



SSHRC SUPPORTED FALL WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON SECURITY AND EXCLUSION

On October 23 - 24, the Centre for Studies in Social Justice will host a workshop with a number of scholars from across North America and the UK to discuss security and exclusion.

The topic of the workshop came about as a result of lengthy discussions held among an interdisciplinary group of faculty at the University of Windsor. These included faculty from: Sociology and Anthropology; Criminology; Political Science; Law; and Philosophy. Many speakers have been invited to make presentations. These include a number of very well respected international scholars in the areas of security and exclusion.

According to Dr. de Lint, the papers will address security, broadly defined, and “how governmental and non-governmental bodies shape identities, territories and populations into actionable entities through the application of security discourse and technologies.”

The workshop is highly significant given current trends. In the context of the massive flows of licit and illicit

goods, services and migration under the normalization of neoliberal globalization there has been tremendous growth in Canada’s security infrastructure, including new agencies, technologies and resources. There has also been streamlining of government structures with this enhanced technical capacity. Canada has a long-standing and continuous interest to ensure that its security policy is consistent with international conventions on human and political rights but also that economic interests are expressed. How and whether the concept of security will be projected for and by a variety of stake-holders will be acutely germane to many areas of policy development, especially as wide-ranging initiatives like the Security and Prosperity Partnership begin to push North American integration. This is an important moment for the next generation of ideas about security, which this workshop aims to explore.

The workshop has received high praise and funding from Social Science and Humanities Research Council.

More information about the workshop can be found on the Centre for Studies in Social Justice website:
www.uwindsor.ca/socialjustice



Centre for Studies in Social Justice

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BARRIERS AND BRIDGES: IMMIGRANTS AND ACCESS TO CARE BY FRANCES CACHON

Universal Health Care and Multiculturalism have gone a long way in establishing Canada’s reputation as an inclusive, tolerant and diverse society. In reality, of course, policy rhetoric does not often reflect lived experience. Certainly, newcomers to Canada confront interrelated challenges such as

socio-economic marginalization; ethno-cultural barriers and lack of knowledge or access to the services that are available to them. This is especially true for those from underserved communities – for example, visible minorities and/or newcomers with disabilities. The latter were the focus of a pilot study and

corresponding workshop, *Barriers and Bridges: Enhancing Access to Services for Newcomers with Physical and Mental Disabilities*, held last November by the Centre for Studies in Social Justice.

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PERSON OF THE YEAR 2008 by Suhuyini Abudulai

The Centre for Studies in Social Justice posthumously honoured Professor Rose Voyvodic as Person of the Year on March 13, 2008. The ceremony was held at Katzman Lounge in Vanier Hall at the University of Windsor. Voyvodic was 51 when she lost her battle with cancer in April 2007.

Voyvodic's dedication and contribution to social justice in the Windsor community was remembered by family, friends, and colleagues. Accepting the award were Voyvodic's brother and her mother.

Voyvodic graduated from the Faculty of Law at the University of Windsor in 1982. Prior to lecturing at the Faculty, Voyvodic practised as a staff lawyer at Legal Assistance of Windsor, the CAW Legal Services Plan office in Windsor, review counsel at Community

Legal Aid, and in private practice in the areas of immigration, refu-



In this photo, Professor Voyvodic's brother, David, and mother, Mary, accept the Person of the Year Award.

gee and human rights law. Several of Voyvodic's friends and colleagues spoke of her commitment to the legal profession, human rights, and the pursuit of social justice.

Remembering her were Harvey Kessler, Joan Tinkess, Myra Tawfik and Marcia Valiante.

As an active member of the Windsor community, Voyvodic was a member of many committees outside of the University, including the Detroit/Windsor Refugee Coalition, the United Way, and Legal Aid Ontario. Voyvodic's legacy lives on today as she continues to impact the lives of students and faculty at the University.

