



central america women's network
promoting women's rights and gender equality
www.cawn.org

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ELECTRONIC BULLETIN



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1. CAWN NEWS

• **CAWN is featured in the March 2010 edition of the Gender and Development OXFAM journal.**

In this issue, the journal highlights a profile of CAWN, its origins, history, aims and its projects in Nicaragua and Honduras. It also addresses some of CAWN latest publications and the successes when working in solidarity with partner organisations in Central America to pursue women's empowerment and the defence of their rights.

• **CAWN has a new Research and Fundraising Assistant.**

We would like to welcome Virginia Lopez Calvo as a new CAWN staff member. Virginia will be working part time as a Research and Fundraising Assistant, supporting the coordination of different areas of CAWN's work. Virginia will be in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and can be reached at campaigns@cawn.org.

• **CAWN has two new Research and Communications Interns**

We would also like to welcome Jennifer Browne and Emily Gilloran as our new CAWN interns. Jennifer will be working on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Emily on Mondays and Thursdays. They can both be reached at info@cawn.org.

2. CAWN CAMPAIGNS

• **Violence Against Women Update**

Following the November conference on femicides in Mexico and Central America, CAWN has been working in partnership with other European-based organisations to raise these issues at the EU level, in particular around the current Spanish presidency and its bi-regional relations. As part of our campaign on stopping femicides and impunity, during the recent EU – LAC Madrid Summit, CAWN,

among other organisations, lobbied for the inclusion of the commitment of tackling VAW as part of the Summit conclusions. This was a success, as a condemnation of all forms of gender-based violence was included in paragraph 9 of the VI European Union - Latin America and Caribbean Summit, Madrid Declaration.

3. CAWN PUBLICATIONS

CAWN publications are available to download from our website. For a hard copy, please email info@cawn.org with your full contact details. Please feel free to distribute our research amongst your contacts, networks, and beneficiaries.

- ***Feminicidio: Un fenomeno global. De Lima a Madrid (May 2010)****

This report by CAWN and the Heinrich Boll Foundation aims to give an up to date regional perspective on the situation of femicide in Latin America. The publication includes articles by women activists, human rights defenders, academics and civil society representatives from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Belgium and the UK.

* Only available in Spanish

- ***Tourism and Development Strategy in Central America: exploring the impact on women's lives (March 2010)***

This briefing paper by Lucy Ferguson presents the findings of research undertaken between 2005-2008 to analyse the impact of tourism on women's lives in Central America. Ferguson draws parallels between the tourism and maquila sectors and suggests that such work may be aggravating existing gender inequalities in Central American societies.

4. CAWN EVENTS

- ***WIDE Annual Conference 'Migration in the context of Globalisation: Women's Human Rights at Risk? 3 -5 June 2010, Bucharest, Romania.***

This conference aims to create a space for inclusive and critical dialogues on how, in times of crisis, migration, trade, economic

development and globalisation impact women's lives. It will critically assess EU policies around migration and will set out recommendations to strengthen the advocacy work of the Civil Society organisations.

For more information go to <http://www.wide-network.org/>

During the conference, CAWN and the Latin American Women's Rights Services (LAWRS) will hold a workshop on "*How does migration lead to different forms of violence against women and reinforce existing oppressive practices against migrant women in different spheres?*" For more information on this workshop, please contact us.

- ***CAWN & LAWRS capacity building day, Hillcroft College, 12th June***

Both organisations will discuss the opportunities and obstacles involved in mainstreaming the Latin American women's rights agenda in the UK. This is part of CAWN's efforts to work in collaboration with other organisations to support the work of Latin American Women.

- ***3rd Conference: Femicide in Latin America. No more killings of women! Office of the European Parliament in Madrid, Spain (12 May 2010).***

Just few days before the EU-LAC Summit, CAWN, in association with Heinrich Boll Stiftung, ACSUR las Segovias and in particular, the MEP Raul Romera i Rueda, hosted this conference to address the phenomenon of femicide at the European Parliament and to provide the EU with the appropriate tools to support LAC governments in the prevention of femicide and end of impunity.

