



GWI UPDATE – 25 January 2017



Photo by Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald, CFUW

— Graduate Women International news —

GWI and members joined marches around the world

Hundreds of GWI members from around the world merged their local demonstrations with the Women's March on Washington that took place on 21 January in the United States on the heels of the U.S.A. Presidential election. The march turned out to be one of the largest, globally synchronized marches in history taking place in more than 600 locations worldwide. The hundreds of rallies were organised quickly and brought together like-minded women (and men) who supported the march manifesto, "Women's Rights are Human Rights." Sprouting from the Women's March on Washington are 10 actions organisers urge supporters to take in 100 days – [10 Actions 100 Days](#).

— GWI member news —

Switzerland

AGFDU to host Literacy Soirees

The *Association Genevoise des Femmes Diplômées des Universités* (AGFDU) is looking for members to join their Literacy Soirees taking place on 2 February, 6 April and 15 June 2017. AGFDU Literacy Soirees are intended to create a space for reflection and research around the theme of gender and feminism to nourish anthropological presuppositions. During the 2015-2016 season AGFDU addressed the link between sensitivity and resilience from books of female writers and/or female characters created from pens of men. For the 2016-2017 period, AGFDU will be discussing the theme of inclusion in connection with women's and feminist associations. This discussion rich in nuances brings us the elements of reflection necessary to continue to nourish our associative commitments. For further information, please contact [Stéphanie Metzger del Campo](#) or [Esther Um](#).

— Advocacy —

February 6 is International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

To mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) GWI annually joins the United Nations (UN) in its continued campaign against FGM through a range of advocacy initiatives such as webinars, press releases and UN statements. GWI commends the 1 July 2016 adoption of a [Resolution](#) on the total elimination of FGM by the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council. The Council urges Member States to place special emphasis on education of youth, parents and religious, traditional and community leaders; and especially encourages men and boys to become more involved in awareness campaigns and be agents of change. GWI is concerned over the complications resulting from FGM that often prevent girls and young women from attending school, thereby limiting their education options and future economic potential. According to the [World Health Organisation](#), as many as 100 to 140 million girls and women worldwide currently live with the consequences of this harmful practice. Thus, GWI encourages the international community to keep the issue of the elimination of FGM on the agenda of development policies.

— Call for applications —

Call for Applications – South Asia Women’s Fund

The South Asia Women’s Fund (SAWF) is currently calling for applications for its [Leading from the South](#) programme with an aim to support activism devised, implemented, and led by women’s rights organisations in the global South. Special attention will be given for outreach to women in marginalised communities facing multiple discrimination – (women from minority and indigenous communities facing ethnic and caste-based violence; LGBTIQ communities; women in stigmatised and informal labour; refugees; internally displaced; women with disabilities; women from conflict-affected areas, etc.) The deadline for submission for applications is **17 February 2017**. [Download the full Call for Applications here.](#)

Next Generation Women Leaders Award

McKinsey & Company is offering female students and young professionals across Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa the opportunity to apply for the [Next Generation Women Leaders Award](#). McKinsey wishes to acknowledge women who actively seek ways to maximise their own potential, enjoy problem solving and creative thinking and who thrive when working with other people. Successful applicants will be awarded 2,000 Euros (or equivalent in local currency) as well as mentorship from McKinsey consultants. [Apply here](#). The application deadline is **6 March 2017**.

— Give the gift of education —

Join GWI’s campaign to train 50 women teachers in Uganda and support generations of girls in rural Uganda to go to school. Educated girls and women earn 25% more income and can better protect themselves from harm and care for their children. Together we can do it! [Give today.](#)

— Other information and events —

February 6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation , Global
February 23	Policy Conference on Women in the Workplace , London, United Kingdom
Feb 27–March 24	Human Rights Council 34th Session , Geneva, Switzerland
March 8	International Women’s Day , Global
March 13– 24	Commission on the Status of Women , UN Headquarters, New York, USA
April 27	International Girls in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Day , Global
June 5-17	106th Session of the International Labour Conference , Geneva Switzerland
July 14–16	The IAFOR International Conference on Global Studies 2017 , Barcelona, Spain
Sept 29–Oct 1	Lithuanian University Women’s Association Conference , Kaunas, Lithuania

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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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