



GW I UPDATE – 14 June 2017



Dance performance calling for the elimination of all forms of child labour. Photo credit: Ariel Gomez D.

— Graduate Women International news —

GW I Commemorates World Day against Child Labour

On June 12, Graduate Women International (GWI) observed World Day Against Child Labour with an attendance to the International Labour Organization (ILO) commemoration of the day at the United Nations, Geneva (UNOG). Some 200 attendees gathered at the UNOG Ariana Parc "Rebirth" sculpture to express their commitment to ending child labour by 2025. Remarks were heard from UNOG Secretary General, Michael Moeller, and ILO Director General, Guy Ryder, among others. "Children in areas affected by conflict and disasters are among the most vulnerable. No child must be left behind," said Ryder in his statement to the audience. Of special note was the testament from Abbas Ahmad Assi, Student, volunteer (NGO Beyond) and advocate (National Podium Against Child Labour) from Lebanon, about his enduring years of child labour. Following remarks was a dance performance paying tribute to all child labourers and poetry recital.

There are an estimated 168 million children trapped in child labour worldwide. Many child laborers are subjected to dangerous conditions and violence from their captors; they are not given an education and girls are especially vulnerable. GWI continues efforts eliminate barriers girls face to accessing safe education including the elimination of all forms of child labour.

— GWI member news —

Priscilla Gamez de Garcia from AMUS visits GWI Headquarters in Geneva



GWI Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara and Priscilla Gamez de Garcia, AMUS

Graduate Women International (GWI) was pleased to welcome Priscilla Gamez de Garcia from the Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de El Salvador (AMUS) and her daughters, Priscila and Ana Valeria, on 25 May to the GWI headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. During the visit, they discussed future collaboration between the organizations and GWI's continued support from Geneva to increase the access to quality education for women and girls in El Salvador. Also discussed was AMUS's workshop held on the challenges women face to develop work skills; to increase women's visibility culturally and politically; and the negative, life-long impact violence has on women. GWI strongly supports and respects the work of AMUS and thanks all of their member for their dedication.

Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) Graduates 64 Friendship Bridge Students



TAUW Friendship Bridge Graduates

The Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) with its 21 branches started the Friendship Bridge Project in 2008 to support female university students financially and morally. A defined list of individual women sponsors one student each by providing monies for the studies of rural girls. Students are matched with donors. TAUW supports some 700 students every year.

In addition to a small monthly grant, TAUW builds “Friendship Bridges” between donors and students, based on the donors’ professions and the students’ study areas. For example, a lawyer may support a law student, providing the student not only with financial support but also study and career guidance.

This year, 64 of Friendship Bridge students will graduate. GWI and TUAUW are so proud of them!

— Advocacy —

GWI Participates in the 9th NGO Forum on Economic Empowerment Of Women - Key Factors For Equality By 2030



*Dr. Manjit Dosanjh, GWI
United Nations
Representative*

Dr. Manjit Dosanjh, GWI United Nations Representative, Geneva, and Senior Advisor for Medical Applications at Centre Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire (CERN) served as an expert panelist at the 9th NGO Forum on the Economic Empowerment of Women - Key Factors for Equality By 2030 on June 2 at UNOG. Dr. Dosanjh spoke about the importance of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) careers for women.

Dr. Dosanjh underscored the feminization of poverty and noted that, according to UNESCO, one extra year of schooling increases an individual’s earnings by up to 10%; that basic reading skills would cut poverty by 12%; that a woman’s level of education is reflected in her children’s health, nutrition and education; and a child born to a mother who can read is 50% more likely to survive past age five. She noted that these figures emphasize that education results in equity, equality and development which are clear objectives Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 5.

Dr. Dosanjh also spoke on the need to educate women and girls with a focus on science, technology and innovation (STI) as a means to achieve gender equality and equity; an ideology that embraces the core of GWI’s commitment to life-long learning opportunities for women and girls. She continued by underscoring that gender imbalance persists worldwide the STI space and this gap must be bridged if women are to contribute and profit equally from the global knowledge society. “It is clear that encouragement of girls should start with the involvement of family in setting the right environment for both sons and daughters and that there is a great need for women role models, improved images and perception of women in these fields and strong mentoring,” she said.

As part of her discussion, Dr. Dosanjh spoke about how digital technologies are revolutionizing the provisions of education and adding multiple learning pathways, such as e-learning, yet she emphasized, digital technology can also result in widening inequalities and governments need to bridge the digital divide and ensure they provide affordable access to and education on effective use of ICTs. “The education 2030 framework for action specifically calls upon Governments to harness information and communications technologies to promote quality and effective learning”, she recapped.

Dr. Dosanjh concluded by saying that, “education and training are a cross-cutting issues that affects the progression of gender equality for every women and girl. Proper access to education for girls and women of all ages is a fundamental human right, and is vital for development, economic growth, and poverty reduction”.

— Call for applications —

Ashoka/American Express Leadership Academy Emerging Innovators Bootcamps 2017 for Changemakers (fully funded)

Hurry! Application deadline June 30, 2017 for this engaging opportunity! Apply for one of 100 spots at the American Express Leadership Academy Emerging Innovators Bootcamps, which will be held in five locations around the world this fall. These are 2-3 day intensive trainings for social entrepreneurs and changemakers who can benefit from expert guidance, peer support and a safe space to reflect on inner growth and wellbeing. For applications click [here](#).

Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford University for International Students

The Rhodes Scholarships are postgraduate awards supporting exceptional all-round students at the University of Oxford. Established in the will of Cecil Rhodes in 1902, the Rhodes is the oldest and perhaps the most prestigious international scholarship program in the world. Application deadline is July 31, 2017. For more information on how to apply, click [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

New York United Nations representative, Maureen Byrne, Ph.D., recently attended the 16th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held at the United Nations in New York. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the [United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) by the General Assembly. The session covered indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights. The 16th session focused on the recommendations with regards to indigenous youth and the empowerment of indigenous women. Maureen's report can be found on the GWI website [here](#).

— Did You Know? —

Did you know that GWI was founded in 1919?

On July 11, 1919, the IFUW, now GWI, was founded in London with founding members from three countries: Canada, Great Britain, and the United States. In addition to promoting peace, the advancement of careers for women in university formed a major objective for the organization. IFUW created fellowships and promoted the founding of women's clubhouses where women could stay during research visits overseas. Nearly 100 years later, GWI continues to advocate for women's rights, equality and empowerment through the access to quality secondary and tertiary education, and training up to the highest levels. The goal is for 100% of girls and women worldwide to achieve an education beyond primary school.

— Other information and events —

June 5-17	106th Session of the International Labour Conference , Geneva, Switzerland
June 6-23	35th Session of the Human Rights Council , Geneva, Switzerland
June 22-25	Canadian Federation of University Women's AGM at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada
July 2-8	Poverty in Education: what do we know and what can we do? Deadline to apply 24 April
July 10-14	Expert Mechanism of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, United Nations, Geneva
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
Nov 14-16	IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour , Buenos Aires, Argentina
July 31-Aug 2, 2018	4th Gender & STEM Network Conference , Eugene, OR, USA

Follow us on social media!



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

Copyright © 2017 GWI. All rights reserved.