



GWI UPDATE – 31 October 2018

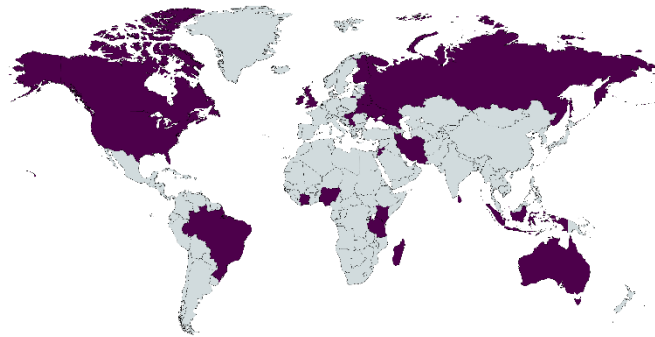


GWI members from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England met on 22 September in Manchester for the first English Speaking European Meeting hosted by the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG)

— Graduate Women International News —

Welcome to the new GWI Independent Members!

Graduate Women International (GWI) extends a warm welcome to all the new independent members who have joined our growing global network of graduate women in the past few months. Since August, GWI has received more than 160 membership requests, most of them redirected to National Federations and Associations (NFAs) and welcomed 24 new independent members from 19 countries outside of GWI's global network. Independent membership opens GWI's international network to women graduates from countries where there is not yet a GWI affiliate. The Independent Members Programme directly contributes to the richness and plurality of the GWI global community of graduate women. Including our independent members, the GWI network spans through 72 countries! GWI also offers a programme to support independent members who would like to create a new GWI NFA in their country. With their valuable membership, Independent Members make GWI a stronger organization working to empower women and girls around the world through access to quality secondary tertiary and continuing education and training up to the highest levels. GWI wants to create a vibrant and warm community of independent graduate women. Interested in becoming an independent member of GWI? [Join today.](#)



The highlighted zones represent the countries of the newest GWI Independent Members

— GWI Member News —

TAUW grant recipients help empower young girls through the Hope for the Future Project

This summer, the Turkish Association of University women (TAUW) launched their “Hope for the Future” project, in which university students, who have received a TAUW scholarships, became mentors for young girls in their area during the summer holiday period. 169 volunteers became role models for 851 children aged 9-14 in 136 cities and towns across Turkey. The project focused on reading as a tool to empower the children to set goals for their future. The mentors taught the kids about human rights and equality, communication skills, and the importance of reading and noted after that the kids were becoming more confident, cultured, educated individuals. The project was not only beneficial for the children, as the volunteers also increased their social entrepreneurship skills and enjoyed the experience of helping guide children’s futures in a positive direction.



Irem, 4th year law student and recipient of a TAUW scholarship, posing with the six girls from her neighbourhood she tutored during the summer vacation

British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) hosts first English-speaking European Meeting By Jenny Morley, BFWG Convener of International Relations (CIR)

On 22 September, 50 Members of UWE (University Women of Europe) and accompanying husbands met at Chancellors Hotel, Manchester University to celebrate 100 years of (some) women voting in the UK (& 90 years of all women getting the vote). Patrice Wellesley-Cole, BFWG President, welcomed delegates from Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England. The Seminar, chaired by Jenny Morley, BFWG Convener of International Relations (CIR), began with ‘Battles for the Vote’. Jonathan Schoffield, former lawyer now author and Blue Badge guide, took us on the historical journey of Manchester which was at the centre of the national struggle for general enfranchisement. There was a coalition of working class and middleclass women. The Manchester Guardian was the newspaper leading on this: their motto ‘Well to be frank better to be fair’. Next was Carrie de Silva, Principal Lecturer at Harper Adams University and Vice President of the British Federation. She talked on “People and Property” including the story of the first woman-chartered surveyor. The Sex Disqualification Act (Removal) 1919 swiftly followed the start of Women’s Suffrage and made it possible for women to enter more roles in the professions previously closed to them. After a buffet lunch, which provided an opportunity for networking we heard Dr Lauren Arrington, Head of the Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool on ‘Lessons from the first wave’. She gave a long view of the #MeToo movement and the intersectional Feminist discourse where women across the social divides of wealth and position acted in co-operation in the Suffrage movement. Aisha Alshawaf, Vice President of UWE, next Chaired a discussion panel consisting of the President of Graduate Women Scotland, Fiona Sutherland, President of Irish Federation of University Women, Mary Morrissey and Patrice Wellesley-Cole. They considered the way forward and future plans for Graduate Women Ireland, Scotland & Britain (GWISB). There was general approval for annual meetings except in GWI Triennial Years. GW-Scotland announced a ‘Meet and Greet’ event on 17-19 May 2019 in Dundee with the theme ‘My Identity: My Story’. The 2020 Meeting will be in Ireland.

