Annual Report

Advocating for peace, justice & equality

NOBEL WOMEN’S INITIATIVE
Supporting our work for peace

The Nobel Women’s Initiative would like to thank the following organizations and individuals whose generous support allowed us to serve as a voice for women, peace and security around the world in 2012:

Cynda Collins Arsenault
Sarah Cavanaugh
Lauren Embrey
Sara Vetter
Kay Wilemon
Nancy and Emily Word
Trea Yip

FLOW: Funding Leadership and Opportunities for Women of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MDG3 Fund of the Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Kalliopeia Foundation
Cornell Douglas Foundation
UN Women, Latin American and Caribbean Section

All of the Nobel Peace Laureates of the Nobel Women’s Initiative in 2012:
Shirin Ebadi
Mairead Maguire
Rigoberta Menchú Tum
Leymah Gbowee
Tawakkol Karman
Jody Williams

And many more generous individuals.
I think the most powerful thing is women saying over and over and in different places that women have to stand up and take the lead in making the world a better place for everyone.

- Jody Williams
Message from the Nobel Women

“...humanity is fast evolving to this higher consciousness... We can rejoice and celebrate today because we are living in a miraculous time. Everything is changing and everything is possible.”

Mairead Maguire

Amidst the turmoil of the past year, hope sprang forth as women around the world took the lead in nonviolent movements for change. From the democratic uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa, to the quest for justice for survivors of sexual violence in Central America, and the protests against the oil sands pipeline in North America, women have emerged front and centre, as peacebuilders and community leaders, to put an end to gender violence, promote just societies, and build healthy, sustainable environments.

As women recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, we use the access and influence that comes with winning a Nobel prize to raise the profiles and advance the causes of these international women human rights defenders. Under the Nobel Women’s Initiative, we come together to accompany the courageous women in their tireless, grassroots efforts for peace, justice and equality and to bring their calls not only to a larger public but also to decision makers around the world.

The women we met in the past year are eager to have their voices heard and feel a clear sense of strength in numbers, learning from and building upon a diversity of strategies from other women.

“We need you to carry our voices to other places, to other countries so that someone hears us who can support us.”

Crisanta Pérez, a Guatemalan anti-mining activist
During our delegation to Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, we heard of alarmingly high levels of violence from women survivors who felt empowered after speaking out in an all-woman’s forum, sharing their common stories, and brainstorming strategies to change their reality.

Sexual violence is a particularly powerful tool used in conflict situations to dominate, humiliate and destroy women and communities. Through the International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence, we are working to prevent, provide protection from and prosecute perpetrators of sexual violence, through a call to increased awareness, public condemnation, and better implementation of laws that bring justice and reparation for survivors.

In keeping with our late sister Laureate Wangari Maathai’s vision for environmental peace and justice, we also met with women living along the oil pipeline route in Northern Alberta and British Columbia. We listened to firsthand testimony about the impact of oil sands development, learned about the groundbreaking work women are doing to protect their land and environment, and amplified their calls for clean, renewable energy.

This past year, we were thrilled to welcome two additions to the Nobel Women’s Initiative, Liberian activist Leymah Gbowee and Yemeni activist and journalist Tawakkol Karman, both of whom organized and used the power of nonviolence to bring about change in their communities. We were also delighted to meet with Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma, who was finally able to travel freely outside of Burma, to accept the Nobel prize she won 21 years ago.

Fiercely passionate, women around the world are taking the lead to make the seemingly impossible, possible. May they continue to inspire us all to collective action. For united, we will garner the attention and political will needed to realize our shared vision of peace, justice and equality.
Message from the Executive Director

Advocating for peace, justice and equality

The Nobel women’s continued solidarity is critically important for those affected by crisis levels of violence, particularly women’s human rights defenders.

“\nIt is important and vital that women are given an active role. Women must not be ignored by any government.\n
Shirin Ebadi

From the armed-conflict regions in Africa, to the militarized zones in Central America, and along the pipeline in North America, we are proud to accompany our sisters and to help ensure they are heard around the world.

Together, we are bringing attention to the “war on women” in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras. We are amplifying the voices of Indigenous women in North America on the impacts of oil and climate change on their communities. We are nurturing future generations of women leaders through our Sister-to-Sister Mentorship program, building on their already extraordinary work as young activists by providing training, in areas such as international advocacy and organizing, media and online outreach, engaging policy makers and fundraising. In the months following their time in Ottawa, we work together to engage in advocacy and media on issues important to them.

Together, we are supporting the first woman to be named Chief Prosecutor for the International Criminal Court, who is determined to focus not only on the prosecution of perpetrators but also the architects and systems that enable sexual violence.
Together, we are demanding bold and urgent political leadership to end violence against women and the culture of impunity that perpetuates it. Our International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict unites us into a powerful, global, coordinated effort for change.

Since the Campaign was launched in May, in seven different languages, thousands of organizations and individuals have pledged their support to this global and unified collaboration, placing rape and gender violence at the forefront of the global agenda. British Foreign Secretary William Hague offered £1 million (US$1.6 million) and an emergency taskforce to address the issue, and Canada pledged to take a leadership role in preventing and punishing sexual violence in conflict. Delegations of Campaign members travelled to Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala to hear testimony from hundreds of survivors of rape and gender violence and share it with national and international policy makers. Campaign events in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Burma, Kenya, and elsewhere raised the profile of sexual violence and the power of grassroots organizations to effect change.

The progress we have made this year is exciting. And this is only the beginning.

Together, we can keep each other safer, and build lives and societies free from violence.

Liz Bernstein
Who we are
We are a group of Nobel Peace Laureates who came together in 2006 to support women activists and to work together for peace, justice & equality.

“We recognize that by virtue of [receiving] the Nobel Prize, we have influence and access that others don’t. And if we put all of that behind the work of other women, where it makes a difference, we can help them advance their work.”

Jody Williams

Our Vision
The Nobel Women’s Initiative uses the prestige of the Nobel Peace Prize and courageous women Peace Laureates to increase the power and visibility of women’s groups working globally for peace, justice and equality.

How We Work
Our advocacy is organized around three main pillars:

- **Women forging peace**
The inclusion of women in peace making and support for nonviolence and other alternatives to war and militarism.

- **Women achieving justice**
Accountability for crimes committed against women and an end to widespread impunity.

- **Women advancing equality and human rights**
Support for human rights defenders, those working for women’s equality and those on the frontlines of civil society—including those addressing climate change.

We use three main strategies in our advocacy:

- **Convening:**
We bring together key decision makers with women’s rights activists. We promote collaboration between diverse women’s groups, academics, policy makers and the media. We empower women leaders, and expand global movements for peace, justice and equality.

- **Shaping the conversation:**
We articulate a broadly accessible analysis of the impact of conflict, violence and inequity on women. We emphasize solutions proposed by women’s movements. We share a vision of a nonviolent, just and equal world.
Spotlighting and promoting:
We create media and public awareness of the powerful work being done by women’s activists and movements—and help bring women’s messages to the world.

