



**This  
year's  
theme is  
COMMIT  
ACT  
DEMAND  
We CAN  
end  
violence  
against  
women!**

## **COMMIT: We are all responsible**

In 1991 when 23 women from around the world met together at the first Women's Global Leadership Institute at the Center for Women's Global Leadership and envisioned the 16 Days Campaign, it was unlikely that any of them could have foreseen the incredible success of the campaign as a mobilizing tool.

Because of their efforts and the commitment of so many other activists over the past 19 years, well over 2,000 organizations in 158 countries have organized around the 16 Days Campaign, and the issue of gender-based violence has received a significant amount of international attention.

In planning for the campaign, CWGL asks you not only to honour and celebrate the achievements made to ending VAW, but also to encourage broad-based community participation by emphasizing that everyone has a role to play.

We all have a responsibility to end gender-based violence together as women, girls, men, boys, and individuals of all generations, religions, occupations, sexual orientations, abilities, political persuasions, and socio-economic backgrounds.

## **ACT: We can all make a difference**

2009 will mark the 10th anniversary of the United Nations' formal recognition of November 25th as International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. There are many other landmark dates and documents that are the direct result of ACTION that women's rights activists and defenders have taken. The anti-violence against women movement provides one of the best illustrations of how local activism can translate into global action.

During the 2009 16 Days Campaign, CWGL encourages individuals, organizations, governments, etc. to take action on the commitments they have made to ending VAW. Each commitment - be it a personal pledge to speak out, a local or national law, an international convention or resolution, the Beijing Platform for Action - should be seen as a promise that has been made to women. NOW is the time to act on these promises. Every action, no matter how big or small, can make a difference!

## **DEMAND: We are all accountable**

At the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, women's organizations from around the world met with government representatives and collaboratively produced the Beijing Platform for Action - one of the most forward-thinking government negotiated documents on women's rights to date.

This ground-breaking document set forth a list of actions, which, if implemented, would significantly reduce incidences of violence against women. 2010 marks the 15th anniversary of the Beijing Conference on Women. Therefore, we must all demand implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, as well as other key documents, and demand state accountability for ending impunity, allocating adequate resources, and implementing good laws and national action plans to address VAW. We also call on the UN to take bolder action on the UN Secretary-General's "UNiTE to End VAW" Campaign Framework for Action.

We are all accountable for playing our part in reducing violence at the individual and community levels, as well as at the nation-state and global levels.

**Within Greater Manchester in 2009 there are over 20 organised events and activities marking the 16 days of Activism Campaign.**

**If you would like to know more, contact Independent Choices on:  
[admin@independentchoices.org.uk](mailto:admin@independentchoices.org.uk)**



**An end to violence  
towards women**

**Providing  
independent  
support to  
women  
since 1978**