



GWI Update – 02 December 2015



*Tuija Brax, new President of the Finnish Federation of Graduate Women
Photo: Tiina Eloranta*

Graduate Women International news

Graduate Women International (GWI) commemorates Human Rights Day, 10 December 2015

On Human Rights Day, 10 December 2015, Graduate Women International (GWI) will commemorate one of the most recognised international United Nations days, on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#). Enshrined within this historical document, the human right to free education for all must continue to be asserted and recognised. As a standalone right and one which enables other human rights, the right to education combines GWI's advocacy priorities reflecting the need for action in many areas that touch girls' and women's lives. During this critical year, as the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) were adopted and the world moves towards implementing measures that address global poverty and inequality, the human and educational rights of women and girls must include access to quality lifelong education and training for all women, including those most vulnerable due to conflict, disability or isolation. Read our full press release [here](#).

GWI member news

Finnish Federation of Graduate Women holds Annual General Meeting and elects new president

The [Finnish Federation of Graduate Women \(FFGW\)](#) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 14 November 2015. The current President, Professor Helena Ranta, will leave her post after a full three-year term at the end of 2015. She will be succeeded by Tuija Brax, whose three-year term will commence on 1 January 2016. Tuija is a well-known politician and former Minister of Justice in Finland. She announced that she was leaving party politics in 2014 and she now works as the General Secretary of Finland's Heart Federation. Brax has a Master's degree in law from the University of Helsinki.

Advocacy

UNESCO Framework for Action 2030 Paris, 4 November 2015

The high-level Framework for Action 2030 (FFA) meeting was held in Paris on 4 November 2015, and preceded the [Education Commission of the 38th UNESCO General Conference](#). The FFA provided guidance to countries for the implementation of the Education 2030 Agenda, towards inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all. During the meeting, ministers and invited leaders of the [World Education Forum](#) (WEF)

2015 co-convening agencies and parties, including civil society, were asked to share their views on, and commitments to, the final FFA. This consultation was attended by GWI's Paris UNESCO representatives, who emphasised GWI's key message of empowering women and girls through quality education up to the highest levels. The FFA has been developed through a consultative process including elements agreed upon in the [World Education Forum](#) 2015 in May (Incheon, Republic of Korea). During this forum, GWI's Executive Director Danièle Castle ensured the integration of key GWI messaging into the draft declaration WEF document, highlighting gender equality and fostering the use of information and communication technology and disaggregated data collection into quality education provision.

Grants and Awards

Woman of Distinction Award now accepting nominations

Nominees for the Woman of Distinction Award (WoDA) 2015 must exhibit evidence-based leadership in their field of expertise. Nominees must be advocates for positive social change to close the leadership gap and create a more equitable society for women and girls. They must support policies, practices, attitudes, and/or actions that are intended to produce equitable outcomes for women and girls connected to the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) and [the Beijing Platform for Action](#). Nominees must have demonstrated success in empowering women and girls in their projects. The award is open to women from all regions. Please submit nominations to: WoDA@ngocsw.org

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. We have one month to raise \$5000 on GlobalGiving to train women teachers. Together we can do it! [Give today.](#)

Other information and events

December	10 - 12	International Conference on Technology for Education Warangal, India
January	27	Free from Fear, Free from Pain- Eliminating FGM in Europe Brussels, Belgium
March	09 - 11	Future Sense- Universities Shaping the New Era Canberra, Australia
April	07 - 08	Bricks and Clicks for Europe Galway, Ireland
June	14 - 17	Missing and Marginalised Conference University of Waterloo, Canada
June 28 – July 01		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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