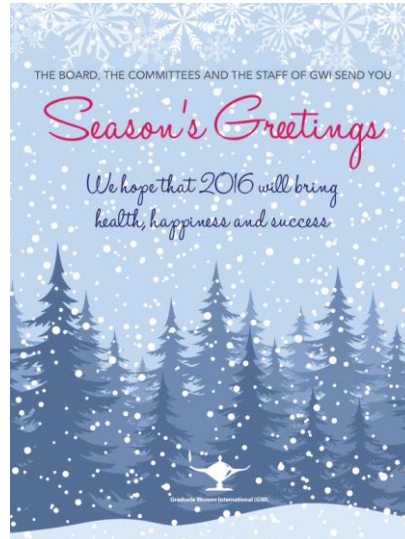




GWI Update – 23 December 2015



Season's greetings and all the best for 2016 from the GWI staff

Graduate Women International news

Teachers for Rural Futures: Benadet's Story Part Two

After weeks of unsuccessfully searching for financial help to go to university, Benadet suddenly had a stroke of luck. Through the local District Education Officer, who knew she had the academic ability to pursue a university degree, she was contacted by the Ugandan Association of University Women (UAWA). They informed her of the sponsorship possibilities offered by GWI's project [Teachers for Rural Futures](#). Excitedly, Benadet completed the application form and sent it off...would she be able to fulfil her dream of becoming a secondary school teacher? Find out what happens next week!

GW I is directly addressing the shortfall of women teachers in Uganda. Our project will support 50 young women from rural Uganda to become qualified secondary school teachers and ambassadors for girls' education. This will provide access to quality education for 2,000 children per year and vital role models to improve girls' enrolment. [Donate now](#). Find out more about the project [here](#).

GW I member news

GW I welcomes the Democratic Republic of Congo Association of Graduate Women (Association Congolaise des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (ACOFDU))

This month we are delighted to report that we have a new national association member in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Led by a dynamic group of graduate women, this association has a mission to empower girls and women in the country through quality education. If you are based in the DRC and would like to join them, please contact the Association's Founder and Co-ordinator of International Relations Ms Jolie Massay: jmassay@acofdu.org.

Cochabamba, Bolivia Meeting of University Women

Violence against Women and Adolescents in Latin America, particularly in Bolivia, has increased despite the adoption of new, stricter legal standards. The Regional University Women's group (AMPU) met in the city of Cochabamba, Bolivia in September 2015 and reached a number of conclusions and made recommendations on this issue. The Association calls for greater commitment by states to recognise violence against women as a

violation of human rights and for many actors, especially women's civil society groups, to take an uncompromising position to demand prompt, timely and impartial justice.

Advocacy

GWI is proud to announce membership of Girls Not Brides

GWI has become a member of the [Girls Not Brides](#) global partnership of more than 500 organisations committed to [ending child marriage and enabling girls](#) to fulfil their potential. The longer a girl stays in school, the less likely she is to be married before 18 and to have children during her teenage years, with all the benefits of improved earning capacity and better health for them and their families. Partnership between GWI and Girls Not Brides means strengthening mutual advocacy initiatives on empowerment through education up to the highest levels and [eliminating child marriage](#).

Call for Proposals

United Nations Democracy Fund - call for proposals

The United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) invites civil society organisations to apply for funding for projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Please note the annual funding window is open only from 15 November to 31 December. More information can be found on [the UNDEF website](#).

The Brookings Institution [Echidna Global Scholars Fellowship program](#) is extending its application deadline to 31 December 2015

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 more than 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

January	27	Free from Fear, Free from Pain- Eliminating FGM in Europe Brussels, Belgium
March	09 - 11	Future Sense- Universities Shaping the New Era Canberra, Australia
April	07 - 08	Bricks and Clicks for Europe Galway, Ireland
June	14 - 17	Missing and Marginalised Conference University of Waterloo, Canada
June	24 - 27	University Women of Europe AGM and Conference Winchester, UK
July	21 - 23	3rd Network Gender and STEM Conference 2016 Newcastle, UK

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)

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

Graduate Women International

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: www.graduatewomen.org

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