GWI Membership Toolkit

Membership & Communications

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international non-governmental organization (NGO) based in Geneva, Switzerland, with some 17,000 members in over 70 countries.

Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls’ and women’s global organization advocating for women’s rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels.

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Mission

Graduate Women International (GWI), founded in 1919 as the International Federation of University (IFUW), is a worldwide, non-governmental organisation of women graduates, whose purpose is to:

- Promote lifelong education for women and girls;
- Promote international cooperation, friendship, peace and respect for human rights for all, irrespective of their age, race, nationality, religion, political opinion, gender and sexual orientation or other status;
- Advocate for the advancement of the status of women and girls; and
- Encourage and enable women and girls to apply their knowledge and skills in leadership and decision-making in all forms of public and private life.

To achieve these aims, GWI shall:

- Represent and advocate the views of graduate women in international fora;
- Enable graduate women to use their expertise to effect change at all levels;
- Provide an interdisciplinary approach to issues; and
- Promote cooperation, networking, support and understanding among graduate women.
Presentation Video: Who We Are

GWI is an international NGO that was founded in 1919 by Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, Professor Caroline Spurgeon and Rose Sidgwick as the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

RESOURCES

https://youtu.be/LDX76tVdiu4
**GWI Strategic Plan 2017-2019**

**Goal 1**
Renew focus on Education Advocacy; Become a leader in global and national advocacy for women’s and girls’ education

- Ensure that GWI continues to be a diverse organization with many different voices. Diversity in our collective voice is powerful.
  - Connect, engage and retain members through GWI resolutions

**Goal 2**
Increase membership world-wide

- Help NFAs recruit members

**Goal 3**
Market to increase recognition of GWI as a credible 21st century graduate women’s advocacy organization

- Pursue Private Foundation, Corporate Foundation grants & donations from high net worth individuals
- Plan to implement GWI’s Centenary celebration in 2019

**Goal 4**
Develop funding sources and activities to financially stabilize this organization

- Develop and institutionalize governance that supports the growth, sustenance and success of a 21st century women’s membership organization

**Goal 5**
Develop financial management practices that are user-friendly, transparent and support the range of needs of this organization

**Goal 6**
Ensure strong internal controls for fulfillment of the Board’s fiduciary responsibilities

- Comply with Swiss Law

**Build knowledge throughout the GWI system about past, present & future UN & other multi-lateral commitments to education**

- Develop an advocacy blueprint for GWI’s UN representatives

**Promote Twinning among NFAs to encourage collaboration & friendship & the advancement of GWI's mission**

**Offer training to members in global & national advocacy & Leadership**

**Empower members to practice advocacy with all stakeholders that have the potential to impact education within their countries**

**Work with global partners who will enhance GWI’s mission based work**

**Develop position on all GWI projects**

**Marketing Support for GWI’s fund development & fundraising efforts**

**Evaluate existing marketing components**

- Continue to encourage individual donations & bequests
- Continue online fundraising

- Participate in Escalade annually in December
GWI’s Board of Officers and Committee Convener are elected every three years by GWI members at the General Assembly. The GWI General Assembly is held every three years. It is the governing body of GWI, and elects GWI Board and Officers. GWI has a small and dedicated team that serves its members whilst managing our advocacy work and GWI programmes.

GWI Board & Committees

2016-2019

The Education Committee

The Education Committee, previously known as the Status of Women Committee, plans and promotes programmes that carry out the purposes, projects and resolutions of GWI and facilitates liaison with international and inter-governmental bodies; is responsible for planning the GWI action theme for the triennium and for providing a conceptual outline, implementation guidelines for national affiliates’ study and action, resource material and website material, as appropriate. The Committee also coordinates the interdisciplinary seminars and workshops at GWI Conferences and highlights projects and triennial theme activities showing best practice.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee advises on all GWI financial policy and administration; prepares annual estimates for the approval of the General Assembly; supervises the annual expenditure of GWI and the use and investment of its funds; and is responsible for ensuring that the expenditure of GWI remains within the terms of the budget approved by the General Assembly.

Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee oversees the call for resolutions to the General Assembly; receives proposed resolutions; encourages joint submissions, checks for conformity in structure and wording and prepares final versions of resolutions for circulation to national affiliates. The Committee assists in the preparation of amendments, and works with staff to assemble a consensus document for distribution to delegates prior to the final voting session at the General Assembly. Between Conferences the Committee works closely with the Education Committee, the Special Committee for Project Development and the UN Representatives in relating the resolutions to the implementation of activities by GWI and national affiliates.

