



Graduate Women
International (GWI)

Press Release

World Teachers' Day 2015: GWI calls for governments' commitment to teachers to enable them to perform their vital role in nations' capacity for economic and social development

Geneva, Switzerland, 2 October 2015 – Graduate Women International (GWI) calls for states and policy makers to celebrate World Teachers' Day on 5 October 2015 and honour the specific objective under Goal 4 of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), adopted at the UN Summit in September 2015, to 'substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries'.

World Teachers' Day highlights the fact that teachers must be empowered as a critical step towards quality education, the cornerstone of nations' economic and social capacity. According to [UNESCO](#) 1.6 million teachers are missing in secondary classrooms, preventing 250 million children's ability to access and attain secondary and lifelong education, the majority being girls. GWI emphasises that teachers remain a key influence in the advancement of girls and women through education; it is essential that the international community and governments stand united to support teachers and quality learning worldwide.

GWI president Catherine Bell states: "It is an everyday reality in many parts of the world that teachers continue to face challenges brought about by staff shortages, poor training, low or no regular pay and low status. As potential agents of change in the lives of girls and young women, the importance of providing teachers with the appropriate training, salary and resources to be able to provide high quality education cannot be stressed highly enough".

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 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

-ends-

Learn about our [grants & fellowships](#) and our [advocacy work](#). Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter \(@GradWomen\)](#).

For more information please contact: Amy Paunila,
T: +41 22 731 23 80; Email: ap@graduatewomen.org