

The logo for Rutgers University, featuring the word "RUTGERS" in a large, white, serif font. The letter "R" is stylized with a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the left.

RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

A repeating decorative pattern in a light blue color, featuring stylized floral and scrollwork motifs. The pattern is symmetrical and covers the entire background of the page.

Center for Women's Global Leadership

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2013: July 2012-June 2013

OUR MISSION

The Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL) envisions a world in which all people are equal and gender equality is systemically realized by the achievement of human rights for all. CWGL strengthens and facilitates women's leadership for human rights and social justice worldwide. CWGL is based at the School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers University.

Programmatic Objectives

The Center supports women's leadership by working to:

- Advance economic and social rights from a feminist perspective;
- Promote an end to gender-based violence and highlight linkages with militarism; and
- Build coalitions and deepen capacities around those urgent issues that are critical to the global women's movement to secure policy reform at the international and national levels.

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Credits

Editors: Savi Bisnath & Lucy Vidal

This report covers the period from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



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Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to share with you our accomplishments for fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013). From contributing feminist analyses on emerging issues and processes, convening advocates working to promote women's rights, presenting at the United Nations to hosting local events on campus, CWGL continues to serve as a support and catalyst to those working on women's rights and social justice.

2013 marked the 20th anniversary of the UN World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna, Austria, where women's rights were recognized as human rights. Over this time period, CWGL has worked diligently to advance women's economic and social rights and promote an end to gender-based violence. In commemoration of the significant strides achieved at that time, CWGL participated in a series of strategic meetings with partners and networks to discuss the state of the women's and human rights movements and outline the challenges that lie ahead.

Although we are proud to highlight our achievements in this report, we accomplished them in partnership, and acknowledge the support of our partners and colleagues worldwide as well as their commitment to the goals of a world free from fear and want.

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign has now reached over 5,167 organizations in 187 countries in every region of the world! Working with local, national, regional and international organizations, CWGL is proud and humbled to coordinate this annual global campaign. Its broad reach not only raises awareness, but supports organizations and communities using the campaign as a tool to end gender-based violence in their local contexts.

With webinars, workshops, and presentations, our program on economic and social rights from a feminist perspective has evolved from convening meetings at Rutgers University to the production of key resources and materials for the women's movement, the UN, and beyond.

Finally, with the formation of the Post 2015 Women's Coalition, CWGL is excited to participate in "a coalition of feminist, women's rights, women's development, grassroots and social justice organization working to challenge and reframe the global development agenda." The Post 2015 sustainable development process presents strategic opportunities for feminist advocacy and CWGL will be there, working with organizations worldwide to ensure that women's voices are amplified.

As always, your support of the Center for Women's Global Leadership is crucial to our work. We appreciate and thank you for your ongoing contributions, interest, and engagement in helping to build a more equal world for all. We ask that you take a moment and consider contributing to CWGL. Please visit <http://cwgl.rutgers.edu/support-us> to learn more and make a donation.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Radhika Balakrishnan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a light-colored background.

Radhika Balakrishnan

ADVANCING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL



Radhika Balakrishnan interviewed by Laura Flanders, Grit TV, on *Austerity: A Violation of Human Rights?*, New York, NY, November 20, 2012. Image captured from <http://www.thenation.com/blog/171364/austerity-violation-human-rights#>.

CWGL substantively contributes to the development and dissemination of a gender perspective of economic and social rights with a focus on macroeconomics. The Economic and Social Rights program is directed in three areas: academic research and dissemination; United Nations policy engagement; and enhancing the capacity of organizations and grassroots activists to apply an economic justice and social rights framework in their advocacy and social change endeavors.

Selected Workshops & Presentations

June 25-26, 2013: Both Associate Director Savi Bisnath and Founding Director and Senior Scholar Charlotte Bunch participated in Vienna+20: Human Rights in Crises, held in Vienna, Austria. In addition to participating in the drafting committees for the Women's Human Rights and Austerity, Macroeconomic Policies and Financial Regulation sections of the draft declaration, and a member of the drafting team of the final declaration, Dr. Bisnath participated in the opening press conference, with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier De Schutter, where she highlighted progress made to date in terms of women's rights and noted that governments need to "couple human rights rhetoric with human rights action." In the Human Rights Alternatives to Austerity Measures panel, Dr. Bisnath's talk on "Human Rights as a Strategy for Transforming Economic Power" tackled the gendered dimensions of austerity measures.

