



## IFUW Update – 11 February 2015



[International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation](#), marked annually on 6 February, was officially adopted by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly in 2012. Picture credit: United Nations photo by Eskinder Debebe via [Twitter](#).

## International Federation of University Women news

### Former IFUW Vice President elected to the Council of Europe

Dr. Anne Nègre, former Vice President of IFUW and member of the [University Women of Europe \(UWE\)](#), was elected on 29 January 2015 as the Gender Expert of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGOs) at the [Council of Europe](#). Anne will advise the INGO Conference on gender parity in policies and resolutions, amongst other things. IFUW congratulates Anne on this important recognition and wishes her success in her new position.

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## National Federation and Association (NFA) news

### Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW) International Fellowship Programme (2015)

JAUW are pleased to announce a new round of funding available to women students/researchers at Master's Degree or its equivalents level (postdoctoral researchers will be placed on a lower priority). Student researchers must find their own host university in Japan and provide a letter of acceptance as part of the application process. The Fellowships are for ¥700,000 - ¥1,000,000 for 5-6 month period: September 2015 - March 2016. **Applications must arrive by 31 March 2015.** More information can be found [here](#).

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## Advocacy

### International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

IFUW UN Geneva Representative Helen Lom participated in the marking of [International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation](#) (FGM) on 6 February at the United Nations office at Geneva (UNOG) in Switzerland. FGM “reflects deep-rooted inequality between the sexes, and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women.” Over 80 participants attended the meeting (international organisations [IOs], non-governmental organisations [NGOs], state representatives and expert panelists). Important issues were discussed by the multi-stakeholder panel, including the role of education in helping to empower girls to resist the practice, by integrating awareness raising about FGM in schools and in medical and paramedical curricula. It was highlighted that men need to be engaged and educated about why FGM is and should be unacceptable. All panelists and participants seemed in agreement against any justification or allowance of the medicalisation of FGM, a more controversial issue in some circles. FGM is not only a health issue but also a human rights issue, which breaches the rights of the girl child and

constitutes a form of gender-based discrimination and violence. About 20 African countries today criminalise FGM. The harmful practice is often associated with early, forced or child marriage and therefore both issues should be addressed together in policy initiatives and legal commitments, at the local, national and international level.

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## Grants and Proposals

### Grace Hopper Celebration (GHC) Scholarship Grants

GHC Scholarship Grants enable students and faculty to attend the [Grace Hopper Celebration](#), where women in computing and innovative organisations can connect with one another, hear stories from peers and experts in computing and get quality career advice. Undergraduate, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows from around the world are encouraged to apply. The GHC Scholarship Grants for students typically cover all expenses for attending the conferencing including conference registration, meals, lodging, and fixed amount of travel reimbursement funds. Faculty, at all levels, are also encouraged to apply. The GHC Scholarship for faculty covers conference registration only. Faculty scholarships are made possible by the [Anita Borg Institute](#). Application deadline: **15 April 2015**. Click [here](#) to read more and to apply.

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## Give the gift of membership!

Do you know a graduate woman who would like to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training? Give the gift of membership to join a global community of over 23,000 members in more than 100 countries, either as an IFUW [independent member](#) or national member of one of our 62 [National Federations and Associations](#) (NFAs).

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## Other information and events

February 24	<a href="#">Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy</a> , Geneva, Switzerland
February 25	<a href="#">Eliminating Domestic Violence in Europe</a> , Brussels, Belgium
March 1	<a href="#">Zero Discrimination Day</a> , global
March 2 – 15	<a href="#">Trek Mt. Kilimanjaro for International Women's Day</a> , Kilimanjaro, Tanzania
March 8	<a href="#">International Women's Day</a> , global
March 9 – 20	<a href="#">Commission on the Status of Women</a> , UN Headquarters, New York, USA
April 23	<a href="#">International Girls in Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) Day</a> , global
May 14 – 16	<a href="#">2015 Global Summit of Women</a> , Sao Paulo, Brazil
August 20 -23 (2016)	IFUW General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa
August 24 -26 (2016)	IFUW Triennial Conference, Cape Town, South Africa

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## Follow us on social media!



Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. IFUW is in special consultative status with ECOSOC and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO.

**International Federation of University Women, Fédération Internationale des Femmes Diplômées des Universités**

10, rue du Lac, CH-1207 Geneva, Switzerland; Tel: (+41 22) 731 23 80; Fax: (+41 22) 738 04 40

E-mail: [ifuw@ifuw.org](mailto:ifuw@ifuw.org) Website: <http://www.ifuw.org>

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