

Resolution 10

YOUNG MEMBERS IN GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

Proposed by: Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW)

Seconded by: Graduate Women International-Netherlands

The 32nd GWI General Assembly wishes to reaffirm Resolution 2004/*internal* and resolves that:

- 1. The GWI Board of Officers shall designate, at no extra costs, an existing Board Member to represent the Young Members (under the age of 40) on the Board and that the Board be accountable in providing structured and continued support for this indispensable group of members. This Board Member will be in charge of both the content and process concerning the Young Members and will see to it that office and staff facilitates this group;**
- 2. GWI establish a permanent structure within the framework of GWI, such as a Young Members Committee, which will be responsible for the communications and interaction for and by Young Members and the promotion of, for example, special projects and activities by and for Young Members, during the Triennium and at the General Assembly and Conference;**
- 3. The GWI Board of Officers support and promote opportunities and training for Young Members to gain managerial knowledge and expertise of GWI;**
- 4. The Board of Officers in consultation with Young Members shall continue to arrange a programme for the involvement of Young Members during the GWI General Assembly and Conference; and**
- 5. NFAs be urged to take similar, appropriate steps within their own NFA for their Young Members, e.g. to promote opportunities and training for Young Members, to source and share relevant information and arrange and/or facilitate a programme of events for and by Young Members.**

Suggested Plan of Action:

- 1. The Board of Officers should appoint one of the existing Board Members to represent the Young Members and liaise with them during the Triennium and at the General Assembly /Conference**

2. At the end of the 32nd General Assembly, a Committee (or Working Group) will be established consisting of young dedicated Members; they will work together with the appointed Board Member and be supported and facilitated as a special group by the office staff, during the Triennium and at the General Assembly/Conference
3. Official positions for Young leadership will be created within the structure of GWI, including a Code of Conduct/Working Rules. These positions will be open to all Young Members of NFAs and or Independent Members of GWI who fulfil the requirements, and an open, transparent procedure will decide who will be nominated
4. The Committee (or Working Group) will develop a Plan of Action in consultation with the Board Member for submission to the Board for final approval before July 2017, and
5. NFAs are encouraged to also appoint a Young Member representative within their decision making body.

Supporting statement:

This resolution is an updated version of an internal resolution on Young Members (YM) and IFUW that was passed at the Perth Conference (2004) and we wish to reaffirm this resolution and to reach out to younger generations.

In Perth a Board Member was appointed as liaison for Young Members to the advancement of all parties concerned. The Liaison kept in contact with the Young Members Group, represented them, their ideas and put suggestions to the Board and the office, which resulted in new and valuable input for IFUW/ GWI, such as themes for online discussions, young members acting as moderators for online discussions, developing a YM thermometer on subjects important to young members to inform the Board.

Furthermore, three official positions within the IFUW structure were created to encourage the Young Members, which included a Code of Conduct for each position. Candidates applied officially and were nominated by the Board at Conference. The three positions were:

1. *International Coordinator Young Members (ICYM), overall coordinator*
2. *Editor of the YM-Newsletter, publishing an e-newsletter twice a year, with articles written by and for Young Members themselves. The IFUW office facilitated this newsletter which was published on the IFUW website*
3. *The Moderator of the email list server Young Members encouraged discussion on subjects of interest to Young Members.*

The team of three young members worked together, initiated activities in between Conferences and at the General Assembly/Conference. This structure worked well for several years after which the interest of the GWI leadership in this important Group declined and IFUW/GWI no longer facilitated and supported them, which resulted in demotivated Young Members and young people leaving their NFAs.

The importance of The Young Members Group is to help to bridge the significant gap between the generations within GWI and help to create leadership positions and opportunities for young leadership. (see also results of the Leadership program in Mexico).

Social media is a perfect tool to connect people, especially young people, but is not enough. As one of the aims of GWI is about female leadership, this implies providing opportunities for generations, communicating between generations and investing in the future of Young members.