



— GWI UPDATE – 9 August 2017 —



Celebrating the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People

— Graduate Women International news —

GWI Joins DNP Education Partnership

Graduate Women International is honored to participate in the Disarmament and Non-proliferation (DNP) Education Partnership. The partnership is an initiative coordinated by United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs that promotes new peace building educational networks and outreach activities, promotes the linkage between disarmament and development while fostering the participation of women in this field. A growing number of global and regional organisations, as well as NGOs, media and research centres joined the Partnership with the aim of taking common action on coordinating educational activities and assembling the wealth of educational opportunities in disarmament, non-proliferation and development. GWI thanks United Nations Representative, Elisabeth Francis, for her efforts.

— GWI member news —

Bina Roy Partners in Development program 2017 funds EAGW project dedicated to help eradicate illiteracy in Egypt

[The Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme](#), funded by Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF), is awarded to GWI's National Federations and Associations on a competitive basis to aid the creation and implementation of grassroots projects, has funded a project initiated by the Egyptian Association of Graduate Women, Cairo (EAGW). The project aims to help reduce illiteracy rates in the neighbourhood of Imbaba, Giza for more than 100 women and girls, through a 6-month long course teaching literacy and numeracy skills. In Egypt, 20.1% of the population are illiterate, and sadly two thirds of this statistic are female. Participants who complete the course will earn a certificate equivalent to year six of primary school, allowing them to access better jobs and higher wages. Additionally, the project will allow those who achieve excellent grades in their finals to attend a 2-month training course

on producing handicrafts to earn a living, with the opportunity to display and sell their products at Cairo HQ after the course, and market their products in social clubs and NGOs. GWI congratulates EAGW, Cairo for creating this excellent project dedicated to reducing illiteracy rates and giving girls and women the opportunity to earn higher wages and benefit from education. This initiative will positively change the lives of many women who previously did not have the opportunity to access safe, quality education and develop the skills necessary to make an independent living.

Dr Shirley Randell visits the Mexican Federation of University Women



Dr Shirley Randell

Dr Shirley Randell AO, past Vice President of International Federation of University Women (IFUW), now GWI, and Founder, Board Member and Assistant Convener of International Relations (CIR) of the Rwanda Association of University Women was welcomed by the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) for a week in June. During her visit, Dr Randell spoke at the FEMU monthly breakfast assembly, gave a lecture at the Museum for Women that FEMU had inaugurated in 2010; and made a statement at the launch of a menstrual mixed media art exhibition. During her stay in Mexico City, Dr Randell was hosted by Glenda Hecksher, FEMU Vice President of International Issues and the Convener of International Relations. Dr Randell was delighted for her Mexico visit and heart-warmed by the strength and commitment of FEMU and its members. You can learn more about Dr Randell's experience and her impressive work on behalf of Education and Women [here](#).

Women Graduates - USA Annual General Meeting Registration



Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA) welcomes you to attend the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 13-15, 2017 and to join in their 10th anniversary celebration.

Beyond Borders: Turning commitment into Action in a Global Society provides an exciting and action-packed theme and program starting early Friday afternoon and closing Sunday at noon with a board meeting following the AGM.

For more details and continued updates, please check the www.wg-usa.org website under WG-USA AGM 2017.

There is no better way to become involved in their energetic organization than to attend the Annual General Meeting. **Register [here](#)**. For questions or more information, please [email President Fay Weber](#).

— Advocacy —

On the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, GWI joins the global community in celebrating International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

On this day, GWI is committed to promoting the rights of indigenous women and girls by emphasizing the widespread problem of their discrimination. Currently, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples, establishing a universal framework of minimum standards for their survival, dignity, and well-being.

Highlighting Article 14 of the declaration, “indigenous people have the right to establish and control their education system”. GWI recognizes that indigenous people have the right to manage their education through non-traditional, cultural methods and teaching in their own language. Concerned with neglect of this right by States around the world, GWI advocates for legislation and policy initiatives that would open the doors to indigenous girls and women to receive quality, lifelong education through culturally-based means. Since scarce schooling for indigenous girls perpetuates violence and bullying against them, GWI asks States to renew their commitment to the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Power by empowering women and girls through education as a measure to reduce violence.

To read the full press release, please click [here](#).

— Call for applications —

Canon Collins Scholarship 2018 for Postgraduate study in South Africa

Canon Collins Trust is seeking to support individuals who are committed to social justice in South Africa and for whom a postgraduate qualification is essential to creating an open and just society. Scholarships are only offered to students studying in justice (which includes Law, Economics, Politics and the Environment), education, and the Humanities. In 2018 most awards will be valued at R70,000 for each year of study at Masters and PhD level. You must be a national of, or have refugee status in, one of the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe. You also must be in possession of a good first degree and be studying or applying to study at a South African university. The deadline for applications is **21 August 2017**. Please click [here](#) to apply.

The VV Grow Fellowship- Accelerator for Women Owners of Small & Medium Businesses

Applications are open for The Vital Voices (VV) Grow Fellowship, a highly competitive one-year accelerator program for women owners of small and medium businesses in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East and North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa. You can find more information [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI shares the World Employment and Social Outlook (WESO) Trends for Women 2017 report that provides figures and analysis on women in the labour market, including the huge economic benefits that could be made by closing gender gaps. Take a listen to the [video](#) for detailed summary of the report.

— Did you know? —



Did you know that Professor Caroline Frances Eleanor Spurgeon was the first President (1920-1924) of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), now GWI?

Professor Spurgeon was an active member of the Federation and the first woman awarded a Research Fellowship in 1912 to pursue her work. In 1916, Spurgeon was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. She was a member of the British Educational Mission to America in 1918, on which she met Virginia Gildersleeve and a lifelong friendship began.

Professor Spurgeon was born on 24 October 1869, in India. She was educated at Cheltenham Ladies College, England and at King's College, London and University College London. Spurgeon went on to become an esteemed literary critic, and was the first female professor of English literature. From 1900 onwards she lectured on the subject and was only the second female professor in England at the time. Through her various professional activities inside her own department, she participated in the academic literary-critical renaissance of the twenties and early thirties. She was an active militant in favour of women's eligibility to academic degrees and advocated for more opportunities for foreign women to study in British Universities.

— 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 20,000 members in 60 countries, either as a GWI independent member or national member of one of our National Federations and Associations (NFAs).

– Other information and events –

Aug 24-27	Annual General Meeting of the University Women Europe , Graz, Austria
Sep 8	International Literacy Day
Sep 21	International Day of Peace
Sept 11-29	Geneva Peace Talks, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Sept 29-Oct 1	Human Rights Council, 36th Session , Geneva, Switzerland
Oct 7	Lithuanian University Women's Association Conference , Kaunas, Lithuania
Oct 13-15	Open Day at UN Geneva , Geneva, Switzerland
Oct 13-15	Women-Graduates USA AGM , Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Nov 14-16	IV Global Conference on the Sustained Eradication of Child Labour , Argentina
Nov 24-25	“Dare yourself to change” Seminar by Federacion Mexicana de Universitarias, Mazatlan, Mexico
March 14-15, 2018	ZurichEduCaExpo 2018 - 2nd International Education & Career Exhibition , Zurich
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.

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