



GWI UPDATE – 23 August 2017



The "Villa Grand-Montfleury" Versoix, Geneva, a hub for NGOs

— Graduate Women International news —

Welcome to GWI's new Headquarters location

Last week, GWI relocated the office in Geneva. Owned by the Canton of Geneva, the building is leased only to international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). GWI is now more near to the Palais des Nations where we do much of our advocacy work and in close proximity with other NGOs for collaboration. The new address is 48, Chemin du Grand-Montfleury CH-1290, Versoix, Geneva. We welcome GWI's friends and family to stop by and visit us.

— GWI member news —

BRPID 2017 funds the Sierra Leone Association of University Women in their project to enhance girl's retention for university entry

[GWI's Bina Roy Partners in Development \(BRPID\) programme](#), named after GWI's first Asian President Dr Bina Roy, supports locally-developed projects initiated by GWI NFAs from developing countries. The 2017 project includes a project by the Sierra Leone Association of University Women (SLAUW) dedicated to encouraging and mentoring adolescent girls in targeted secondary schools in Sierra Leone to stay in school and complete their education. One of the many barriers against girl's education is retaining girls as they progress from primary to secondary school.

In Sierra Leone, only some 15 percent of girls reach secondary school. Teenage pregnancy, child marriage, gender-based violence, and cultural and religious biases underlie this gender disparity. The SLAUW project aims to raise awareness among girls, teachers, parents and communities about the need for higher level of retention and completion of girl's schooling.

The project will work to empower girls through mentorship and guidance counselling, to stimulate girl's interest in pursuing university education, and to improve heads of school's proactivity in safeguarding

girl's safety. The project will also work to empower girls to speak up about issues that are of concern to them, supported by boys who will become their allies.

— Advocacy —

GWl attends the 19th session of the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

On August 7-11, Graduate Women International (GWl) attended the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council (HRC) Advisory Committee 19th session. The session focused on two main issues: the non-repatriation of illicit funds and vulture funds and their impact on human rights.

Shockingly, according to the French NGO CCFD-Terre Solidaire, there are an estimated €800 billion IFFs per annum with crime, corruption, and tax abuse being the main contributors. The Committee expressed concern amount of Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) and their effect on human rights with particular recognition that foreign debts and other international financial obligations of States are barriers for the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights.

As part of the session, the Committee discussed vulture funds and their negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights in debtor States. Previously, the HRC called upon States to consider implementing legal frameworks to curtail predatory vulture fund activities in their jurisdiction. The study is ongoing with the final report scheduled for delivery at the HRC 40th session in March 2019.

Another prevalent session topic was the issue of unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents. As migrants and minors, children are particularly vulnerable and highly exposed to serious breaches to their fundamental rights.

GWl notes the insufficient – complete lack of – the Committee's discussion on education. As advocates for women and girls' education, we continue striving more enhanced influence over the Committee's agenda through our attendances.

“[The Advisory Committee](#) is a body of 18 independent experts serving as a think-tank to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC). It was established in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, to provide studies and research-based advice, as requested by the Council, and meets twice annually. The Committee's work is implementation-oriented and follows thematic issues linked to the mandate of the Council, namely, the promotion and protection of all human rights. It interacts with States, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and other civil society bodies.”

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

— Call for applications —

Women Deliver Young Leaders Program

Started in 2010, the Young Leaders Program provides youth advocates with the training and resources necessary to extend their influence and actively shape the programs and policies that affect their lives. Currently comprised of 400 youth advocates from more than 100 countries, the new class of 300 Young Leaders will join the program early 2018. Young people between the ages of 15 and 28 from all countries are welcome to apply and can access the application [here](#). Application deadline 13 October 2017. Please click [here](#) to [apply](#).

USAID's DAI/Promote: Women in the Economy (WIE) Programmatic Grant for Afghanistan

The United States Agency for international Development (USAID) is seeking applications for "DAI/Promote: Women in the Economy (WIE) Programmatic Grant" to enable educated Afghan women to increase their participation in the mainstream, formal economy by securing employment with advancement potential and by helping women-owned businesses grow. Please click [here](#) to find out more information about this grant.

Nestlé MBA Scholarships for Women from Developing Countries (IMD Switzerland)

The Nestlé Scholarship for Women was first awarded in 1997 and was initiated by a group of a group of IMB MBA participants who wanted to encourage women to take the MBA (Masters in Business Administration). The value of the scholarship is CHF 25,000. To apply you must send the MBA financial aid application form and submit a 750-word essay, using the IMD MBA Scholarship template, on "Many have argued that greater diversity in the Top Management team of an organization is good for profits and customers. What would you recommend as ways to achieve greater diversity?" The deadline to apply is **30 September 2017**. You can apply visit the official website to find out more [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

The UN Women program "Step it Up for Gender Equality" is a vital platform for the commitment of governments to invest in gender equality. GWI shares their vision of a 50-50 planet by 2030 and recognizes the 93 countries that have "stepped it up" to close the gender equality gap. To read more about the UN Women project or get involved, please click [here](#).

— Give the gift of Education —

GWI is directly addressing the lack of women teachers as a barrier to girls' secondary education by sponsoring girls from rural areas in Uganda to qualify as teachers through the [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) project. We invite you to contribute to our GlobalGiving campaign that enables young women to achieve their potential, inspire girls to go to school and build more prosperous communities. [Give today.](#)

— Did you know? —

Did you know that GWI is offering the Centenary Friendship through Education bracelet to commemorate our 100 years women graduates uniting to advocate for friendship, peace and education? To join our efforts please visit our [website](#).

We would like to graciously thank Mrs. Luz Castro, Federacion Argentina de Mujeres Universitarias (FAMU) Past President of Mendoza Association of University Women for our first online purchase. Luz is an enthusiastic FAMU member and a dedicated GWI supporter whom we sincerely appreciate.



— 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
Sep 21	Geneva Peace Talks, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland
Sept 11-29	Human Rights Council, 36th Session , Geneva, 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
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 (GWI FEMU), Mazatlan, Mexico
March 14-15, 2018	ZurichEduCaExpo 2018 - 2nd International Education & Career Exhibition , Zurich
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 IFUW, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

Graduate Women International

48, Chemin du Grand-Montfleury, CH-1290, Versoix, Geneva, Switzerland

E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org

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