



Graduate Women  
International (GWI)

# Press Release

## **GWI urges States to accelerate equal opportunities for girls and women in the peacebuilding process**

**Geneva, Switzerland**, 21 September 2017 – Graduate Women International (GWI) marks the International Day of Peace by celebrating the significance of girls' education in the peace process. [International Day of Peace](#) is a day devoted to strengthening non-violent ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples. The 2017 theme is [Together for Peace: Respect, Safety, and Dignity for All](#).

A peaceful world depends on the education of girls. Educating girls promotes independent thinking and develops the communication and negotiating skills necessary for girls to confidently engage in political and diplomatic fora and contribute to the global peace process. Given the positive effect girls can have on peace building, GWI remains concerned over the reduction of corporate, governmental and private humanitarian aid devoted to education. According to UNESCO, aid to education is stagnating, not going to countries most in need, and has dropped in priority for the sixth year in a row. This unashamed set of values from world and local leadership cannot continue if the 2030 Agenda is to be realized.

"GWI and its National Federations and Associations are stopping idle chatter and making positive contributions to girls' education such as the Teachers for Rural Futures Program. We urge governments, and the private and corporate sectors to commit adequate resources for girls' education and to employ education programmes that foster universal peace and contribute positively to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda," says GWI President, Geeta Desai.

To further celebrate International Day of Peace GWI shares its participation in the video on peace education developed by United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs in collaboration with the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education Partners committee. The Committee, of which GWI is proud to contribute and maintain membership, unites international NGOs who work for peace and disarmament. In the video, GWI United Nations Representative, Elisabeth Francis, expressively speaks about GWI's commitment to the peace process through girls' education. The full video can be watched [here](#).

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 60 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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