Mentoring a New Generation
Sister-to-Sister Mentorship Program

The Nobel Women’s Initiative launched the exciting new Sister-to-Sister Mentorship Program this year. The mentorship program was designed to support young women’s rights activists in their international advocacy and media work. The women spent six weeks in residency in our Ottawa office and received continued follow-up and support for four months after. The program aims to strengthen key skills including organizing for political change, developing comprehensive advocacy strategies, messaging and writing materials for different audiences, relationship building, event planning, and basic proposal writing and finance skills, as well as engaging policymakers. The program also provides training in traditional and new media engagement, as well as implementation of outreach strategies with discussions on possible country-specific limitations.

Three young women’s rights activists between the ages of 20-30 participated in this year’s six-month program: Mexico’s Maria Luisa Aguilar Rodriguez, Palestine’s Aghssan Barghouthi, and Sudan’s Walaa Salah Mohamed Abdelrhman. Nominated for their tireless efforts at the grassroots level for women’s

Meet the Laureates
“Using our influence for change”

Mairead Maguire (1976) for her work to help end the conflict in Northern Ireland

Jody Williams (1997) for her work to ban landmines through the International Campaign to Ban Landmines

Rigoberta Menchú Tum (1992) for her promotion of Indigenous peoples’ rights in Guatemala
rights, peace and justice, they worked closely with our team in Ottawa to build on their existing advocacy and communication skills, developing joint advocacy projects, and sharing their work with an international audience. In addition, they traveled with the organization to New York to participate in advocacy around the UN General Assembly, and participated in a cross-Canada speaking tour hosted by MATCH International where they exchanged ideas with other young activists across the country. They blogged about their residency and about women’s rights in their respective countries on the Nobel Women web site.

**Internship Opportunities**

The Nobel Women's Initiative creates remarkable internship opportunities for young women in university or who have recently completed their university studies. This past year, eight interns gave us a new generation’s perspective on women’s rights and advocacy and we, in turn, provided them with practical work experience and skills, and an opportunity to make a difference in our complex, globalized world.

**Committed Staff**

Based in Ottawa, the Nobel Women’s Initiative has a small but dedicated team of women with broad international experience in women’s rights and advocacy who carry out an ambitious work plan in support of the Nobel women’s vision.

**Shirin Ebadi (2003)**
for her efforts to promote human rights, in particular, the rights of women, children, and political prisoners in Iran

**Leymah Gbowee (2011)**
for her work in leading a women’s peace movement that brought an end to the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003

**Tawakkol Karman (2011)**
for her non-violent struggle to promote women’s safety and women’s participation in peace-building in Yemen
Highlights of the Year

Women forging peace

We advocate building long-term peace, supporting women who are engaged in nonviolence and other alternatives to ending war and militarism, and support the inclusion of women in peace negotiations and other peace-building efforts.

Ending rape and gender violence in conflict

Every day thousands of women, men, and children around the world experience sexual violence in armed conflicts around the world. From Congo and Kenya to Burma and Colombia, rape is used as a weapon to humiliate people and tear apart communities. It is often perpetrated with direct consent or under the orders of military commanders and government officials.

The Nobel Women’s Initiative deepened its work to end sexual violence in conflict through a powerful and unprecedented global collaboration uniting Nobel Peace Laureates, international advocacy organizations, and groups working at the regional and community levels in conflict areas. This coordinated campaign seeks to amplify the voices of survivors, prevent rape and gender violence in conflict, protect civilians and rape survivors, and effectively prosecute those responsible.

A year after the Nobel Women’s Conference in Montebello,

2012 at a Glance

21-31 January
- Nobel Peace Laureates Jody Williams and Rigoberta Menchú Tum led a fact-finding mission to Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala on violence against women.

24 January
- Thousands of Hondurans protested a damaging new mining law that would further increase human rights abuses in Honduras.

14 February
- Shirin Ebadi and fellow Laureates called for the release of political opposition leaders, under house arrest since 14 February 2011 without trial or possibility of defense.
Survivors of sexual violence are brutalized twice – first by the perpetrators of the crimes against them, and the second time by governments that fail to apply the rule of law and ensure justice for survivors.

Jody Williams

Quebec, Women Forging a New Security: Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict Conference, the International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict was officially launched in May 2012 with events held online and around the world.

A Campaign Call and website was launched in seven languages (English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Congolese Swahili, Kenyan Swahili, and Arabic) and an information card with “10 Actions You Can Take To Stop Rape and Gender Violence in Conflict” was distributed around the world at our events.

Visit stoprapeinconflict.org.

During a week of action, the Campaign was launched with events in Colombia, Congo and Kenya, where several survivors publicly presented their personal experiences of sexual violence, generating local and international media coverage of their stories. A march involving hundreds of people in the streets took place, and the Nairobi Police Commissioner took the official pledge to work to stop rape in conflict. Campaign events in Brazil, Spain and Japan also resulted in numerous print and radio stories after well-attended events where Jody Williams spoke about the importance of uniting to pressure local governments and the international community to end rape and gender violence in war.

23 February
- Nobel Laureates urged EU member states to support a directive (the EU Fuel Quality Directive) that classifies tar sands oil as highly polluting.

11 March
- On the anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster, the Laureates urged world leaders to switch to low-carbon, nuclear-free energy sources.

18-21 March
- Laureate Mairead Maguire and Liz Bernstein spoke at the two-day Partnership for Change Conference on Dignity and Empowerment in Oslo, Norway.
In other parts of the world, people participated virtually, uploading public pledges of what they will do in their own community to help stop rape in conflict through Twitter, Flickr, and Facebook, and sharing them among their networks.

The Nobel Women’s Initiative launched the Campaign in Canada in June, hosting a parliamentary breakfast for Members of Parliament and calling on Canada to become a leader in ending sexual violence in conflict. As a result of this event and accompanying social media campaign, a motion was passed by Canada’s House of Commons calling on the government to play a leadership role to end sexual violence and make perpetrators accountable. The motion also calls on Canada to support survivors of sexual violence through development assistance and diplomatic effort.

One of the Campaign’s early successes is the way it has become quickly recognized as a voice for civil society by the international community and governments. In New York in September, Nobel Laureates Jody Williams, Leymah Gbowee, and Shirin Ebadi, and members of the Campaign Advisory Committee were invited to

**2012 at a Glance**

- **4 April**
  - Aung San Suu Kyi won her seat in Burma’s parliament with 82% of the vote. All 13 NLD women won their seats.

- **8 April**
  - Yee Htun published an oped in the Ottawa Citizen revealing that although Burma’s military espouses peace and democratic reform internationally, it continues its military offensive against ethnic minorities of Burma and still uses rape to disempower women and their communities.

- **18 April**
  - Nobel Peace Laureates Leymah Gbowee of Liberia and Tawakkol Karman of Yemen officially joined the Nobel Women’s Initiative.
participate at events around the 67th UN General Assembly. Laureates and Campaign members participated in a panel on the global crisis of sexual violence with international leaders, organized in collaboration with UN Women and the UK as a side event to the General Assembly. Country representatives, foreign ministers, and prominent activists attended. Following the event, the UK’s Foreign Secretary, William Hague, unveiled a £1 million pledge to help stop rape and gender violence in conflict. The newly appointed Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Bangura also expressed her strong commitment to addressing this issue.

