



GWU UPDATE 13 January 2016



TAUW members demonstrate against child marriage in Istanbul

— Graduate Women International news —

Report of the International Conference on ICT and Post-2015 Education: “Leveraging ICT to Achieve the Post-2015 Education Goal” released

Graduate Women International (GWI) participated in the Qingdao high-level conference held 23-23 May 2015, [Leveraging Information and Communication Technologies](#), for which the report has just been released. GWI gave input to the [Qindao Resolution drafting process](#) and GWI Executive Director Danièle Castle participated as a panellist for a seminar on [Women in ICT](#) during the conference. GWI advocates for the effective use of ICT in education, both as a tool to empower teachers and students through greater access to information and by promoting more girls to study in ICT to encourage greater diversity in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) fields. Read GWI’s manifesto on non-traditional education for girls and women [here](#).

— GWI member news —

A great year for the Turkish Association of University Women for its child marriage strategy

The Istanbul branch of the [Turkish Association of University Women \(TAUW\)](#) through its Friendship Bridge Project has mobilised efforts to achieve a great result for advocacy against child marriage. In Turkey, 1 in 3 married women was married before 18 and the number of girls married before the age of 15 is expected to double over the next decade, the [United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\) has warned](#). TAUW initiated a number of advocacy activities to address this problem, including student and community liaison meetings, letters to members of parliament and media visibility on the issue. Women in 28 cities were reached, a remarkable effort. TAUW is very hopeful that this continuing campaign will inspire lawmakers to enforce the legislation that has already established the minimum age for marriage as 18. To read more on TAUW’s advocacy efforts against child marriage read [here](#).

— Advocacy —

The difficulty of holding states accountable when there are no binding legal treaties to make violence against women illegal

A 'gaping hole' in international law is allowing governments to ignore their commitments to end gender-based violence, according to the former UN special rapporteur Rashida Manjoo, on the causes and consequences of violence against women. Ms Manjoo said states are not held fully accountable for ending violence because there is not an international treaty compelling them to do so. GWI and its NFAs strongly advocate against violence against women (VAW), for [safe schools and safe access](#) for all children, for girls and women to be able to complete secondary education and study beyond school to achieve the skills and decision-making powers needed to foster financial stability and economic development for themselves and their families. For the full article, read [here](#).

— Grants and awards —

African Women's Development Fund offers small grants to women's groups

The African Women's Development Fund (AWDF) [Small Grants Program \(SGP\)](#) currently operates in some selected countries in Africa, namely Ghana, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Kenya. The objective of this programme is to support small women's groups, which are most likely not to have access to any financial support. The SGP targets small, community/rural based grassroots women's groups. Beneficiaries should, however, be running projects which fall within AWDF's six thematic areas. For the funding criteria, thematic areas and further information please contact awdf@awdf.org

— Give the gift of education —

GWI provides scholarships and mentoring support to young women from rural areas of Uganda to become qualified teachers and ambassadors for girls' education, through study at Makerere University. We would like to invite you to [join our GlobalGiving](#) campaign to raise \$50,000 to support 50 women student teachers in 2016. You can read more about GWI's project Teachers for Rural Futures [here](#).

— Other information and events —

January	27	Free from Fear, Free from Pain - Eliminating FGM in Europe Brussels, Belgium
February	01 - 03	Advancing Female Leadership Through Higher Education , Milan, Italy
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 **GWI General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa (members only)**

August 24 – 26 **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 and ILO.

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