



GWI UPDATE – 28 June 2017



*Irish Federation of University Women at the “It’s All About You” fundraiser.
Left to right: Mary Morrissey, Veronica Campbell, Paula Mee*

— Graduate Women International news —

GWI addresses the 35th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

On 14 June, Graduate Women International (GWI) addressed the 35th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) with an oral statement delivered by Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara. In the statement, GWI rebukes corruption on the grounds that corruption impedes States’ accountability and gender obligation to education; appeals to States to embrace that educating girls matters and that they recognise that corruption undermines education resources available for women and girls. In the statement, GWI aligned with the Special Rapporteur on the right to education who calls for States to undertake full-scale investigations of fraudulent practices and corruption. GWI also called on States to institute sanctions and establish complaint processes to ensure States’ accountability. GWI endorsed the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights report on the *Realisation of the Equal Enjoyment of the Right to Education by Every Girl*. The statement is available to view [here](#).

GWI summer interns attend United Nations Forum

Placing Youth at the Forefront of Humanitarian Action and the 2030 Agenda

Eighteen percent of world’s population is constituted by youth. Persons aged 24 years and younger account for 40% of today’s world population making their involvement in humanitarian action and contributors completion of the 2030 agenda crucial. Discussion points focused on general status of youth in conflict zones, barriers they face as well as solutions on how to overcome these barriers or others to come. Their full report is [here](#).

— GWI member news —

Graduate Women International - Netherlands (GWI-NL) holds Expert Meeting about female leadership in conflict



Anne Kwakkenbos (pictured left), coordinator National Action Plan 1325, National Dutch Gender Platform. Ted Strop- von Meijenfeldt (pictured right), Chairperson of Platform Women & Sustainable Peace

Anne Kwakkenbos and Ted Strop-von Meijenfeldt joined GWI-NL's Expert Meeting on 12 May to discuss whether the [UN Security Council Resolution 1325](#) works in practice and to consider the issues and implementation of this resolution by the Netherlands. Since the inception of Resolution 1325 in October of 2000, the Netherlands has created three National Action Plans (NAPs) focused on the implementation of Resolution 1325. Adding to the achievements of NAP I and NAP II, the latest NAP, spanning 2016-2019, is a collaboration between government, knowledge institutions and some 60 Dutch civil society organisations and aims to make a significant contribution to women's participation in peace processes and structural change in multiple geographic areas. Specific goals to achieve NAP III were discussed at the Expert Meeting including better protection of women and girls from violence in conflict and post conflict situations; breaking down harmful, underlying gender norms; and ensuring women have equal leverage in conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, relief and recovery at all levels, and ensure that their efforts are acknowledged and supported.

Ted spoke to attendees on the vital role diaspora women play as key figures and role models. Drawing from their multi-cultural knowledge and financial resources, Ted explained that diaspora women make significant contributions to the peace process by exercising influence, due to their roles as intermediaries in both the Netherlands and their countries of origin.

Anje Wiersinga, GWI-NL, called for and encouraged a higher commitment by women in political decision making to be involved in peace talks, the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in the post-conflict situation of reconstruction, and to be attentive listeners to concerned countries. To this end, she is working to organize a side event about the Syrian Peace Talks that will allow face-to-face discussions with parliamentarians to garner support for the implementation of Resolution 1325. GWI thanks and congratulates GWI-NL and their speakers for conducting this important meeting and discussion on women and peacekeeping and how to implement Resolution 1325.

IrFUW Fundraising Event – It’s All about You

The Irish Federation of University Women held a successful and pleasant fundraising event on 6 May for some 45 attendees. The ‘It’s all about you’ theme offered an enjoyable day of presentations about women’s wholeness and wellbeing. Subject experts presented information on a wide variety of topics. Paula Mee, a consultant dietician and author, discussed how to love, live, and own your middle years. Presentations were heard from Dr. Marie Murray, a registered clinical psychologist, family therapist, journalist, author and broadcaster and Brian Smyth, a founding member and Managing Director of Maybe International with 20 years of experience helping organisations in different parts of the world to achieve new levels of performance, success and overall wellbeing. “The images of that wonderful day are still with me. I think it was profoundly spiritual, at a very deep level, and that’s why everyone was so involved and moved. I feel that”, said an attendee. GWI congratulates IrFUW on their successful and encouraging event on women’s issues.

