



GWI Update – 1 July 2015



Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) Board members, joined by GWI Vice-President Ms Ayden Birendinç

Graduate Women International news

GWI featured in World Pulse

The online forum World Pulse recently published a GWI text emphasising the critical need to tackle the global shortage of qualified and properly-trained teachers through concerted national and international efforts. A large number of teachers remain under-qualified and poorly trained in the subjects they teach. As a result, an estimated 250 million children do not have basic reading and mathematics skills, despite the fact that some of the children have attended school for several years. To tackle this issue, teachers need to be supported by professional development programmes in order to help develop their skills in writing, reading, mathematics and also digital literacy. Governments must also provide financial incentives in order to retain the best teachers. Read the full article [here](#).

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

TAUW celebrates GWI

On 31 May 2015, the Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) marked the international federation's transition and [re-branding from IFUW to GWI](#). Celebrating the day over a group brunch with families and guests, TAUW members discussed the significance of the name change, representing the next chapter of the organisation's venerable history. The celebration was immediately preceded by a visit from GWI Vice-President and Board member, Ayden Birendinç, who was invited to join a TAUW Board Meeting, and who shared many of the exciting developments that have been occurring across all of GWI's activities.

Advocacy

GWI promotes women's economic empowerment at international conference

On 5 June 2015, during the 104th International Labour Conference (ILC), GWI United Nations Representative, Katherine Hagen, delivered an oral statement on the economic empowerment of women. The statement emphasised the role of **women in the economy** as a key priority for the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in this pivotal year of 2015 – and in the ILO's preparations for its centennial anniversary in 2019. Women's economic empowerment is an essential condition for sustainable development and social change. GWI highlighted its support for the original proposal by the Director-General in his report to the International Labour Conference in 2013 for a set of seven centenary initiatives to prepare for the 100-year anniversary, including one of these centenary initiatives specifically focused

on “women at work”. GWI further commended the Director-General’s proposal to hold four “centenary conversations” leading to the 1919 Conference on (1) work and society, (2) decent jobs for all, (3) organisation of work and production, and (4) governance of work. Challenges for any initiative addressing women at work are a combination of redressing the historic factors of gender-based discrimination and making a concerted effort to link the changing nature of work, the future of work, to proactively improve the opportunities for women and girls in the context of these changing circumstances. It is important that the four “centenary conversations” on the future of work include these concerns regarding women and girls at work.

Grants and Proposals

Open Society Fellowship

The Open Society Fellowship supports individuals pursuing innovative and unconventional approaches to fundamental open society challenges. A fellowship project might identify a problem that has not previously been recognised, develop new policy ideas to address familiar problems, or offer a new advocacy strategy. Project themes should cut across at least two areas of interest to the Open Society Foundations. Among these are human rights, government transparency, access to information and to justice, and the promotion of civil society and social inclusion. Fellows may produce a variety of work products, including publications such as books, reports, or blogs; innovative public education projects; or the launch of new campaigns or organizations. They may also engage in activities such as hosting panel discussions, travelling to conferences, participating in policy debates, and aggressively promoting their ideas in public venues. **Deadline for applications: 3 August 2015.** For full information, including tips on writing a proposal, [read here](#).

Give the gift of membership!

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 a global community of over 23,000 members in some 100 countries, either as a GWI independent member or national member of one of over 60 National Federations and Associations (NFAs).

Other information and events

July 6 – 10	ECOSOC High-Level Segment on Sustainable Development, UN New York
August 28 –	UWE Conference “Networking as a Quality” , Utrecht, the Netherlands
September 1	
September 25 – 27	Women Graduates USA (WG-USA) AGM , Baltimore, USA
November 14 – 15	Finnish Academic Women’s Association (SANL) AGM , Kaunianien, Finland
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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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.

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