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Global 16 Days Special Dispatch

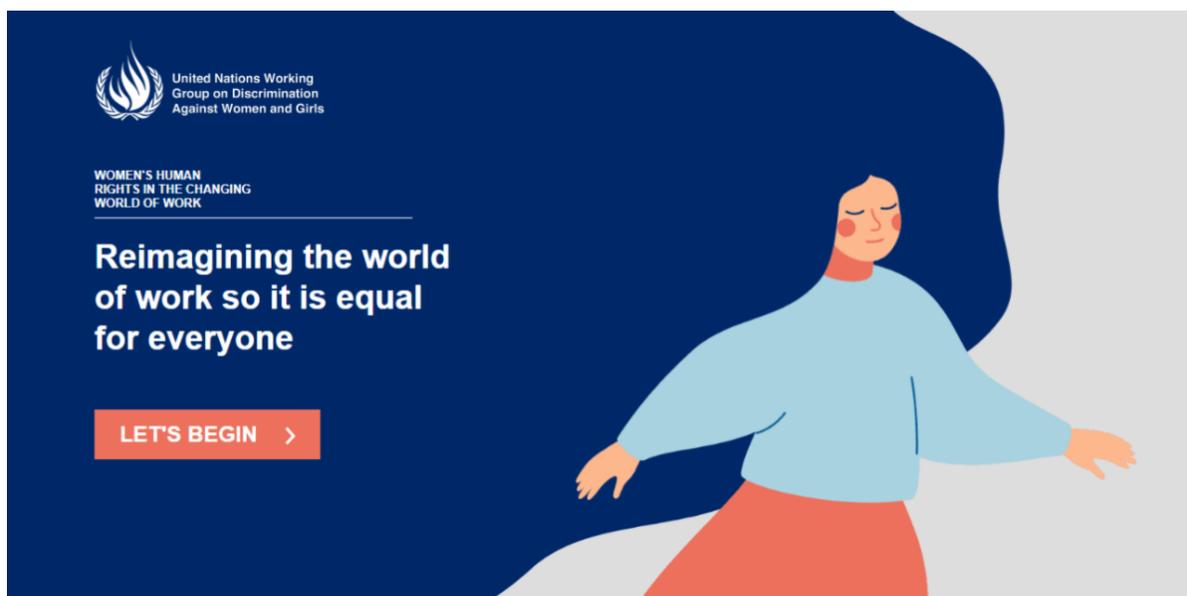
Hello 16 Days Campaigners and Allies!

As we enter into the second half of 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic rages on, GBV against women and girls has and is likely to continue increasing, in many cases taking on new and more insidious forms such as online violence and harassment. It is now clear that some of the most catastrophic effects of the pandemic and the public health measures imposed to curb it, have been felt by women working in the informal economy.

The recent release of two major reports by UN Special Procedures and Human Rights Experts, [the United Nations Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls' Report on Women's Human Rights in the Changing World of Work](#) and [the Special Rapporteur's Report on Combating Violence Against Women Journalists](#) (VAWJ) has reminded governments that ending GBV against women in the world of work must be a priority. The Global 16 Days Campaign team decided to release this special dispatch to widely disseminate these reports which contain specific recommendations for governments and call for the ratification of ILO Convention 190 on Violence and Harassment.

The insights and analyses provided in these new reports must be used by policymakers and activists to effectively manage the current crisis, in a manner that recognizes and mitigates the harm to women workers worldwide, and shape recovery efforts.

UN Working Group on Discrimination and Girls' Thematic Report on Women's Human Rights in the Changing World of Work



On July 6, 2020, the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls (WGDAWG), comprised of independent experts Elizabeth Broderick, Alda Facio, Ivana Radačić, Meskerem Geset Techane, and Melissa Upreti, presented their new thematic report on women’s human rights in the changing world of work at the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Council. The report analyzes the gender dimensions in the major trends changing the world of work, including technological change, demographic change, accelerated globalization, environmental degradation, and more. It also presents key recommendations as necessary steps to reimagine the structure of work and the economy, prioritizing women’s human rights. In the context of COVID-19, the report notes with concern that the pandemic is “further intensifying and increasing levels of violence against women, women’s unpaid care and domestic workloads,” and that “women in the most vulnerable forms of informal work will be the most harshly affected.” To read more about the report, check out our [latest blog post](#) on the Global 16 Days Campaign website.

On July 22, 2020, the UN Working Group hosted a webinar to launch the report, featuring panelists Elizabeth Broderick (Chair, UN WGDAWG), Radhika Balakrishnan (CWGL), Rae Cooper (The University of Sydney), Rachel Moussie (WIEGO), Shauna Olney (ILO), and moderator Melissa Upreti (Vice Chair, UN WGDAWG). During the webinar, the panelists discussed the findings of the report as well as promising practices for eliminating structural and systemic discrimination against women, sharing insights on recommendations on how to create a world of work that realizes women’s human rights.

