



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**The Advocates for Human Rights Joins “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence” International Campaign with Resources and Events in Minnesota and Around the World**

**Minneapolis / St. Paul, MN (12/3/12)** - The Advocates has joined the campaign, “16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence” with resources and events to build awareness about gender violence and help individuals advocate for an end to violence against women. The campaign, which involves thousands of organizations across the world and is in its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, runs for the 16 days between International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and International Human Rights Day, December 10.

The Advocates’ Executive Director Robin Phillips says, “Violence against women is an unacceptable human rights violation. With 20 years of experience working to support women’s human rights in the United States and around the world, The Advocates is proud to add its voice to the 16 Days campaign and join with others around the globe calling for an end to violence against women.”

As part of its activities for the campaign, The Advocates launched its report, *Implementation of the Republic of Moldova’s Domestic Violence Legislation* to government ministries, police, lawyers, judges, advocates, and service providers in Moldova on November 29 and 30. The report is the result of a multi-year collaboration with the Moldovan Women’s Law Center and the Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation. This week, The Advocates and the Women’s Law Center will train Moldovan police officers in best practices for implementing the domestic violence legislation in a three-day seminar.

Among the other campaign events and resources organized by The Advocates are the launch of an updated online resource center on ending human trafficking and a film screening of “From Fear to Freedom: Ending Violence Against Women” In the film, leading experts discuss the causes of gender-based violence, share strategies to combat it, and provide inspiring accounts of achievement in the international women’s movement. The screening is also part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Women’s Human Rights Film Series with The Friends of The St. Paul Public Library and will take place at 7:00 p.m. on December 3 at the St. Anthony Park Branch Library in St. Paul.

Violence against women remains the most pervasive human rights violation in the world. According to the United Nations Development Fund for Women, at least one in three women globally will be beaten, raped, or otherwise abused during her lifetime. Violence kills and disables as many women between the ages of 15 and 44 as cancer.

Founded in 1993, The Advocates’ Women’s Human Rights Program applies international human rights standards to advocate for women’s rights in the United States and around the world. The program documents gaps in government response to violence against women and assists in making improvements to laws, policies, and practices.

The 16 Days Campaign is coordinated by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership at Rutgers University.

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The Advocates for Human Rights, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Minneapolis, is dedicated to the promotion of internationally-recognized human rights. To learn more visit [theadvocatesforhumanrights.org](http://theadvocatesforhumanrights.org).