



GWI UPDATE – 22 March 2017



The President (middle) of the Marbella Chapter of Spanish Federation of University Women receiving the HeforShe Award from the mayor of Marbella (left) and Council of Equality (right)

— Graduate Women International news —

GWI delivers oral statement at the 34th session of the Human Rights Council

On 10 March, GWI Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara delivered Graduate Women International's (GWI's) oral statement at the 34th session of the Human Rights Council. The statement highlighted the indispensable role of education in contributing to building a culture of peace. GWI emphasised that the human right to education enables many other rights; it enables girls and women to develop the necessary skills and competencies needed for peacebuilding efforts. GWI made numerous recommendations in its statement. In particular, GWI urged all stakeholders to promote and facilitate equal opportunities for women in leadership, peacekeeping and decision making. [The statement is available to view here.](#)

GWI at the 61st session of the Commission on the Status of Women

The sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, now in its second and final week, is being held at the United Nations in New York. Thirty-four GWI members are participating in CSW, as well as hosting parallel events throughout the session. On the morning of 15 March, [the Australian Federation of Graduate Women](#) (AFGW) hosted a parallel event on *Health, Education, Sport, and Women's Empowerment: Narratives from Australia, Rwanda, and Bangladesh* with Professor Dr Shirley Randell and Professor Dr Jaya Earnest. Alongside Mosqoy and the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the [Canadian Federation of University Women \(CFUW\)](#) co-sponsored a parallel event on *Mentorship in the Changing World of Work* on 16 March. GWI members Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald co-hosted a parallel event with five organisations on *Using Law to Empower Women and Girls to Live Free from Violence in Work and Family*. On 18 March, [Women Graduates-USA \(WG-USA\)](#) sponsored a parallel event on the *Challenges to the Economic Empowerment of Refugee and Migrant Women*.

— GWI member news —

The Spanish Federation of University Women receives two awards for their work in empowering women



The Marbella Chapter of the Spanish Federation of University Women receiving their awards

On the occasion of International Women's Day, [The Marbella Chapter of the Spanish Federation of University Women \(SFUW\)](#) received two awards for their work in empowering women through education. The first award was the Málaga Award from the Diputación of Málaga, which is the most important political representation in the province of Málaga. This award honoured the Marbella Chapter's hard work in providing annual scholarships for young women to attend university. The Town Hall presented the second award, for SFUW's work on the [HeforShe](#) campaign. In receiving the award, the President of the Marbella Chapter, Garbiñe Larrazábal, recognised the imperative role men play in achieving gender equality. GWI would like to congratulate the Marbella Chapter of SFUW for their outstanding work on women's education!

— Advocacy —

Guidance for Developing Gender-Responsive Education Sector Plans

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and the UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) have launched a set of guidelines on how to improve education and learning in line with Sustainability Development Goals 4 and 5. These guidelines identify tools, resources and information to support planners and practitioners in systematically undertaking gender analysis and developing gender-responsive strategies during the Education Sector Planning Process. To support gender equality in education we need to transform the way education systems function, and put in place gender-sensitive policies, plans and learning environments. GWI advocates for gender equality in education to provide equal opportunities for all. To learn more, visit [UNGEI's resource centre](#).

— Call for applications —

Call to Nominate a Candidate for the 2017 Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life - WWSF

[The Women's World Summit Foundation \(WWSF\)](#) is currently accepting nominations for its 23rd annual prize for women's creativity in rural life. This award seeks to honour creative and courageous women and women's groups around the world working to improve the quality of life in rural communities. The Prize (USD 1000 per laureate) aims to draw international attention to laureate's contributions to

sustainable development, food security and peace. The deadline for nominations is **30 April 2017**. More information on the eligibility criteria and guidelines is available [here](#).

— Give the gift of education —

In Uganda, only 30% of girls are enrolled in secondary school. Join GWI's [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) campaign to train 50 teachers in Uganda as a way to support future generations of girls' education. Safe access to, and the completion of quality education is critical to supply girls with the foundation they need to progress further in society and to protect themselves from harm. [Give today](#).

— Other information and events —

Feb 27–March 24	Human Rights Council 34th Session , Geneva, Switzerland
March 13– 24	Commission on the Status of Women , UN Headquarters, New York, USA
March 20– 24	UNESCO Mobile Learning Week , Paris France
April 27	International Girls in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Day , Global
May 11-13	2017 Global Summit of Women , Tokyo, Japan
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
August 24-27	Annual General Meeting of the University Women Europe , Graz, Austria
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 since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

Graduate Women International

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