



CAWN

Electronic Bulletin

Spring 2011
www.cawn.org

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1. CAWN news

- 1991-2011: 20 years of CAWN!



This year CAWN celebrates 20 years of working to defend and promote the rights of women in Central America. To mark this special occasion we are producing a commemorative film about the dedicated women who have been involved with CAWN and the solidarity and progress of the women's movements in the UK and Central

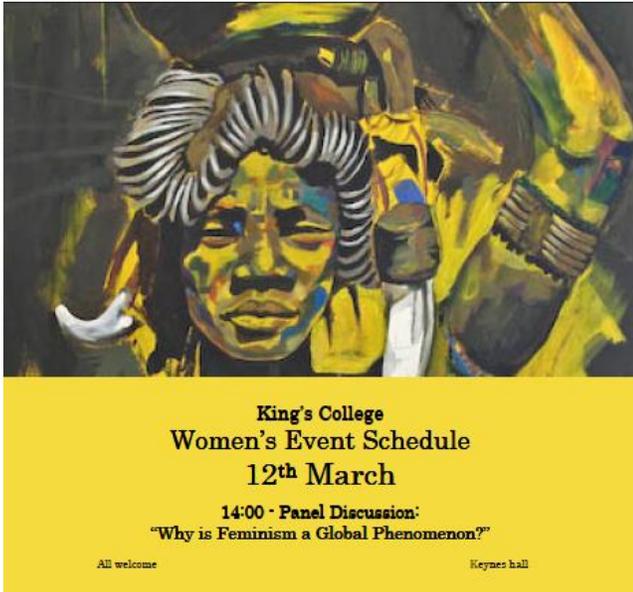
America over the last two decades which will be shown at our anniversary event on 31st March, further event details can be found in the [CAWN events](#) section of this e-bulletin.

- **speaker tour 2011**

We are delighted to be welcoming Evelyn Cuellar and Mercedes Lainez to the UK for our 2011 speaker tour from [29th March to 12th April](#). The women rights activists from our partner organisation in Honduras, CEM-H, will be touring the UK and meeting CAWN supporters, NGOs, the media, students, academics and other women's organisations to raise awareness and discuss the situation of women's rights in Honduras and the Central America region, the struggle to promote and defend women's rights, and the successes and challenges of CEM-H's work. For complete details of the tour, see [speaker tour 2011](#).

- **feminism around the world**

'Why is feminism a global phenomenon?' CAWN's programme and advocacy coordinator, Katherine Ronderos, has been invited to speak on this issue on the panel at King's College Cambridge's prestigious annual Women's Event on 12th March. Full details of the day's events and information on attendance are available [here](#)



- **welcome to CAWN**

CAWN would like to welcome the new members to the Management Committee who are committed to women's rights in Central America. We are looking forward to working with them.

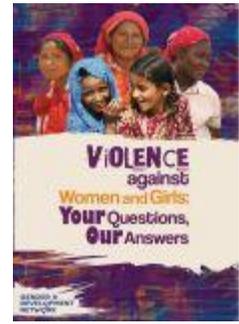
2. CAWN campaigns

- **research project update: toolkit launch**

We are in the final stage of this five-year project investigating the multiple forms of discrimination and oppression that women in Latin America face and the ways these relate to the poverty-violence against women nexus. For this final stage of the project we have developed a toolkit that will showcase examples of good practice of implementing intersectionality approaches in the field. This resource will give continuity to the campaign process and political impact to a new perspective for the creation of public policy with a holistic and inclusive focus in order to eradicate poverty and VAW in Latin America. This resource will be available in CD format and on our website in English and Spanish and will be officially launched at our 20th anniversary event at the HRAC on 31st March.

- **Gender and Development Network: violence against women toolkit**

As a member of the Gender and Development Network, CAWN actively supported the production of an advocacy toolkit to raise the public profile of violence against women on an international scale. It makes the facts about violence against women more accessible and is a valuable resource in increasing awareness of the actions that have been taken to tackle this issue and the struggle to end all types of violence against women.



[Click here](#) to download the booklet.