— Advocacy —

GWI calls on governments and organisations to protect women and girls per Security Council Resolution 2106

To mark [The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict](#), GWI calls on governments and organizations to promote security in areas of conflict to prevent sexual violence, and stop sexual violence as an instrument of war. GWI stresses the importance of recognising that anyone can be a victim of sexual violence, regardless of gender or age. However, girls and women face an increased risk of sexual violence during conflict, as sexual violence towards women is systematically used as a tactic of warfare, torture and terrorism, and women and girls must endure the stigma of being a victim. GWI calls on governments and organizations to protect women and girls per [Security Council Resolution 2106](#), which emphasizes the empowerment of women as a way to reduce women and girls’ vulnerability to sexual violence, the protection of women, and the prosecution of perpetrators. GWI also advocates for the de-stigmatization of sexual violence to protect the lives of women and girls who are at risk.

— Call for applications —

The Vodafone Institute launches the next round of F-LANE: leveraging the impact of start-ups with a female empowerment focus

After the success of the first round of F-LANE, The Vodafone Institute has launched its second round, with the mission to foster the participation of women in technological development and to improve the situation of women and girls around the world through technology. F-LANE is a six-week acceleration programme for up to five high-potential digital impact ventures focusing on female empowerment. The programme starts 9 October 2017 in Berlin and applications are accepted until **24 July 2017**. You can click to apply and find out more information [here](#).

Women in Tech Scholarship Program at National College of Ireland

The National College of Ireland is offering a 50% Women in Tech Scholarship Program for two female students from around the world with a first-class honours degree. Scholarships are awarded to females looking to undertake a master’s programme in any technology related field. NCI hopes to increase

awareness and encourage a new generation of high-achieving women to take up the challenge of a career in science and technology. To receive the scholarship, students must confirm their place by paying their fees in full by **31 July 2017**. Please click [here](#) for more information and the application form.

— GWI United Nations Representative Reports —

Each Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva presents GWI with excellent opportunities to engage with governments and further emphasise our mission. Recently, Canada's Minister for Labour, Patty Hajdu, met with civil society and Permanent Missions in Geneva at the Permanent Mission of Canada. As part of the 35th session of the Council, GWI United Nations representative, Nina Joyce, attended the armchair discussion with Minister Hajdu on "engaging men and boys in eliminating violence against women". Minister Hajdu, previously Minister for the Status of Women, stressed that the present government is fully committed to gender equality and that one way for men in powerful positions to engage is to put their firepower behind women and gender equality. Minister Hajdu comes from civil society and is new to government, having previously run a homeless shelter and conducted advocacy on drug policy. Canada is one of the leading delegations in Geneva on violence against women and traditionally leads the annual resolution of the topic at the United Nations HRC.

— Give the gift of membership —

Do you know a graduate woman who would like to belong to [Graduate Women International](#), 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 some 20,000 members in 60 countries, either as a GWI independent member or national member of one of our National Federations and Associations (NFAs).

— Did you know? —

Did you know that as part of GWI's advocacy work, we produce some 20 [press releases](#) annually? GWI marks annual Days of Observance that note girls' education, the barriers faced and gender issues such as [International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation \(FGM\)](#), [World Day against Child Labour](#), [World Day against Trafficking in Persons](#) and [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#). While GWI is the united voice of women graduates worldwide who advocate for the safe access to quality education for girls, we also celebrate days such as International Day of Peace, [International Day of the Girl Child](#) and [Human Rights Day](#). Join us in underscoring these important days.

— Other information and events —

July 10-14	Expert Mechanism of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples , United Nations, Geneva
July 14-16	The IAFOR International Conference on Global Studies 2017 , Barcelona, Spain
July 19-21	Youth Connekt Africa Summit '17 , Kigali, Rwanda
August 24-27	Annual General Meeting of the University Women Europe , Graz, Austria
Sept 29-Oct. 1	Lithuanian University Women's Association Conference , Kaunas, Lithuania
Nov 14-16	IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour , Buenos Aires, Argentina
July 31-Aug 2, 2018	4th Gender & STEM Network Conference , Oregon, USA

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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 since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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