



GWI UPDATE – 20 September 2017



GWI celebrates International Day of Peace on 21 September 2017.

— Graduate Women International news —

GWI Marks International Day of Peace on 21 September

To mark the International Day of Peace tomorrow, 21 September, GWI shares its participation in the NGO Committee on Peace, Vienna. The Committee, of which GWI is proud to contribute and maintain membership, unites international NGOs who work for peace and disarmament. In the video, GWI United Nations Representative, Elisabeth Francis, expressively speaks about GWI's commitment to the peace process through girls' education. The full video can be watched [here](#).

— GWI member news —

The BRPID 2017 funding cycle supports KAUW's capacity building through livelihood skills among rural women in Siaya County



*Kenya Association of University Women
Bina Roy Partners in Development project participants.*

The Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID) programme, named after GWI's first Asian President Dr Bina Roy, supports locally-developed projects initiated by GWI's NFAs from developing countries, on a competitive basis. The 2017 funding cycle supports seven projects. One is a project organised by members of the Kenya Association of University Women (KAUW) to address gender inequality and prevent poverty prevalence among rural women by providing livelihood skills training to contribute to women's social-economic development and access to education. This is an extension of an existing project currently under implementation. The original project identified that most girls who dropped out of schools did so because their

parents, particularly their mothers, were unable to provide food and basic needs. In Siaya County, there is a dropout rate of 11.6 percent of girls compared to 9.5 percent of boys, as girls believe dropping out is a way of relieving their mother's burden. The KAUW 2017 project aims to empower mothers, through developing skills for income-generating activities to reduce poverty, and to protect girls from dropping out of school for reasons related to poverty and gender inequality. GWI congratulates KAUW for emphasizing that means and methods of continuing education must respond to the needs of the individual, where at-risk groups of society must be catered for and included in national policy to reduce inequalities and knowledge disparity.

— Advocacy —

GWI contributes to the 36th session of the United Nations, Geneva Human Right Council

The Human Rights Council (HRC) opened its thirty-sixth regular session on 11 September 2017 at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, with an oral update by Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. High Commissioner Zeid gave an oral update on the situation of human rights worldwide. He outlined States' lack of consistency concerning human rights commitments saying that, "At home, they often openly denied the rights for their own people, while defending them outside." He voiced concerns about intimidation and bullying acts committed by governments against non-governmental organizations.

On the same day, the HRC held a clustered interactive dialogue with Rosa Kornfeld-Matte, Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, and with Leo Heller, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to drinking water and sanitation. Ms. Kornfeld-Matte report addressed the prospects of robotics and artificial intelligence as assistance to older persons for exercising their fundamental human rights. Mr. Heller reminded the Council of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which obligates States to take deliberate and targeted steps to establish a regulatory framework for water and sanitation service that fulfill human rights.

As advocates for women's lifelong learning and training up to the highest levels, GWI Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, in an oral statement to the Council, urged Ms. Kornfeld-Matte to include in her mandate an in-depth study of learning methods beyond robotics that are best suited for ageing women with consideration given to health and culture needs. In the same oral statement, Ms. Dry Lara expressed GWI's concern over the lack of adequate sanitation for girls worldwide. You can see her statement [here](#).

GWI Sustainable Development Goal 4 Toolkit: Your Community, City and Country

As part of GWI's continued commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, GWI President, Geeta Desai, is creating a six-part Sustainable Development Goal #4 Tutorial: Understanding How to Drive the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 in Your Community, City, Country. GWI recently launched Part 4: Financing SDG 4: What Price Education?

GWI members can access the tutorials by logging into the Member Corner of the website and clicking on Toolkits. If you are not a GWI member and would like to explore our member benefits please join us [here](#).

Previously released:

Part 1: A Distilled View: What are Sustainable Development Goals

Part 2: Understanding Your Country's Commitment and Becoming Involved

Part 3: Country Initiatives that have been Registered with the UN, Who's Partnering with Whom and How We Can Increase the Effectiveness of initiatives".

— Call for applications —

Echidna Global Scholars Program

The Echidna Global Scholars Program is a visiting fellowship hosted by the Centre for Universal Education (CUE) at the Brookings Institution. The program aims to build the research and analytical skills of NGO leaders and academics who have substantial experience and ties to developing countries. Echidna Global Scholars spend four to six months at Brookings pursuing research on global education issues, with a specific focus on improving learning opportunities and outcomes for girls in the developing world. Upon completion of their fellowship, CUE supports the scholars in implementing an action plan that applies their new skills and expertise in the developing country where they have demonstrated substantial ties. Application deadline November 13, 2017. To learn more about the fellowship and apply, click [here](#).