Suhuyini Abudulai is a law student at the University of Windsor

Past recipients of the Social Justice Person of the Year Award:

- 2006-2007 - Essex Area Food Bank
- 2005-2006 - Dr. Sandi Curtis and Mr. Kenny Gbadebo
- 2004-2005 - The Windsor Refugee Office
- 2003-2004 - Tad Venkateswarlu
- 2002-2003 - Howard Pawley

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTNER IN IMMIGRANT WORKER PROJECT

The Research Council of the Workplace Safety Insurance Board (WSIB) awarded a grant to Alan Hall and his team of researchers to investigate the links between ethnicity, racism and hazard reporting patterns among minority groups. The team of researchers include Tanya Basok, Omar Bourouh, Jamey Essex, Alan Hall and Uvarshi Soni-Sinha. The project is entitled "*Responding to Workplace Hazards and Injuries: The Influence of Ethnicity, Race, Discrimination and Immigrant Status.*"

One of the important objectives of the research is to determine if differences exist among minority and non-minority groups reporting of hazards and injuries.

Do minorities report hazards and injuries less frequently than non-minority groups and if so, why?

Dr. Hall claims that if injury and hazard reporting is found to be less frequent among minorities, it is necessary to understand the reason for the differences. Less frequent reporting among minority groups may be connected to their experience of racism, power and control. There is also an interest in investigating hazard reporting by minorities. Are they more or less likely to report hazardous conditions before the accidents occur?

The research intends "to provide data directly relevant to institutional policies, education and planning."

This study will significantly impact policy and practice in Canadian labour and immigrant forums, regionally and nationally. Of course, it will also provide organizations like WSIB with an understanding of how ethnicity and racism affect workplace injury and hazard reporting patterns. This would enable organizations to develop appropriate workplace health and safety education programs.

The research office for the newly funded project on immigrant workers will be housed in the Centre for Studies in Social Justice once the research coordinator is hired.

SPOT LIGHT ON RESEARCHER

by Suhuyini Abudulai

Dr. Steven Palmer has lectured in the Department of History, at the University of Windsor since July 2001. In April 2006, Dr. Palmer was named Canada Research Chair in History of International Health.

Dr. Palmer's research focuses on social, cultural, and political issues, from a historical perspective. His primary interest is the history of health and medicine in Latin America and the Caribbean from the late 18th century to the present.

Dr. Palmer's research projects cover a diverse range of topics. His studies include the small-pox eradication campaign in post-war Brazil, and the mobilization of cholera in Costa Rica and yellow fever in Havana. Recently, he has

been studying the professional, scientific and political dynamics of Cuban-born medical practitioners under Spanish colonial rule, focusing on the role of plantation medicine and scientific racism.

Dr. Palmer is the author of many published works, including two forthcoming titles: "The American Method: International Health in Central America and the Caribbean, 1890-1930" and "Medicine and Health in the Caribbean: Historical Perspectives, 1800-1968". His work is described as "well-written and thoroughly researched" by Robin L. Anderson of American Historical Review.

Dr. Palmer has recently launched a website to facilitate discussion among others who are working



on health and medicine in the history field. "Cultures of Health" can be found at <http://hih.uwindsor.ca>.

Uzma Shakir, a community-based researcher and activist, is the Distinguished Speaker in Women's Studies in October. She is also the recipient of the Atkinson Foundations Economic Justice Award. The week of events in Women's Studies is from October 22 - 29 with a Community Dinner on October 28. Visit their website: www.uwindsor.ca/wsvisitor

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TAKE PART IN SECOND SOCIAL JUSTICE FORUM by Arthur Barbut

The human rights forum has a long tradition in the Windsor and Essex County area dating back to the 1980's and 1990's. Teachers for Global Awareness, in partnership with the University of Windsor's Centre for Studies in Social Justice, has rekindled that tradition and hosted the second annual High School Social Justice Forum on February 28, 2008. The focus of this year's forum was consumerism and the title of the forum was "Shop till you drop: your role as a consumer".

The forum was held at the University of Windsor, in Dillon Hall and the Ambassador Auditorium. The event offered students their choice of two

workshops from a total of nine (each student attended one workshop in the morning and one workshop in the afternoon) on topics such as Consumer Culture, Cheap Goods and Migrant Labour, Free Trade, and Organic Farming. Outside of the workshops, students were given the opportunity to participate in panel discussions.

The forum was incredibly well attended with 210 students from grades 10, 11 and 12 registering for the event. Students were given questionnaires at the conclusion of the event, and the feedback that students provided indicated that they were overwhelmingly positive about the workshops, the

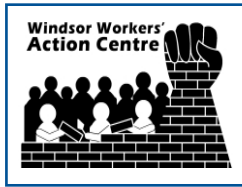
venue and the overall experience.

