dec. 10) will close the campaign by highlighting the role of grassroots women's anti-violence workers as human rights defenders. The campaign will seek to underscore that work to end violence against women is human rights advocacy. Further, it is hoped that women's and human rights organizations will take up this theme throughout the year. For instance, groups planning activities for May 1, "International Labour Day," might emphasize women's labor rights activists as human rights defenders. Or, on May 28, International Day of Action for Women's Health, organizations might focus upon local women's health advocates as human rights defenders. Not only will this provide a common focus for a broad range of activities, but it also increases the opportunity for a diverse range of women's organizations to frame their work within the context of human rights as part of commemorating the *UDHR*. This both increases the visibility of grassroots women activists within the world of human rights and builds the capacity of local women's organizations to link to national, regional and international human rights initiatives.

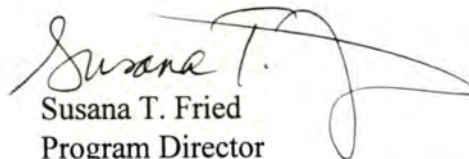
A number of organizations have agreed to serve as collaborating partners and focal points for the campaign. A list of these organizations is included in the *Take Action Kit*. The focal points will help distribute materials, collect information, review demands/questions, collaborate in organizing international events, and coordinate local and/or regional activities.

We hope you will contact us with your plans, ideas for action, demands and events. An ongoing calendar of events will be produced both on paper and/or the website that lists selected local, national, regional and international activities taking place around the world. We look forward to working together in 1998 and beyond.

Sincerely,



Charlotte Bunch
Executive Director



Susana T. Fried
Program Director

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE

NOVEMBER 25 - DECEMBER 10, 1997

Demand Human Rights
in the Home and in the World



International Calendar of Campaign Activities

OCTOBER

Mexico, D.F. - Doble Jornada, a woman's supplement of the newspaper La Jornada, will print articles on the following topics: an assessment of the Sexual Crimes Agency's work from 1989 when they started their operations in Mexico; violations of reproductive rights in the mountains of Veracruz; and a summary of more than 100 cases of violence against women throughout the country that haven't had a response from local authorities (La Doble Jornada)

OCT. 24

Austria, Innsbruck - exhibition to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the opening of the Tirolean Women's Shelter (Austrian Women's Shelter Network)

El Salvador, San Salvador - announcement of activities planned for the 16 Days Campaign entitled "Claiming Our Right to Have Quick and Easy Access to the Appropriate Institutions: Stop Violence Against Women" and presentation of related research results at forum (Las Dignas)

OCT. 25

Austria, Innsbruck - women's protest march against violence (Austrian Women's Shelter Network)

OCT. 25 - NOV. 25

El Salvador, San Salvador - press, radio, T.V., flyer and poster campaigns (Las Dignas)

Demand Human Rights in the Home and in the World

Nov. 1 - 13

Colombia, Medellin - women's rights workshops in thirteen areas of the city embracing the 1998 Campaign theme: "There are No Human Rights Without Women's Rights" (Pastoral Social)

Nov. 4 - 11

Ireland, Dublin - art exhibition by women who participated in Women's Aid NOW Programme (Women's Aid)

Nov. 5

United States, New Orleans - annual "Take Back the Night" vigil and speakout against violence against women; announcement of 16 Days Campaign and related activities (Tulane and Loyola Universities)

Nov. 10

Mexico, D. F. - launching of information campaign throughout the country focusing on the violation of women's rights and impunity; highlighting 42 pending cases of rape, women murdered in Chihuahua and sexual harassment in the workplace; campaign materials available through e-mail: <cimac@laneta.apc.org> (Comunicación e Información de la Mujer, A.C., CIMAC)

Nov. 12

El Salvador, San Salvador - workshop on strategies for the voluntary interruption of pregnancy (Las Dignas)

Nov. 13

El Salvador, San Salvador - breakfast with journalists to discuss how to approach violence against women in the media (Las Dignas)

Nov. 16

Colombia, Medellin - women's human rights training for women leaders (Pastoral Social)

Nov. 19

Ecuador, Quito - First national workshop on "Radio and Human Rights" attended by both male and female radio producers (Asociación Mundial de Radios Comunitarias, AMARC)

Nov. 20 - 24

Mexico, D. F. - meeting of the National Network of Journalists to discuss the importance of the 1998 Campaign. This national network, initiated in September 1995, is comprised of 250 women journalists who work to bring visibility to women's life stories and political debates. It will bring the Campaign to the radio, T.V., written press, and other forums (CIMAC)

Nov. 20

United States, Los Angeles - speaker and author Rosemary Radford Ruether, "Gender and Redemption - A Conversation with

Derechos Humanos en el Mundo y en la Casa

Rosemary Radford Reuther, Ph. D." (M.A. Program in Feminist Spirituality, Immaculate Heart College Center)

Nov. 21

Fiji, Suva - a television interview on an afternoon talk show focusing on domestic violence and child abuse (Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, FWCC)

Peru, Lima - "Indigenous Women and Violence" panel aiming to sensitize society to issues of violence against women and its eradication; participants will include representatives from COTMA, Rural Education Services, Defensoría del Pueblo, FEDECMA, Inter-institutional Association for Rural Development in Ayacucho and the Workshop of Indigenous Women from the Andean-Amazonic region (Chirapaq, Centro de Culturas Indias)

Nov. 22

Fiji, Suva - a newspaper supplement in the national daily newspaper focusing on domestic violence and child abuse (FWCC)

Ireland, Dublin - peaceful walk (Bray Women's Refuge and Women's Aid)

Nov. 23

Colombia, Medellin - women's human rights training for women leaders (Pastoral Social)

Fiji, Suva - the television premiere of a domestic violence movie (Fiji Women's Crisis Centre)

Nov. 24 - 26

Bolivia, Cochabamba - a national workshop addressed to medical doctors and social psychologists to provide them with a framework on how to approach violence; get them acquainted with international conventions which address violence against women and the National Law Against Domestic Violence (adopted on December 15, 1995); as well as with tools to provide services to survivors of violence and document violence within the national public health system (Red Contra la Violencia a las Mujeres de Cochabamba)

Nov. 24 - DEC. 10

Argentina, Buenos Aires - theater performances on the theme of sexual violence; three pieces will be shown: "Abuso de Poder", with Gabriela Naidich and Daniel Niborski; "Ultraje a la Inocencia", with Yessica Vani and Alejo Becfar; and, "Retazos" with Valeria Alonso and Mariela Asensio (Centro de Encuentros, Cultura Y Mujer)

Nov. 25

Argentina, Buenos Aires - commemoration of the Int'l. Day Against Violence Against Women with the launching of a poster, brochure, three radio spots, and press articles in local and national media to bring visibility to the different forms of violence women experience (Centro de Encuentros, Cultura Y Mujer)

Exigeons les Droits Humains a la Maison et Dans le Monde

Bangladesh, Dhaka - forum focusing on acid violence with testimonies from Jyotsna Dey who lost her daughter 2 years ago, Nurunnahar who survived an acid attack and Bina who is an acid survivor and activist; testimonies will be interspersed with poems, songs and speeches; the programme will end with songs, lighting of torches and a march (Naripokkho)

Bolivia, Cochabamba - party to celebrate the second anniversary of Red Contra la Violencia a las Mujeres de Cochabamba

Bolivia, Tarija - radio message will be broadcast and a local video spot shown on the University T.V. channel to promote awareness of gender-based violence (Centro Integral De La Mujer, CIM)

Brazil, Pernambuco - debate on violence against women as a human rights violation and the creation of public mechanisms to prevent violence and protect the victims, witnesses and professionals working around this issue (Women's Forum of Pernambuco)

Cayman Islands, Grand Cayman - opening of the Women's Resource Centre and launch of "Befrienders in Confidence Programme," a support service for victims of domestic abuse (Cayman Islands Business & Professional Women's Club)

Chile, Santiago - event with theme "I Have the Rights to a Life Without Violence" which will be open to the public and focus on building awareness of violence against women with specific focus on the case of Isabel Gonzalez Zapata, who was burnt 'alive' with kerosene by her husband (Red Chilena Contra la Violencia Domestica y Sexual)

Colombia, Medellin - artistic and cultural event highlighting the need to promote and defend human rights and denouncing ways in

which women's rights are violated (Pastoral Social)

El Salvador, San Salvador - demonstration before the National Assembly and presentation of proposal dealing with violence against women (Las Dignas)

Ireland, Dublin - public protest against all forms of violence against women. Speakers include Mary Van Lieshout, Policy Manager at Oxfam; Roisin McDermott, Director of Women's Aid; Betty Doyle, Wexford Women's Action and will include performances by City Artsquad, Women's Aid Street Theatre and Yemanja. This will be followed by a meeting with Liz O'Donnell, Minister of State in Foreign Affairs with responsibility for Human Rights (Women's Aid)

Mexico, D.F. - campaign to promote legal change regarding sexual violence within marriage (Red por la Salud de las Mujeres del D.F.)