FRIAS COFUND Fellowship in Germany

For the fifth time, the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS) is announcing its call for applications for the [FRIAS COFUND Fellowship Programme \(FCFP\)](#) and invites outstanding international senior and junior researchers to apply. The programme offers the opportunity for a fellowship stay in Freiburg for the academic year 2018/19. It has evolved into one of the most attractive mobility programmes within the German university landscape. There are two types of fellowships: junior fellowships for early-stage researchers (duration of stay: 12 months) and senior fellowships for established researchers (duration of stay: 3–10 months). The programme is open for researchers from all disciplines and nationalities. According to the EU mobility rule, applicants may not have carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) or have had their main residence in Germany for more than a total of 12 months during the 3-year period prior to the application deadline. About 25 Fellowships will be awarded, co-financed by the European Union's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND Programme. [Application deadline](#): October 10, 2017.

Full Tuition McCloy Academic Scholarship Program at Harvard Kennedy School in USA, 2017

Applications are invited for McCloy Academic Scholarship Program to complete a two-year master's program for future management at Harvard Kennedy School. German, as well as candidates without German citizenship, are eligible to apply for this scholarship program. In addition to the qualification for public and international organizations, the aim of the program is to promote transatlantic communication and network the McCloy Scholarship holders beyond the two-year joint study program. It is open to students of all disciplines and students must have academic excellence and substantial international work experience. The deadline is November 1st, 2017. To read more about the scholarship and how to apply, please click [here](#).

SERB High Risk-High Research Awards for Indian Students, 2017

Science and Engineering Research Board offers High Risk – High research awards to Indian researchers. The Scheme for funding High Risk - High Reward Research aims at supporting proposals that are conceptually new and risky, and if successful, expected to have a paradigm shifting influence on the S&T. This may be in terms of formulating new hypothesis, or scientific breakthroughs which aid in emergence of new technologies. The awards are available for research and will cover funding for a period of three years. Applicants should be an Indian citizen residing in India, and must hold a regular academic or research position in a recognised institution. You can click [here](#) to apply.

— GWI United Nations Representative Reports —

During the 36th Session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, GWI United Nations representative, Amy Paunila, attended the 'Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms'. The theme was 'The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls'. This panel discussion explored how the UPR mechanism can advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 5. Ms Salma Nims, Secretary General of the Commission for Women in Jordan, and Ms. Dorothy Nyasulu, Assistant Representative, Malawi Country Office, United Nations Population Fund, both emphasised the positive impact that UPR recommendations had made in their countries. For example, in Jordan the legal loophole for rapists, Article 308, was rescinded in August 2017, and in Malawi women's sexual and reproductive rights have been realised as human rights. As the UPR moves into its third cycle it was noted that human rights legislation provided a legally binding framework while the Global Goals were the realisation. The UPR mechanism inserts accountability on the goals' achievement monitoring. This is where civil society can play a valuable part. Amy's full report can be read [here](#).

— Give the gift of membership —

Do you know a graduate woman who would like to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training? [Give the gift of membership](#) to join a global community of some 18'000 members in 60 countries, either as a GWI independent member or national member of one of our National Federations and Associations (NFAs).

— GWI Friendship through Education Bracelet —

The GWI Friendship through Education bracelet commemorates International Day of Peace. The GWI iconic lamp commemorates nearly 100 years of GWI supporting peace, friendship and education. Order yours [here](#).



— Did you know? —

Did you know that GWI [manifestos](#) are published on our website? The manifestos Education for All, Secondary Education, Tertiary Education, Continuing Education and Non-Traditional Education, emphasize that access to education is both an internationally recognised human right, as well as a fundamental enabler to achieve economic growth, human development, peace and stability. You can follow the [link](#) to find out about GWI's commitments and concerns about education and training.

— Other information and events —

Sep 5, 2017-March 2018	Les Olympes de la Parole , University Women's Club of Montreal (CFUW-GWI), Montreal, Canada
Sep 21	International Day of Peace
Sep 21	Geneva Peace Talks , Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Sept 11-29	Human Rights Council, 36th Session , Geneva, Switzerland
Sept 15-16	ICGE 2017: 19th International Conference on Gender and Education , Zurich, Switzerland
Sept 29-Oct 1	Lithuanian University Women's Association Conference , Kaunas, Lithuania
Oct 7	Open Day at UN Geneva , Geneva, Switzerland
Oct 13-15	Women-Graduates USA AGM , Wisconsin, USA
Oct 30-Nov 14	General Conference, 39th Session , UNESCO, Paris, France
Nov 14-16	IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour , Buenos Aires, Argentina
Nov 24-25	"Atrevete a Cambiar" , Federación Mexicana de Universitarias (FEMU-GWI), Mazatlán, Mexico
Dec 1-10	60th Anniversary Celebration , Hong Kong Association of University Women (HKAUW-GWI), Hong Kong
March 14-15, 2018	ZurichEduCaExpo 2018 - 2nd International Education & Career Exhibition , Zurich, Switzerland
July 31-Aug 2, 2018	4th Gender & STEM Network Conference , Oregon, USA

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Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. GWI, formerly International Federation of University Women, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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