



GWI Update – 10 June 2015



Participants and GWI staff members Danièle Castle and Caroline Staffell in Sofia, Bulgaria

Graduate Women International news

GWI Capacity Building Workshop: Communities for Action, 4-5 June 2015, Sofia, Bulgaria

On 4-5 June GWI held a European regional Capacity Building Workshop in Sofia, Bulgaria. The workshop, entitled, “Communities for Action” provided interactive sessions, presentations and useful tools to increase member engagement, visibility and impact. Members explored the environments they are working in and how to engage current and potential members. The workshop ended with an action planning session which brought together all the elements of the workshop in a plan for ongoing activities. One participant commented, “It was extremely interesting and useful!” This capacity building workshop was made possible thanks to the generous support of [VGIF](#).

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

India

Dr Arti Bhatti, member of the Indian Federation of University Women’s Associations ([IFUWA](#)) and recipient of GWI’s Dorothy Leet Grant 2014 has been invited to give a guest lecture at the University of Education Weingarten ([Pädagogische Hochschule Weingarten](#)) in Germany on 9 June 2015. During her presentation on “[Global Learning in Germany and England: Indian Perspectives](#)”, Dr Bhatti will share her international academic experiences and research. With the support of GWI’s Grant, Dr Bhatti is currently researching the *Influence of globalisation on challenges faced by ethnic women students in higher education in London*, at the University of London, Great Britain.

Advocacy

GWI has submitted a written statement in advance of the 29th Session of the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC). The Session will take place at the UN in Geneva, Switzerland, on 15 June to 3 July 2015. Entitled “The Full Realisation of the Right to Education for Girls and Women”, GWI’s statement emphasises that the human right to education is often unrealised and inaccessible for many girls and women worldwide. Poverty and illiteracy are significant hurdles facing girls and women in their pursuit of equal access to quality education, in particular secondary education. Other barriers include: harmful practices that specifically target girls and adolescent young women including early, forced and child marriages; unsafe school premises or transportation to and from school; a lack of suitable and safe sanitation facilities; necessity to travel significant distances to reach schools, particularly in rural areas; suspended or dangerous conditions to access education in times of armed conflict; and curricula and teaching methods that do not meet the specific linguistic or other needs of girls from certain at-risk groups, including ethnic, indigenous and disabled backgrounds. GWI has made numerous recommendations in its statement. In particular, GWI urges all stakeholders and policy makers, especially within the fields of education and international development, to adopt, implement, accelerate, and adequately finance measurable plans of action to increase access to, and completion of, all levels of education for all people. This includes full multistakeholder, multilateral commitment to implementing the post-2015 agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 4 (education) and Goal 5 (gender equality).

Grants and Proposals

Asia Pacific Regional Conference

The International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR) will host its ninth conference in Tokyo, Japan on 27-28 August 2015. The conference “Exploring Frontiers of Civil Society, Social Capital and Social Enterprises” will include plenary session discussion on third sector research, as well as policy-and-business implication towards the sector’s evolution. Panels will include: “The Roles of Civil Society in Local Governance” and “New Trends, New Actors, New Scenarios in Civil Society”. More information and details for registration are [available here](#).

Save the date!

GWI will host its 32nd triennial conference in Cape Town, South Africa, on 24-26 August 2016. The Conference theme “At the crossroads of education, gender and human rights” will bring together multilateral, multistakeholder participants including policy makers, education experts, international organisations, civil society, and private sector enterprises. Sponsorship applications are now open, where several packages are available for a wide variety of advertising platforms. For further information on sponsorship please visit: <http://www.gwiconference.org/> .

Other information and events

June 15 – July 3	29th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council , Geneva, Switzerland
June 18 – 21	CFUW Annual General Meeting, Québec, Canada
28 August – 1 September	UWE Conference “Networking as a Quality” , the Netherlands
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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