Mexico, D. F. - press conference to launch campaign activities of the Red por la Salud de las Mujeres del D.F. which will release information on 13 documented cases that are still expecting a response from local authorities dealing with violations of reproductive rights, battered pregnant women, low quality of public health institution services, and lack of access to justice (CIMAC and Red por la Salud de las Mujeres del D.F.)

Mexico, Mexicali - press conference to launch the 16 Days campaign; screening of video, "Breaking the Silence...You are not Alone" (Alaide Foppa, A. C.)

Mexico, Oaxaca - march to commemorate the International Day Against Violence Against Women (La Casa de la Mujer Rosario Castellanos)

Demand Human Rights in the Home and in the World

United Kingdom, London - international forum to raise awareness and funds to launch the new anti-violence campaign principally for the benefit of township women in South Africa. Speakers include Rose Coxe, survivor of violence; Karrisha Pillay, anti-violence project leader from South Africa; Charlotte Bunch, Executive Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership; Kate Young, Executive Director of WOMANKIND; and, Kate Adie, Chief News Correspondent at the BBC (WOMANKIND)

United States, New Jersey - "The Streets are a War Zone" film screening and presentation by Maggie Hadleigh-West (Feminist Collective, William Paterson University)

United States, New Jersey - second annual collective reading of the stories of survivors of sexual violence (Women's Center, William Paterson University)

United States, New York - seminar on "Women's Reproductive Rights" with Anika Rahman, Director of the International Program of the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy (International Club and International Studies Program, Marymount Manhattan College)

United States, New York - a night of tribute to the Mirabal Sisters through art exhibits and performances by the members of the Workers of Wonder program (Center for Population and Family Health/ Columbia School of Public Health, Camino y Accion, Union de Jovenes Dominicanos, Workers of Wonder Program, Center for Women's Global Leadership and The Ivy League)

Nov. 25 - 29

Bolivia, Tarija - anonymous testimonies of women victims of violence to be featured on radio broadcasts; workshops with senior students entitled "Demand Human Rights in the Home and in the World" (CIM)

Nov. 25 - 30

Pakistan, Lahore - meetings organized in Rawalpindi, Sheikhpura Faisalabad, Sialkot and Lahore with women workers, peasant and informal sector workers, and their families to discuss issues such as gender discrimination, violence against women and the human rights situation in Pakistan (Working Women Organization, WWO)

Nov. 25 - DEC. 10

Bolivia, Cochabamba - press articles to underscore key dates - November 25; December 6; and, December 15, the 2nd anniversary of the enactment of the Law Against Domestic Violence and assessment of its implementation (Red Contra la Violencia a las Mujeres de Cochabamba)

Bolivia, La Paz - a series of activities aiming to build pressure to get the new legislation against Family Violence approved (Centro de Promocion de la Mujer Gregoria Apaza)

Bulgaria, Sofia - participation in various TV and radio broadcasts to increase sensitivity of the public to violence against women and children (Nadja)

Derechos Humanos en el Mundo y en la Casa

Congo, Kinshasa - television programs, film screenings and debates, conferences, theater performances, posters, flyers, and T-shirts will be organized to sensitize public awareness to violence against women as a human rights violation (Eveil de la Femme - Réseau, Action, Femme)

Croatia, Zagreb - event to announce the 16 Days Campaign and 1998 as the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights followed by a concert featuring both singers and performers; production and distribution of posters, leaflets and a TV segment against violence against women; open letters to the government, local authorities, local churches and to the Ministry of Education requesting devotion of school time to address the issue of violence against women (Stop Violence Against Women Project [Autonomous Women's House, B.a.B.e., Center for Women War Victims, Electra and Women's Counselling Center], Zenska Grupa Poref, Zenska Grupa Mali Lopinj, Zenska Akcija Rijeka)

Ecuador, Quito - launch of a regional radio campaign that will run until December 1998 and includes the production and dissemination of a jingle and 12 radio spots using the slogan "There are No Human Rights Without Women's Rights" to promote a broad understanding of women's human rights and the 1998 Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights (AMARC and UNIFEM-Regional Office)

El Salvador - integration of gender violence in medical and information services and its strategic plan (ADS and International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere Region, IPPF/WHR)

Jamaica - training for staff and male clients of clinic to promote awareness of violence against women as a violation of women's human rights (FAMPLAN and IPPF/WHR)

Nigeria, Lagos - distribution of posters and stickers saying "NO to Violence Against Women" to schools, markets, car parks and individuals; broadcast of jingles in three languages on the effects of violence against women in the family; talks on the radio and to men's clubs on the adverse effect of violence against women on social development (Women, Law and Development Centre)

United States, New Orleans - special book exhibit at the Newcomb Center for Research on Women; showing of videotapes on domestic violence to Masters' Social Work students (Tulane University)

United States, New Orleans - information and book exhibit to commemorate the 16 Days; screening of a video on violence against women (University of New Orleans Women's Center)

Venezuela - gender-based violence training that integrates clinical and educational components; networking with women's groups to raise public awareness around violence against women (PLAFAM and IPPF/WHR)

Venezuela, Caracas - campaigning to pass the bill on Violence against Women and the Family; activities will include massive faxing to the president of the Chamber of Deputies, to the Senate, as well as campaigning in Caracas' subway stations, distribution of flyers, buttons and press releases (Asociacion Venezolana para una Educacion Sexual Alternativa [AVESA], FUNDAMUJER and CISFEM)

Exigeons les Droits Humains a la Maison et Dans le Monde

Zimbabwe, Harare - official launch of the 16 Days Campaign and the 1998 Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights (Women in Law and Development Africa, WILDAF)

Nov. 25 - Nov. 26

Bulgaria, Sofia - interactive workshops for high school students on the issue of violence against women (Nadja)

Nov. 25 - Dec. 20

Chile, Santiago - call for action to organize activities around issues of violence against women and health. Some suggestions are: to disseminate information through community-based work on what women's rights are; to develop suggestions on how to use existing national legislation; to organize workshops with health care providers to sensitize them around the issue of violence against women and girls; to address government authorities and legislators requesting the enactment of effective legislation to address gender violence and to monitor the compliance with existing laws; and to build alliances with men's groups against gender violence. Description of campaign is available through e-mail: <rsmlac@mail.bellsouth.cl> (Red de Salud de las Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe, Latin America and Caribbean Women's Health Network)

Nov. 25 - Dec. 25

Fiji, Suva - daily screening of television advertisements addressing child abuse and violence against women (FWCC)

Nov. 26

Mexico, Mexicali - radio program with theme "Violence Against Women," hosted by Colila Eguia from the Baja California Network (Alaide Foppa, A. C.)

Nov. 26 - 27

Mexico, Mexicali - workshop, "An Alternative to Family Violence: Respect for Human Rights," facilitated by Dr. Laura Gomez Flores of the National Commission on Human Rights (Alaide Foppa, A. C.)

