



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER VIOLENCE
16 DÍAS DE ACTIVISMO CONTRA LA VIOLENCIA DE GÉNERO
16 JOURS D'ACTIVISME CONTRE LA VIOLENCE DE GENRE
25 NOV - 10 DEC <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu>



What is Violence Against Women?

Violence against women is a pervasive human rights violation, a public health crisis, and an obstacle to equality, development, security, and peace. The terms “violence against women” and “gender-based violence” are used to refer to the range of abuses committed against women that stem from gender inequality and women’s subordinate status in society relative to men. Violence against women, including during war, is used to drive fear, and terrorize and humiliate women, their families and communities.

In 1993 the [United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#) defined violence against women as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” This definition includes violence occurring in the family, within the general community, and violence perpetrated or condoned by the State.

Forms of gender-based violence include, but are not limited to: domestic violence, sexual abuse, rape, sexual harassment, trafficking in women, forced prostitution, and harmful practices. These forms of violence can result in physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health and other health problems. In addition, women’s multiple and intersecting identities based on factors such as class, race, ethnicity, religion, age, sexuality and citizenship status can serve to increase their vulnerability to violence.

For more information on gender-based violence, see the *Facts on Gender-Based Violence* in the 2012 16 Days Take Action Kit, available at <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/2012-campaign/2012-take-action-kit>.

What is the 16 Days Campaign?

The 2012 16 Days Campaign will continue with the global theme: ***From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let’s Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!*** This year’s Campaign marks the third year of advocacy highlighting the intersections of gender-based violence and militarism, and will focus on three priority areas:

- Violence perpetuated by state agents
- Domestic violence and the role of small arms
- Sexual violence during and after conflict

Militarism remains a key source of the violence experienced by women. As an ideology that creates a culture of fear, militarism supports the use of violence, aggression, and military interventions for settling disputes and enforcing economic and political interests. Militarism often has grave consequences for the safety and security of our society as a whole, including women, children, and men.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is a global campaign dedicated to ending gender-based violence. It originated in 1991 at the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute, hosted by CWGL. The 23 women’s rights activists from across the globe identified the need to increase international awareness of the systemic nature of violence against women and to expose this violence as a violation of women’s human rights.

As one strategy to build awareness about gender-based violence and facilitate networking among women leaders working in this area, the participants established the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence Campaign. The start and end dates of the Campaign are November 25th, International Day for the Elimination of Gender-Based

Violence, and December 10th, Human Rights Day. These dates were chosen to emphasize that gender-based violence is a violation of human rights.

Since 1991, over 4,100 organizations in 172 countries have participated in the Campaign. It has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women by:

- Raising awareness about gender-based violence as a human rights issue at the local, national, regional, and international levels
- Strengthening local work around gender-based violence
- Establishing a clear link between local and international work to end violence against women
- Providing a forum in which organizers can develop and share new and effective strategies
- Creating tools to pressure governments to implement promises made to eliminate gender-based violence

You can connect to the 16 Days Campaign in several ways:

- Website, where campaign materials are available in 36 languages: <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/>
- Online Campaign Calendar: <http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/campaign-calendar>
- Email: 16days@cwgl.rutgers.edu
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/16DaysCampaign>
- Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/16dayscampaign>

What is the Responsibility of the State?

The 16 Days Campaign provides an opportunity to reflect on what we as women's rights activists and allies can do to hold our governments to account and challenge the structures that allow gender-based violence to continue. Gender-based violence is an issue that impacts all of us at multiple levels, and our governments have a responsibility to respond, protect, and prevent such violence.

One tool activists can use to call governments to account is the [Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#). Adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979, CEDAW is an international, legally binding treaty outlining an agenda for ending gender discrimination, including gender-based violence.

You can learn more about CEDAW by visiting the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights website: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/>.

What is the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL)?

The Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) is located in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University, in New Jersey, USA. Founded in 1989, CWGL's mission is to develop and facilitate women's leadership for women's human rights and social justice worldwide. Specifically, the Center works to:

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

For more information on CWGL, including links to resources, publication materials, and ways to get involved, visit our website: <http://cwgl.rutgers.edu/>.

Connect with us:

- Email: cwgl@rci.rutgers.edu
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