



IFUW Update – 24 December 2014



Secondary school girls in Rwanda participating in [the Uwicyeza project](#)

International Federation of University Women news

International Migrants Day

On the occasion of [International Migrants Day](#) (18 December), IFUW emphasised that states must ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrants, especially the world's 15 million refugees – the majority of whom are women and children. Recognising that migrant women are a distinctly vulnerable economic group, IFUW insists that the empowerment of women should be a specific target in all migration policies including by providing recognition to foreign qualifications and access to linguistic and vocational training. Read IFUW's Press Release in full [here](#).

National Federation and Association (NFA) news

Rwanda

An opportunity to support girls in Rwanda to complete secondary school

The Uwicyeza project provides secondary school girls in Rwanda with critical knowledge and practical skills, crucial for their personal and professional development. The programme supports girls in Rwanda to successfully transition from secondary school to higher education or work through mentoring and workshops in leadership development, networking, gender-based violence awareness, and gender knowledge. While Rwanda has made tremendous progress in gender equality over the last 20 years, in the home and in communities challenges and barriers remain that prevent girls from completing secondary school and achieving their full potential. Uwicyeza is an opportunity to support these girls to stay in school so that they become drivers of positive social and economic progress. Uwicyeza is a project developed by Katie Carlson, a member of the Rwanda Association of University Women and IFUW. [Find out more and make a donation to Uwicyeza here](#). You can watch a video clip of the Uwicyeza project in action [here](#).

Advocacy

UNESCO International Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) 2014

This conference took place at UNESCO's Headquarters in Paris, France, from 15 to 17 December 2014, bringing together all of UNESCO's NGO partners. It is an element of the collective cooperation enshrined in the Directives concerning UNESCO's partnership with NGOs. IFUW, as an NGO in official relations with UNESCO, attended the conference with a particular focus to support the promotion of quality education in the post-2015 agenda. The conference focussed on the theme "Re-enchanting the World with the

Post 2015 Development Agenda” and highlighted the crucial role of NGOs in the compilation of comprehensive goals for post-2015 and their pivotal role in the achievement of all development goals. [Read more.](#)

Proposals & Workshops

International symposium on eliminating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Europe

Public Policy Exchange will host an event on “Free from Fear, Free from Pain: *Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation in Europe*” in Brussels, Belgium, on 20 January 2015. This timely symposium provides an invaluable opportunity to gain an understanding of the current EU legal framework and what more needs to be done to eradicate FGM. The symposium will examine how a multi-sector approach can be strengthened, and explore issues around prevention, the importance of specialist services and the greater role of health and education providers in ensuring better awareness and early intervention. Read more and register [here](#).

Projects grants available to tackle poverty in developing countries

The [Global Innovation Fund](#) (GIF) has opened funding proposals for grants, loans and equity of between £30,000 to £10m for social innovations to transform the lives and opportunities of people living in poverty. Both ‘education’ and ‘girls and women’ are expressly [included](#) as potential areas of support. GIF supports projects at three stages: pilot, test and scale – and is open to ideas from any sector and any country provided that the innovation targets those living on under \$5, or preferably, under \$2 a day. Click [here](#) for a full list of eligible countries. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. Read further for more [information](#).

Season’s Greetings from IFUW!

The Board, the committees and the staff of IFUW wish to thank all our partners and friends warmly for the encouragement and support we received in 2014. Special thanks to our wonderful United Nations Representatives, volunteers and interns, whom we are privileged to count as part of the IFUW team. We send season’s greetings and hope that 2015 will bring health and happiness to all.

Other information and events

December 23 – January 1	IFUW closed for winter vacation (office re-opens 2 January 2015)
January 20	Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation in Europe , Brussels, Belgium
February 24	Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy , Geneva, Switzerland
February 25	Eliminating Domestic Violence in Europe , Brussels, Belgium
March 8	International Women’s Day , Global
March 9 – 20	Commission on the Status of Women , 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.

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