Mexico, Cuernavaca - workshop on domestic violence and reproductive health (Comité de Maternidad sin Riesgos en Morelos)

Nov. 26 - 29

Cayman Islands, Grand Cayman - district workshops with Jane Zeller, co-director of the Silent Witness National Initiative (Cayman Islands Business and Professional Women's Club)

Nov. 27

El Salvador, San Salvador - Film forum (Las Dignas)

Ireland, Dublin - art exhibition, "Once is too Much" (Women's Aid)

Nepal, Kathmandu - a series of marches pressing for 33% representation of women in parliament and decision making

Demand Human Rights in the Home and in the World

positions and to emphasize denial of girls rights; presentation of pledge to support the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence with a focus on domestic violence (UNICEF, Regional Office for South Asia)

Nov. 27 - 28

Ireland, Dublin - conference on community development and violence against women (St. Michael's Family Resource Centre and Women's Aid)

Nov. 27 - DEC. 5

Zimbabwe, Harare - open days for Musasa Project, Child-line Zimbabwe, Child Law Project, Women and AIDS Support Network, Women's Action Group and the Zimbabwe Women's Resource Center Network (WILDAF)

Nov. 28

Bangladesh, Dhaka - all-day workshop with survivors of domestic violence (Naripokkho)

Cayman Islands, Grand Cayman - teen event focusing on the prevention of relationship violence among the high school population (Cayman Islands Business and Professional Women's Club)

NOV. 28 - DEC. 1

Mexico, Mexicali - "Clothesline" exhibition where posters, paintings, testimonies, cases and triptychs of violence against women and children will be on display (Alaide Foppa, A. C.)

Nov. 28 - DEC. 6

Canada, Toronto - men demonstrate their commitment to end men's violence against women by wearing white ribbons, signing posters, and making donations to support women's shelters, rape crisis centers, and other front-line programs for women; schools run programs based on White Ribbon's Education and Action Kit; more information on campaign available through e-mail: <whiterib@idirect.com> (White Ribbon Campaign)

Nov. 29

Bolivia, Tarija - a coordinated activity with grassroots women's organizations on "Imagine a World Where All Women Enjoy Their Human Rights" (CIM)

Fiji, Suva - an insert in the national daily newspaper of the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre 1998 calendar; an open day at the Crisis Centre (FWCC)

Ireland, Dublin - Women's Aid Street Theatre and Information Stand; Dundalk Women's Aid Ribbon Day radio programme in town centre to highlight violence against women (Women's Aid)

Derechos Humanos en el Mundo y en la Casa

DEC. 1

Bolivia, Tarija - T.V. program which includes the participation of a woman doctor who will address Health, Reproductive Rights and AIDS with an open telephone line for questions from the public (CIM)

Fiji, Suva - workshop on child abuse which will include Air Pacific Staff (FWCC)

United States, New York - workshop on "Gender and Sexuality" with Joo-Hyun Kang, Executive Director of the Audrey Lorde Project, a Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Two-spirit People of Color Communities (International Club and International Studies Program, Marymount Manhattan College and PRIDE CLUB)

DEC. 2

Chile, Santiago - "Tribunal de Derechos Humanos de las Mujeres Chilenas" focusing on: sexual and domestic violence as punishment and victimization; adolescent pregnancy as an obstacle to access to education; and, lack of access to a pro-choice public health system as discrimination (Instituto de la Mujer, Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network, Red Chilena contra la Violencia Domestica y Sexual, Comision de Derechos Humanos, CORSAPS, Foro Abierto de Salud y Derechos Reproductivos, Fundacion Ideas, Universidad Academia Humanismo Cristiano and Universidad Diato Portales)

Croatia, Zagreb - public screening of film, "Sex Trade" (Zenska Infoteka)

Mexico, Mexicali - speaker Maricarmen Rioseco, "Justice Administration and Violence Against Women" (Alaide Foppa, AC)

Pakistan, Lahore - rallies in different cities to raise the issues of women's rights, domestic violence and gender discrimination organized together with trade unions, women's groups and human rights activists (WWO)

DEC. 2 - 6

Bolivia, Tarija - panels and workshops about advantages and drawbacks of the law on domestic violence, promulgated on December 15, 1995 (CIM)

DEC. 2-7

Cayman Islands, Grand Cayman - workshops with Dr. Stephen Stosny on the dynamics of anger and anger reduction; special workshops for the Royal Cayman Islands Police, H.M. Prison Officers, the Chief Justice, Court staff and the Cayman Islands Counselling Centre (Cayman Islands Business and Professional Women's Club)

DEC. 3

Mexico, Mexicali - radio program with theme "Seventh Global Campaign Against Violence Against Women," hosted by Graciela Garza from the Baja California Network; speaker Concepción Guzmán, "Women, Health and Violence" (Alaide Foppa, A. C.)

Exigeons les Droits Humains a la Maison et Dans le Monde

Pakistan, Lahore - press conferences in several cities to discuss issues around women and violations of their fundamental human rights (WWO)

DEC. 3-10

Cayman Islands, Grand Cayman - airing of six video segments on Cayman Islands Television Network entitled, "Domestic Abuse: Causes, Concerns and Strategies for Change" (Cayman Islands Business and Professional Women's Club)

DEC. 4

Canada, Ottawa - special evening of solidarity in honor of the many women from among the immigrant and visible minority women community who led the way in raising the issue of gender violence and developing services for the target group (Immigrant and Visible Minority Women Against Abuse, IVMWAA)

Mexico, Mexicali - speaker Lourdes Sánchez, "The Right to Health" and "Violence Against Women" (Alaide Foppa, A. C.)

DEC. 4 - 5

Pakistan, Lahore - street dramas on issues of violence, injustice and the unequal status of women in society presented together with various theater groups (WWO)

DEC. 5

Bulgaria, Sofia - "Tea-time with the Mass Media with journalists

from both TV and Radio stations to discuss issues of violence against women and women's rights (Nadja)

Ireland, Dublin - information stand (Women's Aid)

Mexico, Mexicali - TV interview on *Different Opinions Meet*, Foro 3 with topic "Violence Against Women" hosted by Cosme Collingnon (Alaide Foppa, A. C.)

United States, New York - Marymount Manhattan College Gender Violence Awareness Day. Speakers include: Susana T. Fried, Program Director at the Center for Women's Global Leadership and Professors Joan Brookshire, Majorie Madigan and A.M. Keyes from Marymount Manhattan College; to be followed by a performance, "Collage of Works" by Students of Theatre at Marymount/STAM and a reception (International Club and International Studies Program, Marymount Manhattan College)

DEC. 5 - 7

United States, Los Angeles - course, "Images of the Madonna Through the Ages" taught by Gloria Orenstein, Ph. D. (M.A. Program in Feminist Spirituality, Immaculate Heart College Center)

DEC. 6

Canada, Toronto - men support and participate in events to remember the 14 women murdered at the University of Montreal massacre in 1989 (White Ribbon Campaign)

Demand Human Rights in the Home and in the World

Canada, Toronto - "clothesline display" (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, WILPF)

Fiji, Suva - children's day with activities including mural, egg and face painting; video and self-defense sessions; a children's forum; theater games and plays; poems and songs; and, karioke singing (FWCC)

Ireland, Dublin - "flag days" for Tralee Rape Crisis Centre and Women's Aid Street Theatre (Tralee Women's Resource Centre and Women's Aid)

Zimbabwe, Harare - men's march against gender violence (WiLDAF)

DEC. 6 - 7

Pakistan, Lahore - meetings with trade union activists to discuss issues of women's rights in the workplace, women's participation in trade unions as well as in the decision making bodies, and to collectively find a plan of action against the exploitation and manipulation of women (WVO)

DEC. 7

Zimbabwe, Harare - national sermons on violence against women and girls organized by the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (WiLDAF)

DEC. 8

Russia, Moscow - an "open class" and video demonstration on

violence issues for students of law, psychology and social work at the Moscow Institute of Youth; an exhibition of books and printed matter about violence (Center for Women, Family and Gender Studies, Moscow Youth Institute)

United States, New York - launching of the 1998 Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights with performances by Columbia University's "Workers of Wonder" program, Blanche Cook, and Virginia Sanchez Navarro. Speakers include: Alda Facio, Peggy Antrobus, Ana Maria Brasileiro, Sheila Dauer, Kensington Welfare Rights Union and Maura Bairley. Information on campaign is available through e-mail at <cwgl@igc.apc.org> (Center for Women's Global Leadership and UNIFEM)

United States, New York - seminar on Women's Economic Rights. Speakers include: Catherine Albisa, Staff Attorney and Lecturer at International Women's Human Rights Law Clinic at CUNY Law School; Elmira Nazombe, Director of the Office of International Justice and Human Rights for Church World Service; Anita Nayar, Associate Director of Women's Environment and Development Organization/WEDO; and, Radhika Balakrishnan, Coordinator of International Studies at Marymount Manhattan College (International Club and International Studies Program, Marymount Manhattan College)

Zimbabwe, Harare - public meeting on violence against women in the workplace (WiLDAF)

DEC. 8 - 10

Bolivia, Tarija - daily radio messages from the Human Rights office emphasizing "Women's Rights as Human Rights" (CIM)

Derechos Humanos en el Mundo y en la Casa

DEC. 9

Ireland, Dublin - launch of report from the Irish Council for Civil Liberties Conference "Women's Rights are Human Rights" and the women's human rights campaign in Ireland (Women's Aid)

Mexico, Mexicali - conference at the University of Baja entitled "IV World Conference on Women, Proposals & Achievements Against Violence Against Women" (Alaide Foppa, A.C.)

