



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

June 2009
ELECTRONIC BULLETIN



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1. CAWN NEWS

• CAWN Research 2009 'Feminist Debates to address Violence against Women and Poverty'

CAWN has now recruited a Research Consultant for our latest Research project to be published in **November 2009**. Our partner organisation CEM-H (Centro de Estudios de la Mujer –Honduras), requested support from CAWN to prepare a report that presents an analysis of the main theoretical discussions and feminist debates about patriarchy, gender relations and violence and the links to poverty within the current economic system. A theoretical framework will also be useful for CAWN to assist us in our analysis of the issue of violence in Central America and to link the debates to our practical findings on the ground through the CEM-H project results. The report will be published in English and translated into Spanish for women in Central America, and will be an advocacy tool in the UK and internationally.

Please check the CAWN website (www.cawn.org) later in the year for further details.

• CAWN joins BOND

CAWN has joined BOND (British Overseas NGOs for Development) in its February 2009 membership round. We are very pleased to become part of BOND having worked with them for many years. We are also delighted to be featured as the 'Network Spotlight' of the June/July 2009 Issue 86 of 'The Networker', BOND's bi-monthly magazine.

See www.bond.org.uk for further information on the organisation.

• WIDE Annual Conference 2009

CAWN representatives will be attending this year's WIDE (Women in Development Europe) conference on the care economy and domestic work from the 18-20th June 2009 in Basel, Switzerland. CAWN aims to develop future programmes and network with other feminist organisations working in this field.

For more information on the conference see: <http://www.wide-network.ch/index.php>

2. CAWN CAMPAIGNS

CAWN is continuing its efforts to research, publish and campaign on the work of Central American women's organisations for the promotion and defence of women's rights, as well as supporting initiatives to influence policy and decision-makers for better and more sustainable services, policies and institutions for women.

During 2009, CAWN is focusing on the phenomenon of Femicide as part of our Violence against Women programme, following the success of our latest research report 'The Response of International Aid Agencies to Violence against Women in Central America – The Case of Honduras' and the March Speaker Tour.

CAWN has recently published a Newsletter focusing upon Femicide and will be holding two international seminars on the subject later in the year. CAWN will be publishing a new Research report in November 2009 entitled 'Feminist Debates to address Violence Against Women and Poverty'.

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.

• CAWN Newsletter Spring 2009

The theme of this edition is the phenomenon of Femicide in Meso America. It features articles by women activists from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, who have been campaigning for the creation and implementation of appropriate legislation and institutions for these crimes in the region. In a context of state impunity, it is extremely important to support and raise awareness of the responses of women's organisations.

The newsletter is available to download from the CAWN website (www.cawn.org).

4. CAWN EVENTS

• CAWN Seminar on Femicide 2009

1. Honduras: 13-14 July 2009

2. London, Brussels, Madrid: November 2009

CAWN and its partner organisation CEM-H are holding two international seminars on Femicides in Meso America. Women's activists from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras will be speaking in Tegucigalpa, London Brussels and Madrid to share their work and experiences of tackling this issue with their national governments and institutions, the media, the education system and the general public. Please check the CAWN website (www.cawn.org) later in the year for further details.

5. CENTRAL AMERICA NEWS UPDATES

• Indigenous Latin Americans mobilise to defend their rights

Source: Oxfam (29 May 2009)

More than 2,000 Latin American indigenous people met to discuss and debate their proposals to defend their right to land on 27-31 May in Puno, Peru for a series of three summits, including the Fourth Continental Indigenous Peoples Summit, the First Indigenous Women Summit, and the Second Meeting of Childhood and Youth. Delegations of natives from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico among other countries participated. For full article see:

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/pressroom/pressreleases/2009-05-29/indigenous-latin-americans-mobilize-defend-rights>

• Let's stop women's suffering

Source: The Boston Globe (4 June 2009)

Human Rights organisations around the world are starting to demand that governments recognise preventable maternal death as a violation of women's rights. More than one woman dies every minute from preventable causes in childbirth, and for every woman who dies as many as 30 others are left with lifelong, debilitating complications. However we know what is needed to save women's lives. The reason that women are still dying is because women's lives are not valued, because their

voices are not listened to, and because they are discriminated against and excluded in their communities and by healthcare systems that fail to prioritise their needs. Human rights organisations such as Amnesty International, which has just launched a global campaign to reduce maternal mortality, are calling on governments to acknowledge that these utterly preventable deaths reflect widespread indifference to women's suffering and pervasive disregard for their fundamental human rights.

For full article see:

http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2009/06/04/lets_stop_womens_suffering/

• **Towards the Full Participation of Women in El Salvador**

Source: UNDEF (4 June 2009)

Women continue to be severely under-represented in elected positions in El Salvador, despite the considerable contributions they have made to rebuild the country almost 20 years after the end of its 12-year civil war. At the same time, women in politics can provide an entry-point to greater consensus-building in El Salvador, which remains a highly polarised society.