March 12, 2013: CWGL, in partnership with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), jointly organized a panel discussion, "Austerity, Fiscal Policies and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights:

Vienna+20 - Where are Women Now?," in New York City. This panel focused on the status of women's rights during the recent financial crisis, 20 years after the Vienna Conference on Human Rights was held. Although the theme for the 2013 CSW was on the elimination of violence against women, CWGL and OHCHR saw the need to reframe the discussion to include the ways in which economic policies can both support and undermine women's rights and a life free from violence.

October 11, 2012: Diane Elson and Radhika Balakrishnan presented to UN Women staff and civil society in New York City on bridging human rights and economic policies, at a lunch series brown bag discussion, "Macroeconomic Strategies from a Human Rights Perspective: How to use human rights to assess economic policy." The presenters introduced the Maximum Available Resource star and focused the discussion on government expenditure and revenue. They also emphasized the importance of governments creating macroeconomic policies that not only support human rights, but also demonstrate the fulfillment of human rights obligations in the outcomes.

September 24, 2012: The first session of CWGL's "Why MES with Human Rights?: Rethinking Macroeconomic Strategies from a Human Rights Perspective," with the AWID Young Feminist Wire, focused on fiscal policy and state obligations. "Fiscal Policy and State Obligations," provided participants with an introduction to the ways in which economic and social rights, gender equality and fiscal policy intersect. The discussions tapped into why using a human rights framework to address macroeconomics is relevant for feminist activists as well as the ways in which fiscal policy can be used to either undermine or strengthen economic and social rights. Participants were also given useful tools for applying this framework. Suggestions ranged from utilizing international human rights mechanisms such as the

Nexus

Brief Number 3: How to Apply a Human Rights Framework to Macroeconomic Strategies December 2012

At the UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993, governments recognized that human rights are the primary responsibility of governments. Human rights principles could be used to assess the ways in which economic policies result in the full realization of economic and social rights (or not). How does one measure a government's performance on economic and social rights? This brief provides an introduction to conducting an economic and social rights audit on economic policy.

RIGHTS

UN's Universal Periodic Review and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, to monitoring local and national budgets in an effort to develop gender budgeting in country.

Global Reach

Geneva, Switzerland: May 29-30, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan and Charlotte Bunch presented at *Vienna at 20: Renewing Strategies for Economic and Social Justice*, Center for Economic and Social Rights International Meeting.

New York, USA: May 23, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan was the commencement speaker at the Bedford Hills College Program, Bedford Hills Correctional Facility.

New York, USA: April 24-25, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan presented at *Promoting Human Rights in Post-Crisis Financial Regulation and Macroeconomic Policies*, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Expert Group Meeting.

Piscataway, USA: April 19, 2013

Margot Baruch presented at the *Global Philanthropic Symposium*, Rutgers University.

New York, USA: April 11, 2013:

Radhika Balakrishnan appeared on *What Obama's Budget Doesn't Get: Growth and Austerity Cannot Coexist*, All In with Chris Hayes, MSNBC.

New York, USA: April 9, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan presented at *The Politics for Solidarity: Gender, Sexuality, and Transnational Organizing*, Barnard Center for Research on Women.

Johannesburg, South Africa: February 27, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan, presented at the *Internal Seminar on Macro-Economic Policy and Women*, South Africa Human Rights Commission.

