



Graduate Women
International (GWI)

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Graduate Women International: future development must include roles for women and girls in science

Geneva, Switzerland, 11 February 2018 – Marking the third annual [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#), Graduate Women International (GWI) reiterates its support of informal and traditional science teaching methods and places particular importance on fostering supportive, stereotype-free learning environments that build girls' interest, confidence and academic inclusion. GWI encourages worldwide cooperation and increased political will to increase opportunities for women and girls in the scientific domain.

“Human development depends on economic and social equality between women and men and much of future development includes an understanding of science and technology. It is, therefore, imperative for all societal institutions to support women and girls in the study of science and technology. There is, additionally, an urgent need for women who have studied science and technology to mentor and inspire the next generation of girls”, says GWI President, Geeta Desai.

This year's theme “Equality and Parity in Science for Peace and Development” provides the space for GWI to reaffirm that removing the barriers girls' and women's face in science studies and careers is vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). Including women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is crucial for the successful implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in that STEM facilitates solutions that address pressing and global issues such as poverty, food insecurity, climate change and global health epidemics.

The deficiency of women and girls in STEM is characteristically linked to the deep-rooted gender biases and gender stereotypes broadly accepted by education systems towards women and girls in science. GWI regards this gender disparity as a major obstacle towards peace and development as well as a substantial barrier to the advancement of the status of women and girls through education. As an organisation committed to improving the education space for women and girls, GWI aims, through its programmes such as the [Bina Roy Partners in Development](#), to provide girls and women with supportive environments and female role models to boost their confidence to engage in science subjects and careers.

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 60 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for 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 since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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