Teachers for Global Awareness plan to continue partnering with the University of Windsor in hosting this event in the future. In addition to the school boards and the Centre for Studies in Social Justice, some of the co-sponsors of the event included: the Office of the President, the Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic, the Office of the Vice-President Administration and Finance, the Office of the Vice-Provost Students and Registrar, and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The organizers hope this generous support will continue in the future.

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BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY... FROM THE BOTTOM UP!

by Ron Drouillard



Recent job losses in the Windsor area underscore broader national and global patterns of declining employment security and quality. Well-paid unionized manufacturing employment is fast becoming a rarity while low paid non-union, often temporary and part time service employment is becoming increasingly prevalent. At the same time, government cuts, privatization and policy changes have seriously undermined the enforcement of employment standards, human rights, labour relations acts and health and safety regulations.

With few state protections and increasingly absent or weak unions, workers are frequently left to their own devices in dealing with a host of problems from workplace harassment to unpaid wages to illegal firing. Often, workers don't know their rights, but even when they do, they are unsure how to exercise them. And when they try to exercise them, they are often frustrated by incredibly long delays, confusing procedures, and less than helpful officials.

Of course, many workers are simply afraid to use their rights, and understandably so, since the reality is that employers can fire or punish workers with relative impunity. The harsh truth is that laws such as employment standards are weak, poorly enforced, and structured in ways to make it almost impossible to navigate in a timely manner. Traditional community service agencies such

as legal clinics or unemployed help centres may offer some individual assistance but very few organizations concentrate on serving and organizing workers in these situations.

Perhaps just as important, many community service organizations unwittingly contribute to the proliferation of these problems by repeatedly placing workers with employers who cheat and treat their workers poorly. However, one emerging model for addressing these issues is the 'Worker Centre'.

In the US, where non-union work has been the norm for some time, activists and workers have formed organizations which help the most vulnerable unorganized workers defend and extend their working rights and conditions. They also provide education, direct action, and political advocacy on issues such as poverty, racism, sexism and gay and lesbian rights. The emerging worker centre movement is fundamentally based on the principles of social justice, and has been described as the next revolutionary stage of the labour movement. Thus this stage of the labour movement has been called social justice unionism.

Although not all Workers Centres operate in exactly the same manner, they tend to share certain basic program features. Many provide individual advice and referral services; however, unlike most service organizations, the main objective of workers' centres is to build worker capacity to challenge unfair, unequal and inadequate working conditions and to mobilize workers to act collectively.

The Windsor Workers' Action Centre is a community organization of workers, students and activists committed to improving the lives and working conditions of people in low-wage and unstable employment. Our goal is to ensure that all workers have a voice at work and are treated with dignity and fairness.

The Workers' Action Centre provides a new way for people to join together to fight for fair employment. People who are directly affected by poor working conditions should be the ones providing leadership in our struggle for fairness and dignity at work.

The Centre seeks to achieve these goals through promoting worker solidarity, pressuring the government for legal reforms, and providing an advice and referral service, educational programs, direct action and organizing, and to provide a safe public social space for community members and organizations to hold events and workshops. These include: popular education, preserving and canning food, cooking classes, film/discussion nights, visual art, music, and an open market with locally produced goods and food. Primarily, the social space is about connecting and rebuilding the overall capacity of working people and our community. Just like our slogan says, it's time to rebuild our community, from the bottom up!

Ron Drouillard is a Labour Studies and Social Justice student at the University of Windsor and he is also a volunteer at the Windsor Workers Action Centre.

For more information visit the website:
www.wwac.ca, email: info@wwac.ca,
phone: 519-252-8233

POLICE BRUTALITY IN GHANA by Christina Beringer

Police are given tremendous powers to ensure the safety of all citizens in the communities in which they serve. Yet, every nation suffers from cases of police officers abusing and brutalizing the citizens they are sworn to protect. Such incidents occur in Canada, an established democracy with a strong human rights culture. Developing nations tend to struggle even more with systemic and serious patterns of police brutality. The implications are severe: police brutality threatens human rights, democratic governance and overall development.

