



## GW I UPDATE 18 May 2016



Participants in D.R.Congo take part in a Girls' Choices workshop run by GWI member ACOFDU

---

### — Graduate Women International news —

---

#### **60<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women analysis report released**

Lakshmi Puri, the Assistant UN Secretary-General and the Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, has released her analysis report on the [60<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW60\) - Driving the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda](#). GWI was particularly encouraged to see strong emphasis put on the achievement of [Sustainable Development Goal 4](#) for achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, with language that almost exactly reflects the [GWI statement to CSW60](#). The Commission affirmed that the realisation of the right to education contributes to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and their human rights, sustainable development and poverty eradication. It underlines the need for all women and girls to enjoy access to lifelong learning opportunities and equal access to quality education at all levels.

---

### — GWI member news —

---

#### **GWI member in DRC successfully delivers Girls' Choices workshops**

GWI member in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the [Association Congolaise des Femmes Diplômées des Universités \(ACOFDU\)](#), has just successfully completed a round of *Girls' Choices* workshops, a GWI programme that supports teenage girls to complete secondary school and transition to university, further education or professional work. The aim of this initial workshop was to explore the basic concepts of Gender and Leadership with participants. The activities foster critical thinking and create a safe space for participants to openly reflect upon. They can discuss their own experiences and personal observations of gender roles and leadership in the world around them. These girls face various challenges in their day to day lives. At the close of the workshop, CIR Jolie Massey confidently stated "There are more than three hundred girls in this school and I believe that we can have at least 50 leaders by 2030." Click [here](#) for more information on the GWI *Girls' Choices* project.

---

### — Advocacy —

---

**The link between literacy and women's land rights**

When women have secure rights to their land, they are better able to provide for their family's needs – especially those of their children. Family nutrition and health may improve and women are less likely to be victims of domestic violence. Children are more likely to receive an education and stay in school longer. Women may have better access to micro-credit and their participation in household decision-making increases. GWI recognises that [literacy, including finance literacy, is an essential pathway to an understanding and application of land rights, and implementation of gender equity in law](#). For more information on women's land rights see [this Landesa report](#).

---

## — Call for applications —

---

### **Geneva Peace Week - an opportunity to contribute to peacebuilding**

Geneva Peace Week is a platform to highlight how each and every person, actor and institution has a role to play in building peace and resolving conflict. It is a unique opportunity for associations to increase visibility by organising an event during Geneva Peace Week and to reach out to the international community. Applications must be sent to Silvia Nussbaumer: [gpw@gpplatform.ch](mailto:gpw@gpplatform.ch) before 15 June 2016. GWI advocates for [international cooperation, friendship, peace and respect for human rights for all](#).

---

## — Legacies —

---

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 education for girls and women globally. Please remember to update your legacy to GWI if you have already made one for IFUW.

---

## — Other information and events —

---

May	21	<a href="#">Graduate Women Scotland AGM</a> Dundee, Scotland
June	22 - 25	<a href="#">Empowerment for Personal and Professional Leadership</a> Panama City, Panama
June	24 - 25	<a href="#">Canadian Federation of University Women AGM</a> Ontario, Canada
June	24 - 27	<a href="#">University Women of Europe AGM and Conference</a> Winchester, UK
July	21 - 23	<a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> Network Gender and STEM Conference 2016</a> Newcastle, UK
August	08 - 19	<a href="#">Women's Human Rights Education Institute Intensive</a> Toronto, Canada
Nov	28 - 30	<a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Women's Museums</a> , 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)



## 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](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org) Website: [www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)

Copyright © 2016 GWI. All rights reserved