



GWI UPDATE 24 February 2016



The Sierra Leone Association of University Women celebrates its 40 years of existence!

— Graduate Women International news —

International Mother Language Day (IMLD)

The theme of the 2016 International Mother Language Day, 21 February 2016 was Quality education, language(s) of instruction and learning outcomes. Mother languages are key for quality education and linguistic diversity. At the same time it is important to underline the importance of access to education. Irina Bokova, UNESCO Director General stated: “Mother languages in a multilingual approach are essential components for quality education, which is itself the foundation for empowering women and men and their societies”. For the full message, read [here](#). GWI advocates [for non-traditional forms of education](#) and innovative approaches to education for inclusivity in education for all women and girls in indigenous societies or remote areas.

— GWI member news —

Sierra Leone Association of University Women (SLAUW) celebrate their 40th year!

Last week SLAUW members came together to celebrate 40 years of empowering girls and women in Sierra Leone through lifelong education, a symbolic milestone in their journey and a significant achievement. SLAUW has a number of achievements in its 40-year history including, contributing to the establishment of the Women’s Forum umbrella organisation of women’s network in Sierra Leone, which is now vibrant and widely recognised nationally. They have successfully awarded school scholarships and university scholarships to girls. One scholarship recipient is now a well-respected member of Parliament and the minority leader in the House; an example of what can be achieved through the associations.

— Advocacy —

International Women’s Day (IWD) 8 March 2016

Graduate Women International (GWI) is encouraging all members to celebrate International Women’s Day (IWD), 8 March 2016. The event is an opportunity to honour women’s achievements, past, present and future, and to push for progress on women’s rights. This year, GWI wishes particularly to draw attention to the value of women teachers as uniquely positioned, powerful drivers of positive social change for girls

and young women. This is particularly true in the area of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) where women role models can encourage young women to consider these as career options. Ideas can of course be adapted to local contexts and issues. If you are a member and would like ideas on IWD events or activities please see [here](#). If you are not yet a member of GWI and would like access to these and other useful resources, you are welcome to [join us!](#)

— Call for nominations —

Nominations for the UNESCO-Japan Prize on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) 2016

Open to all Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in official partnership with UNESCO and generously funded by the Government of Japan, the UNESCO-Japan Prize on ESD consists of three annual awards of US \$50,000 for each recipient. The 2016 nomination process takes place online through the UNESCO website: <https://teams.unesco.org/org/ed/esd-prize>. In order to request an account, please register here: <http://www.unesco.org/esdprize/register>. A user guide can be downloaded [here](#). The online nominations should be submitted to UNESCO via the online form in English or French by **30 April 2016**. Further information on the UNESCO-Japan Prize and the nomination process can be found at: <https://en.unesco.org/esd-prize>.

— Give the gift of education —

GWJ partnership with the New Spring Fund means US taxpayers can support projects tax free

GWJ is working in partnership with the New Spring Fund on the [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) project. If you are a US taxpayer and would like to support the training of women teachers in Uganda, you can make a tax-deductible [donation here](#). If you are a UK taxpayer your contribution is eligible for Gift Aid (an additional 25% funded by the UK government) on the [donation you can make here](#).

— Other information and events —

March	01	International Higher Education Forum 2016	London, UK
March	09 - 11	Future Sense- Universities Shaping the New Era	Canberra, Australia
April	07 - 08	Bricks and Clicks for Europe	Galway, Ireland
June	24 - 25	Canadian Federation of University Women AGM	Ontario, Canada
June	24 - 27	University Women of Europe AGM and Conference	Winchester, UK
July	21 - 23	3rd Network Gender and STEM Conference 2016	Newcastle, UK
August	08 - 19	Women's Human Rights Education Institute Intensive	Toronto, Canada
Nov	28 - 30	5th International Conference of Women's Museums	Mexico City



August 21 – 23 GWI General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa (members only)
August 24 – 26 GWI Triennial Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (open to the public)

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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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