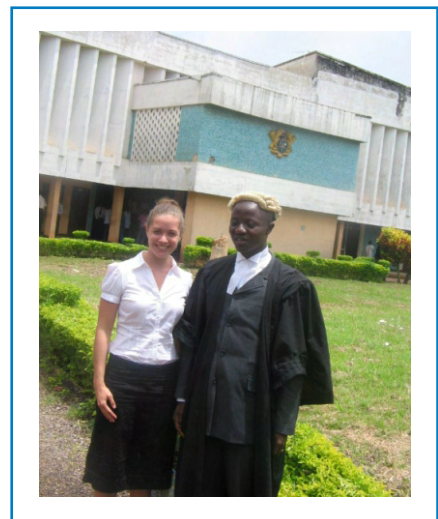
For example, in the largely peaceful West African nation of Ghana, numerous reports demonstrate the wide ranging and severe nature of human rights abuses committed by police officers. Documented human rights violations perpetrated by police range from rampant corruption and arbitrary arrest and detention to excessive use of force, torture, and murder. The result is a widespread lack of faith in the legal system and considerable public fear of the police, who are perceived to act with impunity.

Ghanaian police routinely flout basic constitutional guarantees during arrest and detention. A 2003 survey on police community relations by the Centre for Democratic Development found that, among the people who stated they had been arrested, 46 per cent were not informed of the charges against them; 51 per cent were not told their rights; and 67 per cent said they were denied contact with a lawyer.

Moreover, the Ghanaian police services are widely criticized for perpetuating a widespread and escalating culture of brutality. Cases of excessive use of force or torture resulting in death are common. The alleged torture and murder of Issah Mobila, the regional Chairman of the Convention People's Party, while in military custody in 2004, is a particularly well-known case. In another case from 2002, a combined police/military team was found responsible for the deaths of four citizens in Taifa.

One case in particular paints a stark picture of the severity of police brutality currently occurring in Ghana. In late April, 2007 in Kumasi, Kwame Sarpong was arrested on suspicion of car theft and held in custody, despite another arrested associate claiming sole responsibility for the crime. Numerous accounts indicate that about eight police officers subjected the deceased to severe beatings over several days, using objects such as copper wires, belts and pieces of rubber from tires, leaving severe bruising and bleeding wounds across his body. Even when it was clear he was severely injured, no medical assistance was provided and Mr. Sarpong was left to die in his cell. Police then attempted to cover up the murder, claiming Mr. Sarpong had suffered an epileptic fit. A ruling on the complaint filed by the deceased's family against the Kumasi Police is pending before the Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice in Kumasi.

Disregard for basic constitutional rights in the process of arrest undermines the rule of law and robs citizens of their most fundamental liberties. Brutal police mistreatment of citizens reflects an appalling breach of the most basic human rights, and is an unacceptable abuse of power. Progress towards fostering effective democratic governance is seriously undermined when the rule of law is blatantly disregarded by those whose duty it is to uphold and enforce it.



Christina Beringer at a courthouse in Kumasi, Ghana, with Director of CHALER, Mr. Ernest Owusu-Dapaa.

Such police practices not only violate the Ghanaian constitution and domestic laws on criminal procedure, they also breach universal norms of international human rights law. These rights range from basic due process requirements during arrest and detention, and the right to a fair trial to the guarantees of the right to life, liberty and security of the person, and freedom from torture.

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POLICE BRUTALITY

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As police are given sweeping powers to restrict citizens' liberty and personal freedoms, it is imperative that all actions comply with laws on criminal procedure and relevant human rights standards. Unfortunately, until policing in Ghana undergoes a transformation in the overall attitude towards respect for the law and human rights, democratic development is undermined, as is the law and access to justice. Police brutality, wherever it occurs in the world, strikes at the heart of human dignity and has no place in a democracy.

Christina Beninger is a law student who interned with the Windsor Law Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) internship program at the Centre for Human Rights and Advanced Legal Research (CHRALER) in Kumasi, Ghana in 2007. JHR is NGO that harnesses the power of the media to promote and protect human rights in Africa. CHRALER is a local, grassroots organization in Ghana dedicated to promoting human rights, law reform and public legal literacy in the Kumasi area and throughout Ghana.

HIGH SCHOOL FORUM

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as they introduce the next generation of students to the Social Justice Forum and the University of Windsor. Here is what some students had to say about the forum:

- "Loved the people; loved the effort and the choice of workshops."
- "Enjoyed the freedom of expression and speech. Loved the interactivensess of the workshops."
- "Enjoyed it all. Progressive atmosphere. I'm encouraged to work towards change."
- "I personally believe that it is absolutely beneficial these forums are being held. This is my first time attending and I am really looking forward to other events similar to this one." This positive feedback has been inspiring.