The event helped raise the visibility of the issue of rape and gender violence in conflict in the UN, and demonstrated that the UN does see the International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict as a partner in addressing sexual violence.

Since its launch, the Campaign has garnered support from over 700 organizations and thousands of individuals including Eve Ensler of V-Day, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Gloria Steinem, and Charlize Theron) in 133 different countries.
around the world. Many of these members have also made a personal pledge to act to stop rape and gender violence in conflict.

**Condemning the attack on Dr. Mukwege and his colleagues in Congo**

In another example of the way the Campaign has been able to mobilize quickly and respond to crisis, the International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict launched an urgent action condemning the violent attack and assassination attempt on the life of Dr. Denis Mukwege and the murder of his friend and security guard. The Campaign called for the prosecution of those responsible as well as for the protection of Dr. Mukwege and his family. Dr. Mukwege and his colleagues at the Panzi Hospital have treated over 40,000 women survivors of rape and gender violence and performed more than 15,000 operations on women whose genitals and organs have been destroyed by violence from Congo’s ongoing conflict to control mineral wealth. An outspoken activist, Dr. Mukwege has called for an end to the violence and for justice to be brought to the women of Eastern Congo.

**Calling on China to open meaningful dialogue with Tibetan leaders**

In response to the spate of self-immolations in Tibet (more than 100 people have set themselves on fire since 2011 in protest against the repressive Chinese occupation of Tibet), 12 Nobel Peace Laureates—including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Jody Williams, Lech Walesa,

---

**2012 at a Glance**

**5 June**
- The Initiative and JASS released From Survivors to Defenders: Women Confronting Violence in Mexico, Honduras & Guatemala, about their delegation to Central America to investigate the impact on women of mining operations and the war on drugs.

**14 June**
- The Nobel Women’s initiative hosted a breakfast in Ottawa for politicians on Parliament Hill to encourage Canada to become a leader in ending rape in conflict.

**15 June**
- Gambian Fatou Bensouda was sworn in as the first African and woman Chief Prosecutor of the ICC.
Leymah Gbowee and Shirin Ebadi—sent a letter to Chinese President Hu Jintao urging him to “respect the dignity of the Tibetan people” and open “meaningful dialogue” with His Holiness the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan leaders in April. The Laureates also asked the Chinese government to release Tibetan political prisoners and allow unrestricted access to Tibet for journalists, human rights investigators, and diplomats. The letter resulted in a number of international media articles.

**Promoting peace in Palestine**

In March, Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire and anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan published an op-ed calling for a peaceful end to bloodshed and human rights violations in Palestine and encouraged participation in the Global March to Jerusalem to show solidarity with Palestinians and the protection of Jerusalem, a city that holds religious significance for both groups.

In October in New York City, at the Fourth Session of the Russell Tribunal on Palestine, jury members, including Mairead Maguire, found the US to be complicit in Israel’s violations of international law due to their ongoing diplomatic, economic, and military support of the Israeli government. The Tribunal, which focuses on the root causes of the conflict, also named the UN as complicit based on their lack of concrete action to uphold the rule of law.

In November, the Nobel Women’s Initiative joined other women’s groups around the world and called for an immediate end to the

16 June
- Aung San Suu Kyi finally accepted her Nobel peace prize (awarded in 1991) in Oslo, Norway.

20 June
- The New Democratic Party of Canada put forth a motion, supported by all parties in the House of Commons, that calls on the government to play a leadership role in ending sexual violence, supporting its victims, and making perpetrators accountable.

1 July
- The ICC celebrated its 10-year anniversary as the world’s first-ever permanent, treaty-based, international criminal court to end impunity for grave crimes: genocide, war crimes including rape and gender violence, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression.
airstrikes targeting civilians, after violence escalated between Israel and the Palestinian Gaza Strip, following the killing of a top Hamas military official.

Stars Earn Ire, and Laureates Score a Victory
On August 13, ten Nobel Peace Laureates released an open letter drafted by Nobel Women’s Initiative Jody Williams to NBC stating their opposition to the new reality show “Stars Earn Stripes”. Hosted by retired General Wesley Clark and other members of the United States military, the show followed a group of minor celebrities who participate in various challenges that parallel training exercises used by the United States military. Directed towards NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt, General Wesley Clark and Producer Mark Burnett, the letter requested the show be cancelled due to its glorification of war and armed violence, as well as it’s “….massive disservice to those who live and die in armed conflict and suffer its consequences long after the guns of war fall silent.” An NBC spokesperson responded by stating that the show is in fact not about glorifying war but is “...a glorification of service” and shows gratitude to the young Americans whom put their lives in danger on a daily basis.

The letter was shared in over two dozen international media outlets, including Forbes, The Chicago Tribune, and Foreign Policy. The letter also assisted in spurring a protest outside of NBC Entertainment’s headquarters in New York City. The protest, publicly supported by the Nobel Laureates, was attended by war veterans,
military families and concerned citizens alike. While “Stars Earn Stripes” finished its first season, NBC has quietly removed the show from its future listings.

**Women achieving justice**

We support work to achieve justice for women, including accountability for crimes committed against women and an end to widespread impunity.

*Bringing attention to the “war on women” in Central America: Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras*

Forced disappearances, murder, sexual violence, torture and harassment have become commonplace in Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras, fueled by decades of conflict, an ongoing drug war, continued militarization, large-scale mining projects, as well as an ineffective police and justice system. In Mexico, some 50,000 people were killed between 2007-2011. In Honduras, femicides rose 257% since 2002, with 460 women killed last year. In Guatemala in 2011, 705 women were killed compared to 213 in 2000. The true toll is even greater as thousands more are assaulted and “disappeared.”

Although the governments of these countries recognize the problem and have created

**30 August**

- The Nobel Women’s Initiative launched its Sister-to-Sister Mentorship Program in Ottawa.

**19 September**

- Aung San Suu Kyi began a long-awaited 20-day US tour.

**21 September**

- Jody Williams and Leymah Gbowee met with sister Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma in New York. They discussed the current situation in Burma, women’s role in the peace process, and the lifting of economic sanctions.

*“The war on drugs and increased militarization in Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala is becoming a war on women. The governments’ efforts to improve ‘security’ in the region have directly resulted in insecurity for civilian populations—and most especially, for women.”*  

*Jody Williams*
specialized agencies to deal with it, human rights violations against women are rarely investigated, much less prosecuted, creating a culture of impunity that results in even higher levels of sexual violence.

Jody Williams and Rigoberta Menchú Tum led a delegation to the Central American region in January 2012 to meet with and support women human rights defenders and Indigenous peoples, to bring attention to violence against women, to pressure governments to end impunity for human rights violations, and to address the role of mining companies in perpetrating human rights abuses. The delegation held press conferences in each country and did extensive media outreach. This resulted in a great number of national and international media pieces in both English and Spanish which significantly raised the profile of the issue of sexual violence in the region.

