



GWI Update – 19 August 2015



TAUW Friendship Bridge Students & End Child Marriage Ambassadors

Graduate Women International news

GWI is pleased to announce that Amy Paunila is joining as Communications and Advocacy Officer, as Aoife Hegarty has left to pursue other opportunities. Amy comes to GWI with overseas experience in Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Uganda. With a background in educational development, more recently in the field of communications and advocacy, she has worked for the British Council, the UN and various small community NGOs. She aims to channel her knowledge of education at both a practical level and at policy-making level into the advocacy and communications efforts of GWI. She is especially keen to contribute to the global impact that GWI is already achieving on key issues relating to women in education and employment. She can be contacted through the GWI office in Geneva.

Member news

Ending Child Marriage in Turkey

The Friendship Bridge Project, developed by GWI member, the Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW), provides women university students from rural areas with mentoring and support to complete their university studies. Each Friendship Bridge mentor provides significant support for the students' transition to city life, the completion of their studies and the start of their career. TAUW have launched a project with students in the Friendship Bridge Project to raise awareness of the harm caused by child marriage and to urge communities to end the practice. The students are trained by TAUW to advocate against child marriage in their rural communities when they return for the summer holiday: students meet with at least ten groups, including community leaders, school leaders, officials and parents, to address child marriage within their communities and create steps to end the harmful practice. This year 55 students are participating in the programme. In October 2015 they will present their evaluation report to TAUW. Child, early and forced marriage is a serious human rights violation that particularly affects girls, depriving them of education, autonomy and self-determination. Read more in GWI's [Manifesto on Secondary Education and](#) policy statement on [child, early and forced marriage](#).

Advocacy

FEMNET publishes Men to Men Strategy Toolkit to reduce Violence Against Women

Published by African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), the [Men to Men Strategy Toolkit](#) shares information, tools, activities, and skills building ideas and methods to support organisations and individuals to understand better the dynamics of working with men to address gender based violence in collaboration with women's rights organisations in Africa. It explores the myths and misconceptions of working with men, men's fears and strengths, and suggests some of the tested and working ideas that can be adopted, domesticated, or improved for a greater impact. It specifically addresses how to engage men to change negative socio-cultural attitudes that make them look down on women and girls as lesser human beings. [Read more.](#)

Online course on women's health and human rights

The Global Fund for Women has just announced an online course on women's health and human rights. Although the course has already started, participants can proceed at any point. The course provides an overview of women's health and human rights, beginning in infancy and childhood, then moving through adolescence, reproductive years and aging. The course reviews economic, social, political and human rights factors, and the challenges women face in maintaining health and managing their lives in the face of societal pressures and obstacles. Sign up [here](#).

Events

UN Women Africa region is organising a regional sharefair on Gender Equality in the Extractive Industries: Building on Good Practices, from 13-15 October 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. Extraction of oil, gas and minerals is driving immense economic and social development and could drastically reduce poverty levels on the African continent. For more information please contact valery.awuor@unwomen.org.

Legacies in favour of GWI

As a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, GWI is sincerely grateful for all donations received from the wills of members and patrons, which make a significant difference in enabling advocacy activities and projects. By leaving a gift in your will to GWI, you are supporting the organisation to continue its mission to increase access to lifelong, quality education for girls and women globally.

Other information and events

August 27 – 30	UWE Conference "Networking as a Quality" , Utrecht, the Netherlands
September 18 – 24	Bolivian Federation of University Women Professionals Meeting , Cochabamba, Bolivia
September 25 – 27	Women Graduates USA (WG-USA) AGM , Baltimore, USA
September 29 – 30	3rd UIA Associations Round Table Asia-Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand
October 16 – 18	Irish Federation of University Women, Annual Conference, Dublin
November 14 – 15	Finnish Academic Women's Association (SANL) AGM , Kaunianien, Finland
November 25 - Dec 10	Center for Women's Global Leadership 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2015 Campaign

June 28 – July 1 (2016) 12th International Conference, [ISTR](#), Stockholm, Sweden

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.

10, rue du Lac, CH-1207 Geneva, Switzerland; Tel: (+41 22) 731 23 80; Fax: (+41 22) 738 04 40

E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: <http://www.graduatewomen.org/>

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