



Graduate Women  
International (GWI)

# Press Release

## **Graduate Women International is proud to announce a partnership with Orange Device Group to develop a mobile app to address barriers to girls' education**

Geneva, 18 January 2016 – Graduate Women International (GWI) is proud to announce its new partnership with Orange Device Group to develop a new mobile app for initial use in Rwanda and replicability in other countries. This app will provide immediate, easy access to material empowering girls to explore possibilities in their lives beyond traditionally limiting boundaries. While significant progress has been made in gender parity in primary and secondary education enrolment in Rwanda, barriers to achieving gender equality remain. Social norms, gender roles and stigma limit girls' achievements in and beyond school. This mobile app, developed by Orange Device Group with content by GWI, will directly address some of these difficulties, allowing a wide audience to be reached. It will be flexible in its adaptability to other national contexts.

Catherine Bell, President of GWI, states: "This partnership between GWI and Orange Device Group perfectly harnesses the expertise of two organisations working together to empower girls and young women through technology and education. Now, girls anywhere in Rwanda with a smart phone and a mobile signal will be able to access current, unbiased information to enable them to realise their potential for greater personal and professional development".

Paul William Delorme, Orange Device Group, comments: "This project has great scope for the African region beyond the initial development of the mobile application in Rwanda. We look forward to reaching girls across the region so that more complete their secondary education and gain choices for their future."

**Graduate Women International (GWI)** is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 80 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.

**Orange** is one of the largest operators of mobile and internet services in Europe and Africa and a global leader in corporate telecommunication services. Our ambition in AMEA is to ensure Orange becomes the benchmark operator, offering its customers an unrivalled connected experience, in a climate where the mobile phone is becoming the preferred means of contact for sales and services.

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### **Press enquiries**

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

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Paul William Delorme, Orange Device Group