New York, USA: November 20, 2012:

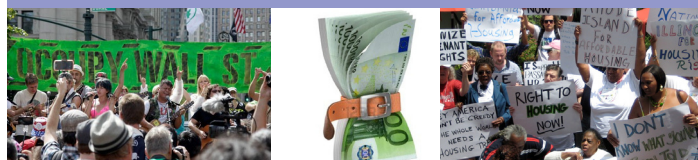
Radhika Balakrishnan interviewed by Laura Flanders, Grit TV, on *Austerity: A Violation of Human Rights?*

New York, USA: October 31, 2012

Radhika Balakrishnan presented at *What about Women? Accounting for the Gendered Impact of Foreign Debt*, organized by APWLD, 67th UN General Assembly.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
and Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL)

Austerity, Fiscal Policies and ESCR: Vienna+20 - Where are Women Now?



Featured speaker: Rashida Manjoo, United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

New York, USA: October 25, 2012

Margot Baruch presented at the *Mend for the Spotlight Human Rights* series at John Jay College.

Online: October 17, 2012: Radhika Balakrishnan and James Heintz held second of CWGL's two-part webinar *Why MES with Human Rights?: Rethinking Macroeconomic Strategies from a Human Rights Perspective*, with AWID Young Feminist Wire, entitled *Monetary Policy and the Application of Human Rights in Economic Policy*.

New York, USA: September 26, 2012

Radhika Balakrishna presented at the *2012 AWID Forum Special Issue of Development*, Society for International Development (SID).

Geneva, Switzerland: September 20, 2012

Radhika Balakrishnan moderated the panel discussion, *Women's Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights*, at the 21st session of the UN Human Rights Council.

It [CWGL's webinar with AWID Young Feminist Wire] was useful because [I got] a general understanding of how macroeconomic decisions directly correlates to whether (and to what degree) one's human rights are respected and protected by the State. Macroeconomics is [an] indicator of how seriously a state takes its human rights obligations; and whether it is acting in a positivist manner to increase social services so that the entire citizenry can exercise their rights (most specifically ESCRs). Thus, reviewing the basics of fiscal policy, as part of state macroeconomic policy that directly impacts a state's ability to meet its human rights obligations was useful.

-Webinar Participant

PROMOTING AN END TO GENDER-BASED



16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

Coordinated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership, the Campaign focused on the intersections of violence against women and militarism. Participants ranged from local organizations to international and inter-governmental institutions, organizing under the global Campaign theme: "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Let's Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women!"

Building on feedback from the 2011 Campaign, three core priority areas were highlighted within this theme:

- Violence perpetrated by state actors;
- Domestic violence and the proliferation of small arms; and
- Sexual violence during and after conflict.

Participation

The Campaign has been in direct communication with over 5,167 organizations in 187 countries in every region of the world. Throughout the 2012 Campaign, CWGL was directly in touch with 748 organizations in 118 countries. Please note that

this does not reflect the full participation of the Campaign, only those participants of whom CWGL was in direct communication.

Types of Initiatives

Of the 748 groups who told us they participated in the 2012 Campaign, we were able to track the focus areas and activities for 459 of them. Four broad categories were used to organize and analyze these activities:

- Community Mobilization;
- Information Sharing and Coalition Building;
- Media and Art; and
- Policy.

The 16 Days Campaign at Rutgers University

The Center for Women's Global Leadership, because we are based at Rutgers University, worked with faculty, staff, and students to coordinate eight events in and around campus. The Center hosted "Using Technology for Social Justice Activism," on the roles that new technologies play in feminist activism to combat gender-based violence and strategies to get involved. The event included presentations by Amani Al-Khatahtbeh, Founder of MuslimGirl, and Emily May, Founder and Executive Director of Hollaback. The Center on Violence Against Women and Children and Office for Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance also organized "Magnetizing Peace," an initiative to spread awareness about gender-based violence through magnets across the community. The Women's Center Coalition hosted "Scream Against Gender Violence," a collective, public scream-out to break the silence about gender violence on campus. Additional events included exhibits at the Mabel Smith Douglass Library, seminars on women's bodily integrity, and a candlelight vigil.

Since 2007, CWGL has served as an NGO Advisor to the Inter-Agency Programme Appraisal Committee to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, the United Nations grant-making mechanism exclusively dedicated to addressing violence against women and girls in all its forms.

VIOLENCE

Global Reach

Vienna, Austria: June 25-26, 2013

Savi Bisnath participated in the *Women's Rights, Violence Against Women* panel at the "Vienna+20 CSO Conference – Human Rights in Crises" where she highlighted key priorities and issues in the conference declaration.

