



## GW I UPDATE 29 June 2016



*Guests at CFUW-Ottawa's fundraiser I-r: HE Deborah Lyons, Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Senator Mobina Jaffer, President CFUW-Ottawa Dr Charlotte Rigby, Mrs Hally Siddons, event organiser and hostess, Mr. Dawood Qayomi, Chargé d'Affaires, Embassy of Afghanistan in Canada*

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### — Graduate Women International news —

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#### **Graduate Women International Executive Director Danièle Castle speaks at side event at HRC32**

Graduate Women International (GWI) participated in a side event on '[Non-formal education for gender equality](#)' at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Human Rights Council (HRC32) on 28 June 2016. The event was hosted by Soka Gakkai and other speakers were from the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Sri Lanka and Kenya. Non-formal education provides skills to those who have missed out on formal schooling and suffer reduced economic options and limited social participation as a result. It can be a way of reaching isolated or indigenous communities through non-traditional means (such as radio, theatre and mobile phones) and includes financial and digital literacy and other specific skills development to facilitate income generation opportunities. For more insight, read GWI's manifesto on [Non-Traditional Education](#).

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### — GWI member news —

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#### **CFUW-Ottawa host garden party to raise funds for higher education scholarships for Afghan women**

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)-Ottawa's study and project group, [University Women Helping Afghan Women](#) (UWHAW), hosted a successful fundraising 'Summer Evening Garden Party' on 14 June 2016, attended, as has been the case for the last five years, by very high profile individuals. Money raised from this event goes to scholarships for Afghan women to attend the Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education in Kabul. Awardees receive an education that empowers them to break the cycle of violence that often stems from poverty and lack of opportunity. It is hoped that, armed with these skills, the graduates can contribute to a better understanding of the universal values of human rights, foster socio-economic development and sustain civil society in Afghanistan. For more information on the UWHAW project, please see [here](#).

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### — Advocacy —

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#### **Menstruation a stigma and barrier to girls' education around the world**

The natural process of menstruation contributes to the high rate of secondary school drop out in many parts of the developing world. This is due to a lack of access to adequate toilet facilities or sanitary pads,

particularly in rural areas. In sub-Saharan Africa, [a girl absent from school due to menstruation for four days a month loses 13 learning days, equivalent to two weeks of learning](#), in every school term. It is estimated that within the four years of high school [the same girl loses 156 learning days, equivalent to almost 24 weeks out of 144 weeks of learning](#). Positive action to achieve gender parity in secondary and continuing education involves engagement with communities on the benefits of girls' education, as well as destigmatising gender issues such as menstruation with boys and men. GWI and its affiliated members and associations worldwide address barriers to girls and women's inclusive access to education with advocacy and [projects](#).

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## — Applications —

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### **UNESCO Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences**

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, (UNESCO) is calling for nominations for its [Equatorial Guinea International Prize for Research in the Life Sciences](#). The purpose of this Prize is to reward projects and activities for scientific research in the life sciences leading to improving the quality of human life. The objectives of the Prize are related to the central function of UNESCO's programme to encourage research and the setting up and further development of networks of centres of excellence in the life sciences. For an application form and further details please email: [lifesciencesprize@unesco.org](mailto:lifesciencesprize@unesco.org)

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## — Legacies —

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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. Please remember to update your legacy to GWI if you have already made one for IFUW.

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## — Other information and events —

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June	29 – July 03	<a href="#">The European Conference on Education</a> Brighton, UK
July	14 - 15	<a href="#">Australian Higher Education Summit</a> Melbourne, Australia
July	21 - 23	<a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> Network Gender and STEM Conference 2016</a> Newcastle, UK
August	08 – 19	<a href="#">Women's Human Rights Education Institute Intensive</a> Toronto, Canada
October	25 - 26	<a href="#">International Universities Networking Conference</a> Istanbul, Turkey
Nov	28 - 30	<a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Women's Museums</a> , Mexico City

August 21 – 23

[GWI General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa \(members only\)](#)

August 24 – 26

[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 and ILO.

### **Graduate Women International**

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