In collaboration with Just Associates (JASS) and their partners in Mesoamerica, the delegation—which included journalists, women’s rights experts, business women, and women in the performing arts—heard testimony from over 200 women’s human rights

2012 at a Glance

22 September
- The Nobel Laureates met with Fatou Bensouda, ICC Chief Prosecutor, to discuss challenges and opportunities for advancing justice for women and survivors of gender violence in conflict.

24 September
- The Nobel Laureates held a panel discussion at the BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center alongside UN General Assembly about ending gender violence and promoting justice for survivors.

23-25 September
- Members of the Campaign’s Advisory Committee met in New York to discuss campaign strategies and to lobby UN member states for increased leadership and action on preventing and prosecuting sexual violence at the national and international levels.
defenders about rape, murder, forced disappearances, and more. The delegation found that in Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala the police—and increasingly, soldiers sent out to cities and communities under the ‘drug war’—not only fail to guarantee public safety, but are also the perpetrators of many crimes committed against women. Private security firms hired by multi-national companies are another unchecked source of violence and insecurity for women, particularly Indigenous and rural women.

The delegation also met with high-level government officials, including President Porfirio Lobo Sosa of Honduras, President Otto Pérez Molina and Attorney General Claudia Paz y Paz of Guatemala, and Mexico’s Attorney General Marisela Morales and Supreme Court Justice, Olga Sanchez Cordero.

In their report, From Survivors to Defenders: Women Confronting Violence in Mexico, Honduras & Guatemala, the Nobel women identified three causes for the rise in violence: i) the expanded police and military presence, in the context of the drug war and increasing displacement for natural resource exploitation and megaprojects; ii) corrupt, discriminatory and inept justice systems; and iii) targeted attacks on women human rights defenders.

They called on the region’s governments to end the criminalization of human rights defenders, publicly denounce violence against women, and properly investigate and prosecute these crimes. They also urged the
international community to tie aid to human rights and to increase funding of women’s organizations, whose community-based model is a better solution to the region’s “security challenges” than militarization.

The report was launched in June with events at the US Institute of Peace in Washington, D.C. and on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Canada to discuss findings directly with key policymakers, officials, NGOs, and media. The delegation emphasized the impacts of US foreign policy—particularly the “War on Drugs” and military policies—on women’s lives and freedoms in Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Soon after the delegation left Guatemala, the president publicly advocated the legalization of drugs to end the violence.

Supporting the first female prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC)

On June 15, 2012, Fatou Bensouda assumed the role of Chief Prosecutor of the ICC. A Gambian national, Fatou is the first woman and the first African to assume the position. The ICC, which marked its 10th anniversary on July 1, plays a critical role in not only prosecuting those responsible for rape but also those who plan and order the systematic use of violence, which is vital for preventing future

The mission has clearly stirred up the dust. The good part is that violence against women activists is on the agenda for today.

Jody Williams

2012 at a Glance

7 November

- Liz Bernstein published an article in the Huffington Post urging the Canadian government to heed women’s concerns over the environment and climate change.

12-14 November

- Jody Williams participated in the UK Wilton Park Conference on “Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations” with Campaign members Lauren Wolfe of Women’s Media Center’s Women Under Siege project, and Susannah Sirkin of Physicians for Human Rights.
conflict and providing **justice** to survivors. The International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict launched the “Support Fatou” (#SupportFatou) online action, calling for action to ensure the international community supports her important work toward ensuring accountability for perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict situations and gender **justice** worldwide. As well, the action urged nations to donate to the ICC Trust Fund for Victims of sexual and/or gender-based violence. Campaign supporters also sent online messages of support on the occasion.

**Calling for the release of Iranian political prisoners**

Iranian opposition leaders Zahra Rahnavard, Mir Hossein Mousavi, and Mehdi Karroubi were placed under house arrest in February 2011 after calling for solidarity with the popular movements in Tunisia and Egypt. Shirin Ebadi, joined by her fellow Nobel Peace Laureates, publicly called for their unconditional release, as well as for the freedom of all prisoners of conscience in Iran (numbering at least 500).

The Nobel Laureates also continued to press for the release of the fearless and highly respected lawyer, activist, and mother of two, Nasrin Sotoudeh. Nasrin has been locked up in Iran’s notorious Evin prison since January 2011, illegally detained for defending political prisoners and speaking out about human rights abuses. The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has declared her detention illegal.

**19 November**

- The Nobel Women’s Initiative welcomed the Human Rights Watch report Losing Humanity: The Case Against Killer Robots and fully supported the call for an international treaty to ban fully autonomous weaponized robots.

**22-26 November**

- Tawakkol Karman visited the Nobel Women’s Initiative in Ottawa to discuss strategies for our work on women’s rights and issues of climate justice. Tawakkol met with Canadian opposition leader Thomas Mulcair and Members of Parliament.

**25 November-10 December**

- As part of the global campaign, 16 Days of Activism to End Gender Violence, the Nobel Women profiled 16 extraordinary women human rights defenders.
Urging the release of women human rights defenders in Sudan
In keeping with our commitment to support and partnership with the women of Sudan, on July 13, the Nobel Women issued a statement expressing concern for the security and safety of at least 40 women human rights defenders arrested at a peaceful demonstration in Khartoum and at risk of rape and sexual violence by security forces. The demonstrations were triggered by high inflation and cutbacks in subsidies for food, housing, fuel, and school fees. Authorities used tear gas, nerve gas and live ammunition against protesters. Women have remained at the forefront of the resistance movement, leading protests in Sudan’s capital, Khartoum, and other major cities in Sudan. The Nobel Women urged the government to ensure the safety of the women in detention and to secure their immediate release.

Calling for justice for women human rights defenders in Atenco, Mexico
On May 4, the Nobel Women’s Initiative stood in solidarity with the women of Atenco and called on the Mexican government to finally implement protocols for proper investigation and prosecution of violence against women and women human rights defenders. Six years ago two protestors died, 145 were brutally and arbitrarily arrested, and at least 27 women were raped and sexually tortured in detention. Though they continue to be denied justice, 11 of the women have submitted their cases to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). To commemorate the courageous

2012 at a Glance

3 December
- The treaty banning the production and use of landmines (Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction) commemorated 15 years since its signing. The effort was recognized in 1997 when Jody Williams and the International Campaign to Ban Landmines were honored with the Nobel Peace Prize. This convention is praised as “one of the most successful advances in international humanitarian law.” The Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty marked the first time in history that the production and use of a conventional weapon was banned.
fight of these women against sexual torture, the Centro de Derechos Humanos published *Atenco: six years of impunity, six years of resistance*, which includes a prologue by Nobel Laureate Jody Williams.

