

For Immediate Release

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CWGL Announces New Executive Director

New Brunswick, NJ, May 5, 2015—The Center for Women's Global Leadership is pleased to announce the hiring of Krishanti Dharmaraj as the Center's new executive director. A feminist and human rights activist, Ms. Dharmaraj has over 25 years of experience working to advance the rights of women and girls. She is the founder of the Dignity Index, a human rights measurement tool utilized to ensure equity and inclusion to reduce identity-based discrimination. Previously, Ms. Dharmaraj was the Western Regional Spokesperson for Amnesty International USA. She is also the co-founder of WILD for Human Rights (Women's Institute for Leadership Development) and the Sri Lanka Children's Fund.

Under her leadership, San Francisco became the first city in the U.S. to pass legislation implementing an international human rights treaty. As a result of passing CEDAW in San Francisco the city implemented a gender analysis in departments that assessed employment, programming and service delivery and resource allocation. Currently, this public policy strategy is being implemented in cities across the United States. She has received numerous awards for her cutting-edge work, conducted trainings and lectured extensively in the U.S. and abroad.

Ms. Dharmaraj is on the Board of Directors of IDEX, a Trustee of the North East Women's Network in Sri Lanka, and is on the Advisory Boards of the Human Rights Project of the Urban Justice Center, South Asia Democracy Watch, and Machik, an organization enhancing the wellbeing of those living in Tibet. She has also served on the Board of Directors of Amnesty International, Women, Law and Development, Horizons Foundation and the Center for Asian Pacific Women.

"We are thrilled to have Ms. Dharmaraj join our team. Her wealth of knowledge and experience will significantly enrich CWGL's programming. I look forward to working with her in the work to advance economic and social rights and end gender-based violence," said Dr. Radhika Balakrishnan, CWGL's faculty director.

Ms. Dharmaraj stated, "CWGL has shaped my international advocacy since 1993. Therefore, I am deeply honored and excited to embark on this journey as the Executive Director of CWGL, an organization that has so deeply influenced me both professionally and personally."

Ms. Dharmaraj has an MBA from the Haas School of Business, University of California, at Berkeley.

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