



**central america women's network**  
promoting women's rights and gender equality  
[www.cawn.org](http://www.cawn.org)

**March 2010**  
**ELECTRONIC BULLETIN**



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### 1. CAWN NEWS

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#### • Update on CAWN's visit to Honduras

CAWN staff member, Katherine Ronderos, visited Honduras in January as part of the monitoring process of the programme on violence against women. Despite the calm, the departure of Manuel Zelaya to the Dominican Republic and the installation of the newly elected president Porfirio Lobo, the situation in Honduras is still fragile. Violence against women continues and the numbers of femicides are on the rise. Local Networks of Feminist Expression – previously, Feminist in Resistance- are now working for justice against the human rights violations, in particular against the sexual violence which occurred when the de-facto government was in power. A report they presented to the Interamerican Human Rights Court in November 2009 highlighted the need for prevention and protection measures for women, access to justice and reparation of victims and their families. CAWN will continue monitoring and disseminating the development of the reconciliation process in Honduras, the respect of human rights and the elimination of discrimination and violence against women.

#### •CAWN seminar series, 'Extreme forms of Violence against Women: Femicide in Mexico and Central America' a success!

CAWN held this seminar series last November. The three evenings events included a debate at the House of Commons, the screening and panel discussion of the documentary 'Killer's Paradise' and a closing seminar, focused on femicide in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. Combating and educating around this phenomenon, which occurs throughout the world, and is especially prevalent to the women of Central America, is one of CAWN's primary campaigns. CAWN was honoured to have three visiting guest speakers Julia Monarrez of Mexico, Mirta Kennedy of Honduras and Walda Barrios of Guatemala.

### 2. CAWN CAMPAIGNS

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#### • Declaration: State of Women's Rights in Honduras Since the Coup d'Etat

To commemorate Honduran Women's Day on 25<sup>th</sup> January and International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March, Honduran women's organisations published a

Statement which examines the state of women's rights in Honduras since the coup d'etat.

*"In Honduras, the coup d'etat of 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 ruptured the institutional order and caused the advancements achieved for the rights of women to fall back decades...."*

Please click here to do download the entire statement in [English](#).

### 3. CAWN PUBLICATIONS

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- **Briefing Paper: Social Reproduction and Labour Rights: a case study of women workers in Nicaragua**

**By Dr. Marina Prieto-Carrón, February 2010**

This briefing presents the work of the Working and Unemployed Women's Movement Maria Elena Cuadra (MEC), a Nicaraguan women's organisation, and examines the holistic approach they take towards addressing the challenges resulting in women's lives from having to assume the roles of both production and reproduction. This publication analyses women's multiple roles in society from paid worker to care giver in order to challenge the way we view and approach women's labour rights.

To download the full text, please [click here](#).

### 4. CAWN EVENTS

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- **Join CAWN in the Million Women Rise 6<sup>th</sup> March, 12:00pm**

This year is the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day and up to 10,000 women are expected to march in London with Million Women Rise. Last year we participated in the march with our Honduran partner organisation. This year we will be marching again and we hope you will join us. Please email us at [info@cawn.org](mailto:info@cawn.org) for arrangements of just find our banner!

The march begins at 12pm and will be beginning at Park Lane Central London. More information on Million Women Rise is available at <http://www.millionwomenrise.com/>

### 5. CENTRAL AMERICA NEWS UPDATES

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- **Elections in Honduras**

Date: November 30, 2009

Porfirio Lobo was sworn in as president Wednesday, January 27th after triumphing in elections held last November following June's coup. The elections were

widely declared by the western media as a return to democracy. The BBC reported that over 60% of registered voters participated and that 56% supported Lobo. While many continue to doubt the legitimacy of these vote counts, USA Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton declared the elections legitimate and a demonstration of a "commitment to democracy."

Following the election Former President Manuel Zelaya fled from the Brazilian Embassy where he has been exiled since the coup, to the Dominican Republic.

The Honduran de-facto government responded to the ongoing resistance movement with disappearances, torture and assassinations. A well-known LGBT activist involved in the opposition, Walter Trochez, was killed in a drive-by shooting. Threats to participants of the feminist resistance forced many leaders into hiding or fleeing the country.