3. CAWN events

- **20th anniversary celebration**

*Thursday 31st March, 6:30-8:30pm
Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA*

Join us in celebrating this occasion at an evening of talks and discussion with our guest speakers from Honduras, which will be followed by a drinks reception.

To reserve your place at this special event please contact info@cawn.org.

- **million women rise, London 2011**

On [Saturday 5th March](#), CAWN will be uniting with women's groups from around the UK for the annual [Million Women Rise](#) demonstration through central London to call for an end to all forms of violence against women and children. If you would like to show your solidarity for the cause and for further information on how to join CAWN's team at the march, please contact info@cawn.org.

4. speaker tour 2011



Evelyn Cuellar is the Legal Advisor of CAWN and CEM-H's project in Honduras. After initially becoming involved in the self-help groups as a survivor of violence, Evelyn has trained as a Legal Advisor and now accompanies and supports other survivors

of violence through her work with the project and in her community. She is very well-known within the Honduran feminist movement circles, as well as by officials in the judicial system



Mercedes Lainez is a respected community leader who first became involved in the self-help groups as a survivor of violence in 2006. She has subsequently become a facilitator of women's self-

help groups and is an active member of the [Feminists in Resistance](#) movement, with whom she has participated in demonstrations against the military coup and in political advocacy events in defence of women's rights.

- **London**

29th March, 6-8pm

Committee Room 3a, House of Commons, Westminster, London

This public meeting, chaired by Baroness Miller and hosted with the London Feminist Network will focus on femicide and the role of feminists in social transformation.

This meeting is open to all, please contact info@cawn.org if you wish to attend.

31st March, 12.30-2pm

The Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London, Room 104, Senate House, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU

The discussions at this meeting will centre on challenging the multiple forms of violence against women in Honduras. Further details can be found at:

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

This event is open to all and no booking is required, please arrive 15 minutes early to ensure you get a seat.

- **Manchester**

5th April, 5.30-7pm:

University of Manchester, Room MR4, Students' Union, Oxford Road, M13 9PL

In association with the Riveters feminist society, the topics of this talk will be the feminist movement in Honduras and Central America, the role of Feminists in Resistance and the impact of violence against women and issue of femicide.

This event is open to all and no booking is required, please arrive 15 minutes early to ensure you get a seat.

- **St. Andrew's**

8th April, 21:30-22:30

St. Andrew's University, School 3, St Salvador's Quadrangle, Fife, KY16 9AJ

The evening plenary session will cover the current situation of democracy and human rights in Honduras and the impact that the military coup in 2009 has had on women's lives.

This event is open to conference attendees only.

For the complete programme of events go to:

www.slas.org.uk/docs/AnnualLecture_2011_Programme.pdf

To register for the conference [click here](#)

To find out more information about any of these events or to reserve spaces please contact:

info@cawn.org

5. Central America updates

- **Guatemala: Surviving the sexist genocide in Guatemala**

Source: IPS, 8th February, 2011

Guatemala has the highest levels of femicide in the region and recent reports show that last year the alarming trend of an increase in these violent, gender-related killings continued. Despite legally recognising femicide, the Guatemalan state is failing to protect women, and even when they attempt to seek justice through legal processes, widespread impunity deters women from standing up against violence and can worsen their situation. To tackle this, recent educational and informational campaigns have sought to make the gravity of the situation of femicide in particular and violence against women in general more widely known and understood, but there is still much work to be done to halt this lethal violence.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=54404>

- **Nicaragua: Gender revolution in schools not reflected in work**

Source: IPS, 3rd February, 2011

Since 1997, Nicaragua has successfully promoted the incorporation of girls and young women into the education system and today female enrolment rates are higher than male at all levels of education. Despite these positive movements towards gender equality, women in the workplace are still significantly disadvantaged when it comes to equality in economic and labour rights. Women are more likely to work in the informal sector where there is little social protection and high economic vulnerability; even in the formal sector they

receive lower wages, fewer opportunities for promotion and limited decision-making compared with their, often less educated, male counterparts.

