



## IFUW Update – 17 December 2014



*The [Center for Education](#) at the Brookings Institution mobilise for children's rights, supporting local leaders and improving girls' education*

### International Federation of University Women news

#### IFUW joins CHARGE

IFUW has become a new joiner of the Collaborative for Harnessing Ambition and Resources for Girls' Education (CHARGE), convened by the Center for Universal Education (CUE) at the Brookings Institution and the No Ceilings Initiative at the Clinton Foundation, to unite action on girls' education. CHARGE is championed by former United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Prime Minister of Australia Julia Gillard and has been joined by more than 30 global actors. Read the press release [here](#).

#### Mobilising for Children's Rights, Supporting Local Leaders and Improving Girls' Education

On 12 December, IFUW attended a panel on "Mobilising for Children's Rights, Supporting Local Leaders and Improving Girls' Education" hosted by CUE at The Brookings Institution in Washington DC. The keynote address from First Lady Michelle Obama emphasised that "Educating girls is one of the most powerful things we can do, not just for girls and their families, but for their communities and their countries." The First Lady Obama highlighted the importance of keeping girls in school and supporting their transitions through school in adolescence and into the workforce. On the opening panel, former Australian Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, discussed the status of girls' education globally, highlighting the CHARGE initiative and its inclusion of community-based solutions, which will be critical to address complex barriers in girls' education. [Read more](#).

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### National Federation and Association (NFA) news

#### USA

Women Graduates USA (WG-USA) has launched an online "[Roadmap for Advocacy](#)", a multi-step training guide to learn how to advocate. The Roadmap is divided across three modules: "Getting Started", "Taking it to the Next Level" and "Strategic Advocacy". WG-USA Advocacy Convener, Geeta Desai, describes advocacy as "the deliberate process of influencing decision makers to support and implement actions that contribute to the fulfillment of human rights especially women's rights." Read more about the numerous other advocacy initiatives of WG-USA, including how to get involved, [here](#).

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### Advocacy

#### IFUW presents on the role of gender equality and education in the SDGs

On 9 December, IFUW Advocacy and Communications Officer Aoife Hegarty gave a guest lecture at the University of Durham, Great Britain, as part of the "Gender and Law at Durham" (GLAD) lecture series. The

lecture, “*Raising the Bar: Education and Empowerment of Girls and Women in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda*” examined the sustainable development goals (SDGs), specifically how they relate to education and gender equality. IFUW’s [recommendations](#) for Post-2015 education goals were also discussed, many of which have been incorporated in the [outcome report](#) of the SDGs. An important express target included in the SDGs is “[the] eliminat[ion] of gender disparities in education and ensur[ing] equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations”. IFUW advocates strongly for the introduction of tailored and accessible education for at-risk groups, especially amongst marginalised girls and women, as lifelong, quality learning is [a right](#) that should be provided to everyone, without discrimination.

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## Proposals & Workshops

### International symposium on combatting violence against women

Public Policy Exchange will host an event on “*Eliminating Domestic Violence in Europe: Implementing Strategies for Protection and Prevention*” in Brussels, Belgium, on 25 February 2015. The Symposium will facilitate thought-provoking topical debate with local and regional practitioners and policymakers at EU level on how best to tackle gender dimension of intimate partner violence. More information on the programme and registration available [here](#).

### Echidna Global Scholar, Center for Universal Education

The Center for Universal Education (CUE) at The Brookings Institution is calling for applications for the promotion of girls’ education in developing countries. The Echidna Global Scholars Programme provides successful candidates a four-and-a-half month residency from 1 August to mid-December 2015 at The [Brookings Institution](#). This program is designed to offer guest scholars from developing countries the opportunity to pursue their own independent [research](#) on global education issues with a specific focus on girls’ education. Deadline for applications: **19 December 2014**. Read more on eligibility criteria [here](#).

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## Did you know?

[40%](#) of the global workforce is made up of women, [50.5%](#) of whom are in vulnerable employment. Women also systematically earn less pay than men, receiving on average [70-90%](#) of male wages, though with even greater gaps in certain countries. Yet if women’s paid employment rates were raised to the same level as men’s, the United States’ Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would be an [estimated](#) 9% higher, the euro zone’s 13% and Japan’s 16%.

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## Other information and events

December 18	<a href="#">International Migrants Day</a> , Global
February 24	<a href="#">Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy</a> , Geneva, Switzerland
February 25	<a href="#">Eliminating Domestic Violence in Europe</a> , Brussels, Belgium
March 8	<a href="#">International Women’s Day</a> , Global
March 9 – 20	<a href="#">Commission on the Status of Women</a> , UN Headquarters, New York, USA

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Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. IFUW is in special consultative status with ECOSOC and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO.

**International Federation of University Women, Fédération Internationale des Femmes Diplômées des Universités**

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