Special Committee on Project Development

The Special Committee on Project Development assists GWI affiliates in the development and implementation of viable, sustainable community development, capacity building (e.g. leadership training) and income-generating projects. Committee members are expected to help with the initiation, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of projects and may be called upon to offer assistance in the screening and developing of funding proposals, including those for the Gina Ray Partners in Development Programme.

Committee for the Award of International Fellowships

The Fellowships Committee reviews applications for GWI fellowships and grants and selects the candidates to be recommended to the GWI Board of Officers to receive awards. Members are expected to assess applications submitted to the GWI (previously IFUW) fellowships competition by finalists from the national affiliates and independent members.

Executive Director: Stacy Dry Lara  |  Email: sdl@graduatewomen.org

RESOURCES

The GWI Constitution

GWI membership is open to all women graduates with recognised degrees, diplomas or equivalent qualifications from institutions of higher education, irrespective of age, ethnic group, nationality, political opinions, sexual orientation or religious belief.

GWI membership is also open to women who have been accepted for a Master’s or Doctoral programme at a recognised tertiary institution. Female university students who are currently enrolled in an institution of higher learning may join as student members.

Notwithstanding the above requirements, an NFA may invite to full membership a person who has demonstrated a commitment to promoting education for women and to the principles of GWI.

“Being an GWI member gave me an awareness about my rights as a woman. I am now looking for justice for my rights.”

Hidaat Asghedom, GWI independent member
GWI and its national affiliates offer members opportunities to:

- **Influence** policy and legislation on women’s issues at the international level
- **Gain** an international perspective of women’s issues
- **Belong** to an influential international non-governmental organisation
- **Access** an international multidisciplinary network of educated women around the world
- **Participate** in regional and global GWI conferences, seminars and training
- **Obtain** automatic eligibility to apply for fellowship grants
- **Promote** your personal expertise by presenting papers, workshops or seminars

*Membership is based on country of residence, not nationality.*

**RESOURCES**

If you have any questions, or would like further information, please email: gwi@graduatewomen.org.

Where we work
http://www.graduatewomen.org/where-we-work/

JOIN US
www.graduatewomen.org/take-action/become-a-member/
Become a Member
We invite you to become a member of GWI by joining one of our national federations or associations. Members of GWI's national federations and associations are automatically members of GWI.

Independent Membership
In countries where there is no national affiliation, independent membership is also available. Groups of 20 members are encouraged to start a new federation or association in countries where one does not exist.

Regional Groups
GWI's regional groups offer members opportunities to exchange ideas and work together with members from nearby countries, experiencing the international aspect of GWI.

Form a Group
GWI welcomes new associations from countries where there is no existing national federation or association.
Before you start to form a new association, please contact GWI so that we can assist you in the process.
Use the membership webinars to recruit and grow your membership.

If you have any questions, or would like further information, please email: gwi@graduatewomen.org.

JOIN US
www.graduatewomen.org/take-action/become-a-member/

www.graduatewomen.org/members-login/welcome/twinning
www.graduatewomen.org/members-login/welcome/webinars
(You will need a Vimeo account to view the webinars.)
BENEFITS to NFAs

- Building capacity and strengthening NFAs
- Share best practices
- Collaboration opportunities, build relationships and outreach, initiate new challenges

EXAMPLES of twinning opportunities

- Friendship Bridge Project: foster girls’ education through twinning
- Sister school projects: initiating cooperation between schools
- Facilitating new and/or blossoming NFAs through assistance with their projects such as Bina Roy projects.
- Study tours
- Friendship visits
- Conference
- Projects on building capacity
- Sharing a GWI Resolution
- Initiate internships, scholarship and mentor projects
- Apply together for funds such as EU funds.
- Attending regional meetings and GWI General Assembly

GWI Twinning

The more members involved the more voices

Graduate Women International (GWI) is looking for new ways for more cooperation among NFAs to promote global knowledge, friendship and solidarity. We need more voices across the globe to disseminate and implement our mission, vision and goals and to start projects. Diversity of GWI voices is our organisation’s strength. Twinning Projects are the best way to leverage our diversity by promoting cross geographic, cross demographic cooperation and teamwork.