**Seeking justice for sexual violence fueled by mining companies in Guatemala**

One of the ways we honored our commitment to bring the voices of the women we met on our Americas delegation to an international audience, was to host a screening of *Granito: How to Nail a Dictator* - a documentary about the quest for justice in Guatemala. In June, the Nobel Women’s Initiative and the Canadian Centre for International Justice (CCIJ) hosted the screening and a panel discussion with the filmmaker Pamela Yates, CCIJ Director Jayne Stoyles, and Guatemalan anti-mining activist Maria Cuc Choc focused on women’s access to justice in the region, how Canadian mining companies are fueling sexual violence against women, and ways Canadians and others can address the growing violence against women in the region. Canada has one of the strongest global mining presences in the region and the Nobel Women continue to work to support activists working for justice for their communities.

**Keeping the spotlight on Claudia Paz y Paz’s efforts for justice in Guatemala**

In the face of death threats and violence, Claudia Paz y Paz, the Attorney General of Guatemala and the first female to hold the position, courageously advocates for victims of mass human rights atrocities and works to ensure those responsible are held accountable. Paz y Paz’s office built the case that brought former President of Guatemala Efrain Rios Montt to trial for crimes against humanity, including genocide and mass rapes from over 20 years ago. Her office has since put Rios Montt under house arrest.

**Calling for an inquiry into the deaths of innocent Hondurans**

When four innocent Honduran civilians were killed, including two pregnant women, following a US-sponsored counter-narcotics operation on the Honduran coast, Jody Williams called on Ambassador Melanne Verveer (United States Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues) to conduct an investigation independent of the Honduran task force that dismissed the firing as self-defense.
Indigenous women are often on the frontlines of communities that are trying to peacefully express their opposition to large-scale projects that threaten the health and land of Indigenous peoples. But instead of supporting these women’s democratic rights, governments and multinational companies are too often supporting brutal violence to crack down on these women and their communities.

Rigoberta Menchú Tum

Women advancing equality and human rights

We support human rights defenders, including those working for women’s equality and climate justice.

Amplifying women’s voices on oil and climate change

Tar sands exist in approximately 70 countries around the world, from Venezuela to Russia, but the largest reserve is in Northern Alberta, in Canada. The Canadian oil sands industry has experienced exponential growth over the past two decades, contributing to climate change, causing widespread environmental damage with dangerous effects on air and water quality, and harming local people and Aboriginal communities. Indeed, in Canada, the oil sands are the single largest growing source of toxic emissions.

Communities living in or near the 140,000 square kilometer oil sands project in Alberta, many of them First Nations, are witnessing complete destruction of their land. For some Nations, such as the Beaver Lake Cree, more than 70% of their land has been destroyed by the industry—despite clear treaties enshrining their land rights within the Canadian Constitution.

The price of oil sands development is taking its toll on human and wildlife. People are dying of cancer, children are suffering from breathing problems, and animals are turning up with tumours. With transient populations, difficult working conditions, loss of culture and rampant illness, violence against women is rising in many oil sands communities.

Jody Williams led a delegation of six women activists to the Alberta oil sands and along the route of the Northern Gateway pipeline into British Columbia last October to listen to women and First Nations groups about the impacts of the pipeline on their communities. Members of the tour included Canadian singer-songwriter Sarah Harmer, Canadian climate scientist Marianne Douglas, Kandi Mossett of the US Indigenous Environmental Network and Chris Page, board member of
San Francisco’s Center for Environmental Health.

They met with more than 200 women, including Aboriginal women, from 13 communities along the 1,100 km pipeline. They are angry about having to choose between environmental destruction and economic development. And they are extremely concerned about the impact Canada’s oil production has on climate change.

The delegation heard shocking testimony about poverty, displacement, sexual violence, environmental destruction, and health impacts due to oil sands expansion. They also heard of government and industry attempts to silence women defending their land and communities through violence and financial incentives.

They called for a full public inquiry into the social, economic, environmental, and health impacts of oil sands development. They urged the Canadian and US governments to end their reliance on crude oil, to invest in renewable energy sources, and to protect the environment as well as the lives and livelihoods of communities, particularly women and children.

**Urging European Union to adopt the Fuel Quality Directive: No tar sands oil**

The European Fuel Quality Directive is a policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transport fuels consumed in Europe. The policy, which is seeking final approval from EU members, recognizes that tar sands oil causes more greenhouse gas pollution than conventional oil. In a open letter in February the Nobel Peace Laureates urged EU heads of state to support the policy despite the intense protests from oil companies and the Canadian government. The letter resulted in dozens of media articles worldwide. The vote resulted in moving the decision from the hands of the bureaucrats into the hands of the politicians. It is now in the court of public opinion, and we continue to actively encourage adoption of this precedent-setting policy.

“[What used to be the boreal forest now is like the Sahara desert. And they want to pacify us with money. Yes, we are all here, we rely on this industry, but it should never be alright that you have to choose between your values, and who you are as an Indigenous person.]

*Crystal Lameman of Beaver Lake Cree Nation*
Speaking out against the new Honduran mining law

In an op-ed in the Ottawa Citizen in March, Jody Williams argued that women and communities are not adequately being consulted about a new mining law that would make it easier for foreign mining companies, notably Canadian ones, to operate in Honduras and endanger communities and their environment. She warns that violence against women is increasing in the country the UN now calls the murder capital of the world and where 195 women were murdered in the first half of last year alone. While in Honduras, the Nobel women’s delegation met with women who talked about how the San Martin mine in the Siria Valley, owned by a subsidiary of Canadian-owned Goldcorp Inc., has contaminated local water supplies leading to skin rashes and high levels of lead levels residents’ blood. Journalists who have reported on concerns about Canadian mining operations have received death threats.

Protecting women’s rights and women’s rights defenders in Iran

In September, prompted by severe restrictions on women’s education and birth control programs, Nobel Laureate Shirin Ebadi called on the UN to investigate the increasingly deteriorating situation of women’s rights in Iran. Shirin also launched a website, Remembering Iranian Women, to gather and store the details of sentences and executions of Iranian women activists. The site documents the women’s rights movement in Iran through three eras.

In July, with the International Federation for Human Rights and the Iranian League for the Defence of Human Rights, Shirin called for an end to the human rights abuses of Iranian political prisoners, such as public shaming, personal intimidation, torture, unwarranted harassment of family members, and limited access to legal representation and medical care.

This past March, the 56th UN Commission on the Status of Women hosted a panel focusing on the harassment of women activists in Iran. Yee Htun, coordinator of the International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict, was among the panelists who spoke in support of Iranian women who could not attend due to threats from the Iranian government.

Supporting change and women’s rights in Burma

In September Leymah Gbowee and Jody Williams met with sister Nobel Peace Laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, for the first time since
her release from house arrest in 2010. The Laureates discussed the current situation in Burma. This included discussion around the lifting of economic sanctions and the role of women in the peace processes in Burma. The meeting was part of Aung San Suu Kyi’s 20-day speaking tour of the United States.

While Burma has undergone change in 2012, we continued to offer (and increase) our support to organizations like the Women’s League of Burma and others who are working to support and strengthen a broad-based democratic women’s movement and gender justice within the borders of Burma and on the Thai-Burma border. In December the Nobel Women helped to support a delegation led by the Women’s League of Burma into Burma to meet with women’s groups and student leaders to build networks and facilitate women’s involvement in the peace process. We also assisted with trainings on advocacy and media through partners who have strong networks inside Burma.

