



GWI UPDATE – 11 July 2018



GWI marks World Youth Skills Day and recognises that #SkillsChangeLives for women and girls around the world

— Graduate Women International News —

Open-Mindedness and Traditions: Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) inaugurates their 11th session

The start of the 11th session of the EMRIP took place 9 July at the Palace of Nations, Geneva. On behalf of its members Graduate Women International (GWI) participated in the opening ceremony where Indigenous people from all around the world united in the Human Rights and Civilization Alliance Chamber to celebrate their ancestors, their culture and to begin the discussion of this year's theme of free, prior and informed consent aimed toward the achievement of the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). In preparing for this session, EMRIP drew information from a broad variety of stakeholders and sources including: States, Indigenous peoples, civil society, academics, the Special Rapporteurs on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Universal Periodic Review; United Nations and other multilateral actors. Throughout EMRIP participants will explore new partnerships based on human rights, mutual respect and tolerance for the views of each other. The session outcomes will be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-ninth session (September 2018).

The session was opened with a ceremony and prayer given in Mohawk, an Iroquoian language spoken by the Mohawk people, a native community located in the north east of United States and south east of Canada, which was followed by an English translation. Mr. Howard Thomson, the Indigenous speaker opening the session, expressed that his intention was to encourage open-mindedness and he expressed gratitude to mother earth, who provides us life and resources and to the forces of nature, who veil for the creatures of mother earth by giving them warmth and light. GWI encourages our readers to learn about the traditions and culture from Indigenous communities.

— GWI Member News —

The Federación Mexicana de Universitarias (FEMU) recent highlights

FEMU's, Dr. Estefanía Chávez, recently received the "Professor Emeritus" status from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. The status is given to those retired university professors for their services to higher education.



Dr. Chávez, Professor Emeritus.

During May, FEMU organised four lectures, six workshops, four presentations and five film projections to advance their and GWI's mission. For International Museums Day, two 'Museum Nights' were held by the federation, receiving more than 1200 visitors at the Women's Museum. Other lectures reviewed the impact of women in the history of Mexico, raised awareness of sexual violence and highlighted the importance of women's childbirth assistance to women.

GWI congratulates Dr. Chávez for her accomplishment and FEMU for the success of their projects. GWI appreciates FEMU's awareness building Spanish translations of GWI publications and their weekly nationwide radio program "Mujeres a la Tribuna". Get a deeper insight of FEMU through their [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Ghana Association of University Women helps breaking barriers by promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers through fun science quizzes

On the 6 July GAUW partnered with the Centre for Gender Research, Advocacy and Documentation (CEGRAD) to organise a Mathematics and Science Quiz Competition for middle schools around the University of Cape Coast area. GAUW recently received their second Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID) grant, which helped them develop the Girls Science Clinic project. The programme encourages girls to learn and apply their knowledge while making decisions in both public and private life. The Quiz Competition also aims to promote the male dominated STEM careers to young girls, who are normally taken aback by the latter subjects. GWI congratulates GAUW for their efforts and hard work, and the middle schools Amamoma Presby Model School, Kwaprow M/A Basic School, Imam Khomeini Basic School and St. Anthony Anglican Basic School for their participation in such exciting and beneficial programme.

— Advocacy —

GWI marks World Youth Skills Day 2018

On 15 July, GWI joins the international community in marking the third [World Youth Skills Day](#). Young people are almost three times more likely to be unemployed than adults and continuously exposed to lower quality of jobs, greater labor market inequalities, and longer and more insecure school-to-work transitions. In addition, women are more likely to be underemployed and under-paid, and to undertake part-time jobs or work under temporary contracts. This year's theme, #SkillsChangeLives, is a reminder that education and training are key determinants of success in the labor market and powerful tools for

the empowerment of all young people and particularly young women and girls, who continue to face unjust and significant barrier to economic empowerment and equal access to the job market. Furthermore, GWI underscores that #SkillsChangeLives, as education and training are central to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) can help societies to address their multiple economic, social and environmental demands by helping youth and adults develop the skills they need for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship, promoting equitable and sustainable economic growth and supporting transitions to green economies and environmental sustainability. Starting 13 July, plan to follow GWI's [social media campaign](#), featuring assorted articles, advocacy ideas and facts raising awareness of the importance of TVET for women's and girls' empowerment.

