



# GWI in review

## 2013 - 2016

*Empowering girls and women through quality  
lifelong education up to the highest levels*



Graduate Women International (GWI)

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International Federation of University Women (IFUW) changed names and became  
GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL (GWI) in April 2015.

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# Introduction

This publication represents a summary of the many different activities that the member national federations and associations (NFAs) of Graduate Women International (GWI) carry out. Each NFA is an independent entity, and pays a membership fee to benefit from the advantages that GWI offers:

- › **IDENTITY** – belonging to a respectable and respected international organisation which is recognised in international circles
- › **VISION** – having a large number of countries working towards the same vision and objectives, each in different ways
- › **COMMUNITY** – belonging to an international network of peers
- › **ACCESS** - to projects, fellowships, advocacy, information
- › **SERVICES** – webinars, newsletters, workshops, policy papers, personal responses, etc
- › **VISIBILITY** – GWI showcases members' activity, lending strength to local activities

The nearly centenary federation, Graduate Women International, has seen major change in the years between 2013 and 2016. The change of name from International Federation of University Women to Graduate Women International in 2015 in turn brought name changes to several national federations and associations (NFAs).

During the triennium, some NFAs have fallen out for lack of paying members and a couple have chosen to leave to pursue strictly national interests. Some NFAs have grown and some new NFAs have joined from different geographic regions. This is part of a natural organisational ebb and flow, which underscores the importance of each and every organisation offering compelling benefits and activities, from the international federation itself to each national and local affiliate.

The many services that GWI has provided, including webinars, newsletters and workshops, have been used by most NFAs in one way or another. Those NFAs who participated in GWI's workshops found that they triggered new ideas and new enthusiasm, often leading to finding new ways to recruit new members. A majority of NFAs have found policy papers, policy updates and advocacy statements, which are driven by the internal resolutions process, extremely useful, adapting them and using them for the local context. The commonality of concerns across all regions is striking and demonstrates how issues that are often mistakenly perceived to be local are, in fact, more often global too.

International federations and national associations fulfil different aims and functions. There are similarities: both must cater to their members, must remain on mission, provide support to members and remain relevant and find sources of funding.

However, there are also significant differences:

International	National
Members are associations (i.e. structures with people in them) which must comply with local legislation	Members are individuals who join a national structure
Must support all members, regardless of geography, and not prioritise one national group over another	Must focus on national and local priorities; may look towards international
Provides legitimacy for an international unified voice representing many and gives national voices more gravitas and power	Provides legitimacy in country  Needs national coalitions to have impact nationally
Wide geographic representation gives it full representative weight within the United Nations (UN) and other large international bodies as accredited by ECOSOC	National voice can be represented in UN bodies if accredited by ECOSOC
Provides perspective and guidance on key issues across regions and countries	Provides national perspective and guidance on key issues
Alignment on a global cause with resources which can be pooled to provide skills to all member associations	Alignment on causes inside and outside the country but resources can only be shared outside the country through international collaboration

The strength of the overall organisation comes from leveraging the various voices, competencies and programmes that exist within the federation.

# Australia

While the AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN (AFGW) was unable to attend the Regional Workshop that GWI organized in Fiji, some members attended the Capacity Building Workshop in Perth. The ideas, enthusiasm and support given have enabled State Associations and Branches to begin to focus more clearly on rebuilding membership, and strengthening alliances with other groups and institutions. AFGW has a well-developed website which is updated regularly. All State Associations and some Branches also have websites linked to AFGW's Website and some are setting up a Facebook page. Other traditional activities are used to try to promote membership and public awareness such as:



- › Personal introductions
- › Local media articles and advertising
- › Events such as breakfasts, dinners with speakers and book clubs
- › Alliances with other like-minded organisations
- › Breakfasts with post-graduate students at different universities
- › Ongoing scholarships programmes and presentations of awards events
- › Changing venues for events, reasonable rates and accessible to transport
- › Publication of education advocacy at National and State level on the websites.

While AFGW cannot always say what attracted new members, one volunteered being attracted by the Uganda *Teachers for Rural Futures* project on the GWI website.

AFGW has provided fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, prizes and other assistance for over 50 years (around \$425,000 annually, or a total of \$1,293,220 for the triennium); this is a major programme and the main focus of action within AFGW and its State Associations and Branches.

Education is a key issue for AFGW, with particular emphasis on tertiary education and on the education of girls and women. AFGW is concerned, through its Council and its Standing Committee on Education, to formulate educational policy and to act as an advocate for these policies and on educational issues generally. It pursues the latter aim through advocacy in its own name to State and Federal Governments and also through co-operative advocacy with other nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) and participation in consultative processes. In particular, it has defended adequate funding for public school education, and objected to poor quality Vocational Education and Training provided by private for-profit enterprises. AFGW uses letters and media releases to different government representatives and media outlets to advocate for the causes it champions. AFGW continues to remind government ministers that equity in education requires evidence based assessment of funding for schools, and quality teachers provided with up-to-date professional development opportunities. AFGW has been distributing the GWI STEM brochure and citing the GWI Education Manifesto in their advocacy.

AFGW has a national voice through membership of two of the five National Women's Alliances funded by the Australian Government i.e. economic Security4Women Inc. (eS4W) and Equality Rights Alliance (ERA). AFGW has representation on the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Gender Statistics Advisory Committee developing the Australian Gender Indicators product. State Associations and Branches collaborate with local Universities

and benefit from partnerships with local NGOs supporting projects as appropriate. Details of relevant GWI Resolutions are circulated to a range of women's NGOs as contributions to submissions e.g. Early and Forced Marriage and Promoting Violence-Free Family Life.

AFGW members mainly participate in International Women's Day (IWD) activities as individuals. A few AFGW Branches hold their own IWD events. At their International Women's Day (IWD) Breakfast on 8 March 2016, Graduate Women Queensland Branch invited a speaker on Restorative Justice which views a crime as a violation of people and relationships, and offers the opportunity for victims to meet or communicate with their offender to explain the real impact of the crime.

AFGW has run a series of practical workshops that span advocacy and public speaking. It has also provided financial and mentoring support to girls taking part in the Curious Minds project run by the Australian Mathematics Trust.

## Austria

The [VERBAND DER AKADEMIKERINNEN ÖSTERREICHS \(VAÖ\)](#) organised many events during the triennium: monthly presentations and meetings referring to the situation and activities of women. Along with networking opportunities, they also organised the Senior Summer Academy on the theme of "Lifelong Education".



Part of the Germany, Austria and Swiss (DACH) group, VAÖ participated in the Friendship Meeting and Symposium on "70 Years of Peace after World War II". This was held in Graz, Austria, in 2015. At the Symposium, VAÖ President Elisabeth Györfy had an interview with a contemporary witness Mrs. Elisabeth Fink, who migrated to Austria in 1943. She talked about the time and her experiences during and after the war and how she was welcomed in Austria. The publication of the event, "Festschrift – 70 Jahre Frieden", included several articles and reports of contemporary witnesses e.g. The Steyr Occupation Report by Mr. Richard White, who after the war, during the last six months of his post-war service, was assigned to duty in the US army headquarters in Steyr, Upper Austria.

VAÖ sponsored and supported Austrian graduate women in the field of science, law, art and philosophy. VAÖ financially contributed to the project of Mrs. Grace Marie Merci Nikuze Mafubo, Rwanda, and the school project Mama Hindu in Arusha, Tanzania. Other activities carried out in the triennium include:

- › Visits were made to the twin towns of Tampere, Finland and Modena, Italy, in which all members from all branches across Austria could participate.
- › VAÖ did some research and wrote papers on the bad financial situation of young academic women doing research work at university or in other academic institutions. The VAÖ submitted these papers to the President of Austria and to the Ministers responsible for education and research and showed their concern about reducing financial support.
- › VAÖ started a project investigating the situation of refugee women as VAÖ wants to offer them support. The Home Office and charitable institutions have been informed about it and now the project is awaiting launch.
- › VAÖ submitted a paper to the government of Upper Austria protesting against the fact that there are only men and NO women representing the people in the provincial government of Upper Austria.