Nigeria, Lagos - workshop on violence against women and the media followed by an exhibition (BAOBAB)

Pakistan, Lahore - seminar for WWO's members from different cities, activists, lawyers, and intellectuals to address the issue of human rights and the current situation of women workers (WWO)

United States, Boston - a state-wide meeting to brief the community on the outcome and follow-up activities to the International Working Session to End Family and Partner Violence held in August, and to announce the start of its Human Rights Education and Advocacy Program; the briefing will include video clips of the local and overseas participants, a photo display of the week's work, distribution of a special edition of Women's Rights Network News on the Session and an open discussion to continue the development of international, cross-cultural dialogue and partnerships; WRN will also introduce its new Human Rights Education and Advocacy Program and urge local battered women's advocates to join the campaign to implement the goals of the Platform for Action (Women's Rights Network)

United States, New York - table devoted to International Campaign to Ban Land Mines with a sign-on petition (International Club and

International Studies Program, Marymount Manhattan College and Pax Christi International)

DEC. 10

Bolivia, Tarija - closing of the Campaign in the Public Square which will include panels, slogans, music and free participation of the public (CIM)

Cayman Islands, Grand Cayman - women's rally in court house park around the theme, "Love is Not Abuse - Abuse is Not Love"; presentation of report to the Minister of Women's Affairs entitled "Legislation on Domestic Abuse: What works, what needs to be changed, and why" (Cayman Islands Business and Professional Women's Club)

El Salvador, San Salvador - debate on different approaches to cases of violence against women (Las Dignas)

Ireland, Dublin - street protest (National Traveller Women's Forum)

Mexico, Mexicali - conference at the University of Baja California on "Family Violence and the Special Desk on the Council of Justice and Public Security"; panelists include: Dip. Lucy Ocaña, Sub Proc. Perla Ibarra, Lic. Arnoldo Castilla, and Lic. Federico Garcia (Alaide Foppa, A. C.)

Pakistan, Lahore - processions organized to celebrate Human Rights Day, to put pressure on the government to repeal all discriminatory laws and to address domestic violence and sexual harassment (WWO)

Exigeons les Droits Humains a la Maison et Dans le Monde

United States, Massachusetts - candlelight vigil in remembrance of victims and survivors of domestic violence; information available through e-mail at <www.shore.net/~RESPOND (RESPOND, Inc.)

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Argentina, Buenos Aires - lobby action asking parliament and the government to reform the "Family Violence Law" to make it more protective for victims; this will include sending a kit with information to representatives, senators, Health Ministry and Women's Council Authorities and press; media campaign to ask women and the community to phone and send letters to the government asking for an increase in budget and a massive campaign of violence against women prevention; campaign is entitled "For the Right to Live Without Violence" (Instituto Social y Politico de la Mujer and the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network)

Austria, Innsbruck - presentation of petition signed by over 3,000 people demanding better measures to prevent violence against women to the head of the Austrian government (Austrian Women's Shelter Network)

Bangladesh, Dhaka - lobbying, demonstration, press conference, seminar, workshop, leaflets and posters addressing the empowerment of women (Bangladesh Mahila Parishad)

Brazil, Pernambuco - feminist theater group, Loucas de Pedra Lilás will perform a piece which addresses violence against women in the streets; debate on violence against women as experienced by sex workers with participation from the police department; discussion of issues of violence against women with women living in barrios;

distribution of flyers promoting the 1998 Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights (Women's Forum of Pernambuco)

Bulgaria, Sofia - special issue of "Nadja" newsletter dedicated to the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence (Nadja)

Croatia, Zagreb - initiation of "Women and Media" project, "Phone Tree", a chain of letter reactions to sexist and antiwomen presentations in the media; posting of stickers with slogans such as "this is sexism" and "this offends women" on sexist or derogatory commercials and billboards; posting of stickers saying "rape" and "violence against women" on the STOP traffic signs (Be active, Be emancipated, B.a.B.e).

Croatia, Zagreb - action campaign to establish a women's library in the city of Rijeka (Zenska Akcija Rijeka)

Croatia, Zagreb - dissemination of poster which was created from newspaper headlines about women victims of violence (Zenska Infoteka)

Ecuador, Quito - radio contest around the theme, "Imagine a World Without Discrimination Against Women" (AMARC)

Fiji, Suva - radio advertisements and talks in the various local dialects; production of educational materials on domestic violence and child abuse including posters addressing domestic violence, human rights and children's safety; display of street banners in the capital city promoting the 16 Days Campaign; and, exhibitions on women's human rights issues at various venues (Fiji Women's Crisis Centre)

Demand Human Rights in the Home and in the World

Mauritius, Curepipe - short play on domestic violence, written by France Favori, which will be played in several towns and villages of the island; exhibition on violence against women which includes: facts and figures about domestic violence, "herstories" of battered women, posters and badges of women's struggles internationally, collections of poems and songs written by S.O.S. Femmes on domestic violence, distribution of the main conventions/ declarations relating to violence against women, display of booklets, leaflets, etc., different responses towards domestic violence from the perspective of the women's movement, the State, the UN and the WHO. All letters of support received from groups participating in the 16 Days Campaign or which support an end to gender-based violence can be sent to fax: (230)433-3391, and will be on display at the exhibition (S.O.S. Femmes)

Mexico - an international campaign to address recent supreme court decision calling spousal rape an "undue exercise of a right". To join the writing campaign, you can find more information at <http://members.aol.com/ncmdr/index.html> or by e-mail to diversa@laneta.apc.org (Diversa in Mexico and the National Clearinghouse for Marital and Date Rape in California, US)

Mexico, D.F. - Doble Jornada's November issue will print a call to join the 1998 Global Campaign along with proposed activities from groups and an article on the legal approach to Family Violence (La Doble Jornada)

Mexico, Cuernavaca - panel to discuss the Family Violence bill legislation project; the Beijing follow-up Commission for the State of Morelos will broadcast three one-hour radio programs on Domestic Violence which will invite women to share their testimonies to document the problem (Comité de Maternidad sin Riesgos en Morelos)

Mexico, Oaxaca - dissemination of poster with the theme, "There are No Human Rights Without Women's Rights"; production of brief informational blurbs for the radio; panels addressing "Violence and the Law," "Violence and Health," and "Violence and Education"; film screening followed by discussions; and, talks to the students of the Instituto Tecnológico de Oaxaca and CONALEP (La Casa de la Mujer Rosario Castellanos)

Mexico, Oaxaca - conference addressed to members of local Congress and judges (La Casa de la Mujer Rosario Castellanos and Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network)

Mexico, Oaxaca - workshop on sexual and reproductive rights for midwives in the community of Tlacolula (Group TICIME, Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network, La Casa de la Mujer Rosario Castellanos)

Norway, Oslo - "Take Back the Night" march; postcard action campaign in Norway against pornography and prostitution (Women's Front of Norway)

Pakistan, Lahore - articles featured in newspapers and magazines, distribution of pamphlets and creation of charts to raise awareness on issues of women's human rights; networking with local NGOs, trade unions and human rights activists to raise issue of violence against women as a violation of human rights (WWO)

Philippines and New York - call to action to individuals and organizations to become involved in actions to promote awareness to the issue of trafficking in women; more information on campaign and specific actions to take, available through e-mail: Bardoza@mail.idt.net (Gabriela Network)

Derechos Humanos en el Mundo y en la Casa

Philippines, Quezon City - organization of regional migrant's training in Hong Kong in cooperation with the Asian Migrant Center to promote, defend and uphold the rights and dignity of migrant workers in general and migrant women in particular; developing a migrant human rights defenders manual, to assist women's rights defenders in systematic documentation, monitoring and classification of violations committed to migrants (Asian Centre for Women's Human Rights, ASCENT)

Uganda, Kampala - two-day workshop on the United Nations international human rights instruments and system and the relevance to the work of lobby/advocacy groups (Human Rights Network)

