



GWU UPDATE 03 February 2016



Zero tolerance to FGM day is 6 February

— Graduate Women International news —

Graduate Women International condemns Female Genital Mutilation

On the International Day of Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) 6 February 2016, GWI calls for states, policymakers and community members to put an end to the damaging practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as a form of physical abuse, a human rights abuse and as a major barrier to girls' educational attainment. FGM is used as a form of social control over young girls and women, attracting stigma in some communities to those who do not undergo this practice, despite legislation against it. The medical complications resulting from the various forms of FGM often prevent girls and young women from attending school, thereby limiting their education options and future economic potential. GWI advocates against this and other barriers to [girls' and women's safe access to education](#). Read GWI's full press release [here](#).

— GWI member news —

Australian Federation of Graduate Women moves ahead on STEM

The Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFWG) has once again demonstrated its commitment to promoting girls in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM). Graduate Women Western Australia Association (GW-WA) contributed sponsorship to the acclaimed [Curious Minds](#) programme (STEM Summer School for year 9 girls) in Canberra, in December 2015. There will be another residential workshop (STEM Winter School) in July 2016. GW-WA past president Jasmine Lamb is mentoring two indigenous girls, one in New South Wales and one in Western Australia, as well as supporting 6 Western Australia candidates generally. The programme continues during 2016. For more information on AFGW's STEM activities read [here](#).

— Advocacy —

Women parliamentarians in Afghanistan and Pakistan- unmaking political patriarchy through gender quotas?

A new policy brief, prepared with the support of the [Heinrich Böll Stiftung Foundation](#), aims to highlight that parliamentarians in Pakistan and Afghanistan are under constant scrutiny by various sections of civil society, for capitulating to the patriarchal state and male- dominated political parties, and not representing women and their issues to the level and extent expected. This new report examines the structural constraints through gatekeepers and peers, recruitment and decision-making processes and institutional structures of voice and agency, that shape political effectiveness. Read the policy brief [here](#).

— Call for applications —

Scholarship Opportunity for the University of Chester, UK

[The University of Chester](#) offers 7 fully funded Commonwealth Shared Scholarships for students from [developing countries](#). The scholarships are available for MScs in Biomedical Science, Management with International Business and Technology Management, among others. Prospective applicants are welcome to contact Elzbieta Siddiqui e.siddiqui@chester.ac.uk for advice and further information about the application process and criteria. The application deadline is 18 March 2016.

— 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 —

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 - 25	Canadian Federation of University Women AGM Ottawa, 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
Nov	28 - 30	5th International Conference of Women's Museums , Mexico City

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.

Graduate Women International

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