VAÖ collaborates with a number of organisations in Austria: UNO, Soroptimist, Frauenring, Austrian Universities and the Bund Österreichischer Frauenvereine and Frauenring (BOEF) alliance.

## Canada

The **CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (CFUW)** worked very hard to ensure that all girls and women have equal access to quality education within a peaceful and secure environment where their human rights are respected.

CFUW has an ongoing mentorship programme, consisting of group teleconferences and one-on-one mentor-mentee sessions. A pilot pay equity workshop for women about to enter the workforce was successfully conducted, as an advocacy and recruitment initiative to make CFUW known among younger women. Hosted in one university, CFUW is hoping to conduct similar workshops in other universities and colleges in the coming year. CFUW has provided its many clubs with Briefs, webinars, materials for use on various issues on which CFUW policy focuses.

Active on the advocacy front, CFUW asked for and sent the Canadian government letters of support for Bill C-242 to add Non-State Actor Torture to the Criminal Code and for Bill C-243 to allow an EI claimant to begin to use her maternity benefits. Letters were sent to Prime Minister Trudeau and Green party Leader Elizabeth May on climate change and COP21; to the Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Carolyn Bennett about the national enquiry on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women; as well as letters of congratulations to all new Ministers and Critics, with invitations to meet, Briefs and handouts attached. CFUW has developed a number of Briefs on Women's Equality and on Education, which were shared with the Status of Women Canada Committee, the Parliamentary secretary, and Minister of International Development. Furthermore, CFUW submitted the CFUW Response to the United Nations (UN) Committee Against Torture: List of Issues prior to Canada's reporting in preparation for Canada's Seventh Periodic Report. Globally recognised experts on the subject, and CFUW members, Linda MacDonald and Jeanne Sarson were involved in these activities.

Many meetings were organised with various government officials and policy advisors. Meetings were also set up with other nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) such as the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses. CFUW endorsed *Empowering the Future: Best Evidence for Investing in Early Childhood Education in Canada* from the Atkinson Centre of Society and Child development.

CFUW attended consultations with Global Affairs Canada to discuss Canada's position leading up to the June 2016 Human Rights Council. A CFUW delegation was present at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meetings each year during the triennium. In 2016 CFUW held a parallel event on the development and evaluation of the CFUW Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) mentoring pilot programme.

CFUW clubs celebrated International Women's Day in various ways, hosting film events, celebrations and fundraisers. Each Club collaborates on activities with organisations in their own communities.

## Cyprus

The **TURKISH CYPRIOT UNIVERSITY WOMEN ASSOCIATION** was active in the local community throughout the triennium. The association published a book in English called "Our Girls Sold to Arabs", in cooperation with the Severis Foundation. The association held several meetings with different political, parliamentary and communal representatives as well as women from other sectors of the economy. Currently in the process of negotiating an official protocol with the municipality of Nicosia to offer services to empower local women, the Turkish Cypriot association has already



secured two scholarships with the Cyprus American University for girls in financial need. The association also is in relations with the Turkish Cyprus First Lady and her own association to create a platform to work to prevent violence against women.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

The ASSOCIATION CONGOLAISE DES FEMMES DIPLOMEES DES UNIVERSITES (ACOFDU) joined GWI as soon as it was constituted, in 2015. Founded by Jolie Massay, it focuses on the much needed promotion of girls' education in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. ACOFDU has run four *Girls' Choices* workshops and is planning to start a mentoring programme on 1st July 2016.



ACOFDU was present at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2016, where the association participated in the Helvi Sipilä seminar organised by the Finnish Federation of Graduate Women (FFGW); the subject was Women, Peace and Security. ACOFDU is lobbying for all girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to have access to free schooling in order to facilitate their meaningful participation in peace processes.

## Egypt



The EGYPTIAN ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN (EAGW) celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Cairo branch in 2014. This branch held several seminars and an art fair which drew both members and non-members. It also held seminars with female leading figures in different fields; namely, Inam Mohamed Ali, as one of the pioneer Egyptian female TV directors who dedicated a number of her works to handle women's issues such as child marriage, depriving girls of education and violence against women, and Ragaa el Gidawy, as one of the pioneer Egyptian female models, fashion designers and actresses.

The Alexandria branch has continued with the Iqraa (Read) Initiative. Alexandria members partnered with the Egyptian Association for the Friends of Bibliotheca Alexandrina (EAFBA) in their initiative to encourage more people to read. EAGW members organised events and collected donated books to be distributed for free, with the objective of using reading as an effective and reliable means to empower women. In addition, EAGW Alexandria also participated in the Annual Women's Clubs Products Fair organised by the Egyptian Ministry of Youth by donating books to encourage women to read, particularly to get young women interested in science. This event was loosely based on the Finnish Let's Read Together programme, in the sense that reading was used as a tool to help women and girls handle and solve their problems. A book fair was also organised in the Faculty of Education of Alexandria University, where students and faculty all donated books to be circulated around in exchange for ideas, the price of each book was an innovative idea, with the purpose of encouraging students and young staff members, mostly women, to dare think outside the box and find solutions to their everyday problems.

The new Board of the Alexandria group has decided to help female entrepreneurs in Alexandria, by organising a number of fairs to introduce them and their products to the community. The first fair has taken place and is intended to be the first in a series of events.

Finally, Alexandria is currently organising a one-year campaign to raise awareness of the different forms of violence against women, their negative impacts and how to address this legally in Egypt. The organisation is in the process of signing a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the relevant organisations and institutions.

## El Salvador

The **ASOCIACIÓN DE MUJERES UNIVERSITARIAS DE EL SALVADOR (AMUS)** spent the triennium focused on one essential theme, i.e. Towards Human Development with Dignity of Women. The group has representation on the Salvadoran Institute for the Development of Women (ISDEMU), a leading public policy institution which aims to ensure that women exercise their rights with the guarantee and protection of the State to achieve substantive equality.

AMUS has provided a regular stream of activities to members and potential members alike, spanning recreational activities to scientific conferences and a film forum on gender issues. Conferences addressed universal themes such as the glass ceiling, personal health, and the status of graduate women.

In coordination with World Vision, AMUS conducted a training to 12 local committees of children and adolescents in the departments of Sonsonate, La Libertad, Chalatenango, Cabañas, La Paz, San Salvador and San Miguel. AMUS organised some talks about psychology and donated educational materials for parents of 75 children in the communities of Antiguo Cuscatlan, El Tanque y el Manguito. Furthermore, AMUS has set up homework clubs for children to enable them to finish their schoolwork, and also provides a basic French course for those who are interested.

AMUS runs a healthcare centre which assists women and children. Medical and dental care for 160 people, children and adults, was organised, with donation of drugs, pastes and brushes by Colgate Palmolive. A donation of bed liners, metal and wood sticks for the elderly to the Society of Ladies of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul was also organised.

AMUS celebrates international days and thus in 2016 the association marked International Women's Day and the day of Non-violence to Women.



## Fiji

The **FIJI ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN GRADUATES (FAWG)**, based in Suva, grew with the addition of a branch in the western part of Fiji, becoming FAWGwest and is actively furthering the objectives of FAWG in Lautoka and Nadi. FAWG has supported the education of young women in traditionally male-dominated vocations since 2004. The group launched its scholarship programme for the University of the South Pacific in 2015. FAWG organises a monthly fundraising luncheon through seminars on subjects such as ethics, partnership and leadership for women. It also runs a careers fair and does movie nights. The annual quiz night FAWG runs is always a huge success and is a major fundraiser, supported by local companies and organisations.