Promoting fully-inclusive democratic reform in Burma

While global optimism for reform has increased after the recent elections in Burma, the Nobel Women joined with its partner, Women’s League of Burma in maintaining a cautious approach to the recent changes. Sexual violence, forced labour and fighting are still rampant in ethnic regions of Burma and there is still a long way to go before peace and democracy are a reality. In November the Nobel Laureates called for an end to the violence in Kachin and Rakhine States and for the protection of and the delivery of aid to vulnerable populations. Ahead of a meeting between US President Obama and President U Thein Sein of Burma, the Laureates also stressed the importance of including women and ethnic groups in any reconciliation and democratic reform processes.

Supporting voices of women of the Arab Spring

Nobel Peace Laureate Tawakkol Karman visited the Nobel Women’s Initiative in Ottawa to discuss strategies for our work on women’s rights and issues of climate justice. Tawakkol also met with Canadian opposition leader Thomas Mulcair and NDP Members of Parliament Paul Dewar and Wayne Marston to share her thoughts on Canada’s climate change plan, and called on the Canadian government to continue supporting the Arab Spring activists and reform.
The Nobel Women’s Initiative Welcomes Two New Nobel Peace Laureates

2011 Nobel Peace Prize co-recipients Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman have joined the Nobel Women’s Initiative. These inspiring and courageous women are perfect examples of how ordinary women can harness nonviolent protest to create peace, justice, and equality in their communities. We look forward to working with Tawakkol and Leymah to increase the strength and visibility of women activists around the globe!

We must continue to unite in sisterhood to turn our tears into triumph. There is no time to rest until our world achieves wholeness and balance, where all men and women are considered equal and free.

— Leymah Gbowee

Leymah Gbowee received the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for her work in leading a women’s peace movement that brought an end to the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003. She heads the Ghana-based Women Peace and Security Network (WPSN) and has recently launched a foundation that funds Liberian girls through college.

After her country erupted in civil war in 1989, Leymah took action by training as a trauma counselor to treat former child soldiers. The war ended in 1996 only to be followed by a second civil war in 1999. Tired of witnessing the sexual violence and brutality, Leymah mobilized an interreligious coalition of Christian and Muslim women to stage pray-ins and nonviolent protests demanding reconciliation and peace talks. The pressure pushed President Charles Taylor into exile, and paved the way for the election of Africa’s first female head of state, fellow 2011 Nobel Laureate Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Documenting these efforts in the Tribeca Film Festival 2008 Best Documentary winner Pray the Devil Back to Hell, Leymah demonstrated the power of social cohesion and relationship-building in the face of political unrest and social turmoil.

Leymah continues to work on behalf of grassroots efforts for sustainable peace, addressing the particular vulnerability of women and children in war-torn societies, and pushing for greater inclusion of women as leaders and agents of change in Africa.
Tawakkol Karman received the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for her work in the nonviolent struggle for women’s safety and for women’s participation in peacebuilding work in Yemen. She is the first Yemeni, the first Arab woman, and the youngest (at age 32) to win a Nobel Peace Prize.

Long before anyone had ever heard the term “Arab Spring,” Tawakkol, a journalist and human rights activist, was mobilizing others and reporting on human rights abuses, illegal detentions and drone attacks outside the cabinet building in Sanaa. She founded Women Journalists Without Chains in 2005 to provide media skills to journalists, advocate for rights and freedoms, and document human rights abuses against journalists and writers.

Known amongst Yemen’s opposition movement as “mother of the revolution” and “iron woman,” Tawakkol was one of the first to support the youth protests in Tunisia and Egypt. Throughout the Yemeni uprising, it was common to walk through Change Square and hear her voice over the loudspeaker, leading the youth in chants. In January, the Yemeni government moved to silence her, but her subsequent arrest led to even larger protests demanding her release.

Since receiving the award, Tawakkol continues to support female journalists and to rally Yemenis against government corruption and injustice, primarily from her tent in Change Square.

“I am a citizen of the world. The Earth is my country and humanity is my nation.”

Tawakkol Karman
The Nobel Women’s Initiative, together with many other women’s organizations worldwide, again took part in 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, a global annual campaign to bring attention to gender violence and the work of activists all over the world. First initiated by the Women’s Global Leadership Institute in 1991, the campaign begins on November 25, the International Day against Violence against Women, and runs until December 10, International Human Rights Day. This year’s campaign theme was *From Peace in the Home* to Peace in the World: Let’s Challenge Militarism and End Violence Against Women.

Through our 16 Days of Activism blog, the Nobel Women profiled 16 extraordinary women who do amazing work to defend women’s rights and establish a future for women that is free of violence and discrimination - including Indigenous-Canadian women opposing the oil sands and proposed Northern Gateway pipeline, Mexican and Honduran women who are taking action to stop the murders and disappearances of women, Palestinian and Israeli women opposing the occupation, Iranian women political prisoners, Burmese women’s rights activists who are wary of the engagement of the West with Burma’s current regime, and more.
Meet some of these inspiring women activists:

**Sister-to-Sister Mentorship Program, 2012**

Maria Luisa Aguilar Rodriguez

*Raising the voices of Indigenous women in Mexico*

“This is a great opportunity for me to tell the stories of those who unfortunately cannot share their story with you directly.”

Part of the Nobel women’s Sister-to-Sister mentorship program, Maria Luisa has been working in one of the most impoverished regions of Mexico with Tlachinollan, a human rights centre that promotes and defends the human rights of the marginalized, including the naua, me’phaa, na savi and nn’ancuee Indigenous people, as well as the mestizos from the Montaña and Costa Chica regions in Guerrero. Tlachinollan’s multicultural, interdisciplinary team accompanies Indigenous peoples in their struggles to claim their basic human rights, in the face of increased violence due to militarization and drug trafficking, land conflicts and megaprojects, an ineffective justice system, and little or no access to basic education and health services—people such as Ines Fernandez and Valentina Rosendo, Indigenous women who were raped and tortured after taking a stand against military impunity.
Aghssan Barghouthi
Increasing awareness of the struggles of Palestinians in Occupied Palestine

“I am not a heroine, I am doing my best I can to be the voice of those real heroes and heroines struggling in my country.”

Born and raised in Occupied Palestine, Aghssan Barghouthi has experienced and witnessed the challenges of people living under occupation. Israel continues to transfer the Palestinian people out of the region, confiscating land and building settlements connected by a road network for the exclusive use of settlers. It has also begun building an apartheid wall, which spans 800 km, annexing around 50 percent of the West Bank. In addition, there are more than 4,000 prisoners in the Israeli jails including women and children, some younger than 16 years old.

Aghssan has chosen journalism as a profession so that she may share the truth about her country’s situation with the world. She volunteers for the Stop The Wall Campaign to help expose the system of apartheid being implemented by the Israeli Occupation. Along with other youth who have lost faith in the political parties and the Palestinian authority, she created a youth group to protest the division between Fatah and Hamas Parties, the conditional fund, the normalization, and the imprisonment of Palestinians, some of whom have spent more than 20 years in prison.
Walaa Salah Mohamed Abdelrhman
Advocating women’s participation and decision making in Sudan

“I was waiting for my father who promised to bring me mango when he got home. I waited for him for three months... and then I knew that he was detained for political reasons. They arrested him in the classroom at the school where he was a teacher.”

