

Press Release

## **New nominations for second annual awards are now being accepted**

### **Gender Justice Uncovered 2010 Awards**

*On October 28 Women's Link Worldwide will launch the second annual Gender Justice Uncovered Awards, which seek to identify and publicize the best and worst gender-related decisions or statements made in English or Spanish within a judicial process.*

October 27, 2009 – From October 28 of this year until March 15, 2010, any person may nominate statements or decisions made in English or Spanish by any judge, court, committee, administrative body, prosecutor, public defender, ombudsman, members of UN Committees, asylum boards, etc, which have had a positive or negative impact on gender equality, including those related to sexual and reproductive rights, gender-based violence or gender discrimination.

Nominations can be submitted at <http://uncovered.womenslinkworldwide.org>, where everyone can rate their favorite decisions (good or bad) and learn about new nominations.

The winners will be announced on May 10, 2010 and will be widely publicized through Women's Link Worldwide's website and in the media. A jury will choose the "**Bludgeon**" decisions (those with the worst impact on gender equality) and the "**Gavel**" decisions (those that have furthered gender equality the most.)

The three most sexist decisions or statements will receive Bronze, Silver and Gold Bludgeons and the three decisions or statements that have had the most positive impact on gender equality will receive Bronze, Silver and Gold Gavels.

The People Choice Awards will be granted to the nominees that receive the largest number of votes from the public through our web page.

### **2009 Awards**

In the first year of the Gender Justice Uncovered Awards, 33 decisions were nominated from courts in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico and Spain and by the UN Human Rights Committee.

The **Gold Gavel** was granted to the Supreme Court of Mexico, which declared the constitutionality of Mexico City's abortion law.

Meanwhile, the **Gold Bludgeon** was given to Chile's Constitutional Court, which prohibited the distribution of emergency contraception in public hospitals.

The **People's Choice Gavel Award** went to Colombia's Constitutional Court for the decision that granted equal rights to same sex couples.

Finally, the **People's Choice Bludgeon Award** went to Ecuador's Constitutional Court, which prohibited the distribution of emergency contraception in the country.

**About Women's Link Worldwide**

Women's Link Worldwide is an international human rights non-profit organization working to ensure that gender equality is a reality worldwide. We strive to advance women's rights through the implementation of international human rights law and strategic work with the courts, including strategic litigation.

[www.womenslinkworldwide.org](http://www.womenslinkworldwide.org)

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