Get your NFA involved

- Read the GWI Twinning Guide
- Find twinning partner(s)
- Request an application form
- Sign the GWI Twinning Agreement

Twinning is a linking or partnership between two or more GWI national federations or associations (NFA), affiliates to work together on a joint (friendship) project or to promote a common interest. It extends opportunities to meet and work with other graduate women throughout the world.

Twinning fosters collaboration and partnership, as both organisations work together in a two-way sharing of information which means that both are better off as a result. Strong non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are a driving force for change and progress. Promote twinning between BRIDP projects and countries.

Twinning is a formal, "two-way" collaboration or partnership between two or more organisations or groups. GWI's twinning program provides a framework for national federations or associations (NFAs) or NFA branches, or local groups, to work together in a partnership for a specific amount of time on a particular area of work or activity.

GWI can help with

- Promoting Twinning
- Working with likely candidates
- Providing facilitators to secure success
Update Newsletter

The GWI Update is a biweekly newsletter that provides information and news relevant to GWI and its members, as well as stakeholders interested in supporting the mission and activities of GWI. You can sign up easily by clicking here:

Sign Up Now

RESOURCES  http://www.graduatewomen.org/media-publications/update-newsletter/

InFocus Newsletter

The GWI InFocus is a bimonthly newsletter that provides information for GWI members.

GWI Members Corner

This section on the website is exclusively for GWI members only. Please, login to view the content. Members will find GWI information, tools, resources and a members' only forum for discussion.

RESOURCES  http://www.graduatewomen.org/members-login/
GWI Member Discussion Networks

GWI Discussion Networks, exclusive to GWI members, offer the opportunity to connect with fellow members around the world to discuss issues, share information and ask questions. Discussions take place via email, with one message sent to all members subscribed to that network.

Connections

GWI members have access to an international network of women worldwide. To take advantage of this network, get connected through the GWI Connections Network. Through this network you can ask questions and share news on projects, education, careers and any other related area. You can also make a request to the network for contacts in a particular country, profession or academic field.

Once you have subscribed, you can contact the Connections Network by emailing connections@gwi.graduatewomen.org. Subscribe to the Connections Network.

Discussions

The GWI Discussions Network provides members with a platform for thematic discussions. These discussions are intended to be focused on a particular topic related to GWI's mission to empower women and girls through secondary, tertiary and continuing education. If you would like to share experiences and information with GWI members around the world, on a particular topic or issue, and begin a thematic discussion, join the Discussions Network.

Once you have subscribed, you can contact the Discussions Network by emailing discussions@gwi.graduatewomen.org. Subscribe to the Discussions Network.

Remember the mission/vision of GWI and the NFAs.

The following two pages offer Best Practices for GWI Social Media Communications and GWI Social Media Rules and Obligations as outlined in the GWI policy guidelines for using social media and the discussion groups on page 18 of this document.
1. Be aware that your behavior and opinions reflect on the organization.

2. Be passionate. Share the passion you feel for your work and talk about the successes you have been part of.

3. Add a disclaimer to each page making clear that the views you express are yours alone.

4. Don’t say anything online that you wouldn’t be comfortable seeing quoted on by a major news network or seen by your mother and your boss.

5. Add value. Share and discuss your experiences if you believe that sharing of information and experiences benefits girls’ education, GWI and your NFA.

6. Be the first to admit a mistake. Contact GWI if it’s a real doozy.

7. Use your best judgement. If you are about to publish something that makes you even the slightest bit uncomfortable, let it sit for a few more hours or a day.

8. Protect your own privacy. Many social media sites allow you some form of control over who can see your material.

9. Keep security in mind. Never post personal details such as the home addresses of yourself or colleagues or post information on when you are travelling.