Geneva, Switzerland: May 30, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan presented at the *Universal Periodic Review & Violence Against Women and Girls*, 23rd session of the UN Human Rights Council.

New York, USA: March 7, 2013

Charlotte Bunch, Founding Director and Senior Scholar, spoke on *Culture, Religion and Tradition: Affirming existing human rights agreements to strengthen the efforts to eradicate violence against women*, International Civil Society Network, Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir México, and AWID.

New York, USA: March 6, 2013

Margot Baruch presented at *Women, Peace and Security: Elusive Opportunity for Afro-Colombian Women in Conflict Zones*, with Black Communities Process in Colombia.

New York, USA: March 5, 2013

Margot Baruch presented at *The Human Rights Universal Periodic Review and Violence Against Women and Girls*, with the International Federation of Women Lawyers and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

New York, USA: March 5, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan and Savi Bisnath moderated the *16 Days Campaign Open Forum*.

New York, USA: March 4, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan presented at *Investing in Peace? Violence Against Women, Militarism, and Budgeting for 'Security'*, with Global Fund for Women and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

New York, USA: February 15, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan interviewed by Simon McGregor Wood in "One Billion Rising' Against Sexual Violence," Al Jazeera.

New Brunswick, NJ: December 5, 2012

Savi Bisnath and Julie Salthouse presented at *Using Technology for Social Justice Activism*.

New Brunswick, NJ: October 2, 2012

Julie Salthouse spoke at the *Women Aware's Candlelight Vigil*.

Istanbul, Turkey: August 21-September 1, 2012

Savi Bisnath participated in the Training of Trainers component of the *Middle East North Africa Consultation* by the Women Peacemakers Program. Her training focused on gender-based violence and militarism.



Images from 2012 16 Days Campaign (from left to right): Bishkek Feminist Collective, Kyrgyzstan; cfd, The Feminist Peace Organization, Switzerland; Maitland Library, South Africa (photo courtesy of Carmen Carlo-Maagbi); START Social Development Organization, Iraq; Tlachinollan: Centro de Derechos Humanos de la Montaña, Mexico.

Using Social Media as a Tool in Ending Gender-Based Violence

Throughout the 16 Days Campaign, CWGL utilized social media to spread awareness about the Campaign and advocate for the elimination of gender-based violence:

- **CWGL's 16 Days Campaign website:** 47,000 website visits in the weeks of the Campaign, by about 41,000 visitors¹ in 199 countries and territories.
- **Launch of CWGL Tumblr Site:** CWGL hosted a 16 Days Blog during the Campaign, featuring guest posts by activists from across the globe. Topics included violence against women human rights defenders by state agents, the links between violence against women and health, and the impacts of militarized violence on men.
- **Official 16 Days Campaign Facebook page:** more than doubled during the Campaign, surging over 155% to over 46,000 fans.
- Thousands **tweeted** using #16days, including individuals, women's organizations (MADRE), human rights organizations (Amnesty International), media (World Pulse), intergovernmental institutions (UN Women), and government entities (Department for International Development, UK).
- CWGL received approximately 700 photos from participants around the world, several of which are highlighted on **CWGL's 16 Days Flickr page**.
- The Center also worked with designer Azita Azargoshasb to create **downloadable Image Cards**, which featured facts on gender-based violence and links to 16 Days social media. The Image Cards were made available in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Many thanks to all who posted, tweeted, and liked 16 Days social media during the Campaign!

¹ The number of visitors reflects the total number of unique individual visitors, not returning visitors to the site.

BUILDING COALITIONS AND STRENGTH

Over 20 years, CWGL has cultivated strong partnerships with women's rights and social justice organizations worldwide. From hosting strategic conversations and planning meetings for initiatives aimed at monitoring the UN, to shaping new concepts and strategies, to working with like-minded organizations to challenge the status quo, CWGL has been at the forefront of feminist organizing and movement building. As part of its work to forge coalitions in the service of women's rights and gender equality, CWGL builds alliances to strategize and advocate for the inclusion of women's rights and gender equality in the ongoing debates on the post 2015 sustainable development agendas.