Bina Roy Project Highlight: Creative Writing for Gender Equality in Cape Town, South Africa

On Saturday 6 October, the Cape Town Branch of the South African Association of Women Graduates (SAAWG) concluded their very successful Creative Gender Equality project with the launch of “Claiming our Space...Changing the World”, the book written by the 10 girls between 15 and 16 years of age who benefited from the Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID) project. This event gathered the young authors, and their family members, representatives from the University of the Western Cape, members of the SAAWG Cape Town Branch, as well as Dorian Haarhoff, the creative writing consultant who coordinated the creative writing aspects of the project. The goal of the project was to enrich the understanding of youngsters of democracy, human rights and especially girls’ and women’s rights, whilst at the same time developing their creative writing skills. To achieve this goal, the project conveners held discussions on the topics of democracy, human rights, gender equity, women’s and girls’ rights, while also providing the selected girls with opportunities for written tasks on the selected themes and assist with publishing. GWI warmly congratulates the Cape Town Branch of SAAWG for the success of this inspiring and impactful project, part of the 2017/2018 Funding Cycle of the BRPID. A grants mechanism of Graduate Women International (GWI), BRPID began in 1978 and was later named in honour of Dr. Bina Roy, educator and former GWI President from India. The BRPID projects are run throughout the world by GWI NFAs and focus on a wide array of issues aligned with GWI’s missions and values, from the economic empowerment of women to illiteracy eradication, girls’ school dropout prevention, the promotion of gender equality, women’s sexual and reproductive rights and girls’ and women’s right to education at the highest level. GWI remains ever grateful to the VGIF (www.vgif.com) for their generous donations supporting the BRPID Projects.



Conveners and target students of the Creative Writing for Gender Equality project, a Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme project put in place by the SAAWG Cape Town Branch

— GWI “Peace through Education” Triennial and Conference —

The GWI 33rd Triennial GA, Centenary Celebration and One - Day Conference will be held 25-28 July 2019 at the University of Geneva in Geneva, Switzerland. This major milestone event represents a new beginning for GWI, within a changing global landscape - one of strategic relationships with the UN, knowledge competencies in global policies that widen the social and economic divide and advocacy for global and national governance that protect women’s and girls’ rights. Our Theme “Peace through Education” reflects our deep-seated recognition of education, particularly education for women and girls as the cornerstone of peaceful, just and sustainable societies.

Current Calls for Participation in the GWI 33rd Triennial and Centenary Celebration

✈ Applications are now being accepted for the Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship. Instructions and link to the form are [here](#). **Deadline the apply is 1 December 2018.** ✈

CLOSED: Call for Nominations Committee is [here](#). **CLOSED (deadline 7 September 2018).**

EXTENDED: Call for Song Competition is [here](#). **EXTENDED (new deadline 30 November 2018).**

EXTENDED: Call for 2019 Chitra Ghosh Award is [here](#). **EXTENDED (new deadline 30 November 2018).**

EXTENDED : Call for 2019 Nazan Moroğlu Young Member Award is [here](#). **EXTENDED (new deadline 30 November 2018).**

Interdisciplinary Seminar Papers and Posters [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 31 October 2018.**

Call for 2019 Workshops is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 11 January 2019.**

Call for GWI Centenary Project – NFA Outstanding women is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 15 January 2019**

Call for Resolutions for the 33rd Triennial is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 2 February 2019.**

— Advocacy —

GWI celebrates United Nations Day (UN Day)

