



GWI UPDATE – 15 November 2017

**STOP
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**



GWI joins hands with the global movement to end Violence against Women on 25 November

— Graduate Women International news —

GWI launches 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign Toolkit

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Campaign is an annual movement aiming to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls around the world. Beginning with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November and concluding with Human Rights Day on 10 December, the 16 Days of Activism Campaign unites the voices of millions of women and girls to raise awareness about GBV, works to eliminate all forms of GBV, and demands equal protection and full access to fundamental human rights of safety and education. This year, the theme, *“Together We Can End GBV in Education!”*, directly relates to GWI’s core mission, promotion the right to quality and safe lifelong education for girls and women at all levels; the advancement of the status of girls and women; and the ability of women and girls to apply their knowledge and skills in leadership and decision-making in all forms of public and private life. The 2016 global campaign involved more than 700 organizations in some 92 countries under the theme of From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All. GWI aims to build on the energy and momentum of last year’s 16 Days of Activism Campaign, and has created a toolkit for National and Federal Associations (NFAs) offering resources to raise awareness about GBV and work towards its elimination. You can find it [here](#).

— GWI member news —

The Bina Roy Partners in Development program funds creative writing for gender equality project organised by the South African Association of Women Graduates

Graciously funded by the [Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund](#), the 2017 round of [Bina Roy Partners in Development](#) (BRPID) projects includes a South Africa Association of Women Graduates (SAAWG) project aimed at enriching young people’s lives with a better understanding of democracy and human rights, particularly girls’ and women’s rights. Language will be harnessed as a vehicle to enhance a deeper understanding of these concepts and develop participants creative writing skills, as well as providing a safe and creative space for participants to reflect and discuss these topics. This project will

give young people a space to enrich their thoughts on how democracy and human rights relate to their own lives. GWI congratulates SAAWG for organising a creative and educational project for young people with far-reaching social benefits, to develop understanding of important topics relating to human rights and civil society.

The University Women's Club of Montreal launches the first North American *Olympes de la Parole*

GWI joins the excitement of the University Women's Club of Montreal (UWCM) in announcing the official launch today, 15 November 2017, of the first Canadian Edition of *Les Olympes de la Parole* in Montreal. The press release announcing the launch is [here](#).

Les Olympes de la Parole is an academic competition open to secondary school girls that incorporates a human rights approach to reflect on the central theme of gender equality. The competition is named after Olympe de Gouge, a French politician, playwright, and activist who authored [La Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne](#) in 1791. She was a fierce advocate for the abolition of slavery and the rights of women. Because of her writings and political activism, she was convicted of treason and was guillotined in Paris in 1793.

UWCM is a member of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). Since its founding in 1919, CFUW has been working to improve the status of women and girls, to promote human rights, public education, social justice, and peace. GWI congratulates and applauds this initiative from UWCM. For more information and how to participate, you can visit their website [here](#).

— Advocacy —

GWI attends the 68th Session of CEDAW

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is wrapping up its sixty-eighth session at the Palais des Nations in Geneva this week. During the session, GWI has covered reviews on Kenya, Norway, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Highlights from the sessions include:

- Kenya: The Kenyan Delegation acknowledged the issue more than one million children out of school, saying that cultural and religious practices in some communities still stood as a barrier to girls' education. The Delegation mentioned that the Kenyan government is working on guidance and counseling for parents as duty bearers to ensure they understand the importance of sending their children – and specifically daughters – to school. The Delegation also introduced a program launched since the last reporting session that offers free sanitary towels to marginalized or impoverished girls ensuring that they don't miss educational time due to menstruation.
- Norway: During the session the Delegation of Norway responded to issues raised during its last CEDAW review and current issues regarding discrimination against women. The Norwegian Minister for Children, Equality and Social Inclusion was joined by a representative from the Ministry of Justice, and the Norwegian Mission to the United Nations. Norway's efforts to achieve gender equality are some of the most successful in the world. However, there are several areas on which progress has stalled, and other issues have arisen. Read the full report [here](#).
- DPRK: Overall, the review session for the DPRK made minimal mention of specific progress in the country towards ensuring access to education for girls which GWI took as a point of concern. The Committee commended the Delegation for the implementation of universal