Ukraine, Kharkov - special issue of newsletter addressing "trafficking in women as a new form of slavery in Ukraine"; dissemination of materials on the 16 Days Campaign and trafficking in women in the Ukraine; lecture for students at Kharkov State University on "Trafficking in Women as Gender Violence"; dissemination of leaflets to young women in the region on trafficking in women (Feminist Association Humanitarian Initiative)

United States, New York - interactive workshops for high school students on the issues of violence against women and women's human rights (Global Kids)

United States, Washington - "clothesline" project; "These Hands will Not be Raised in Violence Project" where people can stick their hands in paint and put their hand prints on paper in the main courtyard (Pacific Lutheran University)

Exigeons les Droits Humains a la Maison et Dans le Monde

Area de Mujeres de Alai has a website to spread information in Latin America and the Caribbean on the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence! You can access the site using the following address:

<<http://www.ecuanex.apc.org/alai/16dias>>

For more information about the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence or the Center for Women's Global Leadership, please visit our website:

<<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cwgl/humanrights/>>

[list in formation]

November 25 - December 10

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is part of the Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights. The initial 16 Days campaign in 1991 was coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership with participants of our first Women's Global Leadership Institute (June 1991). November 25 is International Day Against Violence Against Women, declared by the first Feminist Encuentro for Latin America and the Caribbean in 1981 (Bogota, Colombia). The day commemorates the Mirabal sisters, who were brutally murdered by the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic in 1960. December 10 celebrates the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, proclaimed in 1948. The period also includes World AIDS Day (December 1) and the anniversary of the Montreal Massacre (1989), when a man gunned down 14 women engineering students for being "feminists" (December 6).

For further information, please contact Linda Posluszny at the Center for Women's Global Leadership; Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey; 61 Clifton Avenue; New Brunswick, NJ 08901-8535; ph: (1-732)932-8782; fax: (1-732)932-1180; e-mail: <cwgl@igc.apc.org> .

Demand Human Rights in the Home and in the World

For more information on UN activities for the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1998, visit the UN website at

<<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/50th/50anniv.htm>> or the UN Internet Gateway on the Advancement and Empowerment of Women (Women Watch) website at <<http://www.un.org/womenwatch>>.

1998 Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights

International Advisory Committee*

Florence Butegwa, Action for Change (Uganda)
Roxanna Carrillo, UNIFEM/Women's Human Rights Programme (Peru/United States)
Amparo Claro, Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network (Chile)
Alda Facio, Concertación Interamericano de Mujeres Activistas/CIMA (Costa Rica)
Lesley Ann Foster, Masimanyane Women's Support Centre (South Africa)
Sofia Gruskin, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights (United States)
Vesna Kesic, Be active, Be emancipated/B.a.B.e. (Croatia)
Rachel Kyte, Health, Empowerment, Rights and Accountability/HERA (United Kingdom/Belgium)
Alice Miller, International Human Rights Law Group/Women's Rights Advocacy Project (United States)
Indai Lourdes Sajor, Asian Centre for Women's Human Rights/ASCENT (Philippines)
Niamh Reilly, Research for Change (Ireland)
Farida Shaheed, Shirkat Gah and Women Living Under Muslim Laws (Pakistan)
Donna Sullivan, Visiting Scholar, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights (United States)

*Organizational affiliation is listed for identification purposes only.

Participating Organizations**

Agencia Latinoamericana de Información/ALAI (Ecuador)
Ahmedabad Women's Action Group/AWAG (India)
Alaide Foppa, A.C. (Mexico)
Amnesty International (International)
Asian Centre for Women's Human Rights/ASCENT (Philippines)
Association pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits des Femmes Maliennes/APDF (Mali)
Astraea, National Lesbian Action Foundation (United States)
Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (Bangladesh)
Be Active, Be Emancipated/B.a.B.e. (Croatia)
Black Sash (South Africa)
Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action/CAFRA (Caribbean)
Cameroon Comité for Women's Human Rights (Cameroon)
Casa de la Mujer (Colombia)
La Casa de la Mujer "Rosario Castellanos" (Mexico)
Center for Anti-Violence Education (United States)
Center for Reproductive Law and Policy (United States)
Center of Concern (United States)
Centro de Estudios e Investigaciones de la Mujer Ecuatoriana/CEIME (Ecuador)
Centro Integral de la Mujer/CIM (Bolivia)
Centro de Investigación para la Acción Femenina/CIPAF (Dominican Republic)
Centrum Praw Kobiet (Poland)
Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre/CIRDDOC (Nigeria)
Comisión Mexicana de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (Mexico)
Comité Latinoamericano para la Defensa de los Derechos de la Mujer/CLADEM (Latin America)
Coalition on Violence Against Women (Kenya)
Concertación Interamericana de Mujeres Activistas para los Derechos Humanos/CIMA (Latin America)
Commonwealth Medical Association/CMA (United Kingdom)
Comunicación e Información de la Mujer/CIMAC (Mexico)
Corporación de Desarrollo de la Mujer, La Morada (Chile)
Equality Now (United States)
Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer/FEIM (Argentina)
Family Violence Prevention Fund (United States)
Centro de Mujer Peruana: Flora Tristán (Peru)
Fundación para la Integración Social y Educativa/FISOE (Dominican Republic)
Health, Empowerment, Rights and Accountability/HERA (International)
Humanistisch Overleg Mensenrechten/HOM (The Netherlands)
ILANUD Mujer Genero y Justicia (Costa Rica)

INFORM (Sri Lanka)
Instituto Social y Político de la Mujer/ISPM (Argentina)
International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development/ICHRDD (Canada)
International Federation of Women Lawyers/FIDA (Kenya)
International Federation of Women Lawyers/FIDA (Nigeria)
International Fellowship of Reconciliation/IFOR (The Netherlands)
International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission/IGLHRC (International)
International Human Rights Law Group/Women's Rights Advocacy Project (United States)
International Women's Health Coalition/IWHC (United States)
International Women's Tribune Centre/IWTC (United States)
ISIS Internacional (Latin America)
ISIS WICCE (Uganda)
The Israel Women's Network/IWN (Israel)
Juntas por Venezuela/JUVE (Venezuela)
Kensington Welfare Rights Union (United States)
Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network/LACWHN (Chile)
Manuela Ramos (Peru)
Marymount Manhattan College (United States)
Masimanyane Women's Support Centre (South Africa)
Metlhaetsile Women's Information Centre (Botswana)
Mujer/Fempres (Latin America)
Muvman Liberasyon Fam (Mauritius)
National Association of Women's Organizations (India)
National Foundation for India (INDIA)
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PROFAMILIA (Colombia)
PSF Women's Centre (Poland)
Red Feminista Latinoamericana y del Caribe contra la Violencia Doméstica y Sexual
SAKSHI (India)
Shirkat Gah (Pakistan)
United Nations Development Fund for Women/UNIFEM (International)
W.E. A.R.E. for Human Rights (United States)
WOMANKIND (United Kingdom)
Women in Development Europe/WIDE (Western Europe)
Women's Environment and Development Organization/WEDO (United States)
Women in Law and Development Africa/WiLDAF (Africa)
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom-Toronto/WiLFP (Canada)
Women, Law and Development International (US)
Women Living Under Muslim Laws/WLUML (International)
Women's Rights Project: Human Rights Watch (United States)
Workers of Wonder (United States)
ZARD (Zambia)
Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre and Network/ZWRCN (Zimbabwe)

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**Organizations listed above are participating in various aspects of the 1998 Global Campaign; not every organization has endorsed every aspect of this campaign.

Funders for the 1998 Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights

Canadian International Development Agency/CIDA
The Ford Foundation
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Ruben and Elisabeth Rausing Trust
Shaler Adams Foundation

[list in formation]

Women's Human Rights: An Introduction

by Charlotte Bunch and Samantha Frost

(The following article was written for an Encyclopedia of Women's Studies which has not yet been published.)

Introduction

The term "women's human rights" and the set of practices that accompanies its use are the continuously evolving product of an international movement to improve the status of women. In the 1980's and 1990's, women's movements around the world formed networks and coalitions to give greater visibility both to the problems that women face every day and to the centrality of women's experiences in economic, social, political and environmental issues. In the evolution of what is becoming a global women's movement, the term "women's human rights" has served as a locus for praxis, that is, for the development of political strategies shaped by the interaction between analytical insights and concrete political practices. Further, the critical tools, the concerted activism, and the broad-based international networks that have grown up around movements for women's human rights have become a vehicle for women to develop the political skills necessary for the twenty-first century.