We were honoured to welcome many esteemed speakers, including Ms Rashida Manjoo, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Juan Duarte Cuadrado, Director of the Human Rights Office, Ministry of External Affairs of Spain, Andrea Medina Rosas, CLADEM (Latin American and the Caribbean Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights), Gilda Rivera, Director of the Women's Rights Centre Honduras (CDM); Rosa Celorio, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, among others.

- ***Launch of CAWN's research on feminist debates of linking VAW and poverty.***

This forthcoming research project, will focus on comparing key elements of the European, UK and Latin American feminist movements and considering how poverty links these elements

into the Central American context. The Honduras launch will take place in July, and the London launch will take place on the 1st October. More detailed information on these events will be released at a later date.

5. CENTRAL AMERICA NEWS UPDATES

• Judges removed from the Supreme Court of Honduras for criticising coup d'etat

Source: Human Rights Watch (19th May 2010)

The Supreme Court of Honduras has ousted 3 judges (Ramon Enrique Barrios, Luis Alonzo Chevez de la Rocha and Guillermo Lopez Lone), a magistrate (Thirza del Carmen Flores Lanza) and a public defender (Osman Fajardo Morel) who faced disciplinary proceedings for criticising the coup d'etat last June. 10 of the 15 judges sitting on the court voted in favour of ousting their colleagues, who all belonged to the Association of Judges for Democracy, which fights for the independence of the judiciary and its depoliticization. Two of the judges and the public defender were accused of participating in protests against the coup, one was accused of filing a legal motion in favour of President Zelaya, and the other of publishing an article in which he argued that the overthrow of Zelaya was a coup and not a 'constitutional succession' as claimed.

For the full article, see:

<http://www.hondurasnews.com/2010/05/19/press-release-human-rights-watch-hrw-honduras>

• First female President of Costa Rica promises to improve conditions for women

Source: El Mundo America (9th May 2010)

Laura Chinchilla, who takes her place as elected President of Costa Rica this month, will be the 10th woman to be elected to the position of head of state in the Americas, and only the 3rd to be democratically elected in Central America. According to reports by El Mundo en America, Chinchilla plans to appoint women to 50% of the roles in her cabinet, in key areas such as Agriculture, Business, Economy, Science and Technology, Health and Sports. In an interview with 'Efe' last February, Chinchilla remarked that "poverty has the face of a woman" in Latin America, and promised to fight to improve conditions at the next regional summits. According to Mayra Diaz of the Costa Rican government's National Institute for Women, the rise of women in politics in Costa Rica is due to

a 2009 quota law that requires a minimum of 50% of all candidates in elections to the national parliament to be women. At the moment Costa Rica, Honduras and Panama are the only Central American countries to have such a quota in place.

For the full article in Spanish, see:

<http://www.elmundo.es/america/2010/05/08/noticias/1273342904.html>

• Government data on maternal mortality rate in Nicaragua is questioned

Source: IPS News (21st April 2010)

NGOs in Nicaragua, including the Autonomous Women's Movement and the Network of Women against Violence are questioning data released by the government on the maternal mortality rate. Whilst government statistics state that the maternal mortality rate is down to 90 per 100,000 live births (from 140 in 2006), official WHO statistics put the rate at 170 per 100,000 live births, as do estimates by Human Rights Watch. Commentators have also taken into account that the 2006 law banning therapeutic abortions forces many families not to enter into the health system, as a result of which many maternal deaths are simply not registered.

For the full article, see

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=51141>

• Femicides are the tip of the iceberg when it comes to violence against women

Source: Género con Clase (21st May 2010)

Marcela Lagarde, founder of the Commission Against Femicide, and credited with coining the term 'femicide', states in an interview in the latest edition of Género con Clase that "femicides are the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the daily forms of violence perpetrated against women". Marcela defines femicide as "misogynous crimes based on large scale social tolerance of gender based violence, of which the state forms an active part and contributes to the impunity of perpetrators". She argues that a fundamental element of this problem is caused by the action and inaction of the state in terms of not only tolerating these crimes, but also creating a climate of impunity, based on the inherent social, political and economic inequalities between men and women. Within this, violence against women is seen as a method of domination and control.