Within this context, CWGL has been actively involved in the emerging Post 2015 Women's Coalition. The Coalition is comprised of feminist, women's rights, women's development, grassroots and social justice organizations whose aim is to monitor and engage with the post 2015 sustainable development processes as a political opportunity to challenge and reframe the global development agenda and address the structural factors underpinning the multiple crises we currently face, which result in deepening inequalities, increased poverty and environmental degradation.

On May 30, 2013, in response to the High Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda report, CWGL led the drafting team to develop "Feminist Reflections on the United Nations' High-Level Panel's Report: A New Global Partnership - Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economics Through Sustainable Development." This critique was endorsed by 111 organizations from every region of the world.

See publications box for reports related to key issues within the post 2015 sustainable development processes.

UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 57)

The UN CSW held its 57th session from March 4-15, 2013 with the priority theme: "Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls." CWGL was deeply engaged in this year's CSW, by closely monitoring the official sessions, participating in negotiations, co-convening daily briefings with civil society organizations, and providing daily report backs on official sessions to our networks. CWGL also:

- Mobilized hundreds of organizations to endorse the *Statement on Concerns of Women's Organizations over Negotiations on CSW 57 Outcome Document*;
- Developed and shared key messages on: Violence Against Women & Economic and Social Rights; Domestic Violence and the Proliferation of Small Arms; HIV/AIDS & Violence Against Women; Sexual Violence in Conflict; and Violence by State Agents;
- Submitted two statements to the official session: *Center for Women's Global Leadership Statement to CSW57* and *Joint Statement to Promote an End to Gender-Based Violence on behalf of the 16 Days Campaign Partners*;
- Blogged on "CWGL at the CSW" on its Tumblr page;
- Sponsored and co-sponsored events, including: Investing in Peace? Violence Against Women, Militarism, and Budgeting

for "Security;" 16 Days Campaign Open Forum; International Women's Day Dance Party; Austerity, Fiscal Policies and Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights: Vienna+20 - Where are Women Now?; The Post 2015 Development Agenda: What's at Stake for the World's Women?; Gender-Based Violence Prevention as a Human Right and a Legally Binding State Obligation; The Human Rights Universal Periodic Review and Violence Against Women and Girls; Killings and Violence Against Women Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; Women, Peace and Security: Elusive Opportunity for Afro-Colombian Women in Conflict Zones; Women's Rights and LGBT Activists Share Anti-Violence Strategies; Violence Against Migrant Women and the Human Rights Framework; International Women's Day March; and Women Human Rights Defenders-a resource at risk? Obligations and practical measures to support Women Human Rights Defenders and protect them from intimidation, reprisals and violence.



From left to right: Dinah Musindarwezo, African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET); Urmila Bhoola, International Women's Rights Action Watch - Asia Pacific (IWRAP-AP); Eleanor Blomstrom, Women Environment and Development Organisation (WEDO); and Abigail Ruane, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), *Towards the Realization of Women's Rights and Gender Equality Post 2015 Development* meeting, Florham Park, NJ, June 11-12, 2013. © Center for Women's Global Leadership

Publications

The Integration of Gender and Human Rights into the Post-2015 Development Framework, CWGL

This report is based on the discussion that took place at the "Post-2015 Expert Group Meeting" held at the Center for Women's Global Leadership from December 13-14, 2012. This meeting was convened to integrate issues of gender and human rights into the development of a post-2015 framework for social and economic development that is applicable to all countries.

The Post-2015 Development Framework and the Realization of Women's Rights and Social Justice, Radhika Balakrishnan & Diane Elson

This note offers reflections on the post-2015 development framework, based on our views of the strengths and weaknesses of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) development framework; key changes since 2000; and ideas on how to address the challenges of the post-2015 period.