10. Spread the word and connect with your colleagues.

Graduate Women International
Resource: Social media guidelines for Graduate Women
GWI Social media + Rules & Obligations

1. Be nice and respectful
2. Spread the GWI mission/vision
3. Stay focused... no advertising
4. Attract and Collaborate
5. Respect privacy... ask permission
6. Posts will not be censored unless they contradict GWI's mission, philosophy, and overall spirit.
7. Observe neutrality... no political or religious initiatives
8. Raise the GWI profile and create a broader audience
9. Shhhh... No financial, operational and legal issue discussions

Resource: Social media guidelines for Graduate Women
Press Releases

GWI values the media and we are constantly modernizing our media relations. Our press releases contain relevant, accurate and easy to use content and quotes. GWI publishes some 20 newsworthy, original press releases per year covering, for example, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and to promote the GWI mission. These include:

- International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- International Women’s Day
- World Day Against Child Labour
- International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
- World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
- International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples
- International Literacy Day
- International Day of the Girl Child
- United Nations Day
- International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
- Human Rights Day
- International Day of Peace
- International Migrants Day

Social media

We place great value in our social media campaigns on all platforms where we post daily. Follow us on our Social Media links below and scan our QR code:

Facebook  https://www.facebook.com/Graduate-Women-International-GWI-364352213914/
Twitter  https://twitter.com/GradWomen
LinkedIn  https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4791977/profile
Instagram  https://www.instagram.com/gradwomen/
With a presence on all continents, GWI recognises the importance of social media as an instrument for outreach and advocacy for our mission to promote the right to quality and safe lifelong education for girls and women at all levels.

Sessions on the www.graduatewomen.org website, Google Analytics, June 2017

Facebook analytics, June 2017

GWI reaches a growing global audience through social media and via our publications that include the bi-weekly GWI Update with more than 3200 subscribers and the bi-monthly GWI inFocus with some 1500 subscribers.

3350+ likes on Facebook and a predominantly young female public in all social media platforms that is key to achieving our goals

More than 1350 followers on Twitter and an average of 2 new followers per day

Follower demographics that show our prominence in the field of NGOs internationally, research and education
Social media guidelines for Graduate Women

Graduate Women International
For more information, please contact:
Grand-Montfleury 48, 1290 Versoix, Switzerland
Telephone: +41 22 731 23 80
E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org
Web site: http://www.graduatewomen.org
**Introduction**

Graduate Women International (GWI) board, staff, committees and National Federations and Associations (NFAs) all have the ability to make the world a better place. We know this, because we’ve been doing this for nearly 100 years and see it daily through the work of our 54 NFAs. GWI embraces the fact that today’s NFAs do not only exist in the physical world but also online. We recognize the wide reach that social media communication can have - both positively and negatively. While social media communication on behalf of GWI is the primary responsibility of the office we recognize that all members from time to time will also like to further the organization's goals by using social media networks. These guidelines are designed to provide helpful, practical advice and also to protect the GWI office team and GWI worldwide. Members should feel comfortable using GWI’s social media communities to interact with and acquaint themselves with other members, as well as to share information on girls’ safe access to, and completion of, quality secondary education as a critical means to provide girls and young women with the tools and skills necessary to progress further in higher education, work and society. *If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact the office in Geneva at gwi@graduatewomen.org.*

**Who these guidelines are for?**

If you are using social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, or YouTube; or if you have your own blog or if you are posting comments on other people’s blogs, then these guidelines are for you. If you would like to know more about social media in general and what different tools exist, please take a look at the social media toolkit webinar presented by Louise McLeod, Vice President, Marketing. This webinar contains a lot of valuable and practical tips.

http://www.graduatewomen.org/members-login/tools-resources/membershipdevelopment/webinars/previous-webinars/

*[password to Members Corner required; password for Vimeo required]*

**Why "personal" and "private" are not the same.**

While communication through social media networks is primarily a personal matter, this is not the same as it being private. In many cases, written conversations inside these networks can be found through search engines such as Google. Even in cases where only your contacts can see what you write, there is a possibility that one of them will forward what you say and make it visible to a wider audience. As a result, personal conversation within social media networks should be considered public rather than private.

**Guidelines**

These guidelines consist of two parts: first, best practice and recommendations by the communications department. This is followed by a summary of the rules and obligations that are already in place and how they apply to staff use of social media.
**Best practices**

1) **Be a good ambassador**
While it is everyone's personal decision whether to use social media networks and tools or not, you should always be aware that your behavior and opinions reflect on the organization.

2) **Be passionate** Passion is contagious. Share the passion you feel for your work and talk about the successes you have been part of.

3) **Use a disclaimer**
If you have a blog and talk about work-related issues, add a disclaimer to each page making clear that the views you express are yours alone.
add a disclaimer to each page making clear that the views you express are yours alone. Be aware that this disclaimer doesn't free you from the obligations you have under the Codes of Conduct.