To read the Spanish version of the article in full, see

<http://www.adital.com.br/site/noticia.asp?lang=E&cod=47981>

- **UN Special Rapporteur on right to health calls on improvements from Guatemala**

Source: OCHCR (18th May 2010)

During his recent mission to Guatemala, the UN Special Rapporteur on right to health monitored women's health issues, with a focus on sexual and reproductive health. He stated that "The incidence of violent crime directed against women is increasing annually, unlike maternal mortality. These numbers suggest the existence of deep-seated gender inequalities and hatred that clearly affect the rights to health and life of women in Guatemala." He called on the Guatemalan government to increase investment in primary health care, on the basis that "violence against women does not just include physical violence, but also structural violence, resulting in preventable deaths during pregnancy, a problem that disproportionately impacts indigenous communities."

To see the statement in full, go to

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=10050&LangID=E>

- **Mesoamerican Women's Human Rights Defenders release statement**

Source: Just Associates (25th May 2010)

The final statement of the Mesoamerican Women Human Rights Defenders has been released following their meeting in Oaxaca, Mexico from the 23rd-25th April 2010. In the statement, the diverse group of women's human rights defenders demands respect for its work and commitment from society to the eradication of all forms of discrimination. It also demands that governments in Mesoamerica stop violence against all women activist and human rights defenders and, through education, encourage non-discrimination and gender equality. It demands that the Inter-American system and the UN take actions including publicly reprimanding states that commit violence against women activists and human rights defenders.

For the full article, see

<http://www.awid.org/eng/Women-in-Action/Announcements2/Final-Statement-Meeting-of-Mesoamerican-Women-Human-Rights-Defenders>

6. OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- **Violence across borders: Familism, hegemonic masculinity, and self-sacrificing femininity in the lives of Mexican and Peruvian migrants, M. Christina Alcalde.**

This article focuses on the experiences of intimate partner violence of intranational migrants in Lima, Peru and international undocumented Mexican migrants in Austin, Texas. The author employs a feminist and ecological approach to suggest that a richer understanding of domestic violence among Latin American women can be achieved through an analysis of the roles of familism, hegemonic masculinity, and self-sacrificing femininity as values that inform Mexican and Peruvian women's lives.

To access the full article go to

<http://www.palgrave-journals.com/lst/journal/v8/n1/abs/lst200944a.html>

7. UPCOMING EVENTS & CONFERENCES

- **Play: 'Ruined' by Lynn Nottage. 15th April - 5th June 2010 at the Almeida Theatre, London N1 1TA**

Amnesty International is working in partnership with the Almeida Theatre to bring to London the European premiere of Ruined, which won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Drama. Set in a war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo, the play explores the impact of conflict on women. Playwright Lynn Nottage was inspired by interviews conducted in Africa with female Congo refugees.

For more information and to book tickets visit http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?ID=1502

- **'Women, Power and Politics Season' 4th June -17th July at The Tricycle Theatre, London NW6 7JR.**

This season seeks to look at the complexity of women and political power in the UK and internationally. The Tricycle has commissioned a number of playwrights to respond to this issue through history to the present day. Some performances will include post-performance discussions, and there will also be an exhibition of archive materials, photography and video works celebrating women who have made a positive political impact over the last century. In addition to this, there will be some international films, including 'La Hija Del General', which focuses on Michelle Bachelet, the first women president of Chile.

For more information and to book tickets go to <http://www.tricycle.co.uk/>

• **Measuring Up? UK compliance with international commitments on violence against women.** Tuesday 22nd June 2010, 9.00 - 17.00 at Hamilton House, London

This conference, held by Rights of Women, will assess how the UK measures up to its commitments under international law to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women. Speakers at this event will include leading women's experts from the Women's National Commission and the UN Division for the Advancement of Women.

For more information go to

<http://www.rightsofwomen.org.uk/current.php>

• **'Intersecting Inequalities. Women and Social Policy in Peru, 1990-2000'. Jelke Boesten, University of Leeds.**

Friday 15th October 2010, 17.00 - 19.30 at Senate House, London WC1E 7HU.

Ms Boesten will speak about her book, 'Intersecting Inequalities', which examines the policies of the Peruvian government from 1990-2000 in the areas of poverty relief, population control and domestic violence, analysing them in terms of the relationship between gender/race/class/ethnic divisions and the state in its project of nation building. Her investigation revealed that policies intended to further women's development and emancipation often reproduced the marginality they were supposed to fight.

For more information visit

<http://americas.sas.ac.uk/events.php>
