



## GWU UPDATE – 31 May 2017



*Members of IFUWA meet with GWU Executive Director (left to right: Bharati Thakore (WGU), Stacy Dry Lara (GWU Executive Director) and Bina Thadani (WGU)*

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### — Graduate Women International news —

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#### **Members of the IFUWA visit GWU headquarters in Geneva**

Graduate Women International (GWU) delightfully welcomed Bharati Thakore and Bina Thadani from the Indian Federation of University Women Associations (IFUWA), Mumbai (WGU) on 22 May to the GWU headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. The trio discussed many topics including the incredible long-term history of both organisations and GWU's continued advocacy work from Geneva to increase the safe access to higher education for women and girls. Addressing the future, the team spoke of raising the profile of WGU and GWU in India in the sphere of education and in promoting the role of women as key influencers in peace building. Events to highlight IFUWA and WGU's international voice through GWU such as bringing together in Mumbai key actors in the education space, women in the workplace, and the private, public and civil sectors for a conference were explored.

"Thank you, GWU, for bringing us up to speed on your recent initiatives to raise public awareness of GWU. The success of your tenacious teaching - learning engagement for rural girls in Uganda is really commendable" said Bina. GWU enjoyed hearing about WGU's anti- noise pollution campaign and sends warm thanks to Bina and Bharati for taking the time during their vacation to visit. We hope to host them and other GWU members soon!

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### — GWU member news —

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**Dr. Alicia Girón presents "Leave no one behind" document to the Mexican Senate**



*Dr. Alicia Girón presents report to the Mexican senate.*

On 19 April 2017, the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU)'s Dr. Alicia Girón presented the document "[Leave no one behind: actions to transform the change towards the economic empowerment of the Women](#)" to the Senate of the Republic of Mexico. The document was developed by the United Nations High-Level Panel on the Economic Empowerment of Women, an organization in which Girón participates. The presentation was highly attended, featuring prominent figures such as Senator Angelica de la Peña Gómez, Secretary of the Commission for Gender Equality; Dr. Ana Güemez, representative of UN Women in Mexico; María Guadalupe Cruz of the National Institute of Women; and the Vice President of the Senate, Blanca Alcalá Ruiz.

During the event, Dr. Girón pointed out that despite important advances in the promotion of gender equality, there is still an urgent need to address structural barriers to economic empowerment and full inclusion of women in the economic activity. She also highlighted the importance of gender equity and the economic empowerment of women to comply with the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030. GWI congratulates FEMU on their successful event!

#### **RAUW convenes information session with Careergirls.org**



*(left to right) Memory Kachwamba, Beverly Thompson, Dr. Mediatrice Kagaba, Linda Calhoun, Donatha Gihana, Eugenie Mukanoheli, Francisca Mujawase and Louisa*

On 11 May 2017, the Rwanda Association of University Women (RAUW) convened an information session on girls' education and career information. The event, held at the Kigali Marriot Hotel, was hosted in collaboration with [Career Girls](#), a not-for-profit, online video-based career exploration tool for girls, with an emphasis on career options in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). The

highly popular Careergirl.org site is visited by every region in Africa, and, like the GWI Career Choices App, aims to share career and educational advice to inspire young girls to expand their horizons, improve their academic performance and dream big about their futures. RAUW members discussed how best to use information available from Career Girls in Rwanda, and are keen to further explore a long-term relationship with Careergirls.org.

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## — Advocacy —

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### **GWI contributed to recently released OHCHR Study**

Following Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 33/20 on *Realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl*, adopted in June 2016, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was tasked with producing a report for the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the HRC in June 2017. GWI submitted its [Education for All](#) manifesto for consideration in the report and was accepted as a contributing organization. The report, which can be read [here](#), was recently released to the public and will be presented at the 35<sup>th</sup> session of the HRC35 session starting next week. As a leader in the girls' education space, GWI endorses the relevance of the report and encourages everyone to take a read.

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## — Call for applications —

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### **Cartier Women's Initiative Awards**

Every year, the Cartier Women's Initiative Awards reviews business projects applicants and selects 18 entrepreneur finalists representing six global regions (Latin America, North America, Europe, Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia-Pacific) to receive a variety of prizes including entrepreneurship workshops, personalized business coaching, networking opportunities and much more. Of the 18 final projects, six laureates are chosen to receive \$100,000 USD and the remaining finalists receive \$30,000 each. To submit a business project for consideration, the project must be for-profit, be a completely new concept, and be between 2-3 years old. Deadline for applicants: **31 August 2017**. Please click [here](#) for more information about the awards.

### **OWSD PhD Fellowships**

The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World is offering a fellowship to women scientists from Science and Technology Lagging Countries with funds provided by the Swedish International Development Agency. The fellowship aims to contribute to a new generation of emerging women leaders in science and technology and promote effective participation in science and technological developments in their countries. Fellowships are available as both full-time (maximum 4-year) research conducted in another developing country and 'sandwich,' which allows PhD students to conduct studies in another country while simultaneously completing their degree at home. Deadline for applicants: **19 June 2017**. For a full list of eligibility requirements and information about the fellowship, please click [here](#).

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## — GWI United Nations Representative Reports —

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### **Geneva**

GWI United Nations representative, Amy Paunila, attended a panel on "Human rights: Enhancing equal citizenship rights in education" hosted by the Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue and the IBE-UNESCO at the Palais de Nations. Amy's report on the panel and its relevance to GWI can be found [here](#).

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## — Did you know? —

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[Erna Hamburger](#)

Erna Hamburger (1911-1988) spent much of her life tirelessly working championing women's rights to education and promoting women and girls in STEM fields, in addition to pursuing her own education and a career in electrical engineering. Over time, she served as a professor of electrometry, electrotechnics, engineering and physics in Lausanne, Switzerland; she chaired the GWI Vaud Association of University Women (then the International Federation of University Women.) Erna participated in the Swiss Association of Women in Profession and Business Women and she was a board member at the [Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund](#), named for one of GWI's founders. Today, GWI holds a board position on the Erna Hamburger Foundation, which provides financial support to women with a Master's degree who wish to continue their education and research by taking postgraduate courses in the Vaud canton.

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### — Other information and events —

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June 5-16	<a href="#"><u>106<sup>th</sup> Session of the International Labour Conference</u></a> , Geneva, Switzerland
June 6-23	<a href="#"><u>35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council</u></a> , Geneva, Switzerland
June 22-25	<a href="#"><u>Canadian Federation of University Women's</u></a> AGM at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond, British Columbia
July 2-8	<a href="#"><u>Poverty in Education: what do we know and what can we do?</u></a> Deadline to apply 24 April
July 14–16	<a href="#"><u>The IAFOR International Conference on Global Studies 2017</u></a> , Barcelona, Spain
July 19-21	<a href="#"><u>Youth Connekt Africa Summit '17</u></a> , Kigali, Rwanda
August 24-27	<a href="#"><u>Annual General Meeting of the University Women Europe</u></a> , Graz, Austria
Sept 29–Oct 1	<a href="#"><u>Lithuanian University Women's Association Conference</u></a> , 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](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org) Website: [www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)

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