The concept of women's human rights owes its success and the proliferation of its use to the fact that it is simultaneously prosaic and revolutionary. On the one hand, the idea of women's human rights makes common sense. It declares, quite simply, that as human beings women have human rights. Anyone would find her or himself hard-pressed to publicly make and defend the contrary argument that women are not human. So in many ways, the claim that women have human rights seems quite ordinary. On the other hand, "women's human rights" is a revolutionary notion. This radical reclamation of humanity and the corollary insistence that women's rights are human rights have profound transformative potential. The incorporation of women's perspectives and lives into human rights standards and practice forces recognition of the dismal failure of countries worldwide to accord women the human dignity and respect that they deserve--simply as human beings. A women's human rights framework equips women with a way to define, analyze, and articulate their experiences of violence, degradation, and marginality. Finally, and very importantly, the idea of women's human rights provides a common framework for developing a vast array of visions and concrete strategies for change.

A Short History of Human Rights

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 outlines what is considered in this century to be the fundamental consensus on the human rights of all people in relation to such matters as security of person, slavery, torture, protection of the law, freedom of movement and speech, religion, and assembly, and rights to social security, work, health, education, culture, and citizenship. It clearly stipulates that these human rights apply to all equally "without distinction of any kind such as race, colour, sex, language... or other status" (Art.2). Obviously, then, the human rights delineated by the *Universal Declaration* are to be understood as applying to women. However, tradition, prejudice, social, economic and political interests have combined to exclude women from prevailing definitions of "general" human rights and to relegate women to secondary and/or "special interest" status within human rights considerations. This marginalisation of women in the world of human rights has been a reflection of gender inequity in the world at large and has also had a formidable impact on women's lives. It has contributed to the perpetuation, and indeed the condoning, of women's subordinate status. It has limited the scope of what was seen as governmental responsibility, and thus has made the process of seeking redress for human rights violations disproportionately difficult for women and in many cases outright impossible.

The difficulties posed by women's peripheral status within international human rights mechanisms and organizations have been compounded by the division between the so-called "public" and "private" spheres prevalent in so many societies. The pervasive division of life into "public" and "private" spheres has its roots in the desire to limit the jurisdiction of the government. In many countries, this has meant that what individuals do in the "public" sphere is subject to regulation, while activities taking place in the "private" sphere are thought to be exempt from governmental scrutiny. Since this "public" sphere is seen as the focus of interaction between state actors and citizens, abuses of that relationship have been the focus of international human rights advocacy. Of course, the status of citizen has often been exclusionary, formally or informally entailing gender, racial and socio-economic bias and privileges. Thus, for those citizens--primarily men--who predominate in public and governmental realms, and who enjoy gender, racial and economic privilege, the

issues of primary concern have tended to be those abuses to which they are most vulnerable--abuses of civil and political aspects of human rights such as the violation of the right to speech, arbitrary detention, torture during imprisonment, and summary execution.

While women have been able to invoke international human rights machinery when they have found themselves in such situations, some of their specifically gendered experiences of such human rights abuse--for example, rape in detention--have not been visible within the prevailing definitions of abuse. This is because women have traditionally been relegated to the "private" sphere of the home and family; the typical citizen has been portrayed as male, and thus the dominant notions of human rights abuse have implicitly had a man as their archetype. A major effect of the gendered nature of the public/private split is that human rights violations of women that occur between "private" individuals have been made invisible and deemed to be beyond the purview of the state. It is particularly important to note that gender is a significant factor in the decisions of governments to intervene in the so-called private sphere to prosecute human rights violations. For example, many activities that take place in the private sphere, such as murder between siblings or the systematic enslavement African peoples in the Americas, are subject to government censure internationally. However, much of what happens to women at the hands of men and male family members, for example domestic violence or confinement, is overlooked by governments even when there are laws against such abuse. Thus, abuses done to women in the name of family, religion, and culture have been hidden by the sanctity of the so-called private sphere, and perpetrators of such human rights violations have enjoyed immunity from accountability for their actions.

The historical emphasis on human rights abuses in the public sphere and the concomitant neglect of the human rights of women were exacerbated by the politics of the Cold War. The United Nations' human rights treaties and mechanisms developed after the horrors of World War II and consolidated during the Cold War. The purpose of many human rights organizations that developed along with them was to monitor the treatment of citizens by their governments and to ensure respect for citizens' human rights as they worked for democratic governance. As positions polarized during the Cold War, western governments attributed priority to civil and political rights, which they believed were integral to a prosperous free market economy. Meanwhile, the socio-economic rights to work, shelter, and health, for example, became

identified with the socialist bloc and were thus suspect to many in the West. Thus, human rights bodies, dominated by western conceptions of human rights priorities, focused on violations within the civil and political realm--the "public" sphere. So, in addition to the obstacles for women posed by the split between so-called public and private spheres, the predominance of civil and political rights within human rights organizations eclipsed the ways in which women often do not enjoy the social and economic conditions that make possible the exercise of civil and political rights and participation in public life.

The Concept of Women's Human Rights

During the United Nations Decade for Women (1976-1985), women from many geographical, racial, religious, cultural, and class backgrounds took up organizing to improve the status of women. The United Nations-sponsored women's conferences, which took place in Mexico City in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, and Nairobi in 1985, were convened to evaluate the status of women and to formulate strategies for women's advancement. These conferences were critical venues at which women came together, debated their differences and discovered their commonalities, and gradually began learning to bridge differences to create a global movement. In the late eighties and early nineties, women in diverse countries took up the human rights framework and began developing the analytic and political tools that together constitute the ideas and practices of women's human rights.

Taking up the human rights framework has involved a double shift in thinking about human rights and talking about women's lives. Put quite simply, it has entailed examining the human rights framework through a gendered lens, and describing women's lives through a human rights framework. In looking at the human rights framework from women's perspectives, women have shown how current human rights definitions and practices fail to account for the ways in which already recognized human rights abuses often affect women differently because of their gender. This approach acknowledges the importance of the existing concepts and activities, but also points out that there are dimensions within these received definitions that are gender-specific and that need to be addressed if the mechanisms, programmes, and the human rights framework itself are to include and reflect the experiences of the female half of the world's population.

When people utilise the human rights framework to articulate the vast array of human rights abuses that

women face, they bring clarifying analyses and powerful tools to bear on women's experiences. This strategy has been pivotal in efforts to draw attention to human rights that are specific to women which heretofore have been seen as women's rights but not recognized as "human" rights. Take, for example, the issue of violence against women. The *Universal Declaration* states: "No one shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment." This formulation provides a vocabulary for women to define and articulate experiences of violence such as rape, sexual terrorism and domestic violence as violations of the human right not to be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The recognition of such issues as human rights abuses raises the level of expectation about what can and should be done about them. This definition of violence against women in terms of human rights establishes unequivocally that states are responsible for such abuse. It also raises questions about how to hold governments accountable for their indifference in such situations and what sorts of mechanisms are needed to expedite the process of redress.

Applying The Human Rights Framework To Women

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* defines human rights as universal, inalienable, and indivisible. In unison, these defining characteristics are tremendously important for women's human rights. The universality of human rights means that human rights apply to every single person by virtue of their humanity; this also means that human rights apply to everyone equally, for everyone is equal in simply being human. In many ways, this universality theme may seem patently obvious, but its egalitarian premise has a radical edge. By invoking the universality of human rights, women have demanded that their very humanity be acknowledged. That acknowledgement--and the concomitant recognition of women as bearers of human rights--mandates the incorporation of women and gendered perspectives into all of the ideas and institutions that are already committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. The idea that human rights are universal also challenges the contention that the human rights of women can be limited by culturally specific definitions of what count as human rights and of women's role in society.

