



## GWI Update – 22 July 2015



Learn more about World Day against Trafficking in Persons [here](#)

### Graduate Women International news

#### GWI Policy Papers now available

GWI has finalised publication of its policy papers identifying its position and recommendations for policy makers and other stakeholders on issues relating to education, gender and human rights. Recognising the many socio-cultural, legal and other challenges faced by girls and women worldwide, GWI identifies its position on the following topics: [Gender-based Non-State Actor Torture](#); [Post-2015 Global Education Goals](#); [Child, early and forced marriage](#); [Education for Indigenous Peoples](#); [Prostitution of Women and Girls](#); [Globalisation](#); [Human Trafficking](#); [Protection of women and children in war](#); [Violence-free family life](#); [Incest](#); and [Safe Access to Education](#). All policy papers are available to download from [the GWI website here](#).

### Advocacy

#### World Day against Trafficking in Persons

30 July 2015 will mark the annual World Day against Trafficking in Persons. In 2010, the United Nations General Assembly (UN GA) adopted the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, urging Governments worldwide to take coordinated and consistent measures to defeat this scourge. The Plan calls for integrating the fight against human trafficking into the UN's broader programmes in order to boost development and strengthen security worldwide. One of the crucial provisions in the Plan is the establishment of a UN Voluntary Trust Fund for victims of trafficking, especially women and children. In 2013, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise the Global Plan of Action. Member States also adopted resolution [A/RES/68/192](#) and designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. This resolution declared that such a day was necessary to "raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights." [Read more](#). GWI's [policy paper on human trafficking](#) highlights recommendations to help combat the gross violation of human rights inherent in trafficking, which particularly affects women and children.

#### The Third International Conference on Financing for Development recognises importance of education

On 13-16 July 2015 high-level political representatives, including Heads of State and Government, and Ministers of Finance, Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, came together for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This was an important event in a decisive year for the post-2015 development agenda; an agreed outcome document determines

the way forward for financing for development and whether major gaps in gender equality and education will be addressed. States have committed to "ensure gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment", reaffirming the importance of this goal to achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth. While GWI welcomes this affirmation, we urge States to commit to the full realisation of girls' and women's human rights, including the right to education.

[The outcome document](#) recognises the need for investment in ensuring equality in education stating the "importance for achieving sustainable development of delivering quality education to all girls and boys" and a commitment to "increasing the percentage of qualified teachers in developing countries". States have pledged to "scale up investment in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, and enhance technical, vocational and tertiary education and training, ensuring equal access for girls and women and encouraging their participation". GWI welcomes these commitments to girls' and women's empowerment and achieving equality in education. A financing system now needs to be put in place with concrete steps to ensure their realisation.

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## Call for Submissions

### Communications Procedure to UN CSW

Any individual, non-governmental organisation (NGO), group or network may submit communications (complaints/appeals/petitions) to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN CSW) containing information relating to alleged violations of human rights that affect the status of women in any country in the world. UN CSW considers such communications as part of its annual programme of work in order to identify emerging trends and patterns of injustice and discriminatory practices against women for purposes of policy formulation and development of strategies for the promotion of gender equality. Please note that the Commission on the Status of Women does not take decisions on the merit of communications that are submitted to it and, therefore, the communications procedure does not provide an avenue for the redress of individual grievances. **Deadline for submission: 1 August 2015.**

[Read more.](#)

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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 a GWI independent member or national member of one of over 60 National Federations and Associations (NFAs).

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## Other information and events

August 27 –30	<a href="#">UWE Conference "Networking as a Quality"</a> , Utrecht, the Netherlands
September 18 – 24	<a href="#">Bolivian Federation of University Women Professionals Meeting</a> , Cochabamba, Bolivia
September 25 – 27	<a href="#">Women Graduates USA (WG-USA) AGM</a> , Baltimore, USA
October 22 – 26	<a href="#">VAÖ DACH Meeting</a> , Graz, Austria
November 14 – 15	<a href="#">Finnish Academic Women's Association (SANL) AGM</a> , Kaunianien, Finland
August 21 – 23 (2016)	<a href="#">GWI General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa (members only)</a>
August 24 – 26 (2016)	<a href="#">GWI Triennial Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (open to the public)</a>

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## Follow us on social media!



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

**Graduate Women International**

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

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

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