



GWl Update – 11 November 2015



Participants from the GWl, FAWG and FNU Seminar Bridging the Gender Gap; Michelle Reddy, Jasmine Mohammed, Danièle Castle, Rev James Bhagwan, and Dr Eci Nabalarua

Graduate Women International news

Graduate Women International (GWl) hosts Regional Pacific Seminar, Bridging the Gender Gap

On 29 October 2015, Graduate Women International (GWl) hosted a panel discussion with the Fiji Association of Women Graduates (FAWG) and Fiji National University (FNU) to explore the advancements and effects of gender parity and gender equality on girls' and women's education in the Pacific region. Gender equality can be reached at the grass roots level in families, by involving all members of the family. At the community level, schools need to ensure that girls are equally treated, have equal opportunities for study, particularly in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) areas where there is still severe underrepresentation of girls in the Pacific Islands and elsewhere. Lifelong and in business settings, women need to have access to training and upskilling. At a policy level, governments need to ensure that gender policies are put into place and respected. Questions from the audience included subjects such as the need for disaggregated data in the Pacific Island countries and territories, what models of projects aimed at girls' and women's empowerment work, the need for programmes that also ensure that young persons with disabilities are included, as well as the need for positive, public role models in all walks of life. [See here for more press clippings from the Pacific seminar.](#)

GWl member news

Association Française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU) sends open letter to President Hollande on the rights of refugees from a feminist perspective

On 15 October 2015, Association Française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU) sent an open letter together with the Coordination Française pour le Lobby Européen des Femmes (CLEF) to the President of the French Republic and to the relevant ministers of the European Council. This letter reaffirms the claims that have been made collectively to all European governments on the rights of refugee women, from a feminist perspective. The letter addresses female refugees' right to freedom from violence, reproductive health and protection against trafficking. For more information on AFFDU's activities [read here.](#)

Advocacy

Graduate Women International calls for states and policy makers to actively promote the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to women students on International Students Day

On International Students Day, 17 November 2015, Graduate Women International (GWI) will call for states and policy makers to take the opportunity to facilitate greater uptake of women into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. As four key strands of research and technological development, it is critical that women's contribution in these fields is increased and integrated. Despite some improvement, the global average of women in STEM is still at less than parity. For this press release, please see [here](#).

Grants and Proposals

Unilever Sustainable Living Young Entrepreneurs Awards 2015

In partnership with Unilever and the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, Ashoka Changemakers has launched the [Sustainable Living Young Entrepreneurs Awards 2015](#), an opportunity for young social entrepreneurs (18-35 years old) with innovative and scalable technologies or initiatives that are contributing to one or more of the eight following Global Goals for Sustainable Development: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Responsible Consumption and Production, and Climate Action. [Deadline for applications November 18 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

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 25 - Dec 10	Center for Women's Global Leadership 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2015 Campaign
November 26 - 27	Feminism and Sustainable Development , Postgraduate University, Mexico
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.

Graduate Women International

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