

CAWN



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

Electronic Bulletin – Winter 2010

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1. CAWN news

- **Highly successful U.K. launch**

The recent launch of CAWN's latest research report, *Intersecting Violences: A review of feminist theories and debates on violence against women and poverty in Latin America*, at the Congress Centre in London was a great success.



The engaging panel of speakers reflected the full spectrum of people working with VAW and women's poverty and the increasing visibility and recognition of these issues in the global arena.



Attendees of the event included Ambassadors and diplomatic staff, academics, members of the press, CAWN's supporters and representatives from national and international women's organisations.

The research is available to download along with the report of the event at www.cawn.org.

- **Spreading the word at Feminism in London**



Over one thousand women and men attended this inspiring and empowering event. Katherine Ronderos spoke on the panel of the Global Women's Movement which presented the experiences and activism of the women's movement worldwide. Her speech received excellent feedback and a transcript is available from fil.londonfeministnetwork.org.uk/feminism-in-london-2010/katherine-ronderos-speech.

Our stall at the event attracted new supporters, developed further solidarity with the women's movement in the U.K., and generated wider interest in our research and publications.

- **Next stage of the violence against women research project is underway**

CAWN is developing an interactive tool which will complement the recently released theoretical research. It aims to increase awareness of violence against women and the work that is being done at the grassroots level by the women's movement in Latin America to tackle this pervasive issue.

- **Join our Management Committee**

We are currently seeking to strengthen our work by recruiting new members for our Management Committee. Ideal candidates will have a commitment to women's rights, knowledge of Latin America, gender and development issues, and relevant experience in the voluntary or not-for-profit sector and/or finance and fundraising. If you are interested in applying please send your CV and cover letter to info@cawn.org.

For a full description of the role and person specification, go to cawn.org/html/involved.htm. Please ensure that applications are received no later than 25th January 2011 in order to be considered.

- **Hellos and goodbyes**

CAWN would like to welcome our new interns, Laura Ouseley and Olivia Kirkpatrick. We would also like to say farewell to Virginia Lopez Calvo and wish her all the best.

2. CAWN campaigns

- **Gender and Development Network (GADN) violence against women toolkit**

As a member of the GADN working group on violence against women, CAWN has been actively supporting the production of an advocacy toolkit that seeks to raise the public profile of violence against women. It will make the facts about violence against women and the actions being taken to tackle the issue on a global scale more accessible to a wider audience. The toolkit will be launched on 25th November to coincide with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and will be distributed by CAWN and other GADN members.

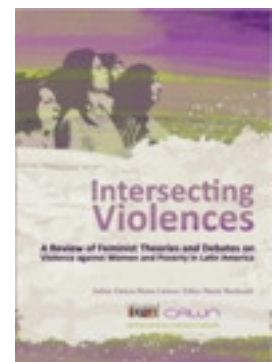
3. CAWN publications

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.

- **Intersecting Violences: A review of feminist theories and debates on violence against women and poverty in Latin America (October 2010)**

This report, commissioned by CAWN, seeks to better understand and challenge the multiple interlinking factors that perpetuate violence against women and women's poverty in Latin America.

The report is available to download from our website www.cawn.org in English and Spanish.



4. CAWN events

- **Speaker Tour 2011**

Our annual speaker tour will take place during the last week of March and the first week of April next year*. Two community leaders from CEMH, our partner organisation in Honduras, will be hosting public meetings and speaking at universities across the U.K., including Bristol, Glasgow and the Institute for the Study of the Americas, to raise awareness of their campaigns and work with women at the grassroots level. This is a great opportunity to meet women who are active in the women's movement in Central America.

The events will be free to attend and open to all members of the public. Further information will be released closer to the time.

*exact dates to be confirmed

5. Central America updates

- **Guatemala: International and national organisations unite against violence towards women**

Source: elPeriodico, 15th November 2010

To commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which is on 25th November, the UN, Guatemala's Presidential Women's Secretary and the UN Population Fund have joined forces to declare "Guatemala: no more violence against women". Their aim is to increase awareness and understanding amongst the general public that violence against women, especially interfamilial violence, is not natural and should not be accepted and that there is existing legislation that should be used to protect women and punish perpetrators of these types of violence. The important role of men in ending violence against women is also highlighted.