The idea of human rights as inalienable means that it is impossible for anyone to abdicate her human rights, even if she wanted to, since every person is accorded those

rights by virtue of being human. It also means that no person or group of persons can deprive another individual of her or his human rights. Thus, for example, debts incurred by migrant workers or by women caught up in sex-trafficking can never justify indentured servitude (slavery), or the deprivation of food, of freedom of movement, or of compensation. The idea of inalienable rights means that human rights cannot be sold, ransomed, or forfeited for any reason. The idea of inalienability has also been important in negotiations over the priority given to social, religious and cultural practices in relation to human rights. For decades, work to transform practices which are physically or psychologically damaging to women and that have often been "protected" under the rubric of religion, tradition or culture has been particularly difficult given both the integrity of culture guaranteed by the *Universal Declaration* and the history of Northern domination in much of the world. Thus, it was important that both the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action* from the World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993, and the *United Nations Declaration Against Violence Against Women* passed by the General Assembly the same year, affirmed that in cases of conflict between women's human rights and cultural or religious practices, the human rights of women must prevail.

The indivisibility of human rights means that none of the rights that are considered to be fundamental human rights is more important than any of the others and, more specifically, that they are inter-related. Human rights encompass civil, political, social, economic and cultural facets of human existence; the indivisibility premise highlights that the ability of people to live their lives in dignity and to exercise their human rights fully depends upon the recognition that these aspects are all interdependent. The fact that human rights are indivisible is important for women, since their civil and political rights historically have been compromised by their economic status, by social and cultural limitations placed on their activities, and by the ever-present threat of violence that often constitutes an insurmountable obstacle to women's participation in public and political life. The idea of indivisibility has provided women with a common framework through which to emphasize the complexity of the challenges they face, and to highlight the necessity of including women and gender conscious perspectives in the development and implementation of policy. By calling upon the indivisibility of women's human rights, women have rejected a human rights hierarchy which places either

political and civil rights or socio-economic rights as primary. Instead, women have charged that political stability cannot be realized unless women's social and economic rights are also addressed; that sustainable development is impossible without the simultaneous respect for, and incorporation into the policy process of women's cultural and social roles in the daily reproduction of life; and that social equity cannot be generated without economic justice and women's participation in all levels of political decision-making.

The Movement for Women's Human Rights

The term "women's human rights" does not refer simply to the theoretical approaches that women have used to transform human rights concepts, programmes and agendas. In addition to being instrumental in the formulation of the conceptual challenges and demands levied by women, the idea of women's human rights has had immense impact as a tool for political activism. The concept of women's human rights has opened the way for women around the world to ask hard questions about the official inattention and general indifference to the widespread discrimination and violence that women experience everyday. Whether used in political lobbying, in legal cases, in grassroots mobilization, or in broad-based educational efforts, the idea of women's human rights has been a rallying point for women across many boundaries and has facilitated the creation of collaborative strategies for promoting and protecting the human rights of women.

While women have raised questions for a long time about why their rights are seen as ancillary to human rights, a coordinated effort to change this attitude using a human rights framework gained particular momentum in the early part of the 1990s. The opening of space for new debates afforded by the end of the Cold War facilitated the exchange of ideas and experiences among women around the world that led to strategizing about how to make women's human rights perspectives more visible. As women's activities developed globally during and following the United Nations' Decade for Women, more and more women raised the question of why "women's rights" and women's lives have been deemed secondary to the "human rights" and lives of men. Over the past decade, a movement around women's human rights has emerged to challenge limited notions of human rights, and it has focused particularly on violence against women as a prime example of the bias against women in human rights practice and theory.

The United Nations World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna in 1993 was the first such meeting since 1968, and it became a natural vehicle to highlight the new visions of human rights thinking and practice being developed by women. Its initial call did not mention women nor did it recognize any gender-specific aspects of human rights in its proposed agenda. Since the conference represented an historic reassessment of the status of human rights, it became the unifying public focus of a worldwide Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights--a broad and loose international collaborative effort to advance women's human rights. The campaign launched a petition calling upon the World Conference "to comprehensively address women's human rights at every level of its proceedings" and to recognize "gender violence, a universal phenomenon which takes many forms across culture, race, and class... as a violation of human rights requiring immediate action." The petition was eventually translated into 23 languages, and was used by over 1000 sponsoring groups who gathered a half million signatures from 124 countries. The petition and its demands instigated discussions about why women's rights, and gender-based violence in particular, were left out of human rights considerations, and served to mobilize women around the World Conference. Women acted to inject issues of women's human rights into the entire pre-conference preparatory process: Women from all regions demanded that women's human rights be discussed at the preparatory meetings held in Tunis, San Jose, and Bangkok, as well as at other non-governmental and national preparatory events. The idea of women's human rights was a framework for women to articulate and collaborate around broad and similar concerns about the status of women; it also provided women with a way to elaborate on the most pressing human rights issues specific to particular political, geographic, economic, and cultural contexts.

By the time the World Conference convened, the idea that "women's rights are human rights" had become the rallying call of thousands of people all over the world and one of the most discussed "new" human rights debates. The *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*, which is the product of the conference and is meant to signal the agreement of the international community on the status of human rights, states unequivocally that:

The human rights of women and of the girl-child are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights.

Vienna Declaration (I,18,1993).

Women continued to lobby for and gain wider recognition of women's human rights at subsequent United Nations Conferences. So, for example, at the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo in 1994, women's reproductive rights were explicitly recognized as human rights. A particularly significant development was the way in which the Platform for Action at the IV World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 became virtually an agenda about the human rights of women. This signaled the successful mainstreaming of women's rights as human rights.

The agreements that are produced by such conferences are not legally binding; however, they do have ethical and political weight and can be used to pursue regional, national, or local objectives. Conference documents can also be used to reinforce and interpret international treaties such as the *Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, or the *Covenant of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights*. These covenants, when signed by a country, do have the status of international law and have been used in courts by lawyers seeking redress for human rights violations. The most important international treaty specifically addressing women's human rights is the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (CEDAW) which was initiated during the UN Decade for Women and has been ratified by over 130 countries. Further, local women's groups have integrated the women's human rights framework into their legal literacy programs and legal strategies.

Although the framework of women's human rights has been tremendously useful in efforts to lobby for legislative and policy changes at local, national and international levels, it has been an equally as important tool for grassroots organizing. Women's human rights not only teaches women about the range of rights that their governments must honor; it also functions as a kind of gestalt by which to organize analyses of their experiences and plan action for change. The human rights framework creates a space in which the possibility for a different account of women's lives can be developed. What is so useful about this framework is that it provides women with principles by which to develop alternative visions of their lives without suggesting the substance of those visions. The fundamental principles of human rights that accord to each and every person the entitlement to human dignity give women a vocabulary for describing both violations and impediments to the exercise of their human rights. The large body of international covenants, agreements and commitments about

human rights gives women political leverage and a tenable point of reference. And finally, the idea of women's human rights enables women to define and articulate the specificity of the experiences in their lives at the same time that it provides a vocabulary for women to share the experiences of other women around the world and work collaboratively for change.

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Video

The Vienna Tribunal: Women's Rights are Human Rights,
1994, Augusta Productions, with the Canadian National
Film Board, in association with the Center for Women's
Global Leadership
Director: Gerry Rogers
Relevance: entire/segment
Length: 48:13 minutes
Description: *The Vienna Tribunal* highlights the
testimonies given by women around the world at the Global
Tribunal on Violations of Women's Human Rights at the UN
World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993.
Keywords: Activism, History, Human Rights Abuse,
Tribunal, United Nations, Violence Against Women, Women's
Human Rights,

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1998 Key Dates for Actions

November 25 - December 10, 1997

7th annual 16 Days campaign begins 1998 campaign launch

March 2 - 13

42nd session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women - N.Y.C., United States

March 8

International Women's Day

March 16 - April 24

54th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights - Geneva, Switzerland

May 1

International Labour Day

May 24

International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament

May 28

International Day of Action for Women's Health

June

86th International Labour Conference, Geneva, Switzerland

June

International Criminal Court: Diplomatic Conference, Rome, Italy

June 25

5th Anniversary of the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, 1993

July

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) substantive session on UN implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, N.Y.C., United States

September - December

53rd regular session of the General Assembly

September 8

3rd Anniversary of UN IV World Conference on Women in Beijing; Women's Citizenship Day

October 11

Eleanor Roosevelt's Birthday

October 24

UN Day

November 25 - December 10

8th annual 16 Days Campaign Begins

December

UN General Assembly special session on 50th Anniversary

December 10

50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and end of Campaign

Demand Women's Human Rights!

On the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, advocates throughout the world are calling attention to continuing violations of the human rights of women, and the urgent need for governments and intergovernmental bodies to strengthen their efforts to promote and protect the human rights of all.