Example: "The postings on this site are my own and don't necessarily represent positions, strategies or opinions of Graduate Women International."

4) **Think of a major news network, your mother and your boss**
Don't say anything online that you wouldn't be comfortable seeing quoted on CNN, being asked about by your mother or having to justify to your boss.

5) **Add value**
If you believe that sharing of information and experiences benefits girls' education, GWI and your NFA feel free to share and discuss your experiences. GWI is generally perceived to be knowledgeable on the topic of girls' education and your post should reflect positively on you and on the organization. **Obviously, use common sense with all posts.**

6) **Be the first to admit a mistake**
If you have made a mistake, be upfront about it. Admit and correct the mistake immediately. Contact GWI if it's a real doozy.

7) **Use your best judgement**
If you are about to publish something that makes you even the slightest bit uncomfortable, let it sit for a few more hours or a day and think again whether this is what you want to say. If it still makes you feel uncomfortable don’t publish it or ask your NFA CIR for advice.

8) **Protect your own privacy**
Many social media sites allow you some form of control over who can see your material. **Use these features.** Example: On Facebook you can control your privacy settings under "Settings -> Privacy Settings -> Profile". We recommend that you set all of these settings except for “Profile” and “Basic info” to “Only friends”.

9) **Keep security in mind**
Be particularly careful with what you are discussing online. Never post personal details such as home addresses of yourself or colleagues. To guard against burglaries, do not post information on when you are travelling or away from your duty post.

10) **Spread the word and connect with your colleagues**
Don't only talk about yourself but also about the successes of your NFA and GWI in general.
Connect friends and colleagues through social networks and spread their success stories.
Existing rules and obligations

1) Be nice and respectful
Dishonorable content such as racial, ethnic, sexual, religious, and physical disability slurs are not tolerated. No fussing or cussing will be tolerated. If such behavior is taken the person making the post will be banned from all GWI social media. Content that is defamatory, pornographic, proprietary, harassing, libelous, or that can create a hostile organizational environment will be removed.

2) Spread the GWI mission/vision
Posts across social media platforms will fit with GWI’s mission, philosophy, goals, objectives and spirit. Member posts on social media should not be contradictory to GWI’s core mission and philosophy. All members are allowed to associate themselves with the GWI when making social media posts but they must clearly brand their online posts as personal and purely their own. GWI will not be held liable for any repercussions the employees’/members’ content may generate.

3) Stay focused
Social media posts by members presenting their services, products, or business are not permitted. Nor will outside advertisements be permitted on GWI social media except in special cases where the moderators deem the product or services specifically relevant to members or an upcoming event. Social media, in general, will not serve as a platform for sharing members-only information.

4) Attract and Collaborate
Social media can be an excellent tool for engaging current members of GWI and also to attract new members to the GWI family. You should use social media to raise the profile of GWI and your NFA by showcasing your activities, your working groups, and members’ efforts toward our mission and objectives. Social media is also an outstanding way to collaborate with and support other GWI NFAs, similar organizations and NGOs. Raise our voices through social media.

5) Respect privacy
Respect people’s right to privacy and don’t post photos or videos without their permission.

6) Freedom of speech
Material posted on social media will not be censored except in the case that it contradicts GWI’s mission, philosophy, and overall spirit. GWI reserves the right to remove posts or members for inappropriate behavior or posts on a platform. Social media, while not censored, will be moderated primarily by GWI in order to ensure that all approved content fits GWI’s mission, but moderators may include Board members.

7) Observe neutrality
Don’t get involved with political or religious initiatives. Emotions run high with these topics and you should not participate.

8) Raise the GWI profile and create a broader audience (they are potential members, after all.)
GWI’s social media accounts raise the profile of GWI as a leading, expert organization and keep us abreast of current news, information, and trends. We will, as a rule, follow and support similar organizations and groups and vice versa. Such support is intended to foster positive partnerships and relationships; create a broader audience for topics and information related to GWI’s mission and purpose.

9) Shhhh....
Members are not allowed to disclose information that is financial, operational and legal in nature, as well as any information that pertains to other members or GWI partners.
ACRONYMS of United Nations Agencies and other Partners

UN United Nations — the United Nations was established on 24 October 1945, arising out of the League of Nations, by 51 countries committed to preserving peace through international cooperation and collective security. Today, nearly every nation in the world belongs to the UN. The United Nations is not a world government and it does not make laws. It does, however, provide the means to help resolve international conflicts and formulate policies on matters affecting all of us.

