



GWU UPDATE – 28 December 2016



FEMU and guests at the 5th International Conference of Women's Museums

— Graduate Women International news —

GWU looks back over achievements and successes of 2016

At this year's end, [Graduate Women International](#) (GWU) warmly thanks the continued efforts of its [National Federations and Associations](#) (NFAs) who number some 18,000 members in over 60 countries worldwide. These women tirelessly volunteer their time and expertise to empower girls and women through lifelong quality education and training up to the highest levels, through advocacy, sponsorship and projects. GWU is also proud to announce the expansion of its [international projects](#) such as [Teachers for Rural Futures](#), which work to address barriers to girls' education. GWU continued to forge new and exciting partnerships to advance the mission and vision of the organisation, and to strengthen its advocacy with the valued work of the [GWU United Nations \(UN\) Representatives](#) and regular [statements](#) at major UN human rights mechanisms. GWU and member delegates participated actively in major gender and women's rights events such as the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. This year was also the year of the GWU 32nd Triennial Conference, hosted in Cape Town. The city provided a wonderful setting for the GWU General Assembly to meet and to host vibrant dialogue on the theme 'At the Crossroads of Education, Gender and Human Rights'. GWU doubled its social media presence in 2016 and sent regular [press releases](#) on international days and key issues related to women's empowerment. GWU wishes all its members and supporters a wonderful end to 2016 and looks forward to an exciting 2017!

— GWU member news —

Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) hosts: 'Women's Museums: For a Culture of Equality'

The 5th International Conference of Women's Museums, 28-30 November, was hosted by the Women's Museum of Mexico, which is led by the [Mexican Federation of University Women](#) (FEMU) and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Patricia Galeana PhD., Director, Women's Museum of Mexico, inaugurated the congress with the Secretary of Government of Mexico City and godmother of the congress, Patricia Mercado, B.A., and the advocate of the UNAM, Mónica González

Contró, PhD. The Mexican artist, FEMU member and Women's Museum woman, Glenda Hecksher, created a statue and prizes were donated by the Soroptimist Clubs. The congress discussed the importance of museums in the political, social and cultural promotion of the human rights of women and the fight against gender-based violence.

— Advocacy —

Education Commission release new report - The Learning Generation

If current trends continue, by 2030 – the date the international community has set for attaining quality secondary education for all – less than 10% of young people in low-income countries will be on track to gain basic secondary level skills. The costs of this learning crisis – unemployment, poverty, inequality and instability – could undermine the very fabric of our economies and societies. However, with reforms and financial investments it is possible to ensure that all children and youth are in school and learning the skills they need to be successful in work and life. A new report from the Education Commission, the Learning Generation, proposes the largest expansion of educational opportunity in history and outlines the strategy required to achieve it. Read the full report [here](#).

— Invest in girls' education —

GWI Geneva Office staff formed a team to run in the Geneva Escalade race on Saturday 3 December 2016 to [raise funds for girls' education](#). The Escalade is a Geneva road race which commemorates the successful defence of the city of Geneva against the neighbouring Dukes of Savoy in December 1602. The team of eight staff, their family members and interns successfully completed the race and raised awareness of violence against women and girls as a barrier to education by wearing orange t-shirts. We need your help to reach our goal and there's still time to show your support for this cause - [donate to the Escalade fund by 31 December 2016!](#)

— Other information and events —

Dec 23 – Jan 2	GWI closed for winter break (office re-opens 3 January 2017)
February 23	Policy Conference on Women in the Workplace , London, United Kingdom
March 8	International Women's Day , Global
March 13– 24	Commission on the Status of Women , UN Headquarters, New York, USA
July 14– 16	The IAFOR International Conference on Global Studies 2017 , Barcelona, Spain
Sept 29-Oct 1	Lithuanian University Women's Association Conference , Kaunas, Lithuania

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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.

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

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