Born in Khartoum, Walaa Salah has always been deeply involved in politics to promote democracy. In 2007, she was elected as the first woman and the youngest ever president of Khartoum University’s student union. She works in the Sudan office of the Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa with women displaced and sexually abused during the Sudan conflict. Together, they advocate at the grassroots level for social change and women’s economic empowerment, particularly on reforming Sudan’s discriminatory laws that restrict women’s participation in both public and private arenas, including the prohibition of dancing in the presence of men and the restriction of women as street vendors.
Fatou Bensouda

Seeking justice for sexual violence in Africa

“I am working for the victims of Africa, they are African like me. That’s where I get my inspiration and my pride.”

Fatou Bensouda is the first woman and the first African to take up the role of Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC). Recently recognized by TIME magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world, Fatou is determined to give crimes involving sexual violence a higher profile at the ICC. She believes that the prosecution of those who systematically use rape during conflict is vital for preventing future conflict and providing justice to survivors.

Melina Laboucan Massimo

Exposing the impacts of the oil sands projects in Northern Alberta, Canada

“I really feel the need to be a part of the struggle against the way the world is being desecrated for the pursuit of profit. The natural balance of our environment is seriously in threat.”

Melina is an Indigenous and environmental activist from the Lubicon Cree in Northern Alberta who works as an oil sands campaigner for Greenpeace Canada. She grew up in the shadow of the oil sands development, witnessing its impact on her people, culture, livelihood, and land. Almost 70% of Lubicon territory has been leased by the government for future development, without consent by the Lubicon people—and in direct violation of their treaty and international human rights. In 2012, Melina testified before the US Congressional Committee about the detrimental effects and called on the US to become a leader in renewable energy production and reject the Enbridge pipeline.

Crystal Lameman

Speaking out about oil sands rights violations in Indigenous communities in Canada

“It should never be right that you have to decide between your morals, values, who you are as an Indigenous person over feeding your family.”

The first woman in her family to receive two university degrees, Crystal is a Beaver Lake Cree Nation activist, a Sierra Club Prairie Chapter Climate and Energy Campaigner in Alberta, Canada, and a mother of two. She is committed to restoring Native treaty rights and stopping the expansion of the tar sands. Although many in her community are afraid to speak out for fear of
losing their jobs in the oil sands industry, Crystal is at the forefront of a precedent-setting court case to hold the Canadian government accountable for 17,000 treaty violations.

Laura Reyes
Working courageously to end violence and impunity in Mexico

“All of my aunts and uncles have fought for human rights and it wouldn’t be right for me to turn around and say ‘I am too scared because my life is in danger’.”

Laura Reyes is an activist from Ciudad Juárez, Mexico whose family has been the target of brutal violence, including house burning, harassment, and assassinations, for protesting against the hundreds of unsolved killings of women and human rights violations committed by the military. Laura has lost six members of her family, including two uncles, two aunts and a cousin. When the murders escalated in 2011, Laura and the remaining members of her family organized a sit-in at the Assistant Attorney General’s office. They stayed there for three weeks, staging a hunger strike, and even held a wake for two dead family members there. The Reyes family is just one of many cases that have led organizations such as Amnesty International and the Nobel Women’s Initiative to call for Mexico to implement measures to protect those who stand up for human rights and justice.

Berta Cáceres Flores
Resisting militarization, patriarchy, corruption and racism in Honduras

“They’re recruiting our young people because it’s the only way to get a job without having to migrate... They have total impunity to abuse women, especially poor women, Indigenous women and women of African descent.”

Berta Cáceres Flores is a leader among campesino, Indigenous, and popular movements in Mesoamerica. She is internationally renowned for her work on human rights and economic justice issues. Berta comes from the Lenca people and is co-founder and leader of the Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras, and other region-wide coalitions of social movements that promote participatory and collective debate in Honduras, and the creation of a new, representative, and just constitution that incorporates women’s rights. Berta and members of her organization have put their lives at risk—facing harassment, attacks, death threats and sexual violence—for their human rights work.
Staying connected

The rapid development of information technology has brought down walls, eliminated borders and brought people from around the world together as members of one family.

The Nobel Women’s Initiative uses new media and information technology to effectively connect with women around the world, sharing stories of extraordinary activists and providing opportunities to take action, both individually and collectively. Using our website, blogs, video clips, Facebook updates and tweets, we are better able to connect, interact, and inspire people to act.

Online Action

Over the past year, social and new media outreach has proved to be highly effective in connecting with new audiences and spreading the messages.

The launch of the International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict website www.stoprapeinconflict.org in April 2012 engaged and inspired the community to join the Campaign and make a personal pledge to act to end rape and gender violence in conflict. The website is integrated with an online database and serves as a platform through which people can join the Campaign, learn about its goals, access toolkits, participate in Campaign actions, and learn more about public events.

From the Campaign’s launch in May 2012 until December 2012, the Campaign acquired 2,128 followers on Twitter, 4,406 views of its Campaign launch video on You Tube, 2,705 “likes” on Facebook and innumerable views of its photo albums of Campaign activities through Flickr.

Increasing media coverage of the Campaign has substantially contributed to the public discourse on rape in conflict. This media attention garnered
tens of thousands of Facebook “likes” and “shares” as well as tweets all of which contribute exponentially to raising awareness about and generating support for the Campaign.

Over the course of the 10-day delegation to Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, we tweeted and posted on Facebook and our website about our activities. We reached more than 250,000 twitter accounts—our widest network yet—resulting in an incredible 1676 views of the report through the Nobel Women’s Initiative’s website. There were over 9,000 website page views, with 2924 unique visitors. We made multiple Facebook posts each day, which went out to our 6900 followers and our “Total Reach” nearly doubled from 4500 on the first day of the delegation, to 9500 by the last day. Media pieces about the delegation and the report also appeared on CNN, Forbes and the Wise Latina Club among others.

The Breaking Ground delegation was also followed by a diverse audience throughout North America on both Facebook and Twitter. The Nobel Women’s Initiative team tweeted and blogged each meeting, making the women’s stories and concerns accessible and timely. The @NobelWomen account sent out thousands of tweets during the delegation including oil sands facts, actions, and direct quotes from the women activists. Our overall Twitter audience grew from 12,500 to over 13,500 followers from October 8-18 alone.

Our Facebook reach was similar. Over the course of the delegation we reached over 1000 new followers. From the beginning of the delegation to the end of October alone, we had a total reach of over 350,000 Facebook users from nearly 23,000 people generating stories from our content.

