



GWI UPDATE – 26 July 2017



On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons GWI calls for social safety nets.

— Graduate Women International news —

GWI Calls for the Recognition and Protection of Trafficked Women and Girls

Marking 30 July, World Day against Trafficking in Persons, Graduate Women International (GWI) urges that all people but particularly international, national, state, religious, law enforcement and criminal justice and community leaders to recognize that human trafficking has grown exponentially since the 1990s and we call on them to not stand idly by while this atrocity continues to grow. Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing crime earning, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO), produces profits of \$150 million a year of which commercial sexual exploitation of women, girls, boys and young men earns \$99 billion.

“GWI posits that many of the current policies and programs of globalization have contributed to the acceleration of human trafficking. Globalization has been responsible for unprecedented poverty in many countries and this has facilitated the goals and processes of human trafficking as criminals have lured hapless victims away from their families and communities with the promise of employment. GWI calls on all country governments to ensure the safety of their citizens by providing social safety nets, healthcare, food security and education so that they are not victimized twice – first by country policies and second, by predatory criminals,” says GWI President Geeta Desai.

The full attention-grabbing press release can be read [here](#).

CFUW connects SDGs to mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons



The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) continues their series highlighting significant days of observance to facilitate conversation about the Sustainable Development Goals. Their purpose is to overlay a recognized Theme Day with the SDG lens in order to shine a light on and bring the conversation to the grassroots level. In the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and to mark World Day against

Trafficking in Person, CFUW created connections between SDG #4, #5, #16 and #17. In this interesting construction, speakers from the grassroots, youth, International Non-Government Organizations offer a perspective on the issue of [Trafficking in Persons](#).

— GWI member news —

Bina Roy Partners in Development programme funds the Mexican Federation of University Women's oral health project



Oral health workshop in Mexico City.

[The Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme](#), named in memory of GWI's first Asian President, supports locally-developed projects initiated by GWI's National Federations and Associations from developing countries. During the 2017 funding cycle, this programme is funding the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) for their project aiming to improve oral health in low income groups, through talks and presentations delivered to primary schools in Xochimilco, Mexico City.

These groups will be taught preventative measures for oral hygiene, to prevent infections and diseases such as tooth decay which tend to be especially prevalent in areas with high social inequality. The project aims to reduce these diseases in a community of low income families and deliver information on oral hygiene skills, as well as giving the recipients primary dental attention, and allowing for individual question and answers.

GWI congratulates this important project working to improve oral health and improve knowledge of dental hygiene and self-care. This will decrease these issues in this area, something that will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the overall quality of life and health for people living in Xochimilco. GWI thanks and congratulates FEMU and the Projects Committee for arranging and carrying out this event!

RAUW now an official member of Pro – Femmes Twese Hamwe

GWl is proud to share that the Rwandan Association of University Women is now an official member of Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe (PFTH), an umbrella organisation of 58-member organisations working for the advancement of women, peace, and development in Rwanda. Pro-Femmes has played an important role in many national Rwandan peace initiatives, providing training in peacekeeping, conflict management, mediation and reconciliation that empower women in leadership roles. For example, Pro-Femmes participated in developing a National Action Plan to implement women’s involvement in peace efforts in Rwanda, as per United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. They have also led several successful reintegration programmes and have helped to train over 25,000 Abunzi (“those who reconcile”).



Madam Jeannette Kagame, attentively listening to RAUW council president.

RAUW attended the 25th anniversary of the Pro-Femme Twese Hamwe event held on the 7th July 2017, where they had the opportunity to present some of their work and achievements to Rwanda’s First Lady, Her Excellency, Madam Jeannette Kagame, and explain the mission and the work of the association. The First Lady said she was pleased with RAUW’s focus on promoting post-secondary school education for girls and women. GWl congratulates RAUW on their successes and for being such an active force for change in Rwanda!

— Advocacy —

GWl summarizes Nigeria at the 67th session of CEDAW



Nigeria takes the floor at the CEDAW 67th session.

On 14 July, GWl summer interns, Selena Cobian and Maria Cipriani, attended the 67th session of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) held at the Palais de Nations, Geneva. The session examined the matters Nigeria has undertaken in regard to the discrimination of women; paying particular attention to the girls abducted by Boko Haram, gender-based violence, and education. The Nigerian government also elaborated on measures taken towards

HIV/AIDS health and prostitution. The Nigerian representatives further discussed their progress with the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 and their progress with the Sustainable Development Goals. The full advocacy report can be read [here](#).

— Call for applications —

Y-HER Accelerator Program for African female founders

The Y-Her Accelerator Program is an opportunity for female impact entrepreneurs in Africa who are at the early stages of building businesses and organisations that exist to change the lives of women and girls in Africa. You must have at least one female co-founder who will participate in the program, understand the problem you are trying to solve, and your venture must exist to improve the lives of women and girls held back by poverty. Benefits of the program are a week-long entrepreneurship program designed to fast-track your early stage venture, training and mentorship, connection to a network of fellow female entrepreneurs, opportunities to network with investors and funders, and potential to qualify for growth support. Please click [here](#) for more information and the application form. Application deadline: 22 September 2017.

Science4Refugees

The Science4Refugees initiative and EURAXESS portal provide research friendly internships, part-time and full-time jobs, access to a European Research Community, and a complete range of information and support services on working and living in Europe. The initiative is directed towards refugee researchers/scientists who have been granted asylum in a host country, enabling them to continue their educational path or enter the labour market, and the opportunity to develop their knowledge and careers by improving their skills and experience. Please click [here](#) for more information about the initiative.

— GWI at the United Nations —

Stand Up 4 Human Rights Campaign



“Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home - so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.” [#standup4humanrights](#)

Eleanor Roosevelt

Driving force behind the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

— Give the gift of education —

GWI is directly addressing the lack of women teachers as a barrier to girls' secondary education by sponsoring girls from rural areas in Uganda to qualify as teachers through the [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) project. Please support our GlobalGiving campaign and help young women to achieve their potential, inspire girls to go to school and build more prosperous communities. [Give today.](#)

— Did you know? —

That GWI [regularly publishes advocacy and policy reports on our website](#)? GWI is dedicated to advocating on behalf of female education and providing a global voice for graduate women, working steadfastly to remove the barriers preventing girls from accessing secondary and tertiary education. GWI invites you to read the reports we have produced, as an active advocate for female education, to the United Nations and other international agencies.

— Other information and events —

August 24-27	Annual General Meeting of the University Women Europe , Graz, Austria
Sept 11-29	Human Rights Council, 36th Session , Geneva, Switzerland
Sept 29-Oct 1	Lithuanian University Women's Association Conference , Kaunas, Lithuania
Oct 14-16	Women-Graduates USA AGM , Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Oct 23-Nov	CEDAW 68th session , United Nations, Geneva
Nov 14-16	IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour , Argentina
July 31-Aug 2, 2018	4th Gender & STEM Network Conference , Oregon, USA

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 since 1947 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 © 2017 GWI. All rights reserved.