



GWI UPDATE – 19 April 2017



GWI Interns Jess Nario and Katie Maningas attend UPR pre-sessions at United Nations, Geneva

— Graduate Women International news —

GWI attends Universal Periodic Review pre-sessions for India, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and South Africa

Recently, Graduate Women International (GWI) Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, along with interns, Jess Nario and Katie Maningas attended [Universal Periodic Review \(UPR\) pre-sessions](#) for four GWI National Federations and Associations (NFA). The [UPR](#) assesses the human rights situations of 14 UN Member States each year. With the goal of obtaining targeted recommendations, [UPR Info](#) hosts pre-sessions that allow civil society organisations to input their assessments of the reviewing country. GWI highlights the following recommendations: United Kingdom and Northern Ireland: strengthen the Equality Act to include specific targets for girls' education; include girls and women as a vulnerable group that also has a right to an education; South Africa: include the empowerment of women and girls through education and equal pay in the next National Action Plan; reform the plan to include specific commitment and guidelines to train quality teachers; India: GWI agrees with Spain who says that India should establish and implement a Human Rights Plan to cover the equal access to education for girls and women; The Netherlands: ensure that the National Human Rights Institute commits to the right to education for girls and women and that these programmes are nondiscriminatory and are inclusive to all women and girls, including migrants and refugees. ***GWI reports that the most notable aspect of these pre-sessions was the absence of women's and girls' education so there is much work to be done by all of our NFAs globally.***

— GWI member news —



Japanese Association of University Women members at the National Diet in Tokyo

Japanese Association of University Women speak on gender equality at the National Diet in Tokyo

On 10 April in Tokyo, some 160 gender advocates assembled at Japan's historic national legislature building, the National Diet, to recommend the passing of gender equality policy. GWI's [Japanese Association of University Women](#) (JAUW) was honoured as one of ten principal entities invited to speak in this significant session. These ten groups submitted a collective proposal to Japanese political parties on gender equality. Ms. Sumi, JAUW President, spoke on behalf of the organisation. Ms. Makishima, JAUW vice-president, and three other members attended the meeting to represent and support JAUW in this notable effort.

— Advocacy —

Poverty in education: what do we know and what can we do?

[Summer School](#) is a Network of Education Policy Centres (NEPC) annual, five-day interactive learning event to gather people across the world to discuss trending topics related to education. NEPC's focus this year is on [the effect of poverty in education and social justice](#). GWI underscores the value in collecting disaggregated data and commends this programme's aim to provide data on the effects of poverty and how to assist in reducing said effects through advocacy work. The programme runs from 2 July to 8 July in Kosovo. Those interested in the NEPC program can apply [here](#).

— Call for applications —

Annual Fellowship Programme for people of African Descent

As part of the [UN Decade for People of African Descent](#), the [UN Human Rights Office's annual Fellowship Programme for people of African Descent](#) is open for applications. This three-week programme provides an opportunity to learn about the protection and promotion of human rights through UN mechanisms. The Fellows are encouraged to use the tools and skills acquired to advocate for human rights and to combat racism in their local communities. The Fellowship will be held from 13 November to 1 December 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. Each Fellow is granted return airfare, health insurance and a stipend for the duration of the programme. The deadline for applications is **31 May 2017**. Please visit this [link](#) to learn more about the Fellowship, the guidelines and how to apply.

— GWI United Nations Representative Reports—

Vienna

GWI UN representatives Ingrid Szabolcs, Amrei-Sophie Klemmer and Dominika Stiger attended the [Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#), 60th session and side events from 13 to 17 March 2017 at the Vienna International Centre. Their collective and noteworthy report can be read [here](#).

— Did You Know? —

In order to achieve universal primary education as part of [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 4](#) by 2030, the UNESCO Institute for Statistics estimates that the demand for teachers will rise to [25.8 million](#). Well-trained teachers are a necessity for attaining the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for educating tomorrow's leaders. There is already a shortage of teachers worldwide. Help GWI educate more women teachers through the [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) campaign, and give girls the education they deserve. [Donate today!](#)

— Other information and events —

April 27	International Girls in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Day , Global
April 27	The Global Education Fair , online
May 8-12	Commission on Science and Technology for Development 20th Session , UN Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland
May 11-13	2017 Global Summit of Women , Tokyo, Japan
June 5-17	106th Session of the International Labour Conference , Geneva, Switzerland
July 2-8	Poverty in Education: what do we know and what can we do? Deadline to apply 24 April
July 14–16	The IAFOR International Conference on Global Studies 2017 , Barcelona, Spain
July 19-21	Youth Connekt Africa Summit '17 , Kigali, Rwanda
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

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 Website: www.graduatewomen.org

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