compulsory education, introduced in 2014, but took issue with the discrepancy in rates of women enrolled in upper education and the lack of diversity in the fields they tended to pursue. The Delegation suggested this was due to a tendency for women to join subjects “suitable to their physical characteristics” and their more kind, mild, and helpful. GWI found this very stereotypically-gendered view problematic, especially considering it was held by the government and Delegation.

The 68th CEDAW session concludes on the 17th November 2017. Conclusions and recommendations for GWI NFAs will be published.

— Call for applications —

NGO CSW/NY is accepting Nominations for the Woman of Distinction Award

Every year NGO CSW/NY presents the *Women of Distinction Award* to a woman in recognition of their leadership in the struggle for gender equality, human rights and women’s empowerment. The awardee gives the keynote address at the Consultation Day, the launch of the CSW62 Forum.

The honouree should be a leader of distinction in her field of expertise and a role model usually from a developing country (this is not required); an advocate for positive social change to close the leadership gap, implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs,) particularly SDG5, to create a more equitable society; a public speaker who can address “challenges and opportunities and empowerment of rural women and girls”, the priority theme of CSW62; an activist who will benefit from participation in the NGO CSW Forum, including Consultation Day (she must be available to speak at Consultation Day); a leader who can make a difference when she returns home; must be available to travel to the United Nations, New York, from 8 March 2018 to 14 March 2018.

Please email nominee suggestions with a letter of nomination and curriculum vitae to woda@ngocsw.org by **30 November 2017**. The names and bios of previous Women of Distinction Awardees are on the NGO CSW/NY website.

2018 Disability Rights Scholarship Program

The Disability Rights Scholarship Program offers awards to individuals from China, and selected countries in Africa and Latin America for a one-year Master of Laws (LLM) degree.

The program’s objective is to provide disability rights advocates and lawyers with the necessary expertise to develop new legislation, jurisprudence, policy, research, and scholarship to harness the innovations and opportunities offered by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD, which entered into force in May 2008, presents a paradigm shift in the field of disability rights and provides a framework for promoting the inclusion and full participation of persons with disabilities in their communities.

With the knowledge and networks gained through the program, we expect that Fellows will deepen their understanding of international law with a focus on disability rights, and gain the tools necessary to engage in a range of CRPD implementation strategies, such as: challenging rights violations in their home countries by drafting enforceable legislation consistent with the CRPD; utilizing enforcement mechanisms set forth in the Convention; taking forward disability rights litigation requesting CRPD-compliant remedies; engaging in disability rights advocacy; and developing law, education, or other academic curricula informed by the CRPD.

Deadline to apply is 1 December 2017, more information can be found [here](#).

National Geographic Society: Inviting Applicants for Early Career Grant

The National Geographic Society awards grants for conservation, education, research, storytelling, and technology through its Committee for Research and Exploration. All proposed projects must be novel and exploratory, and be of broad interest. National Geographic Society grant-funded projects should be bold, innovative, and transformative.

National Geographic welcomes applications from around the world and specifically encourages applicants from outside the United States to apply. Applicants planning to work outside of their home country should include at least one local collaborator on their team. The Committee will not usually consider applications that support strictly laboratory or collections work. Grants are awarded on the basis of merit and exist independent of the Society's other divisions.

For detailed information about the grant application, see the [How to Apply page](#). Last **deadline to apply is 3 January 2018**.

— GWI United Nations Representative Reports —

GWI United Nations representative in Vienna, Elisabeth Francis, covered the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) from 2-12 May 2017 in Vienna

The Treaty is the cornerstone of the global nuclear non-proliferation regime and an essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. It was designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, to further the goals of nuclear disarmament, and to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. This meeting in Vienna, attended by all states party to the treaty, was the first of three annual sessions that will be held prior to the major 2020 Review Conference of the NPT.

