GWI Update – 11 November 2015

Participants from the GWI, FAWG and FNU Seminar Bridging the Gender Gap; Michelle Reddy, Jasmine Mohammed, Danièle Castle, Rev James Bhagwan, and Dr Eci Nabalarua

Graduate Women International news

Graduate Women International (GWI) hosts Regional Pacific Seminar, Bridging the Gender Gap
On 29 October 2015, Graduate Women International (GWI) hosted a panel discussion with the Fiji Association of Women Graduates (FAWG) and Fiji National University (FNU) to explore the advancements and effects of gender parity and gender equality on girls' and women's education in the Pacific region. Gender equality can be reached at the grass roots level in families, by involving all members of the family. At the community level, schools need to ensure that girls are equally treated, have equal opportunities for study, particularly in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) areas where there is still severe underrepresentation of girls in the Pacific Islands and elsewhere. Lifelong and in business settings, women need to have access to training and upskilling. At a policy level, governments need to ensure that gender policies are put into place and respected. Questions from the audience included subjects such as the need for disaggregated data in the Pacific Island countries and territories, what models of projects aimed at girls’ and women’s empowerment work, the need for programmes that also ensure that young persons with disabilities are included, as well as the need for positive, public role models in all walks of life. See here for more press clippings from the Pacific seminar.

GWI member news

Association Française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU) sends open letter to President Hollande on the rights of refugees from a feminist perspective
On 15 October 2015, Association Française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU) sent an open letter together with the Coordination Française pour le Lobby Européen des Femmes (CLEF) to the President of the French Republic and to the relevant ministers of the European Council. This letter reaffirms the claims that have been made collectively to all European governments on the rights of refugee women, from a feminist perspective. The letter addresses female refugees’ right to freedom from violence, reproductive health and protection against trafficking. For more information on AFFDU’s activities read here.

Advocacy

Graduate Women International calls for states and policy makers to actively promote the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) to women students on International Students Day
On International Students Day, 17 November 2015, Graduate Women International (GWI) will call for states and policy makers to take the opportunity to facilitate greater uptake of women into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. As four key strands of research and technological development, it is critical that women’s contribution in these fields is increased and integrated. Despite some improvement, the global average of women in STEM is still at less than parity. For this press release, please see here.

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**Grants and Proposals**

**Unilever Sustainable Living Young Entrepreneurs Awards 2015**
In partnership with Unilever and the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership, Ashoka Changemakers has launched the Sustainable Living Young Entrepreneurs Awards 2015, an opportunity for young social entrepreneurs (18-35 years old) with innovative and scalable technologies or initiatives that are contributing to one or more of the eight following Global Goals for Sustainable Development: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Responsible Consumption and Production, and Climate Action. Deadline for applications November 18 2015.

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**Legacies in favour of GWI**
As a non-profit, non-governmental organisation, GWI is sincerely grateful for all donations received from the wills of members and patrons, which make a significant difference in enabling advocacy activities and projects. By leaving a gift in your will to GWI, you are supporting the organisation to continue its mission to increase access to lifelong education for girls and women globally.

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**Other information and events**

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<tr>
<td>November 02 - 13</td>
<td>Universal Periodic Review (UPR) 23rd Session, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<td>November 14 - 15</td>
<td>Finnish Academic Women’s Association (SANL) AGM, Kaunianien, Finland</td>
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<td>November 23 - 26</td>
<td>GWI Board Meeting, Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<td>November 25</td>
<td>Tackling Youth Unemployment in Europe, Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<td>November 25 - Dec 10</td>
<td>Center for Women’s Global Leadership 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2015 Campaign</td>
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<td>November 26 - 27</td>
<td>Feminism and Sustainable Development, Postgraduate University, Mexico</td>
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<td>August 21 – 23 (2016)</td>
<td>GWI General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa (members only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 24 – 26 (2016)</td>
<td>GWI Triennial Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (open to the public)</td>
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**Follow us on social media!**

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

Graduate Women International
10, rue du Lac, CH-1207 Geneva, Switzerland; Tel: (+41 22) 731 23 80; Fax: (+41 22) 738 04 40
E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org

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