

# **GWU United Nation Representative Advocacy Report 2018**

## **GWU advocacy goals**

1. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of United Nations low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.
4. Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
5. All 17 SDGs will include girls' education targets.

## **Towards a multifaceted approach to reducing the gender gap #IWD2018 Submitted by Manjit Dosanjh, GWU United Nations Representative, Geneva**

The World Economic Forum published this week the [Global Gender Gap Report](#) which benchmarks 144 countries regarding their progress on gender parity and the results are troubling.

Unfortunately, data shows that the gender gap is widening, so there needs to be new ways of thinking if the world is to close the gender gap. Progress is regressing, and we are moving backwards. Instead of the previous estimated 170 years, it will now take over two centuries, 217 years to be precise.

As is widely recognised gender parity is an urgent need since successfully harnessing and mobilising half of the world's total talent pool will have a huge impact on the growth, competitiveness, future-readiness and economies across the globe.

Talking about Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment are pre-conditions for sustainable development for our planet and our future. Do you think that we can achieve this when we leave out 50% of the work force, brains, potential, creativity, multifaceted vision, and outlooks? Studies have already shown that when there are men and women in company boards they outperform with men only!

In the search for new ways of bridging the gap effectively and in order to achieve the world we want, we need a multifaceted solution since experience has shown that no single approach is going to solve this huge challenge. This goes beyond the human rights and gender parity but is a key to meeting our global basic needs – in terms of environment, energy, food, economic needs and beyond.

However, thinking of the important individual and societal dimensions that all of us can and do make a difference, every small step in this direction can help and is significant.

Of course, “only a drop in the ocean” sounds insignificant but if we start considering and making sure that every drop counts so it can become a bucket, a pond, a river, a sea and an ocean... Equally important would be our efforts to use lots of different types of “drops” as we are aiming a multifaceted approach.

We all know that it is not that simple when we are referring to influencing governments, policy makers, heads of states, influential leaders, international organisations as well as at the grass roots level.

Therefore, why don't we use the small and more accessible steps, raise awareness in our immediate circle including friends, colleagues, brothers, sisters, fathers, cousins, family? Obviously, such a huge challenge can only be addressed when we can get everybody on board. Especially men, boys, male work colleagues... We also need to remember the importance and power of those that are closest to us.

In order to raise awareness, we need to think and act through facts and knowledge, since knowledge is “power” and is a huge transformative force. That's why, we are talking globally about “influencers” - mentors, role models, multiplication factors, putting up ladders and leaving them up for the others. We need to act as actions speak louder than words.

In conclusion, I would like to share my personal perspective since I never had a mentor, or women science teachers, so one of the things I am doing very consciously is trying to be a mentor, a role model, a multiplication factor for girls and teachers. My “mantra” is: ***“If I can do it, so can you.”***

Coming from a tiny village in India, whose mother did not even go to school, who could have possibly imagined that I would end up working at CERN, the world's leading technology advanced research centre.

***Showing that everything is possible when one is passionate and motivated and had a “mother with a vision”.***



***Girls from Israel coming to CERN to learn some secrets and truths about the universe.***