



GW I UPDATE 22 June 2016



Turkish Cypriot University Womens Association

— Graduate Women International news —

Graduate Women International (GWI) will serve as the global secretariat for a girls' education network

Local champions leading the way for girls' education have largely gone unnoticed. Despite real challenges—like inadequate public funding, poor learning outcomes, and gender inequalities—community leaders all over the world are chipping away at the problems by providing safe and quality education for girls despite difficult conditions. A multi-stakeholder process to collectively generate the scope and design of a network to support these efforts and enable millions of girls' enrolment and retention at secondary school has been underway for the past nine months, facilitated by the [Center for Universal Education at the Brookings Institution](#). The process has been driven by over 150 local girls' education champions from more than 20 countries around the world. [Graduate Women International](#) (GWI) will serve as the global secretariat for the network, which will connect local girls' education champions across sectors, regions, and countries to other organisations and networks that can learn from them, support them, and amplify their voices. Read more [here](#).

— GWI member news —

Turkish Cypriot Association of University Women (TACUW) hosts presentation and funds scholarships

In March 2016 the [Turkish Cypriot Association of University Women \(TACUW\)](#) hosted the noted Professor Oğuz Karakartal to give a presentation about the life of Hasane Ilgaz. She was instrumental in reporting on the educational system of the Turkish Cypriots to the Turkish authorities during the 1950s. She went on to become a member of the Parliament of Turkey. TACUW has also actively raised scholarship funds - for the 2016-2020 period, TACUW has raised enough to secure full scholarships for two successful Turkish Cypriot girls in financial need for the Cyprus American University in Nicosia.

— Advocacy —

Ending child marriage - civil society and community-driven initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa

Laws to end child marriage must be accompanied by integrated interventions in education, health and social protection, as well as awareness-raising activities in communities. Changing practices that are seen as coping mechanisms to protect girls and lift families out of poverty calls for context-specific solutions. In

Zimbabwe, two young girls successfully led a legal campaign to recognise 18 as the minimum age of marriage. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, civil society urged the Ministry of Gender to launch the African Union campaign to end child marriage. These are only two examples of community-driven initiatives that deserve wider support and recognition in a [region where 26% of girls are married before their 18th birthday](#). Civil society was able to provide inputs into the Model Law at a consultation held by [Girls Not Brides](#), in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Southern African Litigation Centre and Plan International earlier in March. GWI seeks to educate communities about the benefits of girls education through advocacy and projects such as [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) in Uganda.

— Applications —

UNESCO International Literacy Prizes now open for applications

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is calling for nominations for its two [Literacy Prizes](#), with a particular focus on innovation. Since 1967, UNESCO International Literacy Prizes have rewarded excellence and innovation in the field of literacy. Through these prestigious Prizes, UNESCO seeks to support effective literacy practices and encourages the promotion of dynamic literate societies. Over 470 projects and programmes undertaken by governments, non-governmental organisations and individuals around the world have been recognised. Deadline for nominations: 4 July 2016. [Details and the application forms can be downloaded here.](#)

— Give the gift of education —

[Join our GlobalGiving](#) campaign and help us raise \$50,000 to support 50 women student teachers in 2016. GWI provides scholarships and mentoring support to young women from rural areas of Uganda to become qualified teachers and ambassadors for girls' education. Donate now and help us train women teachers to train 1000s of students. You can read more about GWI's project Teachers for Rural Futures [here](#).

— Other information and events —

June	24 - 25	Canadian Federation of University Women AGM Ontario, Canada
June	24 - 27	University Women of Europe AGM and Conference Winchester, UK
July	14 - 15	Australian Higher Education Summit Melbourne, Australia
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.

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