Lobo's first act as president was to give amnesty to the soldiers, politicians and judges behind the June 28th coup. The day before the ceremony, a judge dismissed all charges against six military commanders implicated in the coup.

See <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/8384874.stm> for more details.

- **The Church Resists as Sex Education classes are made Mandatory in Guatemalan Schools**

Date: December 15, 2009

A law that has been fought by the Guatemalan Church and even the President since 2005 finally came into effect last October only to be faced with yet another legal suit led by Guatemala City Archbishop Rodolfo Quezada. For the first time Guatemala will fight its soaring teen pregnancy rates with sex education classes in public schools. Children as young as 8 years old will be required to take classes, which include gender, masturbation and homosexuality. Besides seeking a Constitutional Injunction to stop these classes the Church is also planning to launch a nation-wide abstinence campaign.

See

<http://www.thebody.com/content/news/art54869.html> for more details

- **Costa Rica elects first woman president**

Date: February 8, 2010

Laura Chinchilla was elected on February 7<sup>th</sup> as Costa Rica's first woman president and the fifth Latin American woman to serve as president joining Nicaragua, Panama, Chile and Argentina. A social conservative, she will take office in May 2010.

See

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/feb/08/costa-rica-elects-first-female-president> for more details.

• **Council of Ministers for Women of Central America meets in Panama**

The Council of Ministers for Women of Central America, composed of ministers for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama and Dominican Republic with Mexico participating as an outside observer, met on 20<sup>th</sup> January in Panama. This is one of a series of meetings to discuss the incorporation of gender issues for the region's Central American Integration System (SICA). See <http://www.sica.int/commca/> for more details

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## 6. OTHER PUBLICATIONS

• **Central American Report Winter 2009**

Source: <http://www.central-america-report.org.uk/?q=content/car-contents-issue-winter-2009>  
This winter's Central American Report highlights a number of important issues including the Women's Resistance Movement against the Honduran coup. The article entitled "Women lead resistance" uses as one of its key sources CAWN's, Katherine Ronderos. The article details some of the many changes to women's rights that have taken place since the coup including sexual aggression by soldiers and a reform agenda that reverses much of the progress to women's sexual and reproductive rights achieved during the Zelaya administration.

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## 7. UPCOMING EVENTS & CONFERENCES

• **Birds Eye View Film Festival**  
**4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> March, London**

Birds Eye View celebrates & supports international women filmmakers. Founded as a short film event in 2002, it launched the UK's first major women's film festival in 2005. This year Birds Eye offers 9 jam packed days, 8 inspired features, 7 penetrating documentaries, 21 visionary shorts, 22 retro movies starring iconic blondes, a top masterclass, vocational training plus filmmakers, musicians & celebrities galore. For tickets, please visit: <http://www.birds-eye-view.co.uk/2014/overview/birds-eye-view-film-festival-2010.html>.

• **Misa Campesina Nicaraguense**  
**7<sup>th</sup> March, 11.15 am, Blackfriars, 64 St. Giles Oxford**

Join Misa Campesina for the 20th year of a special Mass sung each year to celebrate the link between the cities of Oxford and Leon in Nicaragua. The Mass was written by a group of musicians, workers, priests, fishermen and farmers, both men and women, united in their opposition to the Somoza dictatorship. Contact: 01865 559813, [condorvidal@aol.com](mailto:condorvidal@aol.com)

• **TUC Women's Conference**  
**8<sup>th</sup> March, 7:00-10:00pm, TUC Congress Centre, 23-28 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B3LS**

The TUC celebrates International Women's Day both at [TUC Women's Conference](#) and at Congress House. This year the TUC are hosting a huge celebration, with a night of comedy, music, poetry, politics, campaigning and a showcase of the TUC international development work that is empowering women to improve their rights in developing countries. Call 020 8802 3499 to book your tickets.

• **Camb Bridge Peace Event**  
**8<sup>th</sup> March, 12:00pm Victoria Bridge, 12 Victoria Avenue Cambridge, Cambridge, and 1:00pm at Magdalene Bridge, Cambridge**

Women for Women International's JOIN ME ON THE BRIDGE campaign to build bridges of peace and development. Gather on Victoria Bridge and walk to Magdalene Bridge in solidarity with women worldwide. This is a global event with music and speakers. This talk is part of the [Equality & Diversity Events](#) series.

