



Graduate Women
International (GWI)

Press Release

Graduate Women International (GWI) in partnership with the Fiji Association of Graduate Women (FAWG) and the Fiji National University (FNU) is co-hosting a seminar on Education in the Pacific: Bridging the Gender Gap

Geneva, Switzerland, 29 October 2015 – Graduate Women International (GWI) is co-hosting a regional seminar with the Fiji Association of Graduate Women (FAWG) and the Fiji National University (FNU) in Suva, Fiji on *Education in the Pacific: Bridging the Gender Gap*. The seminar will take place on 29 October 2015, 19.00-21.00, at Fiji National University, Lecture Theatre 1, Raiwai Campus, Suva. The multi-stakeholder panel will include: Ms Michelle Reddy, Fiji Women's Rights Movement; Ms Jasmine Mohammed, Lecturer with the School of Education, Fiji National University, and Reverend James Bhagwan, Secretary for Communication and Overseas Mission in the Methodist Church of Fiji. The panel will share their expertise in the advancement of gender equality and women's leadership through secondary and tertiary education.

President of GWI Catherine Bell states: "GWI welcomes this opportunity to engage with Pacific partners and experts on the potential of education to foster gender justice and greater political and economic participation of women and girls in the region."

President of FAWG Dr. Zakia Ali-Chand states: "FAWG is delighted to collaborate with GWI on this event. It will bring much needed support to women's associations in Fiji and the Pacific and enable us to increase our impact on girls' and women's education and gender equality."

Acting Vice Chancellor of FNU Professor Ian Rouse states: "Fiji National University is proud to partner with Graduate Women International and the Fiji Association of Graduate Women, to host this seminar. It provides an important opportunity to bring together high level speakers and stakeholders to discuss how to further gender equality through education."

Advancing women's leadership potential and gender justice in the Pacific is a key condition for achieving women's full participation in the political, social and economic development of their communities and countries. The panel discussion will set the scene for a stimulating discussion on this timely regional theme, with audience participation. The seminar will draw on policies and case studies which highlight initiatives that foster girls' and women's participation at higher levels of decision-making, and promote gender justice to ensure women's access to justice and rights. The seminar will be followed by a drinks reception.

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with a 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 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.



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Fiji Association of Women Graduates (FAWG) is a voluntary, non-profit organisation of women graduates working to promote lifelong education, to improve the status of women and girls and to enable women to effect positive change for a peaceful world. FAWG is an affiliate of GWI.

Fiji National University (FNU) was formally established in 2010; however, it has a long history of relevant education dating back to the origins of its component colleges, through institutions that were established according to national needs and aspirations as these developed. The following institutions were brought under the umbrella of Fiji National University: Fiji School of Medicine, Fiji School of Nursing, Fiji Institute of Technology, Lautoka Teachers' College, Fiji College of Advanced Education and Fiji College of Agriculture.

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