



GWI UPDATE – 24 January 2017



Guided Tour of Hong-Kong as part of the Hong-Kong Association of University Women (HKAUW) 60th anniversary celebrations, Hong-Kong, December 1, 2018

— Graduate Women International news —

Welcome to the Pakistan Federation of University Women!

Graduate Women International (GWI) is delighted to announce that the Pakistan Federation of University Women (PFUW) has reaffiliated with the GWI network of National Federations and Associations (NFAs). “With the greatest pleasure GWI re-embraces our Pakistani sisters. Their voices from Pakistan will enrich and enhance GWI’s global reach and intensify our advocacy work to improve the status of women and girls worldwide. Welcome back”, said GWI Vice President, Eileen Focke-Bakker. Located in the Pakistani capital of Karachi, PFUW is headed by President, Ms. Akram Khatoon. She is assisted by Dr. Aquila Islam as Coordinator of International Relations and Ms. Anwar Shafi as Secretary. GWI recognises PFUW’s mission to empower women and girls by facilitating their access to quality secondary and higher education and to provide women and girls from marginalised communities with health and general education through non-formal means adapted to their environment.

— GWI member news —

Geeta Desai delivers keynote address at the 60th Anniversary of the Hong-Kong Association of University Women (HKAUW)

GWI congratulates the [Hong-Kong Association of University Women \(HKAUW\)](#) on the celebration of their 60th anniversary. At the celebration that took place in Hong Kong at the beginning of December GWI President, Geeta Desai, delivered the keynote address to attendees representing GWI NFAs from around the world including members from Australia, Egypt, Japan, Netherlands, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom and the United States. HKAUW has been committed for now more than half a century to raising the standard of women’s education by encouraging the pursuit of higher education for women. GWI commends HKAUW on its commitment to developing mutual helpfulness and friendship among university women.

Organised under the theme “*Empowering Women, Embracing the World*”, the occasion showcased HKAUW 60 years of achievement and revealed to participants the future directions of action for GWI.

The parallel conference, co-organised by HKAUW and the City University of Hong Kong, attracted a variety of participants including members from many NFAs, HKAUW as well as staff and students from local universities. This conference provided participants the opportunity to exchange knowledge, ideas and future goals for improving the lives of women and girls through the power of education. “In order to stem the tide against women’s and girls’ rights, now more than ever before, graduate women must develop the knowledge, skills and confidence that will enable them to participate in critical decision-making processes in the private and public sectors and at the community, state, national and global levels”, said Desai. “As key decision makers, an important future direction for graduate women is to represent women’s priorities in the development of a country’s domestic social and economic agenda”, she added.



President Geeta Desai delivers the keynote address at the HKAUW 60th anniversary conference on “Empowering Women, Embracing the World”.



Hong Kong Association of University Women Gala Dinner at the Helena May.

The Turkish Association of University Women celebrates its 68th anniversary



The President and the Board of the Turkish Association of University Women Gaziantep Branch with Fatma Şahin, former State Minister and Mayor of Gaziantep.

GWl applauds the celebration of the [Turkish Association of University Women \(TAUW\)](#)’s 68th anniversary. TAUW was founded on 19 December 1949 and has since played an active role in providing leadership towards a contemporary Turkey where women are equal, active and independent citizens. GWl also acknowledges the contribution of TAUW towards increasing the number of women university graduates in Turkey through the development of fellowship and scholarship programs for female

university students. TAUW counts today more than 1,000 members, united in 24 branches. On the TAUW 68th anniversary, GWI commends the TAUW Gaziantep on its dynamism. The TAUW Gaziantep branch was founded in 1989 and offers a wide range of activities to support GWI's mission of improving the safe access to secondary, higher and continuing education for girls and women through their 80 scholarships to female university students. TAUW also actively promotes the rights of girls and women through the preparation of multiple events each year.

125th anniversary of the first Australian Association of Graduate Women



Members of AFGW NSW under a recently acquired portrait of Louisa MacDonald.

GWI congratulates the Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) on their 125th anniversary of the Australian Association of Graduate Women and thanks AFGW President, Jane Baker, for the following account of the event:

“In 1892 the first Association of Women Graduates in Australia, Sydney University Women's Association (SUWA), was founded by Louisa MacDonald the first Principal of The Women's College of Sydney University. Louisa was their first President. Louisa was one of the two delegates from Australia at the first International Federation of University Women

(IFUW) Conference in London in 1920 with Mildred Muscio (née Fry) from the by then named Sydney University Women Graduates Association (SUWGA) and after this the first constitution of AFUW was drawn up and presented to IFUW in application for membership in 1922.

To mark this anniversary a lunch was held on 4 November 2017 at The Women's College, University of Sydney, attended by members of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women – New South Wales (AFGW NSW) including members of their recently elected 2017-18 Central Committee, Doreen Todd President, Tricia Blombery Treasurer AFGW NSW and Secretary AFGW, Jane Baker Vice President AFGW NSW and President AFGW, Greta Recsei Vice President AFGW NSW, Shirley Randell CIR AFGW NSW, Wendy Michaels Education Convenor AFGW NSW and Merle Thompson Honorary Business Manager AFGW.

Several new members attended as well as the President and Secretary of Sydney University Women's Group, descendants of the University staff component of SUWA.

The group photo is on the stairs at the Women's College under a recently acquired portrait of Louisa painted at about the time of her appointment and donated by family members. The other larger portrait is of Dame Quentin Bryce a more recent Principal of The Women's College and from 2006-2014 the first, and so far, only woman Governor General of Australia (the Queen's representative). A commemorative booklet of the history has been produced with a message included from GWI President Geeta Desai”.