For the full article, in Spanish only, go to:

elperiodico.com.gt/es/20101115/pais/182471

- **Honduras: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights is concerned by levels of violence in Honduras**

Source: Honduras en lucha! 4th November 2010

Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed his concern about to

the levels of violence in Honduras, in particular with regard to the journalists that have been murdered. In this year alone at least ten journalists have been killed and many others have had to flee the country after receiving death threats. General violence caused by drug trafficking and organised crime were also mentioned as causes of grave concern.

For the full article, only in Spanish, go to:

hondurasenlucha.blogspot.com/2010/11/alta-comisionada-de-onu-preocupada-por.html

- **Honduras: Femicide campaign draws international jurists to Honduras**

Source: hondurasweekly, 4th November 2010

A team of international jurists arrived in Honduras to meet with representatives of government agencies and women's organisation involved in a regional justice campaign. The advocacy effort is aimed at combating femicide in Central America; in Honduras, 350 femicides have been registered this year alone and many of these cases will remain unsolved, the perpetrators once again going unpunished.

For the full article go to:

hondurasweekly.com/national/3048-femicide-campaign-draws-foreign-jurists-to-honduras

- **Nicaragua: Nicaragua is elected member of the UN Economic and Social Council**

Source: UN General Assembly Press Release, 25th October 2010

On the 25th October, Nicaragua was elected by the General Assembly as a member of the Economic and Social Council along with seventeen other states. One of the priorities of this council is the fulfilment of the MDGs and Nicaragua will be playing an important role in working towards achieving this objective.

The three-year term will begin on 1st January 2011.

For more detailed information go to:

un.org/News/Press/docs/2010/ga11014.doc.htm

- **Nicaragua: Nicaraguan women seek to restore legal abortion**

Source: AWID, 11th October 2010

A sample of the 37,000 signatures collected in Europe by Amnesty International activists acting in solidarity with Nicaraguan women was delivered to the Nicaraguan government demanding the restoration of therapeutic abortion which was banned in 2006. The prohibition of therapeutic abortion has led to the unnecessary deaths of many women in

Nicaragua and the call for its decriminalisation is supported by physicians, women's groups, human rights groups and international organisations.

For the full article go to: awid.org/eng/Issues-and-Analysis/Library/Nicaraguan-Women-Seek-to-Restore-Legal-Abortion

- **Mexico: Indigenous women raped by soldiers find justice at Inter-American Court of Human Rights**

Source: IPS, 5th October, 2010

Two women from the indigenous Me'phaa group in the Mexican state of Guerrero have finally found justice after almost a decade of struggle. In 2002, Valentina Rosendo and Ines Fernandez were raped in two separate incidents by groups of soldiers. After reporting the abuses to the Mexican justice system had little effect, the cases were brought before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights which found the Mexican state guilty of failing to protect the women's rights. Both women have been harassed, received death threats and been ostracised by neighbours because they are victims of rape. Having received a public apology from the state, recognition of the risk to women in the region, and damages and compensation they now hope to be able to return to their communities and for life to eventually be able to go on as normal.

For the full article go to:

ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=53069

6. other publications

- **The Women's World 2010: Trends and Statistics, United Nations Statistics Division, October 2010**

Although progress towards gender equality has been made in some areas, such as school enrolment and economic participation, this report shows that much more needs to be done in critical areas such as power and decision-making and violence against women.

unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/Worldswomen/WW2010pub.htm

- **Violations of Women's Human Rights in Guatemala: Recommendations for the List of Issues to the Guatemalan Government, MADRE et al., October 2010**

Recently submitted to the UN Human Rights Committee, this report highlights concerning systematic failures in Guatemala to respect and

protect women's rights and allowing chronic impunity to persist. It focuses on the key areas of femicide, violence and political discrimination against indigenous women and human rights violations within the *maquilas*.