FAWG participated in the GWI Pacific capacity building workshop, and partnered with Fiji National University and GWI to host the seminar *Education in the Pacific: Bridging the Gender Gap*, a well-attended event.



The western Fiji branch held networking events focused on entrepreneurship and work/life balance. The western branch held an event on International Women's Day in 2016, with several guest speakers.

## Finland

The **FINNISH FEDERATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN (FFGW)** has 20 local branches and has been growing thanks to its renewed website, social media, electronic newsletters and projects. Local branches organise different kinds of activities, and the combination of information and activities has brought in new members. The main event is organised with National Council of Women in Finland.

The Let's Read Together Network supports immigrant women to integrate into Finnish society. A network of Finnish women volunteers offer tuition in literacy and the Finnish language to immigrant women in various locations all over Finland. At the moment, there are some fifty Let's Read Together study groups in these locations. FFGW is responsible for the network in partnership with Zonta International District 20 and UN Women Finland.

The Auroras network is the first multicultural community for university educated Finnish and immigrant women. In this new activity, Finnish and immigrant women get to know each other and practice the Finnish language in a supportive environment. The aim of the new group is to help integrate immigrant women into Finnish society, where education connects women.

From 2013-2015, the Domestic Violence Met by Educated Women - Grundtvig project with partners from Finland, Sweden, Germany, Slovenia and Romania, and funded by the European Commission, raised the issue of domestic violence met by educated women on the European agenda. The project produced new knowledge of this sad phenomenon and successfully disseminated best prevention practices from country to country. The project was unique due to its focus on educated women and their children as victims of domestic violence. The manager of the project, Professor (emerita) Raija Sollamo was awarded the Jans Gremmée award in 2015 in Utrecht for her work and efforts for a better education and position for women and girls.

The Digital Skills for Everyday Use (Digiarjen taidot) project was carried out in 2015 with an overall aim to educate aging members to use computers and electronic services. The project produced educational materials and the project was implemented in several local branches across Finland. The local instructors were members of FFGW and projects utilised the skills and knowledge of their own members.

The Equal pay for women (Naisen nakerrettu euro) project was carried out together with several women's networks in Finland. The main event was organized on 28 April 2016. Themes like equal pay and women entrepreneurs were promoted through FFGW networks to ensure maximum visibility and impact. Other advocacy themes included global education to increase the mutual understanding of people coming from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and sexual health promotion as a means to ensure girls finish their school and enter into second and tertiary education.

On the advocacy side, in 2014, the FFGW organised a seminar on trafficking in Finland in co-operation with the Network of Finnish Women Members of Parliament. This was one seminar among several that the group organised. FFGW also actively lobbied on various themes regarding the following documents:

- › UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security
- › Istanbul Convention on combating violence against women
- › Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1995
- › Action Plan for Gender Equality 2016–2019 of the Finnish government.

The annual Helvi Sipilä seminars at the March meeting in New York for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) were organized in co-operation with National Council of Women in Finland, NYTKIS - The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations, UN Women and the Young Women's Christian Association. FFGW worked with the 1325 network to promote the implementation of the 1325 resolution of the UN Security Council, as well as the National Council of Women in Finland to coordinate different activities, like International Women's Day and projects related to equality in Finland, such as equal pay.

## France

The [ASSOCIATION FRANÇAISE DES FEMMES DIPLOMEES DES UNIVERSITES \(AFFDU\)](#) focuses on education, women's right and gender equality. AFFDU organises a school competition called "Les Olympes de la Parole" about gender equality. The final jury is held at and with the Ministry of Education. The Education Minister herself attended the latest event and had a long conversation with the pupils.

AFFDU provides grants for female students finishing their PhDs (up to 15 a year), as well as one grant a year for a young female business woman. It organises a book fair, held in the Town Hall of the 6<sup>th</sup> district in Paris (the literary quarter in France), for female non-fiction writers every other year; there were 80 writers present at the last one, held in November 2015, including very high profiles and some researchers from AFFDU.

On International Women's Day (IWD), AFFDU participated in major events all over France, organised by the National Coordination of Women's NGOs (comprising 65 NGOs including AFFDU), the City of Paris, UNESCO, OECD Ministerial and Head of States events, and universities and research centres. In addition, the chapters of AFFDU participated in regional events all over France. AFFDU attends the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Council of Europe.

The association also organises some regional seminars and dinners, conferences, cultural events and visits. AFFDU is a member of the University Women Europe group and participates in the European Women's Lobby.

## Ghana

The young **GHANA ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (GAUW)** joined GWI this triennium. The Ghana Association of University Women was officially inaugurated on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at the University of Cape Coast. For its launch it worked with the University of Cape Coast (CEGRAD), with whom it has also been active in the *Girls' Choices* programme, running a workshop on leadership for secondary school girls. It has been focusing on personal and professional development, as well as membership drives and sponsorship searches. Its focus has been girls' empowerment in basic schools. In a short time, they achieved Ghana Education Service permission for girls to participate in GAUW's projects.



## Great Britain

The **BRITISH FEDERATION OF WOMEN GRADUATES (BFWG)** has been actively revamping its communications with a new website, social media and publicity. With 15 branches, BFWG has a scholarship programme and both BFWG and its Charitable Foundation give considerable financial support to women PhD students. During the triennium BFWG signed two memoranda of understanding (MOUs), with the Universities of Chester and Winchester, to pay the fees for Afghan PhD students while BFWG supported their study and living expenses. The memoranda also foresee cooperation on research, if appropriate, and exchange of educational materials.



The organisation has been very active on the theme of safe access to education, with particular focus on Afghanistan. An Afghan woman student writing her PhD on Barriers to career progression for female higher education students in Afghanistan was the first student to be supported by the University of Chester and BFWG through the MOU and she has given several talks to BFWG since she arrived in early 2016. Because of all the necessary paperwork and border controls, it took two years to get the student to the UK. According to the research carried out by BFWG, there are very few female Afghan students doing doctorates, although there are more undertaking undergraduate or Masters degrees.

In 2014, BFWG held its House of Lords seminar on "A woman's right to education". BFWG has also been working on the themes of women in business, the encouragement of women into senior academic posts and encouraging more graduates into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. Over the triennium, BFWG has organised discussion groups, presentations, lectures and seminars on these and other subjects of relevance.

While Bulgaria was still behind the iron curtain, a considerable sum of money was left to the Bulgarian association in the UK, which they have been trying to retrieve. BFWG is providing assistance in the UK to trace the money left and banked some years ago in London.

BFWG is part of 6-0, a group of leading women's organisations in the United Kingdom, which meets regularly. The group keep each other updated on their activities and have arranged combined action on refugees.

BFWG is hosting the University Women Europe (UWE) 2016 meeting, and participated in UWE meetings over the triennium.

## Hong Kong

The **HONG KONG ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (HKAUW)** has worked every year in the triennium on its annual HKAUW Scholarship Scheme. In late August each year, invitations were sent to all local universities for nominations of both full-time undergraduate and postgraduate female students who excel in their academic performances and take active part in community services, especially for young children and women. In early November, nominations received were short-listed and selected candidates were invited to an interview by a panel consisting of members and female professors from different universities, who determined the



list of candidates recommended for the award of HKAUW Scholarships for the year. Donations were raised for the scholarships among members and friends. The Scholarship Presentation and Christmas Dinner were held on the same evening, around a week or so ahead of Christmas. At the scholarship presentation, some recipients were invited to give short presentations about themselves, what they do and how they can help women in the long run.

