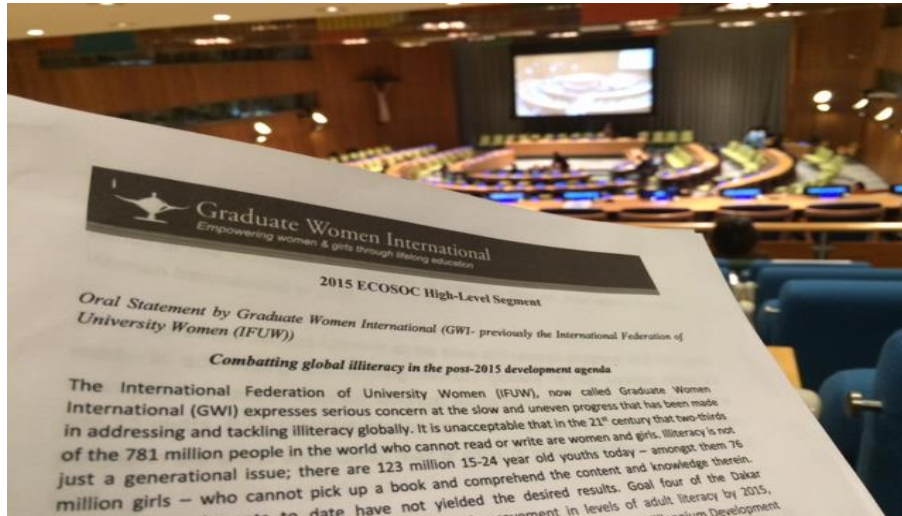




GWI Update – 15 July 2015



Oral Statement presented by GWI United Nations Representative Mick Minard at the ECOSOC High Level Segment

Graduate Women International news

GWI Fellow receives prestigious 100 inspiring women in STEM award

GWI fellowship recipient Logeswari Ponnusamy has been awarded the INSIGHT into Diversity magazine's "Inspiring Women in STEM" national recognition. This prestigious award is being presented to Ponnusamy as a tribute to her inspiring work as a woman in the STEM field and will be featured in the September STEM issue of INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine as one of 100 women who will be honoured. Ponnusamy is currently researching the molecular mechanisms associated with the development of resistance to chemotherapeutic drugs, specifically in the treatment of breast cancer, at The Institute of Environmental & Human Health, Texas Tech University, USA, with support from GWI. We are thrilled to see this recognition for one of GWI's leading women in STEM. [Read more here.](#)

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

Canada

Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald organised a side event in May 2015 on Eliminating Torture in the Private Sphere at the United Nations (UN) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna, Austria. Ilona Graenitz, GWI UN representative in Vienna, was also present and participated in the event, which drew people from all over the world. The presentation was divided into three parts: Linda first explained, for example, who, where, when, why, and what this specific group of family-based and like-minded torturers perpetrate. Elizabeth Gordon, a victim of private sphere torture from the UK, told her story of being born to parents who tortured her from her earliest of memories. Jeanne Sarson exposed the intentionality and purposefulness of the torturers, exposing that they are also pimps, human traffickers, and condition women to commit suicide if they ever tell. Read more [here](#).

Bolivia

The Bolivian Federation of University Women Professionals (*Federación Boliviana de Mujeres Profesionales Universitarias* – FBMPU) will host a meeting in Cochabamba, Bolivia on 18-24 September

2015. Plenary sessions and discussions will take place on 21-23 September 2015, where numerous topics will be addressed including violence against women and climate change. Local policy makers will be joining the event. FBMPU has organised a full schedule of excursions including trips to historic sites in order for participants to take full advantage of their time in Cochabamba. For further information, contact [FBMPU](#).

Advocacy

GWJ champions literacy in the post-2015 sustainable development agenda

GWJ UN representative in New York Mick Minard presented the GWJ oral statement at the ECOSOC High Level Segment in New York on July 9, 2015. GWJ expressed concern at the lack of success in tackling global literacy. Literacy in sub-Saharan Africa has fallen by 3 per cent in the last 15 years. Illiteracy is not simply a generational issue; today, 76 million girls cannot grasp the contents of a book. Poverty is among the main reasons. The effects are exacerbated among women and girls. Other factors influencing the gender gap in illiteracy included socioeconomic norms that relegate girls to home caregivers and marginalisation of at-risk groups. Literacy should be imparted equally to everyone. Long-term vision, political courage, legislation and sufficient economic resources were needed. Read the full oral statement [here](#) and the full written statement [here](#).

UN Human Rights Council Adopts Resolution to End Child, Early & Forced Marriage

On 2 July 2015, the UN Human Rights Council unanimously adopted its [first substantive resolution](#) to prevent and end child, early and forced marriage. This resolution strengthens efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, which affects 15 million girls every year. Child, early and forced marriage is a significant barrier to education that prevents millions of girls from accessing secondary education. The resolution is a step forward in addressing this [barrier to education](#) and human rights violation for girls and women worldwide.

Grants and Proposals

World Bank Young Professionals Programme 2016

The World Bank's [Young](#) Professionals Programme offers an exciting career opportunity for young persons and the prospect to grow as leaders in the technical and management areas of the World Bank Group (WBG).

It is designed for highly qualified and motivated individuals skilled in areas relevant to the WBG technical/operations such as economics, finance, [education](#), public [health](#), social sciences, engineering, urban planning, [agriculture](#), natural resources and others; as well as to WBG corporate areas such as communications, information technology, human resources and corporate finance. To be competitive for this highly selective programme, candidates need to demonstrate a commitment to development, proven academic success, professional achievement, and leadership capability. The selection process is based on a written essay on the topic on ending poverty and boosting shared prosperity. **Deadline for essay submissions: 31 July 2015.** [Read more here](#).

Legacies in favour of GWJ

As a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, GWJ is sincerely grateful for all donations received from the wills of members and patrons, which make a significant difference in enabling advocacy activities and projects. By leaving a gift in your will to GWJ, you are supporting the organisation to continue its mission to increase access to lifelong, quality education for girls and women globally.

Other information and events

August 27 – 30

[UWE Conference “Networking as a Quality”](#), Utrecht, the Netherlands

September 18 – 24

[Bolivian Federation of University Women Professionals Meeting](#), Cochabamba, Bolivia

September 25 – 27

[Women Graduates USA \(WG-USA\) AGM](#), Baltimore, USA

November 14 – 15

[Finnish Academic Women’s Association \(SANL\) AGM](#), Kaunianien, Finland

August 21 – 23
(2016)

GWI General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa (members only)

August 24 – 26
(2016)

GWI Triennial Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (open to the public)

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.

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