



MEDIA PACK

Backgrounder on the Graduate Women International 32nd Triennial Conference

‘At the crossroads of education, gender and human rights.’

Over 200 delegates from some 30 countries will gather at the Graduate Women International (GWI) 32nd Triennial Conference taking place in Cape Town, South Africa 24-26 August 2016. GWI Conferences date back to 1920, a time when there were few academic women and much need to promote women and education. While times have changed and many more girls and women have access to secondary and tertiary education, the world has evolved and different challenges arise every day for girls and women.

GWI’s 32nd Triennial Conference 2016 is organised around three themes central to GWI’s mission: education, gender and human rights. Deeply intertwined, these three areas affect girls’ and women’s lives around the globe. The Conference will bring together all stakeholders in these broad areas of concern, to foster dialogue, plans and exchanges and place girls and women firmly at the centre of education.

Four Strands of the GWI 32nd Triennial Conference

The Conference has four strands in which panel presentations, workshops and seminars will take place:

- Managing complexity in education (social, cultural, economic, environmental)
- New technologies and their impact on secondary, tertiary and continuing education (e.g. home education, distance education, MOOCS, etc.)
- Education and human rights (from teenager throughout the life span)
- The effects of violence on access to education for girls and women



Range of expert speakers

Convened by GWI President Ms Catherine Bell, the Conference will open with keynote speakers Ms Irina Bokova, Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Professor Jonathan Jansen (Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the University of the Free State), as well as Ministry representatives. Leading voices in the fields of education, gender and human rights worldwide are present, such as the Centre for Universal Education (CUE) at the Brookings Institution; international organisations such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU); the British Council; academics from the Universities of the Western Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Stellenbosch and Witwatersrand, Scholars At Risk; and private sector companies such as the Orange Device Group, Pearson South Africa, the Independent Institute of Education and GirlHype.

Bringing together stakeholders in education, gender and human rights, the GWI Conference will provide a venue to share experiences, benchmark best practices, and propose new ways forward to help governments, education institutions, multilateral agencies, business and civil society fulfil the Education 2030 goals.

GWI, founded in 1919, exists to advocate for quality education to empower girls and women up to the highest levels, to build projects with grass roots partner in-country, to advocate in favour of quality education for girls and women, to broker information and to serve GWI's wide membership base, spread across all continents.

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Find us on www.graduatewomen.org

For more information on the conference and to register, please visit www.gwiconference.org

Follow us on [Facebook](#) (our post reach is over 2,000 every week)

[LinkedIn](#) (we have almost 400 members) and [Twitter \(@GradWomen\)](#) (we have over 1000 followers)

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