Celebrated annually on 24 October, UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations (UN) charter in 1945. The day is celebrated around the world with a variety of different activities and events to showcase the achievements of the UN. A concert was held in the General Assembly Hall of the UN Headquarters in New York, schoolchildren in the Philippines wore national dress of different member states, and people in Kosovo enjoyed the official non-working day. The work done at the UN is central to GWI far-reaching advocacy work. In Geneva, GWI takes active part into the work of the Human Rights Council, the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva, and other UN agencies to achieve common goals of empowerment for women and universal access to education for girls. GWI maintains special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947 and was one of the first organisations to be granted this status. This year GWI celebrated UN Day with a social-media campaign featuring facts about the UN, articles about UN projects, and assorted advocacy ideas on how to support the work of the UN. For the last 73 years, the UN has promoted peace, security, human rights, and development for all, and GWI celebrates both the work they are doing and the opportunity to collaborate with them.

GWI Resolution 6 and 8 highlights: Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage are serious issues facing young girls today and are an area of concern for GWI. Both FGM and child marriage are perpetuated and justified under the idea of tradition and culture, but they are human rights violations and barriers to personal development opportunities and education for girls. FGM is an act of extreme violation on the female body and has severe lasting physical and mental repercussions on the victim. Girls forced to get married as children will often experience domestic violence, sexual abuse, as well as serious physical and emotional health challenges. GWI reinforced its commitment to ending these harmful practices at the GWI 32nd Triennial Conference in 2016, during which the GWI General Assembly adopted [Resolution 6](#) on FGM and [Resolution 8](#) on child marriage. Both resolutions included suggested action plans, for GWI and its NFAs, to work towards forbidding these practices.

— Call for applications —

Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship

GWJ is offering the Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship to be awarded at the GWJ Peace through Education Centenary Conference to be held 25-28 July 2019 to a woman graduate for her postgraduate research, study and training. The fellowship is intended to encourage international scholarship and is to be used in a country other than the one in which the applicant was educated and other than the one in which the applicant habitually resides. The fellowship is for eight to 12 months of work and must enhance the original research or scholarship on which a postgraduate applicant is already engaged. The Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship application opportunity is open free of charge to women PhD candidates who are members of GWJ, either through a National Federation or Association(NFA) or through independent membership. Non-members can apply for a fee. **The application deadline is 1 December 2018.** The official [call for application](#) and [application form](#) are available on the [GWJ website](#).

Call for Nominations for the Spotlight Initiative’s Civil Society Global Reference Group

Eliminating VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) and achieving gender equality and women’s empowerment is a pre-requisite to achieving the 2030 Agenda. In September 2017, the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) launched the Spotlight Initiative -- a global partnership to eliminate all forms of VAWG. Backed by a financial investment of EUR 500 million, the Initiative will operate in five regions (Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific) and respond to all forms of VAWG. The Spotlight Initiative intends to work closely with women’s movements and relevant human rights-based civil society organizations (CSOs). The Secretariat of the Spotlight Initiative invites nominations from the women’s movement and relevant human rights-based civil society organizations and networks to be part of the Initiative’s Civil Society Global Reference Group (CS-GRG). All nominations will be reviewed by a 7-person Selection Committee comprising civil society leaders and two members of the Spotlight Secretariat. Individuals may nominate themselves and organisations, entities and individuals may nominate other individuals using the Nomination Form below. All Nomination Forms must be accompanied by the candidate’s CV or a brief bio and sent to the following e-mail address: <mailto:sonya.thimmaiah@undp.org>. The deadline for the submission of all nominations is 22 November 2018. Further information about the Spotlight Initiative available [here](#).

Buildium’s Women in Technology Scholarship

Buildium’s Women in Technology Scholarship Encouraging the pursuit of education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) is one way to help more women achieve their dream of careers in design and development. The Women in Technology Scholarship is awarded each semester to a Product Design, Interaction Design, UX Design, or Computer Science student who writes the most compelling essay about a topic related to women in technology. **The deadline for this scholarship is 15 April 2019.** You can find out more information about this opportunity [here](#).