Elisabeth Francis represented GWI at this ten-day meeting and attended many side events. You can read her full report [here](#).



A Plenary session at the Preparatory Committee meeting

— Give the Gift of Education on #GivingTuesday—

#GivingTuesday is an annual day of global giving, fueled by the power of collaboration and social media. The event is the kickoff to the charitable donation season when many adopt the spirit of the holidays and focus on end-of-year giving. Last year, #GivingTuesday broke records with an astounding \$177 million raised online in one day. This year, GWI aims to join this day of worldwide generosity and raise money to support the advancement of girls' safe access to quality education. Examples of GWI programming supported by #GivingTuesday donations include: the [2017 Course d'Escalade](#), sponsoring GWI's team of girls' education champions running to raise awareness about and funding for the importance of girls' education; the [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) program, training young women in rural Uganda to become qualified secondary school teachers, expanding girls' access to education and providing necessary and impactful role models for young girls; the [Hegg Hoffet Fund](#), assisting graduate women who have been displaced as a result of war, political upheaval, or other serious emergencies. Support of GWI's programming and mission has tremendous impact on girls around the world, allowing for our continued advocacy in the advancement of girls' and women's access to safe education. Please consider joining the #GivingTuesday movement and donating to GWI on 28 November!

— Did you Know? —

Did you know that 91 years ago, on [August 1926](#), "by the kind invitation of the University Women of Holland, the Fourth Conference of International Federation of University Women was held in Amsterdam"? At that time, GWI (then International Federation of University Women (IFUW) Conferences were held every three years with Council Meetings were held yearly during non-conference years. The Federation was composed of 27 NFAs: United States of America (since 1919), Great Britain (1919), Canada (1920), France (1920), Spain (1920), Holland (1921), India (1921), Norway (1921), Sweden (1921), Australia (1922), Austria (1922), Belgium (1922), Czecho-Slovakia (1922), Denmark (1922), Finland (1922), Italy (1922), New Zealand (1922), South Africa (1923), Ireland (1924), Switzerland (1924), Bulgaria (1925), Luxembourg (1925), Romania (1925), Estonia (1926), Germany (1926), Hungary (1926) and Poland (1926). The little blue book that we hold at the historical library at GWI headquarters, states, "The attendance was larger than at any previous Conference, between four and five hundred members being present" and that only a mere seven years after its creation, "the International Federation had already gone a long way towards the realisation of its prime object – the establishment of a real league of friendship between educated women of all nations" to which the large attendance at Amsterdam provided good evidence.

— Other information and events —

Oct 23 – Nov 17	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women , 68 th Session, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Nov 6 – Nov 17	Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, 28th Session , Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Nov 14-16	IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour , Buenos Aires, Argentina
Nov 15 2017-March 2018	Les Olympes de la Parole , University Women's Club of Montreal, (CFUW-GWI)

Nov 20-24	Pre-sessional Working Group, 70 th Session, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Nov 24-25	“Atrevete a Cambiar” , Federación Mexicana de Universitarias (FEMU-GWI), Mazatlán, Mexico
Dec 1-2	Course de l’Escalade , GWI running team, Geneva, Switzerland
Dec 4-8	International Civil Society Week , Fiji
Dec 1-10	60th Anniversary Celebration , Hong Kong Association of University Women (HKAUW-GWI), Hong Kong
Jan 29 – Feb 7, 2018	Commission for Social Development, 56th Session , United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
March 12-23, 2018	Commission on the Status of Women, 62th Session , United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
March 14-15, 2018	ZurichEduCaExpo 2018 - 2nd International Education & Career Exhibition , Zurich, Switzerland
April 17-19, 2018	Federation of University Women Africa (FUWA) Regional meeting, Bibliotheca Alexandrina’s Conference Center, Alexandria, Egypt
July 31-Aug 2, 2018	4th Gender & STEM Network Conference , Oregon, USA

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

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