



GWI Update – 18 November 2015



Association Française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU) members and GWI staff

Graduate Women International news

Women Graduates-USA launches guide to action for the Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 1989, supports children's right to survival, protection, and right to education, as well as other social and cultural rights. Despite having an active role in drafting the convention, the United States is the only UN member not to have ratified the CRC. Women Graduates USA (WG-USA) has taken the lead in passing a resolution asking its members to urge the US Government to ratify this convention by November 20 2015, and has created a [website with information about the CRC](#) and letter templates. Interested parties are encouraged to use the available templates to write to President Obama urging him to move forward with the CRC, and commit to this vital legislation. For additional information on WG-USA, visit their website [here](#).

GWI member news

Association Française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU) capacity building workshop

On 14 November 2015, Association Française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU) invited GWI Executive Director Danièle Castle and Administrative Assistant Lorraine Mangwiro to deliver a capacity-building workshop in Paris. Despite the terrible events of the previous night, participation was high and members engaged actively in sessions on membership development, member benefits, marketing and communications and action planning. Thank you to all the members who participated and contributed to the success of this workshop. For more information on AFFDU's activities [read here](#).

Advocacy

Human rights defenders advocate for the twelve goals of the Beijing Platform for Action to celebrate their 20 year anniversary

Two decades on from the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995](#), the twelve strategic objectives for women's empowerment are being highlighted by human rights defenders; ranging from the impact of conflict on women to the participation of women in decision-making processes. In the twenty years since the Fourth World Conference on Women, women have remained on the front lines of the struggle for rights around the world. Women human rights defenders fight not only for their own rights to education, justice,

freedom of expression and assembly, but for the rights of their communities. Read more about the advocacy and struggle of [twelve women advocating for these twelve goals](#) and find out more about GWI's engagement with the Beijing Platform for Action [here](#).

Grants and Awards

Voices of Courage Awards - Call for Nominations by the Women's Refugee Commission

The Voices of Courage Awards are presented annually to resilient, resourceful women who have a personal and powerful story to tell about the challenges and triumphs experienced by the tens of millions of people who have been displaced by conflict and violence worldwide. Voices of Courage Awardees represent the many faces and circumstances of the current global refugee population. For information on how to nominate candidates to the Women's Refugee Commission see [here](#). Deadline for complete nominations: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 5:00pm EST.

Donate to GWI

Education for girls and women is the one human right that underpins social change. Secondary, tertiary and continuing education is the door that leads to social and economic empowerment as well as to the enjoyment of other human rights. Help GWI to continue assisting the leading women of tomorrow. Support women who are striving to build a better future for themselves, their children and their communities. Change lives. [Make a donation](#).

Other information and events

November 22 - 25	Canadian Bureau for International Education Conference Ontario, Canada
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 30 – Dec 01	Feminism and Sustainable Development , Postgraduate University, Mexico
June 14 – 17 (2016)	Missing and Marginalised Conference , University of Waterloo, Canada
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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