



## GWI UPDATE – 27 December 2017

Graduate Women International, All rights reserved © 2017



### Graduate Women International A Year at a Glance 2016 - 2017



<h4>Advocacy</h4> <p>GWI staff participated in the United Nation charter and treaty body-based sessions including the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Human Rights Council, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) as well as UNESCO including recommendations concerning GWI NFAs.</p>			<h4>Membership</h4> <p>GWI membership comprises women graduates from around the world. Our members work nationally and internationally to promote the safe access to quality lifelong education for girls and women.</p>		
<p><b>CEDAW</b> Reports for regular and pre-sessions for GWI NFAs under review.</p>	<p><b>Human Rights Council</b> Submitted 4 oral statements 3 written statements</p>	<p><b>NFAs</b> There are currently 54 National Federations &amp; Associations</p>	<p><b>Independent members</b> GWI has independent members in 15 countries.</p>		
<p><b>CSW 61</b> 24 delegates Submitted written statement</p>	<p><b>Toolkits</b> SDG4 International Day of the Girl 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence</p>	<p><b>UPR</b> <b>EMRIP</b> <b>DNP</b> Education Committee</p>	<p><b>Membership Committee</b> GWI Membership Committee is committed to increasing GWI membership and fostering member relations globally.</p>		
<p><b>Twinning Projects</b> GWI NFAs collaborate in twinning projects worldwide.</p>			<p><b>SMART Plan</b> GWI 2017-2019 strategic SMART plan</p>		

#### Board

Geeta Desai, Louise McLeod, Basak Ovacik, Eileen Focke-Bakker, Rae Duff, Hazel Bowen, Katharina Strub

**Budget**  
Developed, implemented and maintains an austerity budget

**Appointed Member Dues Ad Hoc Task Force**

**Strategic Plan**  
Developed 6-goal strategic plan that catapults GWI into an action organization.

#### Communications

Through a comprehensive communication plan of daily, cross-platform, social media posts, the *Update* and *inFocus* newsletters and regular press releases, GWI advances its mission internationally.

**Social Media**  
More than 1700 social media posts on four different platforms

**Press Releases**  
Released 17 press releases in 2017 and Days of Observance templates to NFAs

**Update & inFocus Newsletters**  
Produced the *Update* newsletter twice-monthly and the *inFocus* newsletter bimonthly.

**Discussions Network**  
Allows member to discuss current and emerging women's and girls' issues.

**Tutorials**  
Subjects include: social media, SDG4 and advocacy toolkits

#### President: Geeta Desai

“2016 was fraught with financial worries and difficult decisions. However, if there is one thing that we've learnt from this tumultuous year is that the foundations that GWI was built upon are strong and that if we work hard, focus on the mission and our membership, we can see this glorious organization through to its Centenary and beyond. Belief in the value of GWI and the friendships, encouragements, support and advice of our members have inspired us to work hard and we are proud of what we have been able to accomplish in spite of the odds. We look forward to working with you to advancing women's and girls' rights to education, to increasing our membership and to establishing GWI as the credible voice of graduate women around the world.”

#### Projects and Programs

GWI supports many projects worldwide to impact the lives of and empower girls & women.

**Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship Fund**

**Hegg Hoffet Fund** for displaced graduate women

**Teachers for Rural Futures** in Uganda

**Bina Roy Partners in Development**  
Egypt, Mexico, Turkey, Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Rwanda, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Uganda, and Ghana generously funded by VGIF

**Friendship Through Education Bracelets**

**Girls' Education Champions Network**

**Escalade Fundraising Run**

#### Internships & Mentoring

GWI mentored 10 young interns from around the world including England, Italy, Mexico, Romania, the United States and Venezuela.

**Work Study**  
6-month work study program to upskill a woman from Brazil

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## 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**

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