



## GWI Update – 09 December 2015



*Winfred and Benadet, trainee teachers for Rural Futures, Uganda*

### Graduate Women International news

#### **Give the gift of education: donate to GWI's campaign to train 50 women teacher in Uganda!**

GWI is actively raising funds to train 50 women teachers in Uganda to provide education to generations of children in rural areas, particularly girls. GWI has **one month** to raise \$5000 on GlobalGiving. Together we can do it! [Give today](#). GWI's Teachers for Rural Futures project supports young women from rural areas to become qualified secondary school teachers and return to their communities to teach. Currently, there is a huge dearth of qualified women teachers in rural Uganda, making it very difficult for girls to access and to complete school. Teachers for Rural Futures bridges this gender gap and provides education for generations. Winfred and Benadet, pictured above, are currently at Makerere University studying to fulfil their dream of becoming teachers. With your help we can train 50 more. [View our page and donate here](#).



*Active members of the Darling Downs Branch*

### GWI member news

**The Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) actively promotes the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to women students.**

On 19 November 2015, members of the Darling Downs Branch of Graduate Women Queensland (GWQ) met to report on the success of their three 2015 Bursary awards: Agricultural Science (Hons) research into beef cattle fertility; Education (Biology and Maths); and Engineering. These bursaries are examples of the many scholarships offered annually in all AFGW clubs assisting women and girls to undertake further study and research, with increasing numbers in STEM disciplines. For many years, AFGW has used several strategies

to advocate for better funding, access and provision of STEM courses for women, for example submissions to government, enquiries and letters to politicians at national and state level. Most recently, advocacy has concentrated on the deficiencies in gender reporting of women's participation in STEM at Vocational Education and Training institutions. See the AFGW advocacy page for 2015 updates [here](#).

### Advocacy

**European Parliament Committee releases draft report on women refugees and asylum seekers in the European Union**

As recent [research](#) from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) highlights, conflict and displacement exacerbate violence against vulnerable groups, including women. In Syria, Iraq, Libya and Nigeria, women and girls have been abducted for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced marriage or forms of slavery. A key message of GWI is that education for girls and women refugees is a pathway into participation in conflict resolution, rebuilding and financial self-sufficiency. A draft [report on the situation of women refugees and asylum seekers in the European Union](#), issued November 2015 by the European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality, emphasises the importance of specific measures to widen access to higher education, language training and lifelong learning for women refugees.

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## Questionnaire

### Questionnaire of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by older persons

For human rights purposes, age is not merely a numerical designation, but a social construct based on custom, practice and the perception of the role a person plays in his or her community. Prejudice in the workplace is a social norm that particularly affects older women. Recognising this, GWI advocates for equal opportunity in lifelong education and training for all women and girls, including for those who wish to update their skills as they continue in the workforce. Economic inclusion is essential as the global demographic transforms - it is estimated that [by 2050, the number of older persons will have doubled reaching 20 per cent of the global population](#). The Independent Expert is asking for stakeholders to comment on existing practices in human rights for older persons via a questionnaire. The [questionnaire can be completed in English, French or Spanish](#), with a deadline of 18 December 2015.

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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

December	15 - 16	<a href="#">United Nations High Level Meeting on WSIS+10</a> New York, USA
January	27	<a href="#">Free from Fear, Free from Pain- Eliminating FGM in Europe</a> Brussels, Belgium
March	09 - 11	<a href="#">Future Sense- Universities Shaping the New Era</a> Canberra, Australia
April	07 - 08	<a href="#">Bricks and Clicks for Europe</a> Galway, Ireland
June	14 - 17	<a href="#">Missing and Marginalised Conference</a> University of Waterloo, Canada
June	24 - 27	<a href="#">University Women of Europe AGM and Conference</a> Winchester, UK

August 21 – 23 (2016)

GWI General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa (members only)

August 24 – 26 (2016)

GWI Triennial Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (open to the public)

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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 and ILO.

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