For the full report in English:

www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/docs/ngos/MADRE_Guatemala100.pdf

Para el informe en español:

www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/docs/ngos/MADRE_Guatemala100_sp.pdf

- **Global Gender Gap Report 2010, World Economic Forum, October 2010**

Bringing together five years' worth of data, this report shows that whilst many countries are improving, inequality between women and men is worsening in 14% of the world.

www.weforum.org/en/Communities/Women%20Leaders%20and%20Gender%20Parity/GenderGapNetwork/index.htm

7. upcoming events and conferences

- **25th November is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**

It also marks the start of 16 Days of Activism. To find out what events are planned in your area or to organise your own event go to: 16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu

- **EXHIBITION: 400 Women**

12-28th November, Tues-Sun, 6-9pm
Shoreditch Town Hall Basement

A project conceived by artist Tamsyn Challenger, bringing together the work of 200 exceptional artists, in response to the murder and rape of more than 400 women in the U.S. border town of Ciudad Juárez, Mexico.

400women.tumblr.com

- **MEETING: Provision, Protection and Prevention – UN International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women**

23rd November, 5:30-8pm

Room 4A, House of Lords, Westminster, London
The Millennium Group has organised this meeting, hosted by Lord King of West Bromwich with a panel of international speakers including Baroness Verma, of Leicester the government spokesperson for International Development and Women and Equalities, to discuss topics

including the harsh realities of domestic violence around the family, female genital mutilations (FGM) here in the UK and honour killings.

To register, email: millenniumgthree@gmail.com

- **INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR: Human Rights Defenders Under Threat in Latin America**

25th November, 9am-6pm

Círculo de Bellas Artes (Sala María Zambrano), Calle Alcalá, 42, Madrid

A day of discussion, debate and workshops on the topics of human rights defenders in Latin America, UN resolution 1325 and other tools to protect women in conflict zones

To register, contact: comunicacion@aieti.es

- **CONFERENCE: WOMANKIND Conference**

25th November, 10am-4pm

The Abbey Centre, 34 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BU

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women WOMANKIND is hosting an inspiring and practical event to discuss the role of schools to stop violence against women and girls. Tim Loughton, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Children and Families will be speaking and there will be additional contributions from Dr Claire Maxwell, Institute of Education, University of London, Young people and teachers.

To book your place email Moya Wilkie: Moya@womankind.org.uk

- **CONFERENCE: Violence Against Women**

25-26th November

Hilton Hotel, Salon Louise, Brussels

A selection of leaders, parliamentarians, experts, academics, NGOs and international organisations active in the field of combating violence against women will be discussing and debating various aspects of this issue at this two day event.

For further information and to register:

www.violence-registration.net

- **MARCH: Reclaim the Night – London**

27th November, 6pm

Assemble in Whitehall Place for women-only march through London to mixed rally and party at Camden Centre, Euston

Join with women around the world to mark the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women by taking back the streets of London for the national, annual

women's march against rape and male violence in all its forms.

www.reclaimthenight.org

- **THEATRE: How I Became an Asylum Seeker**

28th November, 3pm

Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, London, W6 9RL

Performed and produced by Women Asylum Seekers Together Manchester, this play by Lydia Besong and directed by Magdalen Bartlett tells the true story of a woman who flees persecution in Africa to seek refuge in the U.K.

For further information and to book:

www.riversidestudios.co.uk

- **FILM: The Day I Will Never Forget**

1st December, 6:45pm

Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Yard Inn, London, EC2A 3EA

A gripping feature documentary by acclaimed filmmaker Kim Longinotto that examines the practice of female genital mutilation in Kenya and the pioneering African women who are bravely reversing the tradition. The film will be followed by Q&A with Naana Otoo-Oyortey from FORWARD and Lisa Gormley from Amnesty's International Secretariat.

For further information and to book:

amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?ID=1710

- **CONFERENCE & AGM: Facing Our Future, Women's Resource Centre**

7th December, 9am – Conference, 5pm – AGM

Cass Business School, 106 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8TZ

This annual conference will address the crucial topics that the women's sector is facing and will cover everything from social media to social enterprise; speakers and panellists will be from across the women's, voluntary and community sectors.

For further information and to book:

www.wrc.org.uk