Two 2012 HKAUW postgraduate scholarship recipients pioneered a pilot project held between March and May 2013 at a day care centre for 10 elderly people. This involved the enhancement of movements of fingers, hands and arms as precursors to a finger-knitting programme. The pilot project was significantly successful as indicated by measured agility in movements. In addition, the elderly were pleased with their accomplished knitting works as they gave them a sense of worthiness. In view of shortage of members at HKAUW, the project team decided to produce a training video for volunteers, especially for university students, who are interested in helping the elderly at day-care centres. With the involvement of professional video production personnel and after many meetings and refinement, the project team was finally able to have the video completed in June 2014. The project team planned to present and publicise the training video on HKAUW's website and invite groups of volunteers to join HKAUW as participating partners. Nevertheless, in view of the increasing workload from their studies or work for respective project members, the project team was dissolved and the project shelved for the time being. 14 November 2015 a Welcome Party for New Members was organised to provide a platform for old and new members to get to know HKAUW and each other. Participants were split into two groups to share ideas on two themes: community services and international relations.

HKAUW participated in celebration events for International Women's Day (IWD) organised by other women's NGOs.

# Ireland

The **IRISH FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (IrFUW)** has been active this triennium with many different projects and meetings. Each of the four Associations hold their own meetings and plan a range of social and cultural activities catering for alumnae of different generations and interests. Of particular interest is the offer by Dublin University Women Graduates Association (DUWGA) of a special half price rate to encourage younger graduates to join. Queens Women Graduates (QWG) designed and distributed a poster to attract new members. In keeping with the modern graduate needs DUWGA invited expert speakers covering topics such as Peer Mentoring, personal branding, work-life balance and Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound (SMART) thinking for peak performance. All Associations tapped into the rich history and culture of Ireland which inspired interesting evenings on literature, art, music and visits to sites of historic and geographic interest.



The President, Dr Marion Gibson, introduced the concept of 'Candidate Graduate', a name used by our Founders to address the need to attract new members at their pre-graduate stage. The aspiration was that these members would become full members of an Association on graduation. The first members have been inducted and have a Council Officer for their guidance. Another form of membership has been established, namely Linked Membership. It caters for graduates who do not have a local Association. They are fully paid up members and may attend functions in any Association or IrFUW events. They receive all communications through the Secretary who is their link officer. Each year in November the Linked Members organise a Memorial Mass in the Honan Chapel, Cork University for all deceased graduates. The event is followed by a meeting and lunch. The IrFUW President devoted a lot of energy to seeking new forms of membership in other third level institutions and currently there are the beginnings of two new Associations.

Each year a distinct theme was addressed at the Annual Conference or Study weekend:

- › 2013 Carmel McCartan, Principal of a large Comprehensive school in West Belfast addressed the QWG Conference "Education - Empowering Women and Girls".
- › 2014 Graduate lecturers addressed the Galway Conference "The importance of Culture as an integral and accessible part of Education for all".
- › 2014 The Federation marked IFUW day with an inspiring account from Frederique Vallieres on her work to provide a secondary education to Maasai girls in Tanzania.
- › 2015 Danièle Castle, Executive Director of GWI, choose as her address "Women inspiring Women across the Generations". This was followed by a workshop on "Building Membership".
- › 2015 Queen's Belfast hosted a symposium at which UWE President Edith Lommerse addressed the issue of "Women, Peace and War".
- › Coinciding with our Triennial Meeting in May 2016 International President Catherine Bell spoke on the changes brought about in GWI over the triennium and spent a very enjoyable time with each Association, speaking at events and sampling their hospitality.
- › The Public Speaking competition for girls aged 13/14 is a yearly event culminating in an exciting final in Dublin where the teams representing the Associations, delight the audience with their public speaking skills on a range of topical issues.

The Irish associations support graduates by awarding scholarships to mature women who are pursuing primary degrees and for whom finance may be a constraint. 'Project 100', the brainchild of the President, supported 22 orphaned children in Rwanda to access and maintain formal education through to tertiary level. DUWGA through a variety of fund raising activities announced the Ann Budd Memorial scholarship after reaching their target of 4,000 Euro. Access students will benefit yearly. QWG Association hosted a coffee morning and presented International President Catherine with £1200.00 for GWI Programme *Teachers for Rural Futures*.

## Japan

The central theme for the triennium of the **JAPAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (JAUW)** was the Independence of Women, notably in terms of economics and legal affairs. The main activities to support the theme were workshops, seminars and lectures.

JAUW is very involved with other organisations in Japan, including the International Women's Year Liaison Group and Japan Women's Watch.



JAUW held a lecture on "SDGs and Gender: the cases of Bangladesh and Zambia" on International Women's Day, inviting Kiyoko Ikegame, Professor at the Graduate School of Social and Cultural Studies, Nihon University, to speak.

A two-day seminar on "Independence of Women: What kinds of barriers to independence do women face?" was held in October 2015 with The Cabinet Office of Japan. It was a great opportunity for JAUW and the audience to think about what can be done for women. JAUW will continue working so that women can play an active role in societies and at work.

There was a series of women's leadership seminars held on the theme of "Approaching diversity of work: meeting hardships". This programme provided the participants with motivation to pursue their own careers and developed their leadership. Participants were aged 20-80, so intergenerational studies brought young people to meet role models. The seminars were carried out in an atmosphere of mentoring.

The Japanese government implements many kinds of policies of gender equality. Are they really observed? A symposium programme drew attention to women's economic independence and women's working. Another lecture presented the theme of the Human Rights of Women and Children: Trafficking; a seminar on Building gender-equal society and education was also held.

JAUW has traditionally supported students through scholarships, and indeed, during the triennium JAUW supported an average of 26 scholarships a year. An emerging need is the support of high school students whose parents were lost in the Great East Japan Earthquake: JAUW has supported 38 such students in the triennium. Other scholarships include medical, social welfare and grants for young people to attend the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) meetings in New York in March each year.

Japan collaborated with the International Women's Year Liaison Group, Japan's Women Watch, the National Committee of the United Nations NGOs and the UN Women National Committee Japan to carry out activities and exchange information.

# Korea

The **KOREAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (KAUW)** has been supporting scholarships for 10-12 university students a year in Korea and 15 girl students of Korea-Vietnam Technical College in Vinh City, Nghe An Province of Vietnam from 2013 onwards.

KAUW has been operating three Women's Resource Development Centers in Seoul from 1997 where vocational training programmes are provided for girls and women who wish to update their knowledge and skills in order to join economic activities.

KAUW has been involved with a vocational training programme in Nghe An Province in Vietnam with financial assistance of the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). In 2013, KAUW first carried out a survey to find out what kind of training was needed and implemented training to achieve skills on IT, sewing, cookery, hair, skin and nail care to ensure that these girls and women have livelihoods.

Renovations of the training centre with appropriate equipment and facilities were provided. The students have been very enthusiastic and work very hard; over 50% of the trainees are now in paid positions and this percentage is expected to increase in the near future.

# Mexico

The **FEDERACION MEXICANA DE MUJERES UNIVERSITARIAS (FEMU)** has pursued its activities during the triennium, using all kinds of support to promote the association, including advertisements, a weekly radio programme, a monthly bulletin, internet presence and social media. Other activities carried out were:

- › 16 Temporary exhibits
- › 23 Editorial presentations
- › 155 Courses and workshops
- › 92 Conferences and lectures
- › 11 Museum Nights
- › 17 Special events
- › 11 Festivals
- › 147 Gender focussed weekly cinema club
- › 51 Children's cinema club
- › 29 Performing arts.



Over the triennium, FEMU focused on higher education for girls and women and human and equal rights. Each year, FEMU holds a major seminar, and the topics for the last three years were Decriminalization of women in Mexico (2013); Justice and equal rights for women (2014); and Feminism and Sustainable Development (2015). The publication of books, notably authored and coordinated by Patricia Galeana, on women's rights and gender equality, and by Delia Selene de Dios, on gender in cinema, was also part of the activities of FEMU. Other members have also published on various gender issues.