— GWJ at the United Nations —

GWJ participates in the UNICEF Executive Board Special Focus session in New-York

On 12 September, Dr. Maureen Byrne, GWJ UN representative in New York attended the “Tomorrow Ready: UNICEF Executive Board Special Focus Session” at the UN Headquarters in New York City. The

subject of the meeting was ‘how to highlight the role of innovation to engage, enable, equip, and empower young people for the world tomorrow’. Speakers included Nicholas Thompson, Editor-in-Chief at Wired and Stephanie Sy, CEO of Thinking Machines Data Science. Attendants discussed innovation and changing technologies, and how these resources need to be made available to marginalized students, like those with disabilities or in conflict zones. The session also covered challenges that UNICEF has taken on, including ensuring there is proper furniture in class rooms, creating language learning platforms for refugees and migrants, and combatting child abuse. Dr. Byrne noted that UNICEF and digital technology are moving toward shaping education around the world, making it more accessible for all. To read the full report, [click here](#).

63rd session of the CSW63: Zero Draft available

The Zero Draft of the 63rd Session for the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW63) has been released and provides useful information regarding the upcoming session of CSW which will take place in March 2019, in New-York City. CSW is a commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) focused on gender equality and empowerment of women. The Commission made up of UN Member States, civil society organisations and UN entities, gathers annually for two weeks, at themed sessions, to evaluate progress, identify challenges, and set global standards regarding gender equality. The theme for CSW63 is Social Protection Systems, Access to Public Services, and Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls. The Zero Draft Document Committee makes recommendations that identify gaps in existing agreements and treaties in relation to the priority theme. CSW is a major focal point on the GWI Advocacy calendar as CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Each year, GWI actively participates, on behalf of all of our NFAs, in the session. As a member of the Zero Draft Document Committee, Dr. Maureen Byrne, GWI UN representative in New York, actively participates in the planning process of CSW. This year, the committee of multiple NGOs representatives will assess the following domains: Health, Education, Employment, Justice, Participation and Representation, Infrastructure and Human Rights. As a member of the Education committee, Dr. Maureen Byrne will be working on the areas of Early Childhood Education, Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Vocational, Literacy (financial, legal etc.), STEAM, ICT (technology), and Life Long Learning.

— Give the gift of education —

GWI will be leading a team of runners at the 41st Course de l’Escalade to be held on 1 December 2018. Our objective is to promote the importance of girls’ education and celebrate GWI’s centennial commitment to improving the status of women and girls’ worldwide through education at the highest level. Each year, on the first Saturday in December, the most popular sporting event in Geneva takes place in the old town - The Escalade Race. Last year nearly 45,000 runners participated. This event is for everyone - famous international runners to beginners, children and adults alike. Distances run vary from 2km to 8 km depending on the category. All runs take place in the narrow streets of the old town and finish in the Bastion Park. With this fundraiser we are promoting the importance of girls’ education and raising funds for our programs such as



Teachers for Rural Futures and GWI mentoring programmes. We are rallying support as we plan to run as a team on this very special Geneva event. If you are in Geneva and want to join the GWI team, contact Stacy Dry Lara at: sdl@graduatewomen.org, before 5 November. If you are not in Geneva but would like to support our running for girls' education, please click [here](#) to contribute.

— Did you know? —

Did you know GWI helps to influence the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 in all states involved? GWI president, Geeta Desai, has written a [six-part SDG 4 tutorial](#) aimed to provide GWI NFAs with an understanding about the SDGs are and how to implement them in your country or community. In its fourth part, Ms. Desai examines financing the SDGs. The toolkit begins by her describing the daunting task of funding such ambitious goals for the entire world. She then goes on to explain that funding the SDGs is possible through partnerships between governments, corporations, foundations, multi-lateral banks and NGOs. Finally, she suggests simple actions you can take to spread awareness and to learn more about funding projects in your own countries.

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 —

22 Oct-9 November	CEDAW, 71 st session, United Nations, Geneva
24 October	United Nations Day, Global
3 November	WG-USA Regional Meeting – West Coast, Claremont, California, USA
17 November	International Students' Day, Global
20 November	Universal Children's Day, Global
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Global
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global
29-30 November	FEMU International Seminar "The role of women in Latin American Migration to the United States"
10 December	Human Rights Day, Global
18 December	International Migrants Day, Global
25-28 July 2019	GWI Peace through Education Convention, Geneva

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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