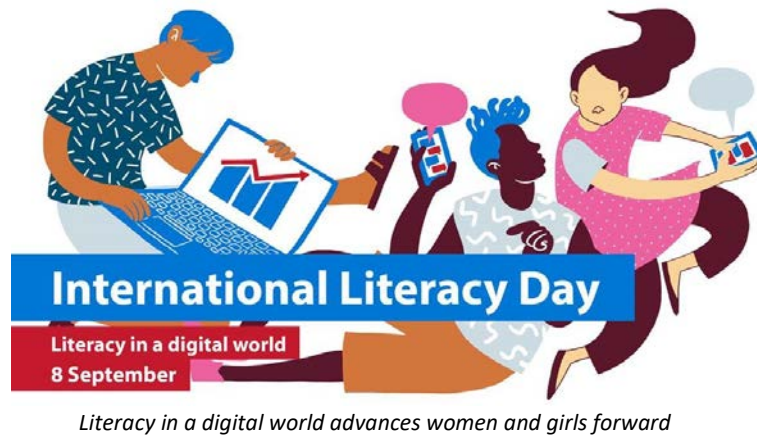




GWU UPDATE – 6 September 2017



— Graduate Women International news —

Marking International Literacy Day GWI Encourages States to Close the Digital Gender Gap

GWU to celebrate International Literacy Day on 8 September, a day dedicated to engaging and mobilizing the international community to promote literacy as an instrument to empower women and girls. As girls' education advocates, GWI is encouraged by the day's 2017 theme "literacy in a digital world," in which UNESCO aims "to look at what kind of literacy skills people need to navigate increasingly digitally-mediated societies and to explore effective literacy policies."

Despite global efforts, the universal Internet user gender gap grew from 11% in 2013 to 12% in 2016, with the estimated gap highest in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) (31%) and Africa (23%) (UNESCO). Internet usage rates remain higher for men than women in all regions of the world. In a world where digital technologies are increasing at a rapid rate, GWI remains concerned that women and girls denied digital literacy, are side-lined in society and business for lacking the knowledge, skills and competencies to compete as a digital citizen. GWI's press release marking the day can be read [here](#).

— GWI member news —

The Canadian Federation of University Women highlights International Literacy Day

This year marks the 50th anniversary of International Literacy Day which UNESCO is celebrating under the banner '[Literacy in a digital world](#)'. In conjunction, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is highlighting this important day in their series on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With the purpose to overlay a recognized Theme Day with the SDG lens to shine a light on and bring the conversation to everyone.

The CFUW SDG series provides a critical opportunity to discuss the interconnections between quality education and achieving gender equality to empower all women and girls. "We believe change begins with consciousness at all levels of understanding," writes Cheryl Hayles, CFUW Vice President, International Relations. To go deeper with this topic, the team shares personal accounts using prose and poetry to bring to the surface meaningful or memorable life experiences that others may be able to relate to. [Here](#) you will find write ups such as *You are Enough*, *The Most Powerful Force is an Idea*

and *Time to Learn*. Please also take a read of the interesting article, *A Thief is a Thief is a Thief*.

The University Women's Club of Montreal launches the first Canadian *Olympes de la Parole*

The first *Olympes de la Parole* competition was launched in 2011 by the *Association Française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités* (AFFDU). Since then, other countries, such as Switzerland, Spain, Tunisia and Morocco have organized their own editions. Building on the success of this initiative, the University Women's Club of Montreal (UWCM) proudly launched the first Canadian Edition of *Les Olympes de la Parole* in Montreal on 5 September 2017. For more information and for important deadlines, you can visit their website [here](#).

Les Olympes de la Parole is an academic competition open to secondary school girls that incorporates a human rights approach to reflect on the central theme of gender equality. The competition was named after Olympe de Gouge, a French politician, playwright, and activist who authored [La Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne](#) in 1791. She was a fierce advocate for the abolition of slavery and the rights of women. Because of her writings and political activism, she was convicted of treason and was guillotined in Paris in 1793.

UWCM is a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). Since its founding in 1919, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women and girls, to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace. GWI congratulates and applauds this initiative from UWCM. We invite you to check back with us for more exciting news on this competition soon.

IFUWA 2016 BRPID Success



Project Proposal Group

The 2016 Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA) Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID) project: *Women's Economic Empowerment Education and Income-Generation Projects* brought together 115 participants between June and November 2016. During phase one of the project these attendees from IFUWA Delhi, Pune and Madras took part in skills-development training such block printing, food products preservation like jams and squash making; sweets and savorys; and pickle making; plus, arts and crafts. The project also offered support services training such as personal development and leadership skills, financial literacy, spoken English and computer basics. The second phase of the project operated until August 2017 by UWA Delhi included skill-development training of handicraft items using rope and other waste materials in rural areas. During the final and implementation phase, women's groups were developed and the projects field tested; with an emphasis on maximizing the direct impact of grassroots management training activities.

