



## GWI UPDATE – 7 February 2018



*GWI marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance against Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and attends a panel discussion event at Palais des Nations, Geneva .*

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### — Graduate Women International news —

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#### **Welcome to the Graduate Women Association of Burkina Faso (GWB)**

Graduate Women International (GWI) is delighted to announce that GWB has joined its growing global network of graduate women. With each new membership, GWI further advances its status as the leading organisation that empowers women and girls worldwide through access to quality and continuing education. Located in Bobo-Dioulasso, the second largest city in Burkina Faso after the capitol of Ouagadougou, GWB is headed by President, Ms. Clémence Ouedraogo. She is assisted by Bibiane Kone as Treasurer. *“Burkina Faso worked hard with the Membership Committee and the Board to become a member and it is with great pleasure we welcome them”*, says Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI Vice President, Membership. *“GWI’s Burkina Faso NFA is comprised of strong and determined women who strive to be impactful on the empowerment of women and girls within Burkina Faso to encourage women and girls worldwide. They are convinced that economic, social and cultural rights are as important as the civil and political rights and must also be taken into consideration”*, she adds.

#### **GWI from Theory to Action : 2017 Activity Report**

On the heels of a successful 2017, GWI presents its [2017 Activity Report: From Theory to Action](#). The report showcases the many achievements of 2017 and lays the foundation for a successful 2018. Contained in the From Theory to Action report is the 6-Goal strategic plan and an update on Twinning and Bina Roy Partners in Development projects. This new year brings great promise with the preparation of the 2019 centenary. GWI looks forward to welcoming members from all around the world in the heart of International Geneva to celebrate together both the legacy and the next 100 years of GWI.

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## — GWI member news —

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### **Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) Friendship Bridge Project**

TAUW Friendship Bridge Project establishes a bridge between academically accomplished female university students experiencing financial difficulties and mentors and financial supporters. Since its creation, TAUW Friendship Bridge Project has effectively supported young women and girls to improve their status and has encouraged them to become role models within their community. As part of this project, TAUW organises each year an essay contest for students on the topic of women's rights. In 2017, TAUW published a book, entitled "Friendship Bridge", reuniting all essays written by the participating students. As a contribution to fundraising efforts, the books were sold by the students during the 2017 New Year Concert held by TAUW Istanbul Branch. The proceeds from the sale directly participate to the funding of the Friendship Bridge project and allow the members of TAUW to further their work towards the advancement of the status of Turkish women and girls through secondary and tertiary education.



*Students from TAUW Istanbul Branch Friendship Bridge Project selling copies of TAUW Friendship Bridge book*

The proceeds from the sale directly participate to the funding of the Friendship Bridge project and allow the members of TAUW to further their work towards the advancement of the status of Turkish women and girls through secondary and tertiary education.

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## — Advocacy —

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### **GWJ observed the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation**

To mark the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) on 6 February GWJ Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, and GWJ Intern, Clémence Mathiaud, attended an event and panel discussion sponsored by Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. In line with the 2018 theme, "Ending FGM is a political decision", the event brought together a diverse group of duty-bearers including government officials, parliamentarians, health professionals, parents and other stakeholders to discuss openly how political will can be translated into more effective and sustainable actions towards the elimination of FGM. While the different speakers recognised the importance of state responsibility and action in the fight for the elimination of this extreme form of discrimination against women and girls, the crucial role of the full spectrum of actors from political and civil society was also pointed out. Raising awareness about this complex, multifaceted and still controversial issue remains a priority to eliminate this deeply engrained practice. As pointed out by Mr. Solomon Amare Zewelde, a parent and activist against FGM from the United Kingdom, it is vital to educate men and boys, who know very little about FGM, about the violence and danger of this practice in order to stimulate a change in behavior from within the communities. As FGM is practiced in societies governed by traditional cultural norms, it is crucial to engage community and spiritual leaders, along with elders and other respected authority figures, in the quest for the promotion of girls' education and the elimination of harmful practices such as FGM. Learn more about GWJ's commitment and advocacy towards the elimination of the harmful practice of FGM through the [press release](#) on the topic that also recalls [Resolution 6](#), unanimously passed during the GWJ 32<sup>nd</sup> triennial conference in 2016.

### **GWJ participates with NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva**

As members of the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Committee on the Status of Women (CSW), Geneva, GWJ regularly participates in the Committee's activities and meetings. At a recent meeting the NGO CSW renewed its commitment to young women and voted to create a young person's sub-committee to better engage with the young women in Geneva. Additionally, the NGO CSW announces the "[Women and Global Migration: Root Causes and Innovative Solutions](#)" forum to be held 23 February 2018 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The programme includes three panels that will discuss the following topics: factors affecting migration flows, movement and labour force and the promotion of human rights and innovative solutions. Find out about the [programme](#) and [registration process](#) on the NGO CSW Geneva website.