Arthur Barbut is Special Projects Manager, Office of the Vice President, Administration and Finance. He is also an organizer with Teachers for Global Awareness.

IMMIGRANTS AND ACCESS TO CARE

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The aim of this study, which was funded by Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigration and Settlement directed by Dr. Tanya Basok was to examine to what extent community organizations in Windsor are equipped to provide care to immigrants with physical and mental disabilities, and whether the nature of government funds for community agencies has an impact on the ability of Windsor community agencies to meet the needs of immigrants with disabilities.

The study primarily found that community agencies servicing culturally diverse populations respect diversity, and accordingly cultural sensitivity has become an integral component of service delivery. In fact, several community agencies in Windsor initiated programs (i.e. Community outreach, multilingual pamphlets, and translation services) aimed at

addressing the unique challenges newcomers face in accessing services. Importantly however, cultural sensitivity does not in and of itself translate into the provision of "culturally competent" services. Cultural competency, a fairly recent orientation, represents a qualitative shift in service delivery because it refers to the ability of service providers to achieve positive results in cross-cultural situations. However, effective cross-cultural service delivery requires skills and additional resources for such things as record keeping, readily available translation services and the ability to hire and adequately train culturally diverse staff. Yet, in the current fiscal environment, such resources are lacking among Windsor community service providers.

At the workshop, Dr. Tanya Basok, Director of the Centre for Studies in Social Justice, and Frances Cachon, PhD candidate in Sociology, presented their

findings from this pilot project. Attending this presentation were community representatives of



Dr. Tanya Basok and Frances Cachon present their findings to area service providers at a workshop at the University.

various agencies in Windsor and Essex County which provide services for newcomers and people with disabilities, many of whom were partners in this study. The objective of the workshop was twofold: 1) to communicate the major research findings and recommendations; and 2) to facilitate discussion and critical feedback from

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PUBLICATION RESULTING FROM THE CENTER'S CONFERENCE

Discussions of the relationships between citizenship and social justice have given rise to numerous debates by academic researchers and activists. These debates are between those who underline equality and those who emphasize difference; those who advocate social, economic, and cultural rights, and those who are critical of multiculturalism and social democracy, and want to restrict rights to their classical liberal form; those who link citizenship with rights and those who give priority to the responsibilities of citizens; those who support multiple citizenship and those who are in opposition to it; and those who advocate global citizenship and those who are skeptical of this form of citizenship. These debates are addressed in the special issue of *Peace Review: a Journal of Social Justice*, vol.20, issue 3, edited by Tanya Basok, Suzan Ilcan and Jeffrey Noonan, released in September 2008. This volume includes selected essays presented at the conference on *Citizenship, Identity and Social Justice*, held by the Centre for Studies in Social Justice in May 2007.

ABOUT THE CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE (CSSJ)

Following two years of planning by a steering committee, headed by the Deans of Arts and Social Sciences and Law, the Centre for Studies in Social Justice came into existence on July 1, 2002. In so doing, "social justice" joined "automotive education and research" and "environmental research" as one of three "pinnacle programme areas" in which the University of Windsor sought to develop an international reputation for excellence. The Centre is committed to interdisciplinarity in research and teaching, and to advocacy. The Centre for Studies in Social Justice provides a place for researchers from the University of Windsor and other universities, centres and institutes, policy makers, and community members to address the causes and impact of widespread social and economic changes; research the elements that promote or impede social justice; access resources, training, and knowledge; stimulate discussion and debate on social justice issues; and formulate recommendations on policies or strategies that could diminish existing injustice.

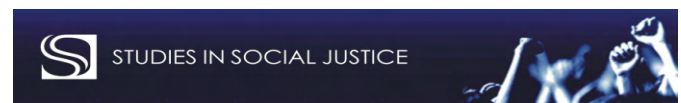
CALL FOR PAPERS! Submit papers to the *Studies in Social Justice* journal via the web www.studiesinsocialjustice.org

IMMIGRANTS AND ACCESS TO CARE

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and among service providers. To this end, the workshop was quite successful as constructive discussion and collaboration was achieved. Indeed, the service delivery community expressed a keen interest in expanding cultural sensitivity and firmly establishing culturally competent programs. The next step in the research will be to extend collaborative efforts to build an infrastructure to offer culturally competent services to immigrants with disabilities (and other health problems).