Since 2013 a monthly workshop has taken place, entitled “Gender-related sentences judge us all”. This workshop examines the incorporation of gender equality criteria and gender perspectives which transcend the result of a trial or sentence. The Federal Court of Fiscal and Administrative Justice requested the workshop to be imparted to Magistrates and their staff. FEMU also runs a series of workshops on such subjects as empowerment through finance, reproductive rights of women and sexual education; participation in public demonstrations regarding the right to legal abortion, violence against women and human rights.

Several seminars, including the Annual Seminar, are organised with universities such as the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Metropolitan Autonomous University (UAM) and several state universities: University of Colima, University of Campeche, University of Hidalgo, University of Tabasco and University of Morelos. Many members offer lectures and workshops on women’s rights in different institutions such as the National Youth Institute (INJ) and Family Integral Development (DIF).

On International Women’s Day, FEMU organised a seminar, exhibits and movies. FEMU and the Mexican Federal Health Secretariat organised a day of free breast screening (mammography). FEMU together with other institutions, wrote the Shadow Reports presented to CEDAW in 2012, on the occasion of the 7th and 8th Mexican Reports, and made important recommendations that were taken by the CEDAW Committee in 2014. The same year, FEMU participated in the UN Human Rights Council on the occasion of the 2nd Universal Periodic Review of Mexico, in Geneva, Switzerland, with a report on the situation of women’s rights in Mexico. The association also participated in the Commission on the Status of Women in 2015 and 2016 (CSW59 and CSW60), with two delegates.

## Nepal

On 29 April 2015, a massive earthquake with a magnitude of 7.8 on the Richter scale hit Nepal, followed by another on 5 May 2015. Nearly 8,800 people lost their lives and many were left with nothing. After the earthquake, the [NEPAL ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN \(NAUW\)](#) in collaboration with Federation of Business and Professional Women Nepal (FBPWN) distributed corrugated zinc plates for earthquake victims in Dandapauwa VDC near Kathmandu, to offer them a roof over their head. With the generous donation from the Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW), NAUW distributed educational materials to school children and blankets to families in Kavre, one of the worst affected areas. The Nepal Association of University Women (NAUW) extended its gratitude to JAUW for their generous donation to the victims of the earthquake.



## New Zealand

The [NEW ZEALAND FEDERATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN \(NZFGW\)](#) has been working on reviewing its strategy and marketing plans, with a view to growth and raising profile. NZFGW members have participated in all GWI webinars and have used the information on the GWI website from both the public and the members only areas, as part of empowering members to take the cause of education of girls and women forward. NZFGW is focusing predominantly on improving publicity, marketing the organisation and raising membership numbers. It is now

holding awards events open to the public to enable scholarship recipients to meet and for some to report back on their work. NZFGW is working with the New Zealand Council of Women to raise both organisations' visibility.

NZFGW, through its Charitable Trust, has provided scholarships to high achieving women to advance their specialisations and equip them for leadership roles. For those recipient scholars who chose to study overseas, the support enables them to participate in improving international understanding and cultures outside New Zealand. The scholarships are funded by the hiring out of academic regalia, a long-standing business of the association.

NZFGW was active on the advocacy front, ranging from providing briefings to parliamentary select committees on bills impacting women and education, to commenting on discussion papers and contributing to the nongovernmental organisation (NGO) response to the New Zealand government's eighth report to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW60) in New York in 2016. Delegates from New Zealand attended CSW in New York in March every year of the triennium.

Representatives of NZFGW presented oral and written presentations to the Education and Science Select Committee on the Industry Training and Apprenticeships Bill; to the Education and Science Select Committee on the Education Amendment Bill; and to the Education and Science Select Committee on the Employment Relations (No. 2) Amendment Bill. NZFGW made submission to the New Zealand Government on the place of women at the Geneva II Peace Talks as well as a submission on the Sexual Violence Inquiry. They provided feedback on the Science Investment discussion paper and responded to the Productivity Commission's Issues Paper: Productivity Commission Inquiry into New Models of Tertiary Education, recommending that the final version should include a gender analysis of the issues. A letter was sent to the Minister of Education on changes to the National Library Service to Schools. Waikato Branch made a submission on an amendment of the Education Act affecting membership of University Councils.

At the branch level, some branches are still holding meetings for members; their key focus has shifted to the fundraising activity of hiring regalia, managed by the branches' Charitable Trusts with members helping out on a voluntary basis. Graduate Women Wellington has held two public debates/panel discussions each year usually inviting other women's organisations to participate.

International Women's Day activities are supported by NZFGW and Branches are encouraged to work with other organisations in their areas to promote the day. As regards cooperating internationally, Manawatu Branch is focussed on supporting women in Nepal (especially following the earthquakes there) and Otago Branch has twinned with the GWI national federation and association (NFA) in Sierra Leone to support secondary school girls.

## Nigeria

The **NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (NAUW)** focused on the Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID) projects over the triennium, notably increased literacy classes for girls and women, impacting modalities for obtaining soft loans and basic leadership skills. NAUW also developed mentoring for girls and women. NAUW participated in the advocacy of safe education of girls in secondary schools arising from the abduction of 219 Chibok school girls in North-East Nigeria. NAUW mobilised for the release and rescue of the girls, along with other organisations.



In 2015, the NAUW Abeokuta Branch organised an award ceremony for deserving Women Role Models. In 2016 the same branch organised a skills acquisition programme for female students and staff of Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. The objective was to provide an opportunity for participants to acquire skills that will help them earn some extra income to become more financially independent. A series of events were organised with a life coach as well.

NAUW Abeokuta branch celebrated 2016 International Women's Day by organising a one-day empowerment programme for female students and workers of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. The programme was free for all participants.

## Norway

The **NORWEGIAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (NKA)**, soon to be **GRADUATEWOMEN-NORWAY**, has spent much of this triennium investigating various possibilities for renewal. Two aspects of Norwegian society have been paramount in our discussions: how to attract a younger generation who are accustomed to the increasing digitalisation of everything, and how to include the many refugee and migrant women who have higher education qualifications. With this in mind, from autumn 2016 NKA plan to set up the organisation as a digital network.



NKA has had some local meetings for members. An important issue during this triennium was to try and get the various women's organisations in Bergen to cooperate, having joint meetings. Two such meetings have taken place – one on "The Influence of Women's organisations – does it still exist?" organised by NKA and Bergen Kvinnesaksforening and with Zonta and Soroptimists participating; the other on feminism. Both were well attended.

An attempt at reviving the former Bergen Women's Group (Bergen Kvinneråd), an umbrella group for women's organisations, in Bergen, was met with lukewarm response. One of the major problems facing women's organisations in Norway is the false assumption that equality and women's rights are won and organisations like NKA are superfluous. The couple of meetings about feminism which were attended by NKA demonstrated that young people are interested, as the audience was primarily youth.

Anne Holden Rønning has taken part in some of GWI's webinars, and represented NKA at a joint conference with other NGOs on "Women, Power and Politics" held in Oslo, November 2013, to mark the centenary of women getting the vote in Norway. On 7-8 March 2015, Anne Asserson took part in a KANN (Nordic Academic Women's Network) seminar in Stockholm.

# Russia

The **FEDERATION OF GRADUATE WOMEN (RUSSIA) (FGW)** has followed a key strategy of creating new projects that involve women in interesting events, in grants project work and seminars to help women initiate projects in education and science. Such programmes include:

- › developing programmes for elderly women that teach them how to initiate new projects in education and in science
- › higher education quality and the role of women in providing the quality
- › women in environmental management projects
- › fundraising in science in education: seminars for young women
- › women in management: how to teach, how to empower and support
- › equal rights of the girls in higher education who belong to different nations.