For more information, contact [mybridge@womenforwomen.org](mailto:mybridge@womenforwomen.org)  
[www.womenforwomen.org/bridge](http://www.womenforwomen.org/bridge)

• **Conference marking 40th anniversary of the first Women's Liberation Conference in the UK**  
**March 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, Ruskin College, Walton Street, Oxford OX1**

In 1970, 500 women came together at the first UK Women's Liberation Conference organised at Ruskin College Oxford. The conference built on existing feminist and women's activism and formulated the first four demands of the Women's Liberation Movement. Featuring keynote addresses by Shelia Rowbotham, Beatrix Campbell and others on the changing contexts of feminist and women's activism, creative workshops, panel sessions on key moments and tactics.

For more information and to book your place visit <http://www.wlm40conference.org.uk/>.

• **Mothers March & Speakout**  
**March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:00pm Trafalgar Square/ March to Parliament Square**  
**Westminster, London SW1**

EVERY MOTHER IS A WORKING MOTHER. Mothers make the world go round, but we get neither recognition nor resources, only blame when things go wrong. The work that mothers contribute to society entitles us to every support, including financial. A contingent of fathers and other male carers who support mothers will join the march. Called by Global Women's Strike, Mothers' Campaign of the All African Women's Group and Single Mothers' Self-Defence. ALL WELCOME

For info, to sponsor the march or make a donation please call: (020) 7482 2496

• **Wisewords Book Fest**  
**12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March, 2:00-10:00pm, Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT**

Two days of thrilling, thoughtful, radical and humorous writing by women authors with their latest publications. £12 for one day, £20 for two days. Individual talks before 5pm: £4 / £3 concessions; Individual talks after 5pm: £6 / £5 concessions. For more information click, <http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary/whats-on/events/special-events/wisewords.cfm>

• **Women's Question Time**  
**March 16th, 7:00-8:30pm, The Great Hall, Central Hall Westminster, Storey's Gate, SW1H 9NH**

Your chance to question all potential Women's Ministers on their manifestos for women and girls before the General Election. Confirmed candidates include Theresa May MP (Conservative), Lynne Featherstone MP (Liberal Democrat) and Caroline Lucas MEP (Green). Labour Party candidate and Chair TBC. Members of the audience will have the chance to question candidates and comment on their answers. Entry is free but ticketed. Please RSVP to book your place and obtain your free ticket. Tickets must be shown at the door. To ensure the event runs smoothly, questions must be submitted in advance. Please email RSVPs to [Eaves](mailto:Eaves) and questions to [anna.bowden@eaveshousing.co.uk](mailto:anna.bowden@eaveshousing.co.uk) or call 020 7840 7126.

• **UK Feminista Launch**  
**27<sup>th</sup> March, 11:00 AM-3:00pm, London Metropolitan University, 25 Old Castle Street, London E1 7NT**

Please join UK Feminista for their organisation's launch. **UK Feminista** is a unique new organisation, which aims to support and promote grassroots feminist activism. RSVP to [kat@ukfeminista.org.uk](mailto:kat@ukfeminista.org.uk).

## 8. Announcements

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• **CAWN Management Committee members applications accepted on rolling basis, prompt responses encouraged**

CAWN is currently looking for new members of its Management Committee who will be Co-Directors of the organisation. [Click here](#) to read more information about the role.

• **Becoming a CAWN volunteer**

After the positive community responses to our November 2009 Seminar Series, CAWN is now revamping our volunteer program. CAWN seeks volunteers who would support our work on an 'on call'

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basis, through Translating, Web & Bulletin Contributions, Events, Interpretation, Research, or IT. [Click here](#) for details on opportunities.

• **Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights Campaigner Opening**  
**Application Deadline March 5th**

WGNRR wishes to recruit an experienced CAMPAIGNER to join their international team based in Quezon City.

For Job description and personnel specification, please email [operationsofficer@wgnrr.org](mailto:operationsofficer@wgnrr.org)