

Press Release

Graduate Women International will host discussion on tackling violence and intimidation in education at the 32nd Triennial Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, 24-26 August 2016

Geneva, Switzerland, 27 July 2016 – Graduate Women International (GWI) will bring together education professionals and decision makers; gender, human rights and technology experts at the GWI [32nd Triennial Conference](#) in Cape Town, 24-26 August 2016. This conference will examine globally relevant education issues central to GWI's mission: empowering girls and women through quality education to the highest levels.

This conference, '[At the Crossroads of Education, Gender and Human Rights](#)', consisting of four strands or topic areas, will provide a forum to address a number of key issues in girls' education including barriers to girls' and women's education in the strand on violence and access to education. Worldwide, from 2009-2013 there were over 9,600 violent attacks on education, with incidents recorded in 70 countries¹. This violence takes many forms and occurs at all levels, preventing girls and women from enjoying their right to education. Attacks range from deadly military attacks on schools in conflict-affected contexts; gender-based violence in the classroom; the threat of attack or abduction on the journey to or from school; or in an online form through cyberbullying or online abuse. Physical and online intimidation of school teaching staff and university academics, inhibiting their right to free speech and effective teaching, impacts on quality learning and positive social change for all.

Conference sessions addressing this strand consist of interactive panels, seminars and workshops. Ms Carla Licciardello from the [International Telecommunications Union](#) (ITU) will lead a panel on *Cyberbullying and Intimidation*, while Ms Sally C Chamberlain from [Women Graduates-USA](#) (WG-USA) will investigate *Online Schools; Safe and Accessible Options for Quality Secondary Education*. An advocacy success story of community action addressing child marriage as a form of abuse will be examined in the workshop '*Friendship Bridge, a successful case study*', presented by members from the [Turkish Association of University Women](#) (TAUW).

GWI President Catherine Bell states: "GWI promotes safe access to education as a human right for all girls and women. It is only by protecting education places and education professionals that we can ensure girls' and women's educational attainment, their economic empowerment and full participation in society, as well as in peace-building and conflict resolution. GWI is proud to host this opportunity to share strategies on preventing violence from interfering with this key human right. Sign up today to join this exciting conference at www.gwiconference.org".

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international nongovernmental organisation (NGO) based in Geneva, Switzerland, with a presence in over 80 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for

¹ Education Under Attack 2014, Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) http://protectingeducation.org/sites/default/files/documents/eua_2014_full_0.pdf



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International (GWI)

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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.

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For more information on the conference and to register, please visit www.gwiconference.org
Learn about our [grants & fellowships](#) and our [advocacy work](#). Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)
and [Twitter \(@GradWomen\)](#)

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