FGW members met with government officials telling them about the importance of international cooperation with foreign women's NGOs. The group also investigated the situation with women and science in Russia with the goal of participation in the Beijing+20 Forum in Geneva (2014). The group also participated in joint events:

- › Annual International Conference "Management of XXI Century". Partners: Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia (Saint-Petersburg, Russia); business organisations, Committee of Higher Education and Science (Government of Saint-Petersburg).
- › Seminars for elderly women "The School of the Success": how to initiate projects in education and science. Partners: Government of Saint-Petersburg, Fund of Timchenko.
- › Investigation of higher education quality with cooperation of Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation.

Although there is strong state oversight of NGOs in Russia, the group submitted an application to the President of Russia Grant Competition to support a project whose goal was to investigate the problem of providing equal rights in higher education in Russia.

# Scotland

There are currently three local associations within the **GRADUATE WOMEN SCOTLAND (GWS)** structure, who meet on a monthly basis. GWS has been particularly active in advocating against human trafficking and sexual exploitation of women, as well as fighting against zero hour contracts and their effect on women's ability to keep families supported without a regular income.

Advocacy activities also included attending the Scottish Women's Convention at the Scottish Parliament, as well as active lobbying of the First Minister of Scotland, Parliament and Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs). A seminar was held at the Scottish Parliament sponsored by Jackie Baillie, MSP, with speakers from Glasgow Caledonian University, University of Stirling and University of Glasgow.

GWS holds a yearly Research Presentation Day, which is open for PhD women to attend and to present their subject to a diverse audience. Each of the Scottish associations takes turns to organise the day, which is popular and attended by researchers from different study areas.

# Sierra Leone

The SIERRA LEONE ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (SLAUW) pursued its activities despite the disruption caused by the Ebola crisis. The focus of SLAUW's work has been teenage pregnancy, the Safe Abortion Bill, ensuring Gender inclusion in public policy and in the Constitution Review.

In 2013, SLAUW successfully engaged university authorities in a Colloquium to discuss the significant role of women in delivering education at tertiary level. This brought increased recognition of the role of women in advancing higher level education and motivated female university students to continue pursuing higher education.

SLAUW's scholarship funds (funded by annual contributions from members) over the past thirty-five years have successfully enrolled and increased the level of graduate students from 20 in the beginning to over 1000 girls. SLAUW acquired funding from the Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID), supported by the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) and GWI members, to implement a Health and Sanitation Project in two colleges, namely Fourah Bay College and Freetown Teachers college for the period 2015-2016. The project examined access to water and sanitation facilities by both girls and college authorities, especially after the outbreak of the Ebola virus and the water crisis on campus and was carried out in close cooperation with the Planned Parenthood Association of Sierra Leone (PPASL).

For 2016 SLAUW has secured funding for a new project entitled "Community Action for the Retention of Girls in Schools". The expected results are:

- › Greater awareness amongst parents and communities about the need to support their children
- › Girls become more determined to complete their schooling and advance to tertiary level
- › Girls' perceptions change about the value and significance of education
- › Promotion of the rights-based approach to education in communities in schools
- › Community counselling and mentoring structures established
- › Community-based actions taken to promote girls' education
- › Advocacy on the situation of girls' retention level in schools in Sierra Leone.

The Otago branch of the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW) and the Sierra Leone Association of University Women (SLAUW) are working together on a Twinning project to build links between their members through an active exchange; support girls in Sierra Leone to complete secondary school and to connect the girls in an exchange with high school girls in Otago.

SLAUW with other organisations participated in the national International Women's Day (IWD) Conference on 8 March 2016, under the umbrella of the Women's Forum. It was chaired by HE the President of Sierra Leone. Many important gender issues including the petition for a minimum of 30% representation were discussed. Collaboration is currently being discussed with sister organisations.

# Slovenia

The SLOVENE UNION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (SUUW) organised a series of eight lectures in 2013 on different aspects of violence against women and education. An active participant in a joint European project on Domestic Violence met by Educated Women, together with Romania, Germany, Sweden and Finland as partners, they engaged and attended the first conference in Stockholm, Sweden. In 2014, two surveys – one dealing with domestic violence concerning educated women and another with the



problem of young unemployed educated women - were carried out. This project took SUUW to two conferences, one in Paderborn, Germany, and the other in Bucharest, Romania. In November 2014, SUUW organised a conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, hosting their foreign partners and involving Slovenian professionals and the general public. Notable participants were the University of Ljubljana with the Faculty of theology, ombudswoman Vlasta Nussdorfer, SOS Helpline, and DNK – Association for non-violent communication.

The 2013, SUUW President Elizabeta A. Baretic Kolar attended a meeting in Paris, France at the headquarters of the Association of French University Women (AFFDU). She also attended the European Centre of the International Council of Women in Monaco, Principality of Monaco, where she established contacts with numerous European women's organisations. SUUW participated in the opening event for the implementation of the Norwegian financial mechanism and EEA financial mechanism, organised by the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, the Centre of Non-governmental Organisations and the Slovene Regional environmental centre.

In 2014 and 2015 monthly lectures were organised for both members and the general public. The June 2014 event presented a video on women during the war in Bosnia, and was followed by a raffle; in December 2014 the year concluded with a tango and socialising event. In September SUUW was present at the open-air NGO festival LUPA, held in Ljubljana. In 2015 SUUW participated in the final conference of the international project Domestic Violence met by Educated Women which was held in Helsinki, Finland.

Besides participation in numerous discussions, presentations, educational events, SUUW also published various texts on the website [www.zuis.si](http://www.zuis.si), edited by Hedvika Pavlica Kolman.

SUUW also established collaboration with several NGOs in Slovenia – SOS telephone line, Association for non-violent communication, Faculty of Social Work, and participated in the CEDAW civil society review.

## South Africa

The **SOUTH AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN GRADUATES (SAAWG)** celebrated its 90th anniversary in October 2013, with the publication of *Rights and Wrongs of this Land of Ours*, based on previous publications of the SAAWG Annual Journal, formerly called *Bluestocking*. SAAWG held monthly meetings and invited the public to attend colloquia. The main themes during the triennium were mentoring school girls and undergraduates and providing financial assistance to undergraduate and post graduate women to further their studies. SAAWG has allied itself over the years with the work of Sonke Gender Justice, an NGO focused on the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence. It has also collaborated with Soroptimists International South Africa, Johannesburg branch, in support of the Aurora Project, and with the National Council of Women South Africa.



The Aurora Project has been running since 1996, involving the Johannesburg branch in collaboration with Soroptimists Johannesburg and Kingsmead College. and runs three seminars per year one for each of Grades 10-12:

- › Grade 12 – Life after Matric
- › Grade 11 – Survival Strategies in Life
- › Grade 10 – Leadership and Management through Technology.

The programme provides mentorship for girls from four schools in Soweto by presenting life skills to participants and members of staff. Over 3,000 girls have been through the programme.

SAAWG also provides annual bursaries, awards and prizes, as well as recognition of academic excellence. The Cape Town branch ran a school holiday mentorship programme for Grades 10 and 11. This is focused on career and academic development for girls from the Kraaifontein area, and covered environmental awareness and urban organic vegetable gardening in order to provide opportunities to develop community and individual projects and hobbies. Cape Town branch also organises the annual Marie Grant Book Awards at Stellenbosch University.

## Spain

In an increasingly networked world, the **FEDERACION ESPANOLA DE MUJERES UNIVERSITARIAS (FEMU)** has provided an opportunity for young professional women to network through a dedicated group.

Deeply involved in publishing and scholarships, the organisation and its different chapters are also active in organising book clubs, movie clubs and lectures.

The group also organises the *Olympes de la Parole*, a high school speaking competition which takes place between March and May each year, open to both genders, to improve public speaking skills.

The Spanish organisation collaborates with other organisations such as Concordia AIDS, DEBRA and the Spanish Cancer Association to raise awareness of issues specific to women who are affected by health concerns.