The following demands and actions* seek to link efforts locally and globally through a common set of substantive concerns regarding women's human rights. Such demands and questions addressed to specific events will be released in clusters over time. This set of demands and questions is directed toward the 42nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 2-13, 1998), and their review of key human rights sections of the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*: the human rights of women, violence against women, women and armed conflict, and the girl child.

These demands focus on the *Platform for Action*, and the clear steps and actions it recommends to governments and intergovernmental organizations. Building on the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*, the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* declares: "Human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings; their protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments" (paragraph 210). It reaffirms that "all human rights -- civil, cultural, economic, political and social, including the right to development -- are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, as expressed in the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*...The full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls is a priority for Governments and the United Nations and is essential for the advancement of women" (paragraph 214).

Therefore, women's human rights advocates throughout the world call upon governments and intergovernmental bodies to do the following:

Demand #1: *The Platform for Action is the most detailed articulation of what implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights means for women. Therefore, we call for increased action toward and resources for its full implementation and for greater protection of defenders of the human rights of women.*

Demand #2: *Outlaw all forms of discrimination against women.*

- *Action:* Ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (the Women's Convention) immediately in order to achieve universal ratification by the year 2000.
- *Action:* Remove reservations to the Women's Convention.
- *Action:* Bring national laws into compliance with the Women's Convention.

- *Action:* Adopt a strong and meaningful optional protocol to the Women's Convention which will authorize the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to receive complaints from individuals, groups and organizations alleging violations of the Convention and institute an inquiry procedure which will enable CEDAW to initiate investigations of serious or systematic violations of the Convention.


Demand #3: *Ensure women's right to live free from violence*

- *Action:* Raise awareness about domestic violence as a human rights violation, and take concerted and systematic action to eliminate such violence through all appropriate means.
- *Action:* Eliminate all forms of violence against women in war and armed conflict and provide justice and reparations to women victims and survivors of all such violations, including rape, mass rape, sexual assault, mutilation, forced eviction, forced impregnation, forced sterilization, genocide, forced prostitution and trafficking, and military sexual slavery.
- *Action:* Establish an effective and independent International Criminal Court that includes women's concerns and a gender perspective throughout its statute, such as the inclusion of sexual violence, military sexual slavery and rape in the definitions of crimes against humanity and war crimes.

Demand #4: *Take steps to realize women's economic and social rights*

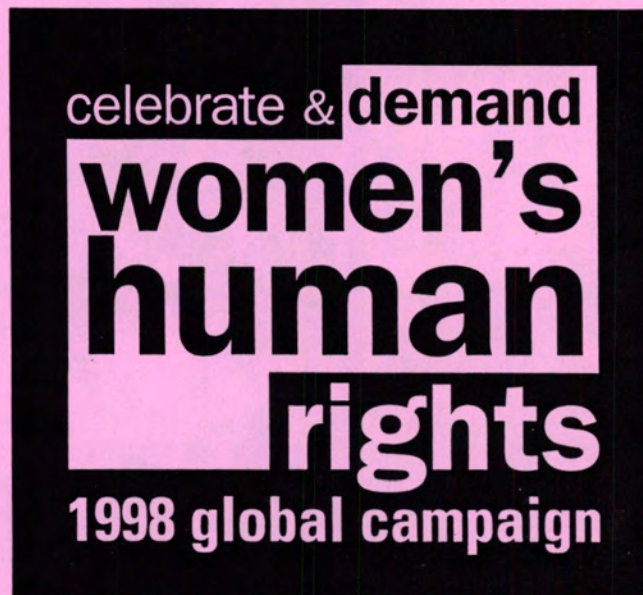
- *Action:* Ensure literacy for every woman and girl, including knowledge of her rights as well as the ability to read and write.
- *Action:* Secure women's right to reach the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.
- *Action:* Guarantee women's right to development, in particular by providing women with equal access to economic resources, as well as ensuring their rights to land tenure, to own property and to equal inheritance, training and credit, through law, policy and practice.
- *Action:* Enforce women workers' rights on the basis of equality, non-discrimination and due process, including the right to organize, to collectively bargain, to health and safety protection, and to a living wage.

* A longer list of questions and background information from the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action related to these demands and actions will be available from the Center for Women's Global Leadership by January 9, 1998. For more information, please fax us at +1-732-932-1180, or e-mail us at cwgl@igc.apc.org.



**We are pleased to announce the
1998 Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights website:**

<http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~cwgl/humanrights/>



The website is interactive and gives the user the opportunity to participate in the campaign in a variety of ways. They can participate in the postcard campaign, post their own campaign activities, fill out a Women's Global Leadership Institute application, view the campaign calendar and link to other women's human rights sites.

Please visit the site and share the address with others.
We welcome your suggestions and comments.

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- International Calendar of Activities - 16 Days of Activism Campaign '96
- Beijing '96: A Global Referendum on the Human Rights of Women
- Report of the Women's Human Rights Caucus at the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995
- Through Women's Eyes: Global Forces Facing Women in the 21st Century

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1998 Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights
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VIDEO INFORMATION

The Vienna Tribunal: Women's Rights are Human Rights!

The **Vienna Tribunal** highlights the moving personal accounts from women around the world who testified before a panel of eminent judges at the **Global Tribunal on Violations of Women's Human Rights** at the NGO Forum of the **Fourth World Conference on Human Rights**, Vienna 1993. (48 minutes)

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PUBLICATIONS UPDATE

✉ *Migrant Women's Human Rights in G-7 Countries: Organizing Strategies*, Family Violence Prevention Fund and Center for Women's Global Leadership (1997). Based on a panel at the NGO Forum in Beijing, this publication reflects on how migrant women in countries like the U.S., U.K., Italy and Japan have placed issues such as domestic violence, worker's rights and xenophobia in the public domain. Available Fall 1997.

✉ *Local Action, Global Change: Learning About the Human Rights of Women and Girls*, Julie Mertus, with Mallika Dutt and Nancy Flowers, Center for Women's Global Leadership and UNIFEM (1997). Revision of *Our Human Rights: A Manual for Women's Human Rights* - a draft distributed for comments at the IV UN World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 1995. This publication is the first comprehensive training manual that includes the whole spectrum of women's human rights in an "interactive" format. Available Fall 1997.

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CENTER FOR WOMEN'S
GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
NO. 4 • SUMMER 1997

1998: Celebrate and Demand Women's Human Rights

By Charlotte Bunch

On the road to the 21st century, 1998 will bring a series of events that provide a unique opportunity to focus world attention on women's human rights. This can be a year in which we both celebrate the progress made toward achieving women's human rights and demand greater accountability for the many violations that still occur. December 10, 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the adoption by the United Nations of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)*. This year is also the fifth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights with its historic recognition of women's rights as human rights; the world community, and particularly the UN Commission on Human Rights, will use this occasion to review implementation of the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*. In addition, the 1998 session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women will review implementation of four key sections of

the *Beijing Platform for Action*: Human Rights of Women, Violence Against Women, Women and Armed Conflict, and the Girl-child.

The 1998 Global Campaign for Women's Human Rights will work to make these three important and interrelated events mutually reinforcing in bringing world attention to the rights of women. This campaign will go beyond our previous statement that women's rights are human rights to emphasize that **there are no human rights without women's rights**. That is to say that **building a culture of respect for universal human rights requires that the human rights of women be recognized and protected**. For when the violation of women's rights is tolerated and often condoned in the home, on the streets, in the media and in war, then children learn early that the human rights of any group can be violated with impunity. If the human rights of women - half of humanity - are belittled, then all human rights are undermined.

As the UN and human rights organizations around the world prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the *UDHR*, symbolizing world commitment to securing universal human rights for all people, we must ensure that women and issues of gender and human rights are included in **ALL** these events. Women everywhere should find out now what plans are being made for the 50th

anniversary at the local and national level and seek to make women's human rights a central part of them. The Global Center is working with others to ensure this consciousness is present in plans made by the UN which will hold panels on human rights throughout 1998 as well as a special session of the General Assembly around December 10th.

The Global Campaign for 1998 will be launched during the next 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence (Nov. 25 - Dec. 10, 1997) with the theme: **Demand Human Rights in the Home and in the World...Derechos Humanos en el Mundo**



► See 1998 on page 7