Our Flickr galleries with photos for each day of the delegation received an average of 260 views each. We also used Instagram for the first time to reach new audiences, and gained an audience of 660 followers with just 20 selectively posted photos. We posted 1 – 2 videos on YouTube each day, including
delegate interviews and clips from delegation meetings, receiving a total of 3,842 video views. Partner support also helped spread our message amongst even larger audiences. Shares and posts by large organizations garnered thousands of shares of their own. Finally, the Nobel Women’s Initiative website featured activist spotlights, stories from the road, take action posts, and photo and video content. Traffic more than doubled over the course of the delegation. From October 7-18, the site had 7,182 visits from 5,771 unique users viewing a total of 15,131 pages, and 75.29% were new users. The majority of visitors were US-based, but over 60 different countries were represented. Traditional media coverage (print, radio, and television) also helped to spread our message to a broad public audience, with more than 20 articles and news pieces from 13 different news outlets.

Media Coverage: Amplifying Women’s Voices

The Nobel Women’s Initiative continued to provide journalists (traditional and online) with resources, story ideas and expertise on a wide range of issues. We kept them abreast of the work of women’s rights activists and our Laureates through news releases, statements, op-eds, and editorials - amplifying women’s voices to as wide an audience as possible. In 2012, we garnered extensive media coverage,
particularly for our International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict and for our missions to Central America, and to Western Canada with articles in major newspapers around the world as well as television and radio stories. Here are just a few of the samples of our media coverage over the past year:

**Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala Delegation**


- The Drug War’s Invisible Victims, *Netherlands Aid*, 31 January 2012.

- Manto de atropellos cubre a defensoras en México, *Inter Press Service*, 1 February 2012.

- Central America’s women at war: A delegation goes after the region’s strongmen by using the clout of Nobel women, *Maclean’s Magazine*, 28 February 2012.

- Genocide on Trial in Guatemala, *The Nation*, 29 February 2012.


- Nobel Laureates highlight violence against women in Mexico, Central America, *CNN*, 5 June 2012.

- Violence against women Soars in Mexico, *UPI*, 8 June 2012


- TWLC’s Viviana Hurtado Moderates Panel with Nobel Peace Laureate or How This Week I Have Professional Whiplash, *The Wise Latina Club*, 2 July 2012


**International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict**

- Worldwide, it’s ‘more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier in wars,’ *Huffington Post*, 10 May 2012.

Let’s End Rape in Conflict, The American Prospect, 14 May 2012.

War’s Common Weapon (and how women are trying to stop it), CTV News, 15 May 2012.

Peace laureates kick off crusade against rape, Standard Digital, 18 May 2012.

“La guerra contra el terror de Obama es peor que la de Bush”, El Pais.com, 11 June 2012.

Stronger actions needed to prevent conflict-related sexual violence – UN and partners, UN News Centre, 25 September 2012.

Nations pledge new UN effort to end use of rape as weapon in conflicts, Calgary Herald, 25 September 2012.

‘We do not need any more proof’: Leaders tell UN it’s time to act on rape in war, Women Under Siege, 25 September 2012.

UN Women Demands End to Impunity for Wartime Rape and Violence, Inter Press Service, 26 September 2012.

Yes We Can! (End Rape in War), Huffington Post, 1 October 2012.

Breaking Ground: Women, Oil and Climate Change

Nobel prize winner arrives in Fort McMurray, tours Northern Gateway route for women’s perspective, The Canadian Press, 9 October 2012

Nobel group expects to hear both sides before condemning oilsands, The National Post, 9 Oct 2012

Une prix Nobel de la paix visite les sables bitumineux, CBC Alberta Le Café Show (radio), 10 October 2012

Jody Williams on pipeline, CBC Vancouver Early Edition (radio), 11 October 2012

Jody Williams and Sarah Harmer on CBC Power & Politics with Evan Solomon (television) (@1:08:40), 15 October 2012
Oil Sands Greatly Undermining the Basic Needs of Local Women and Children Says Nobel-Led Delegation, Marketwire, 16 October 2012

Nobel winner joins pipeline opposition, The Globe and Mail, 16 October 2012

Nobel laureates say oilsands bad for women, children, Toronto Sun (with video), 18 October 2012

Harper, please listen to Sandy, Huffington Post, 7 November 2012

Action to Protect DRC Dr. Mukwege

DR Congo doctor evacuated after murder bid, AFP, 27 October 2012.

DRC urged to protect int’l campaigner against Gender violence, panapress, 27 October 2012.

Democratic Republic of Congo must protect Dr. Denis Mukwege after violent attack, apapress, 27 October 2012.

Who will stand up for the women of Congo?, The Ottawa Citizen, 29 October 2012.
Financial Summary

Ray Folkins, CA completed the 2012 Nobel Women’s Initiative independent audit. The following excerpts are taken from his report. A complete copy of the audited financial statements is available from the office upon request.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT ASSETS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$118,106</td>
<td>$38,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>61,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid Expenses &amp; Deposits</td>
<td>35,369</td>
<td>96,242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$153,475</strong></td>
<td><strong>$195,981</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities | $25,630 | $107,192 |

| DEFERRED CONTRIBUTIONS | $48,726 | $87,986 |

| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS BEGINNING | 803 | 20,419 |
| Net Revenue (Expenditures) | 78,316 | (19,616) |

| UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS ENDING | 79,119 | 803 |
| **Total Net Assets** | **$153,475** | **$195,981** |

| STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS | | |
| REVENUE | | |
| Donations | $681,748 | $691,067 |
| Foundations | 10,000 | 108,139 |
| Grants | 1,001,382 | 500,852 |
| In Kind Contributions | 14,513 | - |
| Interest & Other Income | 1,243 | 40,477 |
| **Total Revenue** | **1,708,886** | **1,340,535** |

| EXPENDITURES | | |
| Administration & Program Support | 293,716 | 305,090 |
| Communications | 351,677 | 351,423 |
| Public Policy Engagement | 985,177 | 703,638 |
| **Total Expenditures** | **1,630,570** | **1,360,151** |

| NET REVENUE (EXPENDITURES) | $78,316 | $(19,616) |
2012 REVENUES

- Grants: 59%
- Donations: 40%
- Foundations: 0%
- Interest & Other Income: 0%

2012 EXPENDITURES

- Public Policy Engagement: 60%
- Administration & Program Support: 18%
- Communications: 22%
The Nobel Women’s Initiative would also like to extend their thanks and gratitude to the dedicated individuals who assisted in furthering our work in 2012. This includes fundraiser and strategist Lynne Twist, accountant Julie Jenkins, designers Sandra Green, Alain Cote, and Jenny Walker, filmmakers Ed Kucerak, Jane Gurr, and Jith Paul, writer Augie Van Biljouw, website advisor Andrew Chisolm, network and server technologists Alastair Warwick and Ian Ward, Nancy Ingram & Christa McMillan of Foot in the Door Consulting and web developer Taras Mankovski and several other valuable consultants. We would also like to thank the activists we met along the way this year. They inspire, motivate, and empower us with their strength.

Concept and Design: Green Communication Design inc: www.greencom.ca
Find us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Delicious @NobelWomen.

Visit our website at http://nobelwomensinitiative.org

Nobel Women’s Initiative is registered in Canada as a not-for-profit corporation.
Advocates for peace, justice & equality