



GWI Update – 28 October 2015



Girls participating in the International Day of the Girl Child activities run by AMUS

Graduate Women International news

Graduate Women International attends Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) Annual General Meeting

The [Australian Federation of Graduate Women](#) (AFGW) held their annual general meeting (AGM) in Perth on the weekend of 24-25 October 2015, during which the new Board was elected. An evening event was held with inspirational speaker Katrina Porter, Paralympic swimming champion, who shared the story of her achievements and how she is advocating for people with disability. The AGM was followed by a capacity building workshop run by GWI, with great participation from members and action plans to take forward.

GWI member news

The Association of University Women of El Salvador, (AMUS), celebrates International Day of the Girl Child

In commemoration of the [International Day of the Girl Child](#) 11 October 2015, the Association of University Women of El Salvador, AMUS, held a festival with first and second grade children of the Walter Thilo Deininger School. Games were played, gifts were given to the children and their drawings depicting 'A visual concept of the Salvadorian girl' were exhibited. These were later presented to UNICEF in a commemorative act at the National Theatre in San Salvador, El Salvador. The country is making great efforts through education to overcome girls' discrimination, however much work remains in recognising the rights of children and adolescents.

Advocacy

The next Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) session, runs in Geneva 26 October - 20 November 2015

The [Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) is an international treaty adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly. A Committee consisting of 23 experts on women's rights from around the world monitors implementation of the Convention, by requiring State Parties to submit periodic reports every four years showing significant developments, key trends and remaining barriers to the full achievement of the Convention. The six UN member states that have not ratified or acceded to the convention are Iran, Palau, Somalia, Sudan, Tonga, and the United States. See how NFAs can influence CEDAW policy through advocating at national level [here](#). GWI uses the legal tools of CEDAW conventions for

its policy papers, and integrates the substance of CEDAW's articles into its policy and advocacy, for example using the term 'Substantive Equality' as a standard adopted by CEDAW in its [Manifesto for non-traditional education for girls and women](#).

Call for Submissions

Design Competition for NGO Forum Handbook for Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

[The Commission on the Status of Women, New York](#) (CSW/NY) organises an NGO Forum that takes place during the CSW, and uses the NGO Forum handbook as an important resource. This year, they are calling designers around the world to submit ideas for the cover of the handbook. The winner of the contest will have her or his design with credits featured on the handbook. **The theme for this year, CSW60, is: "Women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development."** In the design cover, please incorporate your thoughts on what the theme means to you. Send submissions to: contest@ngocsw.org Deadline: Tuesday, 15 December 2015.

Legacies in favour of GWI

As a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, GWI 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 GWI, you are supporting the organisation to continue its mission to increase access to lifelong education for girls and women globally.

Other information and events

October 31	The UK NGO-CSW Alliance Meeting , London, UK
October 29 - 31	GWI Capacity Building Workshop: Communities for Action , Suva, Fiji
November 02 - 13	Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 23rd Session, Geneva, Switzerland
November 14 - 15	Finnish Academic Women's Association (SANL) AGM , Kaunianien, Finland
November 23 - 26	GWI Board Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland
November 25	Tackling Youth Unemployment in Europe , Brussels, Belgium
November 26 - 27	Feminism and Sustainable Development , Postgraduate University, Mexico
November 25 - Dec 10	Center for Women's Global Leadership 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2015 Campaign
June 28 – July 1 (2016)	12th International Conference, ISTR, Stockholm, Sweden
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)

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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.

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