With UNDEF support, the Association of Salvadoran Women Parliamentarians and ex-Parliamentarians, ASPARLEXSAL, is conducting a project to correct a gender imbalance whereby currently, women make up 53 per cent of the electorate, yet occupy only 14 of the 84 seats in the Legislative Assembly. With the recent victory of FMLN in general elections after 20 years of ARENA Government, and the presidential handover on 3rd June 2009, the country is undergoing yet another crucial and challenging transition on its journey to build and consolidate a functioning democracy.

For full article see:

<http://www.un.org/democracyfund/XNewsSalvadorasparlexsal.htm>

For further information in Spanish see:

<http://boletinadignas.blogspot.com/2009/06/donde-están-las-mujeres-en-el-nuevo.html>

6. OTHER PUBLICATIONS

• **Documentary debunks myth that alcohol makes men violent to women**

Source: Yuvaz (19 April 2009)

The film documentary produced by Northern Michigan University features compelling stories

from four survivors, and additional insights from professionals in domestic violence, substance abuse and policing. The survivors featured in "Alcohol and Men's Violence against Women" hope that other women will not accept alcohol as an excuse for violence, or the suggestion that stopping drinking may render abuse history, from now on. Even though all these factors reinforce the fact that alcohol may be a contributing factor, the root cause of abuse seems to be a man's need to control. The DVD includes the 30-minute documentary and 30 minutes of special features offering advice and information on learned behaviour, substance abuse therapy, success stories and responses from law enforcement and ER nurses. It has both English and Spanish language options.

For full article see:

<http://yuvaz.com/blog/documentary-debunks-myth-that-alcohol-makes-men-violent-to-women/>

For details on how to purchase see:

www.nmubookstore.com

• **Human Rights Abuses against Transgender People in Honduras**

Source: Human Rights Watch (29 May 2009)

The 45-page Human Rights Watch report "*Not Worth a Penny*" details abuses based on gender identity and expression, including rape, beatings, extortion, and arbitrary detentions by law enforcement officials. It also documents police inaction and recurrent failure to investigate violence against transgender people. At least 17 travestis (as many transgender people are called) have been killed in public places in Honduras since 2004. None of these killings have led to a prosecution or conviction.

To view full report see:

<http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2009/05/28/not-worth-penny>

7. UPCOMING EVENTS & CONFERENCES

• **Feminism in London 2009**

Saturday 10 October 2009, 9.30-5pm

Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1R 4RL

One day conference organised by London Feminist Network. The day will feature some of the many feminist activist groups that are campaigning in and around London. There will be talks, workshops and a chance to network. If

you are a woman or a pro-feminist man, come along to join the discussion.

Tickets: £4.50 waged, £2.50 unwaged (pay on the door)

£1 discount if you register in advance

To book online email:

feminismlondon@yahoo.co.uk

For further information see:

http://www.fil.btik.com/p_Home.ikml

• **CODA International Training – AGM & Open Meeting**

Thursday 11th June 2009, 6.30-9.30 pm

The Community Hall, St Anne's, Soho, 55 Dean Street, London, W1D 6AF

This year CODA celebrates 20 years of working alongside community groups and promoting citizen's participation. They have invited two speakers from Nicaragua to speak at their AGM to share their experiences, their work in promoting greater inclusive education and their struggles to achieve better and more sustainable services, policies and institutions. The meeting and presentations will be followed with discussions about Nicaragua and the challenges faced by disabled children and their families. We will also be showing the film *Whose Agenda Is It Anyway?* Drinks and snacks will be provided.

To book at place or for further information email: jhaddon@codainternational.org.uk; or call: 020 7561 483. RSVP no later than June 5th

• **NSC June 2009 Speaker Tour of Karina Gomez, Young Nicaraguan Trade Union Activist**

Presentation/Discussion:

Liverpool: **Tuesday 9th June 2009**

El Rincon Latino, corner Roscoe/Oldham Street, Liverpool, L1 2SU

NSCAG/UNISON evening of discussion on youth work, trade unionism and activism.

For more information call: 07722 061 551 or email jazjackson28@hotmail.com

Benefit Gig:

London: **Saturday 13th June, 7.00 pm**

Brixton Jamm, 261 Brixton Road, Brixton, SW9 6LH

RMT Young Members Present a Nicaragua Benefit Gig with Karina Gomez as guest speaker, live acts Oggie, The Ace, Red Venom and Melody Boytoy and On the Decks Dirty Needlez DJs from www.flavourradio.com Skelly B and Locky Stylez with MC Flowz.

Tickets: £5 in advance, £7.50 on the door

For further information contact NSCAG on 020 7561 4836 or see:

<http://www.brixtonjamm.org/events/2009-06-13>

UNISON conference:

Brighton: **15th- 18th June 2009**

For further information contact 020 7561 4836 or nscag@nicaraguasc.org.uk.
