



## GWI UPDATE – 5 April 2017



*Secondary school girls in Uganda comparing notes during class.*

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### — Graduate Women International news —

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#### **Community Sensitisation Workshops Promote Changing Opinions in Uganda**

In Uganda, the percentage of people under the age of 25 is 70% and growing. And yet, there continues to be low numbers of qualified teachers, particularly women teachers. As the population of Uganda grows, less women and girl students are receiving the education they need to succeed. To combat this, Graduate Women International's (GWI) [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) campaign encourages young women from rural areas of Uganda to become qualified teachers through scholarships and mentoring support. The campaign has three components; teacher training, community engagement, and curriculum development to expand education about gender, sexual health and human rights. Currently, GWI is supporting five girls at Makerere University to obtain their teaching certificates. Additionally, the Uganda Association of University women (UAUW) is fostering community engagement by delivering community sensitisation workshops in conjunction with student teachers, teachers, parents, community leaders and young people. By engaging the community in these sensitisation workshops, UAUW is changing the community attitudes and behaviours concerning girls' education and women teachers. Changing perceptions within the community is a critical step towards increasing education for all young women and girls.

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### — GWI member news —

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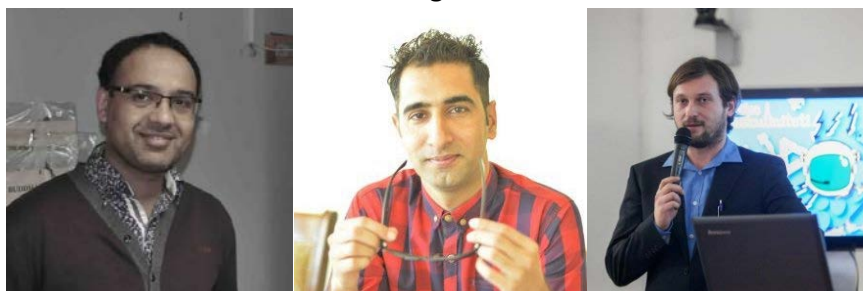
#### **Graduate Women Zambia Celebrated International Women's Day**



*Graduate Women Zambia's International Women's Day Luncheon at Mulungushi International Conference Center, Lusaka, Zambia. The women holding glass awards were honoured as pioneers of the association*

Annually, Graduate Women Zambia (GWZ), formerly International Federation of University Women Zambia, hosts a fundraising luncheon on International Women's Day to celebrate women with outstanding careers, particularly in male dominated fields. This year, as part of the 35-year anniversary celebration, GWZ honoured the women who founded the association and those kept it running through difficult times with awards. Also at the luncheon, the new name and logo for the association were launched by the Zambian Minister of Gender. GWI is delighted for Graduate Women Zambia's heartfelt and successful International Women's Day celebration!

### **Women Graduates-USA Hosts Webinar Discussing Gender-based Violence**



*(From Left to Right) WG-USA Webinar Speakers: Laxman Belbase, Qasir Rafiq and Natko Gereš*

Women Graduates-USA [conducted a webinar](#) in which three men, Laxman Belbase, Qasir Rafiq, and Natko Gereš, discussed the need for men and boys to speak out against practices and societal norms that perpetuate Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and ways to ensure their participation. The discussion emphasized that it is essential to remedy systemic and cultural practices which favor men and boys and oppress women and girls. According to Rafiq, boys should be taught gender equality at a very young age in hopes that, generations from now, values of gender equality are embedded in the societal norms. Similarly, Belbase suggested that a “life cycle approach” should be taken, but voiced concern about measures to maintain gender equality education throughout boys’ lives to ensure that they do not adopt cultural practices that oppress women. Finally, Gereš highlighted the need to address individuals as well as societal norms. Although it is important to address systemic practices, it is also important to understand which males are most susceptible to perpetuate and which females are most susceptible to experience GBV. GWI thanks and congratulates WG-USA and their speakers for conducting this important discussion!

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## — Advocacy —

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### **GWI's “Education for All” Manifesto Accepted in response to OHCHR Study**

Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 33/20 on *Realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl* was adopted in June 2016 following a panel discussion at the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the HRC. Following this resolution, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has been tasked with producing a report on this topic that will be submitted for consideration at the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the HRC in June 2017. With the help of Geneva United Nations Representative, Nina Joyce, GWI submitted its [Education for All](#) manifesto in response to the OHCHR's Call for Information to aid in preparing the report. Subsequently, GWI's manifesto was placed on the [OHCHR website](#), and is found under the Civil Society and Youth responses section. GWI is pleased to have its Education for All manifesto included in the report research.

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## — GWI United Nations Representative Report —

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### Geneva

In March, GWI United Nations representative, Amy Paunila, attended a Palais des Nations session on *Shaping the International Agenda: Raising Women's Voices in Intergovernmental Forums*. The forum coincided with the release of a joint publication from UN Women and Geneva Gender Champions. Amy's report can be read [here](#).

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## — Call for applications —

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### Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology Scholarship Programme

The Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology (MEST) is seeking techies and entrepreneurs from South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, and Côte d'Ivoire to enter a year-long entrepreneur-in-training programme in Accra, Ghana. The programme is fully funded, including housing accommodation, three meals a day and a monthly stipend, and exposes participants to new cultures. Additionally, participants are eligible to receive seed-funding of USD \$50,000-\$100,000 from the Meltwater Foundation. Applicants must have several years of entrepreneurial or corporate work experience, be passionate about building a globally successful software company, and be able to commit to living in Accra, Ghana for the duration of the programme. Deadline for applications: **10 May 2017**. For more information, please click [here](#).

### UNESCO/ISEDC Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme

This co-sponsored fellowships programme aims to increase capacity-building and human resources development of sustainable and renewable energy sources in developing and transitioning countries. The programme offers twenty fellowships, each four weeks long, in Moscow, Russia. All instruction will be in English. Applicants must be no more than 35 years of age, proficient in English, and have received a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. Deadline for applications: **17 April 2017**. For a full list of invited member states, requirements and benefits, please click [here](#).

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## — Did You Know? —

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Did you know that in 1947 GWI was one of the first 10 NGOs to be granted Special Consultative status with [United Nations Economic and Social Council](#) (ECOSOC)? ECOSOC was established under the United Nations charter in 1945 to advance economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development. ECOSOC offers a platform for dialogue amongst businesses, academics, policymakers, parliamentarians, youth, foundations and registered non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Today, there are [4,507 NGOs](#) with active ECOSOC consultative status.

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## — Other information and events —

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April 27	<a href="#">International Girls in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Day</a> , Global
May 11-13	<a href="#">2017 Global Summit of Women</a> , Tokyo, Japan
June 5-17	<a href="#">106<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference</a> , Geneva, Switzerland
July 2-8	<a href="#">Poverty in Education: what do we know and what can we do?</a> Deadline to apply 24 April
July 14-16	<a href="#">The IAFOR International Conference on Global Studies 2017</a> , Barcelona, Spain
August 24-27	<a href="#">Annual General Meeting of the University Women Europe</a> , Graz, Austria

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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.

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