## Sweden

The Swedish KVINNliga AKADEMIKERS FORENING (KAF) comprises the Karolina Widerström Foundation, the Solbacka Foundation and three sections. The association is currently working on a new structure and by-laws. A long-standing member of the Swedish Women's Lobby, and thus the European Women's Lobby, KAF has increased its possibilities to influence decision-makers through the nomination of a KAF member to the Board of the Swedish Women's Lobby.

Thanks to a government grant, KAF was able to extend its work to new areas in Sweden, including the role of school for young girls and education for immigrant girls. Some 55 lectures were held over the three years, covering topics such as the visibility of women now and in the past. One such seminar was held during the Nordic Forum for Women in 2014, on the subject of "Red stockings, blue stockings or support stockings". This was also the occasion to have a booth and recruit new members.

The Stockholm branch has set up a book club, which studies books by and about women. The Professional Key Project was begun following the influx of refugees. This project aims to provide women with degrees or unfinished university studies from outside Sweden with experience and networking in Swedish through KAF membership.

Karolina Widerström grants were given to Dr Katrin Thoransdottir for research on Rheumatoid arthritis, and to Dr Karin Erwander for research on the maltreatment of elderly people. The Siri Jacobsen Fellowship was awarded to Lena Lind Palvici, PhD, for her survey of the language of the Swedish Women's movement during the 1990s.

## Switzerland

During the 2013-2106 triennium, the [SCHWEIZERISCHER VERBAND DER AKADEMIKERINNEN \(SVA/AFSDU\)](#) celebrated 90 years of existence. The members strongly believe that it is a very important task of the association to ensure women's education and careers, and they regret that the percentage of female professors is still far too low in Switzerland. A key question is what kind of support or activities do Swiss graduate women need or want. Universities and institutions on all levels (national to local) offer a wide variety of professional training with regard to gender equality and the encouragement of women to pursue careers. Cooperation with other associations is an important factor, which also illustrates the solidarity among women.

The Swiss association involved all its branches in the celebration of its 90-year jubilee in 2014. Within this celebration, a special workshop on the importance of networks was organised, which was well attended by members of all Swiss branches and which was open to the public. This workshop received good publicity in the press. Four Swiss branches independently celebrated their 90-year existence in 2013 and 2014, together with members of other branches. The annual tri-country NFA DACH-meeting, organised in turn by one of the three German-speaking countries Germany (D), Austria (A) Switzerland (CH), also took place within the celebrations.



A number of branches award prizes every year, e.g. for best Masters theses, to women graduates. The prizes are awarded during the *Dies Academicus*, the traditional day of celebration of the respective universities. Most branches participate in Equal Pay Day activities organised by Business and Professional Women (BPW).

A new motto adopted in 2016, Woman + Education = Future, provides the framework for the national strategy, which in turn allows local sections to develop individual programmes and activities. SVA has regular interactions with Alliance F (the association of Swiss Women's associations), Business and Professional Women (BPW), the offices of equal opportunities of universities, the offices of equal opportunities of various Swiss cities and States as well as with alumni associations working on similar issues.

## Turkey

The **TURKISH ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (TAUW)** opened four new branches in different parts of Turkey in 2015 and 2016. The GWI Manifestos were translated into Turkish, made into a booklet and presented to members attending the semi-annual meeting in November 2015 in Kocaeli; the documents were then distributed to all branches. TAUW has increased communication and coordination between branches and empowerment of members: to that effect it organised five semi-annual meetings



between 2013-2016. On behalf of TAUW Headquarters the three Ankara branches, Kastamonu, İzmir, Bursa, and Kocaeli branches undertook the organisation of the semi-annual meetings and arranged seminars, training sessions and invited inspiring, role model speakers. These semi-annual meetings have participation of the members from all branches, which leads to growth. TAUW President and Board members made 20 branch visits to increase communication, coordination and solidarity. Motivated by these visits, branches have arranged meetings with universities, visits to local municipalities and organised events like seminars and panels in order to increase collaboration with local institutions. TAUW President Prof. Dr. Gaye Erbatır made speeches on panels and seminars and held training sessions together with branches totalling over 100 events in 2014-2016.

A major undertaking, TAUW organised and hosted the General Assembly and 31<sup>st</sup> Triennial Conference of the international Federation in İstanbul in 2013. This was hugely successful and many interesting seminars and events took place. The documents of the conference are gathered in a book, both in Turkish and English, and some copies were sent to the GWI office.

The main programme theme of TAUW during 2013- 2016 was to empower girls and women through education with the collaboration of municipalities and local government institutions. TAUW launched a training programme covering all branches called "Active Women Citizen". The programme consisted of 14 sessions with topics like communication, women's and children's rights, gender equality and health, and addressed the same group of women attending several courses arranged by municipalities. This first programme was completed in 2015 and is being repeated in 2016, reaching nearly 600 women and female university students. TAUW has also adopted the idea of empowering its members and providing support from woman to woman; it aims to activate members by offering them participation in training sessions related to their profession.

TAUW has continued with the Friendship Bridge Project, which supports girls through their university studies both financially and morally. The number of fellowship students reached 750 in 2016. Each fellowship student is funded by a donor or a TAUW member granting a small amount of money every month. Our members and

donors come together with our fellowship students monthly at an organised event that helps the girls to socialise, raise awareness or provide self-improvement. TAUW provides guest or member speakers, film shows, sight-seeing tours as well as mentoring and personal support.



TAUW has been extremely active advocating against early and forced marriage as a form of human and children's rights violation. The Istanbul Branch carried out a project on child brides whereby fellowship students attended training sessions about the consequences of early and forced marriages. These students then returned to advocate on the negative aspects of being child brides in their own communities and neighbourhoods. This project is held with 52 volunteer fellowship students and reached 348 women, with a strong multiplier effect. Given its positive impact, this programme will be

extended to all our branches in 2016 and over the next triennium.

The Antalya Branch organised a conference in May 2014 where nine experts presented papers on child bride issues. These were about mental, educational, social, legal and health problems of child brides. Prof. Fulya Sarvan, Antalya branch board member, collected the conference documents into a book titled "No to Child Brides"; this book was distributed to all TAUW members at the semi-annual meeting in November 2015 in Kocaeli. TAUW also advocated that children must be protected from incest as a form of human and children's rights violation. TAUW worked with National Federation of Women's Associations in investigating and mapping of incest to draw attention on the issue. Gender equality, rights of women, domestic violence, women in working life and women in politics were other issues on which TAUW advocated. TAUW also worked on the preparation and writing of the 7<sup>th</sup> shadow report for CEDAW.

TAUW took part in a project of a Beyoğlu provincial government institution aimed at helping women to become entrepreneurs. This project also built a help centre for women willing to start up their own business. TAUW's role in this project was to give courses on law and gender equality, as well as to provide legal counselling.



In 2014, 301 miners died in a mine explosion in Soma. TAUW received a donation from the Japanese Association of University Women, which became the cornerstone of a project: a fund was created with that money and the donations of TAUW members. In cooperation with the Soma Women Solidarity Association, the Aegean University and provincial government of Soma TAUW supported the community. The Aegean University taught women cooking, food hygiene and marketing. The provincial government of Soma provided a place to build a kitchen for free. TAUW paid for the necessary kitchenware for a professional kitchen, assisted with the application of a patent for a specific Soma cookie and promoted the cookies and special dried soup.

TAUW is represented at the Checks and Balances Network, consisting of 115 civil society organisations that represent different segments of Turkey and are at equal distance to every political part and formation. The network is supporting the work for the reform of the constitution and is making sure that civil society organisations and citizens participate in policy and decision-making processes. TAUW also works in coordination with other civil society organisations as a member of several federations and platforms such as National Federation of Women Associations, Union of Istanbul Women Organisations, National Platform of No to Child Brides, Platform on Monitoring the Istanbul Convention, and Platform for Ending Violence.