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## **— Call for applications —**

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### **Wenner-Grenn Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grants**

The Wenner-Grenn foundation offers its Dissertation Fieldwork Grants to aid doctoral or thesis research in anthropology. The goal of these grants is to ensure that the discipline continues to further our understanding of humanity's origins, development and variations. There is no preference for any methodology, research location or subfield. Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral programme at the time of application and conduct research with a clear link to anthropological theory and debates and promise to actively advance these ideas through their work. Students of all nationalities are eligible to apply. The maximum amount of the Dissertation Fieldwork Grant is \$20,000 USD. Applications deadlines are May 1 and November 1 of each year. Final decisions are made six months later. Find more detailed information on [programme requirements](#) and [applications procedure](#).

### **The Anita Borg Institute Pass-it-On Awards Programme**

The Anita Borg Institute's Pass-It-On (PIO) Awards has opened its 2018 application process. The PIO Awards honour Anita Borg's desire to create a network of women technologists helping one another. The cash awards, funded by donations from the Systems Online Community and other contributors, are intended as means for women established in technological fields to support women seeking their place in the fields of technology. Pass-it-on Award applications are open to any woman over 18 years old in or aspiring to be in the fields of computing. Awards are open to women in all countries and range from \$500 to \$1,000 USD. The deadline for application is 28 March 2018. For more information, please visit [Pass-it-On Awards](#).

### **The Right Livelihood Award – 2018 Calls for proposals**

The Right Livelihood Award, widely known as the "Alternative Nobel Prize" has opened its 2018 selection process. After extensive research work, the international jury will choose four recipients on the basis of their visionary and exemplary contribution to solving global problems. The Right Livelihood Foundation seeks to protect award recipients whose life and liberty may be at risk because of their commitment to improving the world and to strengthen the network of its Laureates through events, advocacy and cooperation activities. So far, 170 laureates from 69 countries have already received this life changing recognition. The award is meant to help the laureates to achieve an even greater impact by providing them with long-term support. Everyone is welcomed to present candidates. The deadline for submitting a nomination is 1 March 2018. Read more about the nomination process and the guidelines for proposals on the [Right Livelihood Award's website](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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**GWI sponsors civil society speakers during the High-Level Segment of the 37<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council**  
GWI is pleased for the opportunity to sponsor a civil society speaker at High-Level Segment of the 37<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council (HRC) on 28 February 2018 at the United Nations, Geneva. Of the 18 nominations submitted to the CoNGO Committee on Human Rights, four candidates were selected on consensus, among them Ms. Jeanne Sarson from the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). Accompanying Ms. Sarson will be Ms. Linda MacDonald who together, for 23 years, have been working on a campaign to recognize Non-State Torture (NST) as a human right violation and crime in Canada. As civil society, Ms. Sarson will address the Council on the overall topic of NST including human trafficking. GWI regards the successful nomination of Ms. Sarson and Ms. MacDonald as a just recognition of their continuous advocacy work against NST. The statement coincides with the report by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons.

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## — Give the gift of membership —

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This Valentine's Day, do better than a box chocolate – give the gift of membership to the outstanding graduate women in your life! Membership allows graduate women 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 become part 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).

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## — Did you know? —

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Did you know that being a member of GWI gives you exclusive access to the GWI's Discussions and Connections network? Becoming a GWI member is synonymous with joining an international network of graduate women and making contacts and friends with fellow graduates of all ages, from different countries, cultures and professions. It is this unique gathering of exceptional women committed to the advancement of the status of women and girls through the power of education that has fuelled GWI's action for the past 99 years. Care to join us and influence policy and legislation on women's issues at the international level? Find out more about [membership eligibility](#) and [benefits](#).

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## — Other information and events —

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Until March 2018	<a href="#">Les Olympes de la Parole</a> , University Women's Club of Montreal, (CFUW-GWI)
Jan 29-Feb 7	<a href="#">Commission for Social Development, 56<sup>th</sup> Session</a> , 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
23 Feb – March 26	37 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, United Nations, Geneva
March 1	NGO CSW Forum, " <a href="#">Women and Global Migration: Root Causes and Innovative Solutions</a> ", Palais des Nations, Geneva (mandatory registration)
March 8	Zero Discrimination Day, Global International Women's Day, Global

March 12-23	<a href="#">Commission on the Status of Women, 62th Session</a> , United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
June 21-23	<a href="#">University Women of Europe (UWE) Annual Meeting</a> , Rome Italy
March 14-15	<a href="#">ZurichEduCaExpo 2018 - 2nd International Education &amp; Career Exhibition</a> , Zurich, Switzerland
April 17-19	Federation of University Women Africa (FUWA) Regional meeting, Bibliotheca Alexandrina's Conference Center, Alexandria, Egypt
July 31-Aug 2	<a href="#">4th Gender &amp; STEM Network Conference</a> , Oregon, USA

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## Follow us on social media!



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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