— Call for applications —

U.S. Department of Education - Federal Pell Grant Program

The Federal Pell Grant Program provides need-based grants to low-income undergraduate and certain postbaccalaureate students to promote access to postsecondary education. Students may use their grants at any one of approximately 5,400 participating postsecondary institutions. Grant amounts are dependent on the student's expected family contribution (EFC); the cost of attendance (as determined by the institution); the student's enrolment status (full-time or part-time); and whether the student attends for a full academic year or less. For the 2018–19 year, you can apply between Oct. 1, 2017, and June 30, 2019. For the 2019–20 year, you can apply between Oct. 1, 2018, and June 30, 2020. To find out more about the program click [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI in United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

On 22 June, GWI United Nations representative, Dr. Maureen Byrne, attended the Consultations of the Committee (ECOSOC) with NGOs in Consultative Status with ECOSOC, meeting that took place in the United Nations headquarters in New York. Prior to the meeting, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in consultative status with ECOSOC were invited to consider for discussion how NGOs can further contribute to the work of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies; how can the participation of NGOs from developing countries and countries with economies be increased; once ECOSOC status is granted, how best can use the opportunities given?

Dr. Byrne's advocacy report mentions that propositions were made to eliminate structural barriers for NGOs at the United Nations, along with suggestions about the application procedure to ECOSOC. The report also states the importance of collaboration between Member States and NGOs, the presence of representatives while oral statements are given and the need of diversity in meeting locations. This meeting was key for GWI as the chance to hear discussion about the ECOSOC steps forward to collaborate with NGOs. It is essential to remember GWI has held a special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947. Dr. Byrne's full report can be found [here](#).

EMRIP side event: New Zealand and the UNDRIP

On Monday 9 July, GWI attended an EMRIP side event on how the UNDRIP and the National Plan of Action have brought development for the situation of the Indigenous people in New Zealand. There have been two moments of commitments, first in 2010, with the statement of support for the UNDRIP and, in 2014, when the World Council of Indigenous People committed its cooperation with Indigenous people. The side event examined the Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) that was signed in 1840 and included the principles of partnership, active protection and redress of the atrocities committed through colonialism.

Panellists noted that the National Plan of Action of 2010 creates numerous opportunities to raise awareness about Indigenous peoples' rights through education and the importance of monitoring the progresses of such plans; and they stressed that it's vital to have an engagement, which will lead to cooperation, partnership and productive relationship between the Indigenous people and the Government. The National Action Plan includes developing a project that presents problems faced with the integration of Indigenous peoples and the process of developing practical solutions. The importance of transparency, accountability coordination and participation from both the government and the Indigenous people was reaffirmed. The second National Action Plan for the implementation of Indigenous rights was put in action in 2014 through an online monitoring tool. Noting the valuable participation of the youth, New Zealand is committed, through this tool, to the UNDRIP and to making sure the rights of Indigenous people are respected.

— Give the gift of education —

Do you know a graduate woman who would like to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training? Give the gift of membership to join the GWI global community of more than 15'000 members in 54 countries, either as a GWI national member of one of our National Federations and Associations (NFAs) or as an independent member.

— Did you know? —

Did you know GWI helps to influence the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 in all states involved? GWI president, Geeta Desai, continues her work on a six-part SDG 4 tutorial aimed to provide GWI National Federations and Associations with an understanding about the SDGs are and how to implement them in your country or community. In its third part, Ms. Desai examines initiatives from the Member States. She expresses her concern in the ineffectiveness of governments alone while applying the policies to ensure the completion of SDG 4 by 2030 and calls for private and public sectors to join in collaboration for the future of education. Give the gift [here](#).

GWI members can access the tutorials by logging into the Member Corner of the website and clicking on Toolkits. If you are not a GWI member and would like to explore our member benefits, please join us [here](#). You can also learn more about SDG 4 [here](#).

– Other information and events –

2-20 July	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 70 th session, United Nations, Geneva
15 July	World Youth Skills Day, Global
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons, Global
31 July-2 August	4 th Gender & STEM Network Conference, Oregon, USA
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Global
12 August	International Youth Day, Global
10-28 September	Human Rights Council, 39 th Session, United Nations, Geneva
17 Sept-5 October	Committee on the Rights of the Child, 79 th session, United Nations, Geneva
21 September	International Day of Peace, Global
5 October	World Teachers' Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Global
22 Oct-9 November	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 71 st session, United Nations, Geneva
24 October	United Nations Day, Global

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 since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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