Towards the Realization of Women's Rights and Gender Equality: Post 2015 Sustainable Development, CWGL

This summary report is the culmination of a two-day strategic meeting, "Towards the Realization of Women's Rights and Gender Equality: Post 2015 Sustainable Development," which took place in Florham Park, NJ from June 11-12, 2013. The meeting was organized to identify, analyze, and strategize about the linkages between the realization of women's rights and gender equality and macroeconomic policy within the context of the post 2015 sustainable development framework and processes.

ENING CAPACITY

Global Reach

Vienna, Austria: June 27-28, 2013

Savi Bisnath participated in *Vienna+20 High Level Conference on Human Rights: Advancing the Protection of Human Rights*, Austrian Foreign Ministry.

Geneva, Switzerland: May 29-30, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan and Charlotte Bunch presented at *Vienna at 20: Renewing strategies for economic and social justice*, Center for Economic and Social Rights.

New York, USA: April 16, 2013

Savi Bisnath spoke at the *Major Groups and Post 2015 Constituency Consultation on Post Rio/Post 2015*.

Ithaca, USA: March 30, 2013

Savi Bisnath led a workshop on *Facilitating Recovery and Building Peace through Planning for All* with graduate students at Cornell University.

Ithaca, USA: March 29, 2013

Savi Bisnath spoke on *Crisis Prevention and Recovery: What Does Gender Equality or Human Rights Have To Do with It?* at the Department of City and Regional Planning, Cornell University.

New York, USA: March 27, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan was quoted in "To make media change, be audacious, be bold," Al Jazeera.

New York, USA: March 21, 2013

Savi Bisnath was quoted in "Political Cauldron Boils on U.N. Women's Rights," Women's eNews.

New York, USA: March 20, 2013

Savi Bisnath quoted in "Replacing Michelle Bachelet: A 'Very Crucial Phase' for UN Women," The Development Newswire.

Johannesburg, South Africa: February 28-March 1, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan presented at the *Post-2015 Global Thematic Consultation on Governance*.

New Brunswick, USA: February 26, 2013

Savi Bisnath presented at *Dialogues with the IWL Director: A Conversation with Mahboubeh Abbasgholizadeh*.



Savi Bisnath presenting at the 16 Days Open Forum, CSW 57, New York, NY, March 5, 2013.

© Center for Women's Global Leadership

New York, USA: February 12, 2013

Savi Bisnath briefed Member States on *Gender Equality, Violence against Women and the Post-2015 Development Framework*, organized by the Post 2015 Women's Coalition.

New York, USA: January 31, 2013

Radhika Balakrishnan interviewed by George Gao in "The Open and Rocky Road Post-2015," IPS.

Oslo, Norway: September 21, 2012

Radhika Balakrishnan and Savi Bisnath participated in the *Breakfast Seminar Series* at NORAD.

Online: September 13, 2012

Savi Bisnath and Charlotte Bunch featured in "UN Women and Gear Campaign co-host a discussion on Post-2015 Development Agenda Processes," UN Women.

New York, USA: July 17, 2012

Savi Bisnath participated in a panel discussion, *MDG II: Incorporating a Human Rights Framework into the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda*, during the *International Human Rights Funders Group Conference*.

New York, USA: July 5-6, 2012

Savi Bisnath presented at United Nations Development Cooperation Forum.

CWGL in Partnership

- Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), *Institutional Member*
- Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE), *Action Council*
- ESCR-Net Monitoring Work Group, *Member*
- Extraterritorial Obligations (ETO) Consortium, *Member*
- Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), *Supporting Organization*
- Institute for Women's Leadership Consortium, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, *Member*
- Inter-Agency Programme Appraisal Committee, UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, *NGO Advisor*
- International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict, Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI), *Advisory Committee*
- International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), *Associate*
- International Network for Economic, Social & Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net), *Member*
- International Programs, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, *Member*
- National Council for Research on Women (NCRW), *Member Organization*
- NGO Associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)
- NGO in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Post-2015 Womens Coalition, *Member*
- rightingfinance, *Steering Committee*
- The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO), *Full Member*
- US Human Rights Network (USHRN), *Member*
- Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRD IC), *Member*
- Women's Major Group for Sustainable Development, *Member*

FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL ACTION



Women's Rights and Policy Making through the United Nations course participants at *Feminist Leadership: Transforming Boundaries* student report back event, New Brunswick, NJ, April 24, 2013. © Center for Women's Global Leadership

Women's Rights and Policy Making through the United Nations

For over two decades, CWGL has been actively engaged at the United Nations (UN) and has been instrumental in building and strengthening generations of advocates to promote international policy and institutional changes. Every March, the Center joins with activists from around the world in promoting women's rights and gender equality at the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which is dedicated to gender equality and the advancement of women. In 2013, the CSW reviewed progress toward the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. A diverse group of 18 Rutgers University students took advantage of the unique opportunity to gain a global perspective on the policy aspects of feminist activism to end gender-based violence.

Throughout the seminar, led by Radhika Balakrishnan, students acted as a learning community and had the opportunity to meet and discuss advocacy strategies with US and international activists. They spent four days in New York City attending official government sessions and participating in workshops led by civil society organizations from around the world. Students reflected on their experiences and developed their critical analyses of global feminist advocacy as well as their activist goals. These analyses were shared on an online discussion forum to engage the broader Rutgers community, as well as during an interactive public event at Rutgers which they planned and organized.

Local Events

April 3, 2013: Radhika Balakrishnan moderated *Local, National and Global Action for Women's Human Rights: Innovative Strategies*, featuring Patricia Teffenhart-Maikos, Women Aware; Barbara Young, National Domestic Workers Alliance; and Lynn Harris, Breakthrough, New Brunswick, NJ.

March 13, 2013: CWGL hosted *Women Human Rights Defenders: Talking Back & Creating Change*, with Jolly Kamuntu, Radio Maendeleo & Association of Women in Media, Democratic Republic of Congo; Hon. Hannah Lona Bona Nimaya Bakheit Korocho, Western Equatoria State Legislative Assembly, South Sudan; and Ruth Ochieng, ISIS-WICCE & African Partnership for Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women and Girls (AMANITARE), Uganda, New Brunswick, NJ.



Ruth Ochieng
© Center for Women's Global Leadership

CWGL Poster Collection

The Rutgers University Libraries, in collaboration with the Department of Women's and Gender Studies and CWGL, both of the School of Arts and Sciences, developed the "CWGL Poster Collection" portal, which provides digital access to approximately 300 posters published by women's rights organizations worldwide. This unique feminist collection documents twenty years of transnational women's grassroots activism and advocacy. The collection can be accessed in RUcore: <http://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu/portals/cwgl/>.



On November 13, 2012, CWGL & Margery Somers Foster Center, Rutgers University Libraries sponsored *Digitizing Activism: The Visual Culture of Transnational Feminism*, which highlighted the CWGL Poster Collection. Panelists discussed the ways in which the visual culture of feminist activism across borders affects community engagement and political involvement.

The collection was also featured on October 26, 2012 at the Rutgers University Division of Undergraduate Education event, "Breakfast with Barry (Qualls)."

Images from the poster collection were included in "Learning from Women's Studies," by Michele Tracy Berger, *Contexts*, a publication of the American Sociological Association, Volume 12, Number 2, Spring 2013, pp. 76-79.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Supporters

The Center for Women's Global Leadership gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey and:

Anonymous (Charitable Trust)

Ford Foundation

Fund for a Just Society

Oak Philanthropy

Open Society Institute Women's Program

CWGL would also like to thank our **generous individual donors** to the Fund for Women's Rights and Global Justice and the Charlotte Bunch Women's Human Rights Strategic Opportunities Fund.

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SAS= School of Arts & Sciences

SEBS=School of Environmental and Biological Sciences

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Women's Rights and Policy Making through the United Nations was more than just your conventional 3-credit seminar at Rutgers...I learned how the UN can play a critical role in both the advancement and advocacy of women's rights on a global scale. My participation in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) provided an invaluable on the ground transnational activist experience with people from all over the world dedicated to the advancement of women's rights. This course has further affirmed my desire to fulfill a life grounded in activism. Not to mention I met the most amazing people along the way, all of whom I am still in contact with until this day!

-Dina Mansour, Senior, Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies



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