



Graduate Women
International (GWI)

Press Release

On International Women's Day 2016, Graduate Women International calls for states and policy makers to recognise the unique social influence of women teachers as they shape the next generation of young women

Geneva, Switzerland, 8 March 2016 - Graduate Women International (GWI) takes this opportunity to call for states, policy makers and communities to highlight the importance of women teachers and their invaluable contribution to a more equal, productive society. On International Women's Day, which celebrates the achievement of women and their rights, past, present and future, GWI's focus is on women teachers as key to the empowerment of women and girls through education up to the highest levels. GWI therefore urges states and institutions to implement the [Sustainable Development Goal for Education](#) agreed in September 2015. Commitment to invest in women teachers is critical to bring about Goal 4, to *Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning* envisioned for the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). Through GWI's three campaign strands of Create Access, Celebrate Teachers' Achievement and Strengthen Teachers' Agency, GWI draws attention to women teachers as powerful drivers of social change ideally placed to positively influence girls and young women.

Women teachers need to be attracted and retained at all levels of education institutions, with a clear career path, regular upskilling opportunities and inflation-adjusted salaries in line with other professions. This can only be achieved by ensuring adequate investment in developing high quality teacher-training, ensuring gender parity in pay and deployment and by stringent monitoring of measures undertaken at all institutional levels. Of particular importance is the need for a gender balance in women secondary school teachers as positive role models in science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM) to encourage more young women into these fields.

GWI President Catherine Bell states: "The unique social position of women teachers and educators gives them the ability to inspire girls to stay in school and realise their potential. It is time to recognise their value with concrete action and give them a greater leadership and decision-making role at all institutional levels."

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.

-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