<http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=54342>

- **Mexico: The war on drugs' female victims**

Source: *The Guardian*, 24th January, 2011

In December last year, the murder of women's rights activist Marisela Escobedo – a mother who had been fighting for over two years to bring the murderer of her daughter to justice – publicly exposed the impunity with which activists are silenced in Mexico and also highlights the alarming increase in lethal violence against women. Last month another women's rights activist, Susana Chavez, who campaigned to raise awareness of femicide in Ciudad Juarez, was also murdered. This sparked protests throughout Mexico and at Mexican embassies around the world, as well as attracting mounting criticism from the international community. It appears that as general levels of violence in Mexico continue to increase, so too do levels of femicide and violence against women.

www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2011/jan/24/mexico-usa-women?INTCMP=SRCH

Central America: Organised crime in Central America: the rot spreads

Source: *The Economist*, 20th January, 2011

According to recent statistics, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras now constitute one of the most violent regions, with the highest murder rates, in the world. The increase in violence in recent years has been attributed in part to the escalating presence of Mexican drug cartels in Central America which are recruiting young men and women, who have limited prospects, into the drug trade. Tackling the poverty of the region which makes it a prime target for the drug trade would appear to offer a solution yet these three countries receive very little outside aid and political instability in countries such as Honduras makes assistance and external support even harder to come by; as a result it seems likely that this violence is set to continue.

www.economist.com/node/17963313?story_id=17963313

6. other publications

- **El femicidio en Nicaragua: abordaje y propuesta de indicadores para la acción, PATH, 2010 (In spanish only)**

This research report presents information derived from the various studies into femicide that have been carried out in Nicaragua. It incorporates the indicators used by legislatures in Latin America that recognise femicide as a crime with the intention of using these to advance the strengthening of information and registry systems.

[www.alianzaintercambios.org/files/doc/1292610173_FEMICIDIO_PATH-1%20\[28-11-2010\].pdf](http://www.alianzaintercambios.org/files/doc/1292610173_FEMICIDIO_PATH-1%20[28-11-2010].pdf)

- **After the Coup: Ongoing Violence, Intimidation, and Impunity in Honduras, Human Rights Watch, December 2010**

This 65-page report documents the state's failure to ensure accountability for abuses committed under the country's de facto government in 2009. It also records 47 cases of threats or attacks – including 18 killings – against journalists, human rights defenders, and political activists since the inauguration of President Porfirio Lobo in January 2010.

www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/12/21/after-coup-0

- **World Report 2011, Human Rights Watch, January 2011**

This 21st annual World Report summarises human rights conditions in more than 90 countries and territories worldwide. It reflects extensive investigative work undertaken in 2010 by Human Rights Watch staff, usually in close partnership with domestic human rights activists. Individual reports can be downloaded for Guatemala and Honduras and are available in English and Spanish.

www.hrw.org/en/world-report-2011#countries

- **Report of the WIDE Annual Conference, 'Migration in the Context of Globalisation: Women's Human Rights at Risk?' Bucharest, Romania, 3-5 June 2010, Edited by Marilyn Thomson, 2010**

WIDE's 2010 Annual Conference in Bucharest marked the 25th anniversary of the WIDE Network and brought together migrant women and other women from Europe, CIS countries, Latin America, Asia and Africa. During the conference, CAWN and the Latin American Women's Rights Services (LAWRS) held a workshop on migration and different forms of violence. This report brings together the key issues of migration and globalisation as discussed at the conference and presenting the outcomes of this dynamic event.

<http://62.149.193.10/wide/download/AC2010ReportFinal.pdf?id=1338>

7. upcoming events and conferences

- **8th March is International Women's Day**



2011 is the centenary year of annual day where the world celebrates women; find out more about events going on in your local area at:

www.internationalwomensday.com/events.asp

- **CONFERENCE: No more killing of women! Time to put words into action -- fourth conference on feminicide**

3rd March, 1:30-4:30pm - conference; 4:30-6:30pm - strategy meeting

European Parliament - ASP 01G3

Feminicide, the most extreme form of violence against women, is generally linked to discrimination, poverty and patriarchal cultures. It takes place within a context of total impunity and affects many Latin American states. This conference and subsequent strategy meeting will focus on the effects of EU resolutions and guidelines, take stock of implementation of policy and processes, and discuss the role of the EU in measures to tackle feminicide going forward.

