



GWI UPDATE 28 Sept 2016



SAAWG members presenting at the GWI Conference

— Graduate Women International news —

GWI oral statement delivered at Human Rights Council

[Graduate Women International](#) (GWI) reaffirmed commitment to the rights of indigenous girls and women with its latest oral statement submitted to the 33rd session of the Human Rights Council. The statement, co-signed by [Zonta International](#), [OIDEL](#) and the [International Alliance of Women \(IAW\)](#), was delivered by new GWI Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara on 20 September 2016 during the *Annual half day discussion on the rights of indigenous girls and women*. The statement reinforced GWI's position on education as a precondition to the prevention of violence against indigenous women and girls; strengthening their knowledge of, and access to, justice systems. GWI advocates for quality education for girls and women up to the highest levels in order to achieve their empowerment in economic and social spheres. Read the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) summary of the session including GWI's contribution [here](#). To listen to the statement as delivered, please [follow this link](#).

— GWI member news —

GWI members from SAAWG interviewed by ETV South Africa

During the recent 32nd Triennial GWI Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, members Sihaam Vanderschryff, Linda de Vries and Lisle Svensen from the [South African Association of Women Graduates \(SAAWG\)](#) delivered a seminar around the conference theme of education, gender and human rights. The session, entitled *The Ubiquitous Glass Ceiling*, discussed how South African women are prevented from progressing to the same executive decision-making levels as their male colleagues; for example only 2.4 % of women compared to men are in the top levels of the banking sector in South Africa. A report on the session was broadcast later that day on ETV South African television. The link to the broadcast can be found [here](#).

— Advocacy —

Jordan achieves greater parliamentary representation of women in parliament

Women's rights campaigners in Jordan believe the country is slowly moving towards more progressive political representation after female MPs won 20 of 130 seats in recent parliamentary elections, compared with 18 out of 150 in the previous parliament. The strong performance of high-profile female MPs in the previous parliament has contributed to the emerging belief in "women's ability to do good" and effect change. While some female MPs have simply been "mouthpieces" for the tribes they represent, a few have devoted themselves to pressing causes, including the campaign to overturn the notorious Article 308 of the Penal Code, which grants rapists clemency if they marry their victims. GWI congratulates Jordan on this positive progress on women's empowerment. Read the full article [here](#).

— Consultation opportunity —

Consultation call - UN Women seeking views on sex work, the sex trade and prostitution

Currently UN Women does not have an explicit policy position with regard to sex work, the sex trade or prostitution and is in the process of developing such a position. Policy development will be grounded in international standards that guide UN Women's work and an international human rights framework. UN Women are holding a formal consultation period with a focus on three questions. These questions relate to the current framing of the UN's work, around Agenda 2030 and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). GWI encourages contributions to these questions as an opportunity to shape policy development. The questions can be found [here](#). Please send your responses to consultation@unwomen.org

— Give the gift of education —

[Join our GlobalGiving](#) campaign and help us raise \$50,000 to support 50 women student teachers in 2016. GWI provides scholarships and mentoring support to young women from rural areas of Uganda to become qualified teachers and ambassadors for girls' education. Donate now and help us train women teachers to train 1000s of students. You can read more about GWI's project Teachers for Rural Futures [here](#).

— Other information and events —

October	22	IrFUW Annual Conference Dublin, Ireland
October	25 - 26	International Universities Networking Conference Istanbul, Turkey
November	22	Boosting Youth Employment: Growth & Quality Jobs Brussels, Belgium
November	16	10th Further & Higher Education and Research Conference Accra, Ghana
November	27 - 30	Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
November	28 - 30	5th International Conference of Women's Museums Mexico City, Mexico

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.

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 Website: www.graduatewomen.org

Copyright © 2016 GWI. All rights reserved