Inspired by IFUWA's broad-ranging philosophy of development, the IFUWA project aimed to develop and test creative approaches to micro-enterprise opportunities for economically disadvantaged women

in the informal sector. In Indian context, considerable emphasis was placed on providing the means for girls and women to achieve greater social and economic freedom and enable them to increase their capacity for self-determination. But the ultimate test of success for micro-level income generating activities would be that they be profitable and self-sustaining.

WI commends IFUWA for their outstanding contribution to women and girls.

— Advocacy —

GWl participates in the United Nations NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva

GWl is an active participant in the United Nations NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva. The committee brings together local and international non-governmental organizations to raise awareness and influence policy on issues that affect the world's ageing population. GWl works with the committee to promote lifelong training up to the highest levels for women. As a committee member GWl maintains regular communication with the Vienna and New York UN NGO Committees on Ageing and with the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing for whom we recently reported on the 8th session. On 5 September GWl participated in the UN NGO Committee on Ageing meeting. Among other topics, attendees discussed supporting the report of the Independent Expert on Ageing to be delivered at the Human Rights Council on Monday, 11 September and the World Health Organization event to mark the International day of Older Persons for 1 October. The committee is an important advocacy path for GWl to promote lifelong training up to the highest levels for all women.



*UN NGO Committee on Ageing partial membership
with Chair, Silvia-Perel Levin*

— Call for applications —

ITU and UN Women Equals in Tech Awards 2017 for Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in Technology

ITU and UN Women have issued the call for nominations for the annual Equals in Tech Awards 2017, the annual award for gender equality and mainstreaming in the field of technology. You can nominate yourself or others in civil society, public sector, UN or international organisations, the private sector, or academia, who have done exceptional work for women in technology, such as developing gender responsive ICT governance, policy and access, or encouraging women and girls to pursue education in STEM through gender based initiatives, or promoting gender equality in ICT careers. The nominated initiatives will be judged by a distinguished panel of partners and previous winners and winning initiatives will be recognised at a prestigious award ceremony during the Internet Governance Forum in December 2017. The deadline for applications is 15 September 2017. Please click [here](#) for more information and to submit nominations.

Austrian Academy of Sciences Doctoral Scholarship for International Students, 2017

Austrian Academy of Sciences is inviting applications for Doctoral Scholarship program to study in Austria. International students are eligible to apply for this scholarship. The scholarship is available in all fields of research and amounts to 38,000 euros gross annually. Applicants must have completed

their diploma and master's degree at a maximum of two years. You can click [here](#) to find out more and to apply online. The application deadline is September 15, 2017.

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI will deliver an oral statement and provide a full report on the [36th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council](#) from the 11 - 29 September 2017 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. This Council includes important sessions including a report from the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; a panel discussion on the impact of racial discrimination on the human rights of women and girls; a report from the Independent Expert on the rights of older persons; and the annual full day discussion on the rights of indigenous peoples. GWI will address the Council with an oral statement on the barriers to education faced by indigenous girls. GWI's oral statement and the latest Human Rights Council developments will be published in the coming Updates.

— Give the gift of education —

Join GWI's campaign to train 50 women teachers in Uganda and support generations of girls in rural Uganda to go to school. Educated girls and women earn 25% more income and can better protect themselves from harm and care for their children. You can read our most recent report on Global Giving here. Together we can do it! [Give today.](#)

— Did you know? —

That the original GWI lamp logo was designed by members of the Norwegian Federation for the Third International Federation of University Women (IFUW) Conference in Oslo, 1924? It was adopted by delegates as the permanent badge of GWI (then IFUW) and its national associations, representing the light of learning and the bonds of friendship linking GWI members across the world. The original logo showed an antique lamp representing the light of learning on a blue background broken with the letters IFUW. Around the central disc was an interlinked chain symbolizing the bonds of friendship linking IFUW members throughout the world. Eventually, the lamp came to be known as the Lamp of Friendship. It was later modernized and the chain was dropped. In Australia, there is a permanent fountain memorial located at the St Lucia campus of the University of Queensland to commemorate the 15th conference of IFUW held at The University of Queensland in August 1965.

— Other information and events —

Sep 5 2017-March 2018	Les Olympes de la Parole , University Women's Club of Montreal, (CFUW-GWI)
Sep 8	International Literacy Day
Sep 21	International Day of Peace
Sep 21	Geneva Peace Talks , Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Sept 11-29	Human Rights Council, 36th Session , Geneva, Switzerland
Sept 15-16	ICGE 2017: 19th International Conference on Gender and Education , Zurich
Sept 29-Oct 1	Lithuanian University Women's Association Conference , Kaunas, Lithuania
Oct 7	Open Day at UN Geneva , Geneva, Switzerland
Oct 13-15	Women-Graduates USA AGM , Wisconsin, USA
Oct 30-Nov 14	General Conference, 39th Session , UNESCO, Paris, France

Nov 14-16 [IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour](#), Argentina
Nov 24-25 “Dare yourself to change” Seminar by Federacion Mexicana de Universitarias (FEMU-GWI), Mazatlan, Mexico
March 14-15, 2018 [ZurichEduCaExpo 2018 - 2nd International Education & Career Exhibition](#), Zurich
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.

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