To register for this event please download the [attendance form](#) from our website and email it to brussels4@boell.eu by 27th February with 'Feminicide 2011' in the subject heading.

- **COMEDY: Wisewords comedy night**

4th March, 7:30pm

Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, Shoreditch, E1 6LA

Wisewords celebrates women writers, artists and performers; this evening produced by Alternative Arts showcases five of the finest female comics around: Lucy Porter, Ava Vidal, Roisin Conaty, Suzi Ruffell, Carly Smallman.

For further information and to book:

www.richmix.org.uk/comedy-wisewords.htm

- **CAMPAIGN: Join me on the bridge**

8th March

Nationwide/global

Women for Women International's 'Join me on the Bridge' campaign brings women, children and men together on bridges across the world to make a public statement that 'Stronger Women Build Bridges of Peace' and show solidarity and support for women in war-torn areas. For more information on events in your area go to: www.womenforwomen.org/bridge/

- **MEETING: One World Action welcomes UNWomen**

9th March, 6:30-8pm

Committee Room 10, Houses of Parliament

To mark the 100th anniversary International Women's Day, One World Action and Young Fabian Women will be hosting a meeting to discuss the challenges, opportunities and priorities for the new agency with a panel of experts, including: Baroness Glenys Kinnock, Emily Sikazwe, Director of Women for Change, Zambia, Kathy Peach, Head of External Affairs at VSO UK, and Rushanara Ali, MP. For more information and if you would like to attend, please contact:

mwmp@oneworldaction.org

- **THEATRE: Hurried Steps**

9th March, 7pm

Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, Shoreditch, EC2A 3E

Written by Italy's foremost playwright and advocate of women's rights, Dacia Maraini, translated by Sharon Wood, and directed by Nicolette Kay this powerful hour long play tells the true stories of women from around the world who have been victims of violence.

Followed by discussion and audience Q&A. For more information about this FREE event, go to:

www.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?EventsID=1740

- **BREAKFAST: International Women's Day Champagne Breakfast, City of London**

11th March

Guildhall, City of London

This champagne breakfast will raise money for Refuge, a charity that assists women and child victims of domestic violence.

For more information or to sponsor a table contact safercity@cityoflondon.gov.uk or for an individual seat at the event contact Belinda.Harding@city-of-london.pnn.police.uk

- **FAIR: International Women's Fair**

12th March, all day

Spitalfields Traders Market

Celebrate International Women's Day with a wonderful collection of creative women including artists exhibiting paintings and photography, handmade crafts, books, fashion designers, music, poetry, participatory workshops, fabulous food and great entertainment.

For more information go to:

www.alternativearts.co.uk

- **CONFERENCE: Women reaching Women Conference 2011**

12th April, 11am-4pm

The Commonwealth Club, 25 Northumberland Avenue, London WC2N 5AP

The conference will showcase the work the WI, Oxfam and The Everyone Foundation have been doing over the past three years. Speakers will include Ruth Bond, Chair of NFWI, Barbara Stocking, Chief Executive of Oxfam GB, members of the current government and the Honduran women's rights activists from our partner organisation CEM-H. The conference will also be an opportunity to share key lessons from the project on how to engage the wider public on these issues in a way that inspires, informs and empowers.

For further information go to:

www.thewi.org.uk/standard.aspx?id=12134

To confirm your attendance at the conference

email: s.mason@nfwl.org.uk

- **FESTIVAL: Southbank Women of the World -- WOW -- Festival**

11th-13th March

Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX

Launching this year, Women of the World, WOW is a joyous celebration of the formidable strength and inventiveness of women. This festival will present, recognise and celebrate women, and act as a conversation space for issues of all kinds. For full listings of events and how to book go to:

www.southbankcentre.co.uk/find/festivals-series/wow-%E2%80%93-women-of-the-world-0

- **FILM: Pink Saris**

15th March, 7pm

Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, Shoreditch, EC2A 3E

Amnesty International UK's Women's Action Network hosts a screening of this film about Sampat Pal's all-women vigilante Gulabi Gang followed by a discussion on women's rights in India with the film's acclaimed director Kim Longinotto.

For more information about this FREE event, go to:

www.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?ID=1741