M. Frances Cachon is a PhD student in Sociology (Social Justice).



Studies in Social Justice publishes articles on issues dealing with the social, cultural, economic, political, and philosophical problems associated with the struggle for social justice. This interdisciplinary journal aims to publish work that links theory to social change and the analysis of substantive issues. The journal welcomes heterodox contributions that are critical of established paradigms of inquiry.

The journal focuses on debates that move beyond conventional notions of social justice, and views social justice as a critical concept that is integral in the analysis of policy formation, rights, participants, social movements, and transformations. Social justice is analysed in the context of processes involving: nationalism, social and public policy, globalization, diasporas, culture, gender, ethnicity, sexuality, welfare, poverty, war, and other social phenomena. It endeavours to cover questions and debates ranging from governance to democracy, sustainable environments, and human rights, and to introduce new work on pressing issues of social justice throughout the world.

Journal Editors: Tanya Basok (University of Windsor), Suzan Ilcan (University of Windsor), Jeffrey Noonan (University of Windsor). **Acting Journal Manager:** Fay Patel (University of Windsor). **Editorial Board:** Franck Duvell (University of Oxford), Nancy Fraser (The New School for Social Research), Barry Goldson (University of Liverpool), Carol Gould (George Mason University), Robert Hackett (Simon Fraser University), David Harvey (City University of New York), Jane Helleiner (Brock University), Engin Isin (Open University), Cecilia Menjivar (Arizona State University), Arun Mukherjee (York University), Jackie Smith (University of Notre Dame), Daiva Stasiulis (Carleton University), Gary Teeple (Simon Fraser University), Sylvia Walby (Lancaster University), and Gordon Walker (Lancaster University).

SOCIAL JUSTICE DIARY

SEPTEMBER /OCTOBER 2008

◆ **Forum on human rights and inclusive education
September 25-27 (Toronto)**

Contact: CASHRA National Forum
E-mail: FallForum2008@gmail.com

◆ **Mass protests supporting public health care
September 27**

Time: 11 am-3 pm
Venue: Dieppe Park
Location: Riverside Dr. and Ferry St.
(culminates at Dwight Duncan's Office)
Email: ohc@sympatico.ca or phone 416-441-2502

◆ **WWWWIW Annual Banquet
October 3**

Email: info@wwwwiw.org

◆ **Elder Conflict and Mediation
October 6**

Time: 4:30-6:30pm
Location: Room G102, Law Building
Contact: 519-253-3000 x 3492

◆ **Learn, Grow, Connect: Practicing community
legal education in a diverse Ontario
October 6-7 (Toronto)**

Contact: Diana Vazquez, Event Coordinator
Phone 416-408-4420
Email: conference@cleonet.ca

◆ **Homelessness Action Week
October 13 –17**

Contact: Homeless Coalition Windsor-Essex
Phone: 519-258-3033 x1148

◆ **World Food Day
October 16**

◆ **United Nations International Day
to Eradicate Poverty
October 17**

◆ **Security and Exclusion Workshop
23-24 October**

Location: Hilton Hotel, Windsor
Phone: 519-253-3000 x 3492/3498

◆ **Women's Studies Distinguished
Speaker Uzma Shakir
Week of Events - October 22-29**

Email: wsvisitor@uwindsor.ca

◆ **Women's Studies Community Dinner
October 28**

Centre for Studies in Social Justice

OCTOBER 23-24, 2008

**SECURITY AND EXCLUSION
WORKSHOP**

THE HILTON HOTEL
Windsor, Ontario, Canada

For more information, please see:
Centre for Studies in Social Justice
www.uwindsor.ca/socialjustice or call
(519) 253-3000 ext. 3492

FREE MEMBERSHIP!

If you are interested in joining the Centre for Studies in Social Justice you can join on-line by visiting our website, www.uwindsor.ca/socialjustice, and following the links to **Membership**. Membership gets you invitations to our events and you will receive our email announcements and newsletter.

Involved in Social Justice Research? Contact the Center for Studies in Social Justice if you want to form a research interest group in your field of research.

Event announcements are provided as a service to the community. Please contact the organizers for more information.

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