## Uganda

The [UGANDAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN \(UAUW\)](#) has been active in this triennium, with UAUW programmes and a joint GWI/UAUW project. The *Teachers for Rural Futures* project aims to increase access and quality in girls' secondary education in rural Eastern and Northern Uganda by increasing the number of qualified women teachers in rural secondary schools. The first two girls from Eastern Uganda, Buyende district, were enrolled for teacher education training starting in September 2015 at Makerere University. The association assisted GWI in preparing and screening a second round of candidates from the Buyende district for enrollment in 2016.

A local advisory board was established to inform the project and UAUW has run community sensitisation to encourage the local Buyende communities to the importance of education for girls. The two student teachers enrolled in 2015 are assisted by UAUW members, to ensure that they can complete their studies successfully. Makerere University has generously donated an office for UAUW use.

Monthly meetings were held to discuss various projects. UAUW participated in the GWI Capacity building workshop in Nairobi in 2015. UAUW used the GWI template to set up a website.

UAUW has also worked on the development of a project aimed at gender sensitisation of school laboratory technicians. Twenty schools in Kampala have been identified to participate in this project, for which funding is being sought. A project that aimed to provide lifelong skills and craftmaking to school children in two schools, and school drop outs, in the Kampala district is currently being completed and evaluated.

Ten years ago Rotary USA donated thirty sewing machines to UAUW for use in urban primary schools for girls in school drop outs and women. In 2016 twenty were taken to two other schools for use, to provide skills in sewing.

## United States of America

For the past two years, [WOMEN GRADUATES-USA \(WG-USA\)](#) has focused on themes related to violence against women, particularly in the areas of human trafficking, global secondary education, and peace and disarmament. Lately, education in war and conflict has increasingly become a priority. WG-USA is primarily a membership and advocacy group, even though virtual, and has been growing steadily thanks to its communications and activities. WG-USA's advocacy activities encompassed writing against gender inequalities in regards to climate change; writing a letter to the UN Representative on the recommendations of Security Council Open Debate on UN SC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security; supporting a resolution in recognition of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and writing a letter to the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) about Amnesty International's Draft Policy on Sex Work. WG-USA urged the President of the United States to make a firm stand on the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. WG-USA supported the Kentucky members working for state approval of CEDAW.

WG-USA frequently interacts with and invites speakers from Polaris, the United States State Department and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on Human Trafficking issues. The group works with the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) by presenting workshops, attending briefings and adding language to the delegates' reports. WG-USA works in coalition with Nonviolent Peaceforce, the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF), the Coalition Against the Violence of Women and Girls, SPACE International, the Permanent Mission of India, Akshara Women's Center, Mumbai, India, and Girls for Gender Equality.

In 2016, Women Graduates-USA hosted two workshops and sponsored a third at the NGO CSW's parallel event in New York, March 14-24. The parallel event turns its focus to women and gender-related issue worldwide. The first WG-USA workshop submitted by Jeanette Westbrook, "The World's Oldest Oppression: Violence and Torture against Women and Girls: Prostitution, Trafficking, and Non-State Torture" featured Jeanette, WG's Human Trafficking convener; Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald, Canadian human rights defenders, authors and leading world experts on Non-State Torture and Rachel Moral, an Irish author, prostitution survivor and founder of SPACE International. The second workshop submitted by Geeta Desai, "Our Bodies Are Not Public Property: Stop the Street Harassment of Women through Advocacy and Partnerships", featured speakers from the Permanent Mission of India; Akshara Women's Center, Mumbai, India; the Mid-Hudson Hindu Samaj and Girls for Gender Equality.

WG-USA was one of the sponsors of the Nonviolent Peaceforce presentation, "Women Peacekeeping Teams Use of Unarmed Civilian Protection Methods in South Sudan". All of the workshops were well attended and brought WG-USA in contact with women with similar ideas throughout the world. WG-USA workshop organisers reached out to multiple international NGO groups who advocate for shared issues, and will continue the relationships with and support for these groups. WG-USA is also hosting a social media petition that will result in educational practices that eliminate male harassing behaviours that threaten the education, safety and well being of women and girls.

## Zambia

The ZAMBIA ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (ZAUW) has been working hard to make the association visible in Zambia, through social media and events. The main theme underscoring ZAUW's work has been "Supporting girls in non-traditional fields of study to complete tertiary education".

An annual lunch is held on International Women's Day structured around recognising and honouring women who have broken the glass ceiling in non-traditional professions for women. Another event to honour the first females of their professions was held and these women were profiled by a national newspaper, the Post. ZAUW provided support towards meeting tuition fees for 12 female students pursuing non-traditional courses at the University of Zambia. Seven of the girls had successfully completed their studies and graduated by the end of 2015.



ZAUW, together with other nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), focused on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, participated in the review of the newly enacted National Constitution which was organised by the Nongovernmental Coordination Council (NGOCC). NGOCC is an umbrella body for NGOs focused on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

# Kenya

INDEPENDENT MEMBER DR EVERLYN OLUOCH-SULEH

As part of GWI's *Girls' Choices* project, a voluntary mentoring workshop on gender education and leadership was delivered to students of Huruma Girls' High School in Nairobi, Kenya. This was in line with Graduate Women International's ongoing commitment to increase the number of girls completing secondary education and transitioning to university, further education or work. A group of twenty girls was mentored in 2015. The participants gained a basic understanding of gender and leadership.



They also had the opportunity to discuss, brainstorm, foster critical thinking and practice by actively sharing individual perspectives among their peers. The students explored what leadership means to them and engaged in interactive discussion with their peers to define specific traits they see as necessary for every effective leader in the home, community, country or government. A participant exercise was completed to encourage critical thinking, practice of public speaking skills and building personal self-confidence by challenging themselves and receiving positive feedback from peers. The students made connections between the basic concept of leadership, women as leaders and leadership in action using relevant female role models in Kenya and Africa as a whole.

The mentorship aimed at increasing the number of girls completing secondary school, providing critical understanding of gender and leadership to the girls, empowering them to understand the decisions which affect their lives and providing the girls with access to information for their professional development after school, in the workplace or further/higher education. The workshop aimed at encouraging the girls to work hard and pursue their dreams. It was to help raise the students' self-esteem through exposure and to make them aware of gender roles which should not hinder them from achieving their goals. It was a fulfilling experience and the girls suggested further topics that they would like to be handled.

# Some examples of organisations with whom our members work....

Alliance F (Association of Swiss women's associations)

Akshara Women's Center

Austrian Frauenring

Bund Österreichischer Frauenvereine and Frauenring (BOEF)

Business and Professional Women (BPW)

Checks and Balances Network

Coalition Against the Violence of Women and Girls

Concordia AIDS

DEBRA

DNK – Association for Non-Violent Communication

economic Security4Women Inc (eS4W)

Egyptian Association for the Friends of Bibliotheca Alexandrina (EAFBA)

Equality Rights Alliance (ERA)

European Women's Lobby

Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE)

Finnish National Council of Women

Girls for Gender Equality

International Women's Year Liaison Group Japan

Japan Women's Watch

Japan National Women's Committee of the United Nations NGOs

National Platform of No to Child Brides

New Zealand National Council of Women

Nonviolent Peaceforce

NYTKIS (Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations)

Platform for Ending Violence

Platform of Monitoring Istanbul Convention

SAPA

Sonke Gender Justice

Soroptimists International

SOS Helpline

SPACE international

Spanish Cancer League

Swedish Women's Lobby

Turkish National Federation of Women's Association

United Nations Organisation (UNO)

United Nations (UN) Women

Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF)

Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) Nigeria

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA)

Zambian NonGovernmental Coordination Council (NGOCC)

Zonta International



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This document represents a snapshot of the activities that the member federations and associations of GWI have carried out over the years 2013-2016. It is based on information that was provided to GWI and is not a comprehensive portrait of all the varied and interesting activities that they carry out. For more information please visit the GWI website ([www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)), where links to all member organisations can be found.

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