CEDAW The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination.

Consultative Status — a phrase used for “Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The criteria to be able to apply for consultative status include: the NGO must have a democratic decision making mechanism, must be in existence for at least 2 years in order to apply, the basic resources of the organization must be derived in the main part from contributions of the national affiliates, individual members or other non-governmental components.

CSW The Commission on the Status of Women is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women.

DAW UN Division for the Advancement of Women — Grounded in the vision of equality of the United Nations Charter, the Division advocates the improvement of the status of women of the world and the achievement of their equality with men. The Division promotes women as equal participants and beneficiaries of sustainable development, peace and security, governance and human rights. As part of its mandate, it strives to stimulate the mainstreaming of gender perspectives both within and outside the United Nations system.

DESA UN Department of Economic & Social Affairs works closely with governments and stakeholders to help countries around the world meet their economic, social and environmental goals. The work addresses a range of cross-cutting issues that affect peoples’ lives and livelihoods. From poverty reduction to governance to finance to the environment, DESA’s work is about human progress for all, especially the most vulnerable.

DESA’s work is guided by the United Nations development agenda, which is rooted in the values of equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and mutual responsibility. Furthermore, with a focus on equitable participation by all people, the United Nations development agenda has unique, universal legitimacy.

ECOSOC United Nations Economic and Social Council — one of five principle bodies of the UN, it was established as the principal organ to coordinate economic, social, and related work of the 14 UN specialized agencies, functional commissions and five regional commissions. ECOSOC serves as the central forum for discussing international economic and social issues, and for formulating policy recommendations addressed to Member States and the United Nations system. It has 54 members, all of whom are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year term. ECOSOC is made up of Functional Commissions (including CSW and UNPD), Regional Commissions and Specialized Agencies (including ILO, UNICEF and IMF).

GA United Nations General Assembly (see UNGA)

GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade — The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was first signed in 1947. The agreement was designed to provide an international forum that encouraged free trade between member states by regulating and reducing tariffs on traded goods and by providing a common mechanism for resolving trade disputes. GATT membership now includes more than 110 countries.

ICJ International Court of Justice — the principal judicial organ of the UN; established in June 1945 by the Charter of the United Nations and began work in April 1946. The seat of the Court is at the Peace Palace in The Hague (Netherlands). The Court’s role is to settle, in accordance with international law, legal disputes submitted to it by States and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized United Nations organs and specialized agencies.

ILO International Labour Organization — the UN specialized agency that seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labor rights. The ILO formulates international labor standards in the form of Conventions and Recommendations setting minimum standards of basic labor rights: freedom of association, the right to organize, collective bargaining, abolition of forced labor, equality of opportunity and treatment, and other standards regulating conditions across the entire spectrum of work related issues.
IMF International Monetary Fund – is an organization of 185 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. When a country borrows from the IMF, its government makes commitments on economic and financial policies—a requirement known as conditionality which policies were revised in 2002.

INSTRAW UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women – works towards gender equality and the empowerment of women through its Gender Awareness Information and Networking System (GAINS), an internet-based research and training environment driven by a worldwide network.

MDGs Millennium Development Goals The MDGs were eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world’s main development challenges. They were adopted by 189 nations-and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000. The MDGs were evaluated and replaced in 2015 by the Sustainable Development Goals.

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals officially known as Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a set of seventeen aspirational “Global Goals” with 169 targets between them.

UHRI Universal Human Rights Index – The UHRI is an online tool designed to facilitate access to conclusions and recommendations made by the United Nations human rights mechanisms. This tool that GWI members can use, enables one to gain an international perspective on national and regional human rights developments, as well as an overview on cooperation between States and international institutions.

UNAIDS United Nations AIDS – Through a series of goals, resolutions and declarations adopted by member nations of the United Nations, the world has a set of commitments, actions and goals to stop and reverse the spread of HIV and scale up towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services.

UNCHS United Nations Center for Human Settlements Programme (also known as UN-Habitat in Action) – the United Nations agency for human settlements, mandated to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

UNDP United Nations Development Programme is the UN’s global development network of 166 nations that advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNDPI United Nations Department of Public Information – provides up-to-date public information materials on the aims and activities of the UN in political, economic, social and humanitarian fields to a diverse local audience.