The Working Group has also recently released a new microsite that provides a user-friendly format of the report, available [here](#). To follow the Working Group for updates, check out their Facebook page [here](#).

WEBINAR

Women’s Human Rights in the Changing World of Work

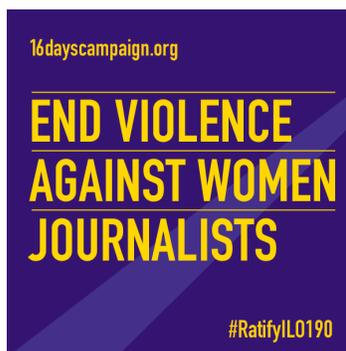
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Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls

Please [click here](#) to watch a recording of the webinar.

Special Rapporteur’s Report on Combating Violence Against Women Journalists



On July 8, 2020, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Dubravka Šimonović, presented a new report on combating violence against women journalists (VAWJ) at the 44th session of the UN Human Rights Council. This report, the first to examine VAWJ in depth, documents the different forms of violence against women journalists, including femicide, sexual violence, discrimination, and online violence. “Women journalists have become increasingly targeted as visible and outspoken representatives of women’s rights,” Šimonović said in a UN Special Procedures news release. “Much remains to be done, particularly in view of the emerging fundamentalist discourse and the global backlash against women’s rights.” To

read more about the report, check out our [blog post](#) on the Global 16 Days website.

In preparation for the report, on March 13, 2020, the Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL), through its Journalism Initiative on Gender-Based Violence (JiG), hosted an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) in partnership with the Office of the UN Special Rapporteur, the United Nations Population Fund, and the International Association of Women in Radio and Television. The EGM served as a knowledge-sharing session between women journalists, experts on GBV

reporting, heads of UN mechanisms, and executives of media entities around the world. The full EGM report is now available to read [here](#).

On July 29, 2020, the CWGL hosted a webinar to launch the Special Rapporteur's report. The webinar featured high profile panelists, including Jafar Irshaidat (UNFPA Syria-Hub), Lagipoiva Cherelle Jackson (JiG Chief Editor), Melissa Upreti (UN WGDAGW), Aimee Vega Montiel (GAMAR), Liz Ford (The Guardian), Tasneem Ahmar (a prominent journalist from Pakistan), and the Special Rapporteur Dubravka Šimonović on VAW, who discussed the content and significance of the report, as well as key recommendations that should be implemented to combat VAWJ. Please [click here](#) to watch a recording of the webinar.



A Promising Practice From Hawaii

To keep our spirits up, we are also taking this opportunity to highlight a feminist policy response to COVID-19 that aims to deliver gender equality and justice: [the Hawai'i feminist economic recovery plan for COVID-19](#).

The plan encourages a deep structural transition to an economy that better values essential women's work, rather than simply rushing to rebuild the "status quo of inequality." It addresses the crises in healthcare, social, and ecological economic policies also laid bare by COVID-19 by integrating the knowledge developed by marginalized communities to better prioritize social wellbeing as key to the economy – an inclusive, feminist response to this devastating pandemic. Among many other transformative measures, it calls for better economic support for informal caregivers and increased protection for them from the risks of COVID-19. Inspired by this policy, on June 19, 2020, [Maui became the first county in the United States to pass a feminist economic recovery plan](#). The executive summary of the plan puts it best: "The road to economic recovery should not be across women's backs." To read the full plan, please click [here](#).

On July 9, 2020, the CWGL co-sponsored a webinar during the High Level Political Forum with NGO CSW/NY, the Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan and WEDO, featuring Khara Jabola-Carolus, Chair, Women's Commission of the State of Hawai'i, and other key speakers including current and former mayors of major cities and Melissa Upreti, Vice Chair, UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls. As part of the forum, Jabola-Carolus, presented the feminist recovery plan for Hawai'i as an example of reimagining a post COVID-19 world that respects women's human rights and puts feminist aspirations into action. Upreti alluded to the policy as an inspiring promising practice.



To watch the recording of the forum, please click [here](#).

Get Involved in This Year's Global 16 Days Campaign!

Thank you for joining us for this special dispatch! As we prepare for the upcoming 2020 Global 16 Days Campaign, we are also issuing a call for participation in our planning process. **If you are interested in coordinating with us around women workers in the informal economy, reach out to us by email at cwgl@cwgl.rutgers.edu.**

Remember to keep a look out for our upcoming advocacy guide for the 2020 Global 16 Days Campaign, which will be released in August, and additional resources that will be shared in the following weeks. We continue to be inspired by your leadership, activism, and participation under these unprecedented circumstances.

In solidarity,
The Global 16 Days Campaign Team @ CWGL



Sign up for updates!

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