



GWI UPDATE 16 March 2016



Teaching Finnish literacy with Let's Read Together, an FFUW project

— Graduate Women International news —

GWI App development!

Graduate Women International (GWI) and [Paper Crown Institute](#) partnered to run a workshop with Rwandan teenage girls aimed at developing the GWI [Girls' Choices Mobile Application](#). The workshop took place in Kigali, Rwanda, with a group of teenage girls who participated enthusiastically to share their experiences in education and their hopes for the future, including potential barriers they expected. The mobile application (app), once developed, will be a fun and accessible way of supporting teenage girls to make informed choices in order to complete secondary school and transition to university, further education or professional work.

— GWI member news —

Reading Together in Finland

Fleeing war and persecution from around the world, a rising number of refugees and migrants have been entering Europe; this number has already passed 100,000 in 2016 alone. It is a challenge for European countries to integrate refugees and migrants into their societies, overcoming issues such as illiteracy. According to the UNHCR, women and children make up about 55% of the arrivals and are simultaneously the least educated and the most vulnerable to discrimination. Through its "[Let's Read Together](#)" programme, the [Finnish Federation of Graduate Women \(FFUW\)](#) offers language teaching to migrant women, providing them with a bridge to literacy, integration and empowerment. The Finnish Federation have set up a voluntary network to offer Finnish literacy teaching to women, with more than 630 teachers and over 6,000 students in 93 study groups across Finland. The programme leads the way in empowering migrant women in Finland through reading and beyond, and provides an example to be followed across Europe.

— Advocacy —

The Empowerment of Women is central to realising Sustainable Global Development

In a speech to commemorate [International Womens Day 8 March 2016](#), Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, (1990 - 1997) and former [United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (1997 - 2002),

and former member of GWI, stated that enabling the meaningful participation of women as key actors in sustainable global development is not just the right thing to do, it is also the smart thing to do. The global development sector has learned that if programmes designed for vulnerable communities do not engage with the women of the community, they rarely achieve their desired outcomes. This important lesson of access is reflected in the specific gender [Sustainable Development Goal 5](#) and GWI's aim of [educational access and inclusivity](#). Read the full speech [here](#).

— Events —

University Women of Europe in partnership with British Federation of Women Graduates Conference

[The University Women of Europe \(UWE\)](#) and the [British Federation of Women Graduates \(BFWG\)](#), a GWI national member, invites participants to the historic city of Winchester 24 - 27 June 2016 for their [Conference](#), with the theme '*Aspiration, Advancement, Achievement*' to encourage women into leadership roles. On the path to female leadership, aspiration needs to be raised through wider choices, experiences and more. The Conference will concentrate on enhancing the visibility of women role models, utilising their strengths in order to obtain promotions to leadership roles, and scaling up actions to ensure the economic empowerment of women. For more information and to register please see [here](#).

— Legacies —

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.

— Other information and events —

April	07 - 08	Bricks and Clicks for Europe Galway, Ireland
April	08 - 10	European Women and Sport Conference Stockholm, Sweden
June	24 - 25	Canadian Federation of University Women AGM Ontario, Canada
June	24 - 27	University Women of Europe AGM and Conference Winchester, UK
July	21 - 23	3rd Network Gender and STEM Conference 2016 Newcastle, UK
August	08 - 19	Women's Human Rights Education Institute Intensive Toronto, Canada
Nov	28 - 30	5th International Conference of Women's Museums , Mexico City

August 21 – 23 **GWI General Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa (members only)**

August 24 – 26 **GWI Triennial Conference, Cape Town, South Africa (open to the public)**



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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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