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme – the voice for the environment within the United Nations system. UNEP acts as a catalyst, advocate, educator and facilitator to promote the wise use and sustainable development of the global environment. To accomplish this, UNEP works with a wide range of partners, including NGOs.

UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – contributes to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication. Conducts studies, facilitates knowledge sharing, and develops standards. Countries also have National Commissions.

UNFPA United Nations Population Fund – an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programs to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

UNGEI UN Girls Education Initiative – is a worldwide initiative designed to contribute to the elimination of gender discrimination and gender disparity in education systems through action at global, national, district and community levels. UNGEI is a division of UNESCO.

UNGLS United Nations Non-governmental Liaison Service – promotes partnerships between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations by providing information, advice, expertise and support services.
UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly, this agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.


UNIFEM UN Development Fund for Women – provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programs and strategies that promote women’s human rights, political participation and economic security.

UNGA or GA United Nations General Assembly – one of the five principal organs of the UN; only one in which all member nations have equal representation. Its powers are to oversee the budget of the UN, appoint the non-permanent members to the Security Council, receive reports from other parts of the UN and make recommendations in the form of General Assembly Resolutions. It has also established a wide number of subsidiary organs. It meets in regular yearly sessions which last from September to December, although it can reconvene for special and emergency special sessions.

UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research – delivers innovative training and conduct research on knowledge systems to develop the capacity of beneficiaries through partnerships with other UN institutions, academies and the private sector.

UN-NGLS The United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service is an inter-agency programme of the United Nations mandated to promote and develop constructive relations between the United Nations and civil society organizations. Provides email alerts.

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime. Established in 1997 through a merger between the United Nations Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention, UNODC operates in all regions of the world through an extensive network of field offices. UNODC is mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against illicit drugs, crime and terrorism.

UPEACE University for Peace – Established as a Treaty Organization with its own Charter in an International Agreement adopted by the General Assembly. The UPEACE is to provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace with the aim of promoting among all human beings the spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress.

UNSC United Nations Security Council – has primary responsibility, under the UN Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is so organized as to be able to function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at United Nations Headquarters.

UNU United Nations University – an international community of scholars, engaged in research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge in furtherance of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It functions under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations and UNESCO.

UN Women - the global champion for gender equality, working to develop and uphold standards and create an environment in which every woman and girl can exercise her human rights and live up to her full potential.

UPR Universal Periodical Review – The Human Rights Council (HRC) was mandated by the United Nations to undertake a universal periodic review of the fulfillment by each State of its human rights obligations and commitments.

WB World Bank – a source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world. It is not a bank in the common sense, more like a cooperative owned by 189 member countries—the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA).
WUNRN Women’s UN Report Network is based on a UN Study, on the Status of Women, Religion or Belief, and Traditions. WUNRN addresses the human rights, oppression, and empowerment of women and girls all over the globe. WUNRN’s programs include the global ListServe and tools for gender advocacy and action and resources of authentic and in-depth information on women and girls. WUNRN regularly organizes High Level United Nations events on women’s and girls’ issues and rights at the UN in Geneva (Human Rights Council), NYC (Commission on the Status of Women and General Assembly), and FAO in Rome.

WHO World Health Organization – the United Nations specialized agency for health, which seeks the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health. Health is defined in WHO’s Constitution as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. It is responsible for providing leadership on global health matters, shaping the health research agenda, setting norms and standards, articulating evidence-based policy options, providing technical support to countries and monitoring and assessing health trends.

Women, Peace & Security 1325 United Nations Resolution 1325 – passed unanimously on 31 October 2000, calls for the full and equal participation of women in conflict resolution and peace building. It is the first resolution ever passed by the Security Council that specifically addresses the impact of war on women, and women’s contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace. All nations agreed to implement an Action Plan in their country.

WomenWatch WomenWatch/UN Working for Women -- is a gateway to information and resources on the promotion of gender equality throughout the United Nations system. It was created in March 1997 to provide internet space for global gender equality issues and to support implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

WTO World Trade Organization – the only global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. At its heart are the WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world’s trading nations and ratified in their parliaments. The goal is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business; consolidate and extend its capacity to provide a global platform for knowledge transfer.
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Empowering women and girls through lifelong, quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI, formerly *International Federation of University Women*, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO.