



GW I UPDATE – 03 May 2017



Women in the Kadıköy district learn to create items for profit

— Graduate Women International news —

GW I will once again participate in the Human Rights Council at the United Nations, Geneva

Graduate Women International (GWI) will be attending the 35th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC35) at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland on behalf of all GWI National Federations and Associations. HRC35 will offer June session highlights such as the annual full-day discussion on the human rights of women and the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the realization of the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl for which the GWI [Education for All manifesto](#) was provided as research. Other reports to be presented at HRC35 are the elimination of violence against women and the OHCHR report on the impact of existing strategies and initiatives to address child, early and forced marriage. Our Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, and GWI's Geneva United Nations representatives will be attending and post full reports in the Update and on the GWI website.

— GWI member news —

TAUW's "Powerful Woman is the Happy Woman" Project takes off

In November 2016, The Kadıköy branch of the [Turkish Association of University Women](#) (TAUW) launched the "Powerful Woman is the Happy Woman" project with 20 women. The project aims to provide free sewing classes five hours per week to the women of the Kadıköy district who strive to earn money. The project is run in collaboration with the Kadıköy Municipality's Training Center, which provides teachers to host the project trainees. Materials for the programme, such as fabrics, are provided through donations. After several months in operation, women enrolled in the project are now learning and creating different patchworks, bedlinen, toys, dolls, furnishing and a variety of other objects. Items made through the project will be sold during TAUW-Kadıköy's events with proceeds going to the trainees. As more women participate in this programme, more Turkish women will learn how to create, produce and sell items on their own for profit. GWI congratulates [TAUW](#) on this empowering women achievement.

— Advocacy —

This Mothers' Day, Teenage Pregnancy and Early Motherhood Force Girls Out of School

When girls become expectant mothers, whether planned or unplanned, they lose many of the educational opportunities that exist for others their age. While in some instances the girl is simply unable to both attend school and raise a child, in others, she is forbidden from doing so. In Sierra Leone, for example, [visibly pregnant girls](#) have faced large barriers to education since schools reopened following the Ebola crisis in 2015. Furthermore, girls who leave school often never return due to issues such as the stigmatization of pregnancy, costs associated with raising a child and falling behind in the school system. GWI supports continued education as a means social inclusion and embraces [non-traditional education](#). We urge governments to provide quality education without barriers for girls, whether pregnant or not, and by whatever means necessary.

— Call for applications —

University of Pavia CICOPS scholarship for academics and researchers from developing countries

Since 1998, the University of Pavia, in conjunction with the Institute for University Studies, has offered about 10 scholarships each year to academics and researchers from developing countries. Applicants seeking to conduct research with a professor in Pavia must have a formal letter of invitation from a collaborator, in addition to two years of experience either teaching or with international organizations and institutions. The scholarship is intended for junior and senior members of universities for a period of 4 to 12 weeks. The deadline for applications is **31 May 2017**. Further details are available [here](#).

— GWI United Nations Representative Reports —

Geneva

GWI United Nations representative, Amy Paunila, attended the launch of General Comment 20 on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) at the Palais de Nations. Presentations were given by UNICEF, World Vision, Youth Policy Labs and the Committee for the CRC. Amy's in-depth report can be read [here](#).

— Did you know? —



Virginia Gildersleeve

At Graduate Women International, we fondly remember [Virginia Gildersleeve](#) as one of the three women who helped to create our organization in 1919 (then the International Federation of University Women). Did you know that, during her life, she offered much, much more to the world? Not only did she serve as the Dean of Barnard College for 36 years, but in 1945, Virginia was appointed by United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the San Francisco Conference which created the Charter of the United Nations. Of the seven-member delegation that assembled in San Francisco, California, Virginia was the only woman. GWI is proud to be part of her legacy.

— Other information and events —

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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