Jane Baker, AFGW President

Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald publish a paper on Non-State Torture (NST)

GWJ congratulates Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald on the publication of their chapter on NST entitled [“No Longer Invisible : Families that Torture, Traffic and Exploit Their Girl Child”](#) in the journal of the Institute of Sociology of Onati, Spain. Members of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), human rights defenders, educators and nurses, Jeanne Sarson and Linda MacDonald are also independent scholars and leading experts on the question of NST. Their paper discusses NST families that organise the sexualized trafficking and exploitation of their daughter. The chapter includes a brief testimony by a woman who survived NST. GWJ encourages reading the publication to further examine this alarming gender-based human rights violation.

— Advocacy —

GWJ calls for the elimination of all forms of Female Genital Mutilations (FGM)

Beginning in 2003, 6 February marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). As defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) this practice comprises all procedures that intentionally alter or injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM is recognized by the United Nations as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. To mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM, GWJ draws attention to [Resolution 6](#), passed during the GWJ 32nd triennial Conference in Cape-Town, South Africa in August 2016. As stated in Resolution 6, GWJ “condemns this harmful and traumatic cultural practice meted out to young girls in their very tender years”. GWJ and its NFAs urge all governments to enact legislation forbidding all forms of FGM. Beginning 1 February, GWJ will conduct a social media campaign complete with [Facebook](#) posts, [Tweets](#) and a press release to further this commitment to the elimination of FGM and raise awareness about this harmful practice.

— Call for applications —

Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc. Barbara Hale Fellowships, 2018

The Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc. (AFGW) announced that [two AFGW Barbara Hale Fellowships](#) will be offered in 2018. The fellowships will be awarded to women graduates who are citizens or residents of Australia and who are enrolled for a PhD degree in research in any discipline at an Australian university. The Fellowships are offered for the second and subsequent years of a doctoral program. The funds must apply towards a specific project or purpose which will extend the scope of the original research on which a postgraduate applicant is already engaged. **The deadline is 31 May, 2018 at midnight (AEST).** Only online applications will be considered. Please click on the following links for the [application form](#) and [more information](#).

British Federation of Women Graduates Scholarships, 2018

The British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) is currently calling for application to its [BFWG Academic Awards for 2018](#). These scholarships are awarded in competition based on overall academic excellence. They are intended for female postgraduate students who commenced full time doctoral studies (PhD, DPhil, DMus etc.) between 1 September 2015 and 31 October 2016 or who was a part time student at an equivalent stage of her studies. To be eligible, the candidates must be registered at a university in England, Wales or Scotland (not Northern Ireland). **The deadline is 23 February, 2018.** Only email applications will be accepted. Information on eligibility requirements and application forms are available to download from the BFWG website [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

France, Israel and Romania are States under review at the 29th session of the Universal Periodic Review

The Human Rights Council's (HRC) Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group is currently holding its 29th session that will run until 26 January 2018. During the session of the UPR Working Group, three GWI NFAs are under review, including France, Israel and Romania. At the time of this publication, France and Romania have been reviewed at the session.

In the case of Romania, GWI acknowledges the recommendations to devote more resources to the education system in order to ensure full and equal access to quality education for all and especially the Roma community. Member States have expressed their concerns regarding the situation of women's rights in Romania. GWI urges the Romanian government to heed recommendations to strengthen the protection of women and girls from all forms of discrimination and violence, trafficking and force marriage.

France has been encouraged to reduce the impact of social inequalities on access to quality education for vulnerable individuals and particularly for women and girls belonging to racial, ethnic, national or religious minorities including those living in sensitive urban areas. France has also been advised by the UPR to continue with the promotion and protection of equality between women and men in all segments of public and private life, including the education system. GWI welcomes this recommendation which directly relates to increasing access and gender equality in secondary, tertiary and continuing education by removing the barriers. Recommendations and outcomes of the 29th session of the UPR will be available on the GWI website after the close of the session.

— Give the gift of membership —

Do you know a graduate woman who would like to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training? [Give the gift of membership](#) to join a global community of some 16'000 members in 60 countries, either as a GWI independent member or national member of one of our National Federations and Associations (NFAs).

— Did you know? —



Ellen Gleditsch, Unknown - Oslo Museum

GWl fondly remembers one of its outstanding members and former president, Professor Ellen Gleditsch. Did you know that 2018 will mark the 50th anniversary of her death?

Born in 1897, she was a Norwegian radiochemist and Norway's second female professor. She was one of the first pupils of Madame Curie at the Radium Institute in Paris in 1907. This resulted in a lifelong cooperation and friendship between the two women. A devoted member of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), she was Vice-President from 1924 to 1926 and President from 1926 to 1929. She was active establishing scholarships for women students so that they could devote their time to studies. It was at the Kristiania

(Oslo) conference in 1924 where Ms. Gleditsch teamed with GWI founding mother Virginia Gildersleeve, to establish scholarships. She also worked with political refugees and was on the League of Nations committee for intellectual cooperation. GWI is proud to further the values and ideals of such an outstanding woman.

— Other information and events —

Until March 2018	Les Olympes de la Parole , University Women's Club of Montreal, (CFUW-GWI)
Jan 29-Feb 7	Commission for Social Development, 56th Session , United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
February 6	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, Global
February 11	International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Global
March 1	Zero Discrimination Day, Global
March 8	International Women's Day, Global
March 12-23	Commission on the Status of Women, 62th Session , United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
June 16-18	University Women of Europe (UWE) Annual Meeting, Rome Italy
March 14-15	ZurichEduCaExpo 2018 - 2nd International Education & Career Exhibition , Zurich, Switzerland
April 17-19	Federation of University Women Africa (FUWA) Regional meeting, Bibliotheca Alexandrina's Conference Center, Alexandria, Egypt
July 31-Aug 2	4th Gender & STEM Network Conference , Oregon, USA

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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 since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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