



## GWI UPDATE – 7 March 2018



*Turkish Federation of University Women Sister School Project's children and their educator*

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### — Graduate Women International news —

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#### **GWI President Geeta Desai visits Navrachana University Vadodara, India**

During her latest visit to India, GWI President Geeta Desai delivered a talk as part of 'Samvaad' - a celebrity lecture series organised by city-based Navrachana University, Vadodara (NUV) located in the Western Indian state of Gujarat. Ms. Desai addressed a panel of 350 students on the crucial impact of globalization on the students' future career: not only will they enter the Indian labour market, they will also become integral members and direct contributors to the global economy, thus needing to be able to evolve in a global, multicultural and even changing environment. During this talk, titled "Design your future: Personal and professional success in a global society" Ms. Desai suggested ways in which students and young people looking for employment can think about choosing professions and the factors that may play a role in this critical decision-making. Ms. Desai strongly encouraged the attending students to join an international organisation such as GWI, as our global and multicultural network allows students and professional to stay abreast of information in the context of an interconnected world and provide them with a renewed perspective on their professional strategies.



*GWI President Geeta Desai at NUV*

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### — GWI member news —

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#### **BFWG and the University of Winchester celebrate International Women's Day**

To mark International Women's Day on 8 March the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) and the University of Winchester will hold an event on Choices and Challenges in Media and Education. Presenters will explore the challenges and choices they faced as international women. The confirmed speakers are Rowan Kerek Robertson, former Head of Social Media at the BBC and iPlayer, Shenaz

Bunglawala, Public Engagement Manager at Aziz Foundation and Savannah King, Student & Alumni Communications Officer at the University of Winchester. This event will support the Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates. Admission is free of charge, however, attendees are asked to confirm their participation. Further details available [here](#).

### **Graduate Women Queensland Sunshine Coast Branch wins prestigious award**

Graduate Women Queensland Sunshine Coast Branch (GWQ SC) was presented with the prestigious Access Community Services Cultural Diversity Award at the 2017 Community Achievement Awards ceremony. This award comes as a just recognition of GWQSC's outstanding leadership in promoting cultural diversity and acceptance with their Refugee Education Programme for the past 14 years. The programme, founded by Marilyn Keetly, provides support for refugee girls through projects such as two-week intensive English courses, bursaries to assist students with school fees and private group swimming lessons for female students. As contributions to these projects GWQSC has raised \$3,500 for swimming lessons, \$12,000 for bursaries and \$1,800 for English dictionaries. GWI congratulates GWQSC for the recognition of their Refugee Education Programme and commends them on their continuous commitment to building a more equal and inclusive world for girls and women.



*Gail Ker OAM, CEO Access Community Services presenting the Access Community Services Cultural Diversity Award to Marilyn Keetly, Chair Refugee Education Programme, GWQSC*

### **CFUW continues its Sustainable Development Series: International Women's Day**

The Canadian Federation of University Women continues its thought-provoking series on significant days to facilitate the conversation about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The purpose of this series is to overlay an International Day of Observance with the SDGs lens in order to shine a light on the conversation. CFUW has just released the seventh feature in its series of nine Theme Days, that focuses on International Women's Day. Every year, International women's Day is celebrated on 8 March globally: this day raises awareness about SDG #5 and the ongoing challenges and opportunity to celebrate women's achievements. Recognizing that the priority theme of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women this year is "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls", the contributors of this issue on International Women's Day, Cheryl Hayles and Nancy Mayberry, have focused on experiences of rural women. Read the full issue [here](#).

### **The Senegalese Association of Women Graduates embraces new values and a new motto**

L'Association Sénégalaise des Femmes Diplômées d'Universités (ASF DU), at their recent administrative committee meeting held on 6 January 2018, accepted a new set of core values as well as a new motto. Established in September 1989, ASF DU has been a member of GWI since 1994. ASF DU's goal is to see 100% of Senegalese women and girls graduating from primary school and a majority of women and girls receiving a secondary and tertiary level education in Senegal. In anticipation of the celebrations of ASF DU's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2019, ASF DU members voted to change their original motto from "United Development" to "Educate girls for Peace and Development" and they officially embrace three core values, "Dignity, Generosity and Tolerance". GWI commends ASF DU for its continuous commitment to advancing the status of women and girls in Senegal and promoting peace and cooperation through the power of education.

## Turkish Federation of University Women Sister Schools Twinning project



*TUKD Sister School project three educators singing and dancing with the children*

GWI congratulates Türk Universiteli Kadınlar Dernegi (TUKD) for the success and positive impact of their twinning project with a disadvantaged primary school in a rural area of Turkey. This project came to life through the establishment of a partnership between TUKD and three promising young female educators teaching at remote and poor schools in the region of Eastern Anatolia. This region, located in the easternmost part of Turkey, Eastern Anatolia has the second most rural population of Turkey after the Black Sea Region and is marked by a harsh continental climate with long winters and short summers. TUKD organised

donation drives in order to meet the various needs of the local children and enhance the quality of their daily life within and outside of school. Thanks to the donors' generosity, TUKD has been able to send a variety of school supplies, as well as warm clothes, gently-used books to enhance the school library and various toys and games for the children to play with. These donations are sure to make a significant difference and bring much joy to the children. GWI warmly applauds this initiative that directly contributes to improving the education of children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Education can be the catalyst needed to pull families and communities out of the cycle of poverty. Knowledge gives children the power to dream of a better future and the confidence needed to pursue a full education, which in turn will help generations to come. TUKD is looking forwards to continue to support these schools in Eastern Anatolia and hope to visit them and meet the children and their dedicated educators at some point as well.

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## — Advocacy —

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### **On Zero Discrimination Day, GWI recalls 2016 Resolution 5 on Tolerance**

International Zero Discrimination Day held annually on 1 March 2018 is a reminder that discrimination continues to undermine efforts to achieve a more just and equitable world and intolerance causes pain and suffering for many. GWI remains concerned that millions of women and girls in every region of the world experience discrimination, violence and abuse on a daily basis, preventing them from fulfilling their fundamental human rights, such as the right to safe and quality education. On the 2018 occasion GWI recalls Resolution 5, adopted in 2016 by its 32<sup>nd</sup> triennial General Assembly. Through Resolution 5, GWI resolves to bring an end to intolerance of minority groups and make the world more inclusive. "Intolerance of ideas, ideologies and lifestyle choices should end. As tolerance is important for peaceful coexistence and harmonious living, it is important to accommodate and understand each other". Read the full Resolution 5 [here](#). From 1 March to 5 March, GWI also put discrimination at the forefront of its social media strategy by posting daily awareness-building tips on the topic on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. If you missed the campaign you can look back and still share the posts [here](#).

### **GWI observes International Women's Day**

Since its emergence at the turn of the twentieth century, International Women's Day has evolved into a global rallying point to build support for the advancement of the rights and status of women and girls in all parts of the world and in all spheres of society. In anticipation of tomorrow's global celebration for women, echoing the review theme of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, Graduate Women International (GWI) calls attention to the concerning persistence of gender

stereotypes and gender disparities in the media. For too long, gender bias in the media has remained on the margins of policy agendas for gender equality. GWI insists that media scale up their focus on women's and girls' rights and gender equality, as well as to implement gender-sensitive corporate practices. Read the full press release [here](#). Additionally, beginning today, 7 March, plan to follow the GWI social media campaign that will offer three daily posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) towards the advancement of the status of women and girls.

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## — Call for applications —

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### **Graduate Women Queensland Sunshine Coast Branch Undergraduate Bursary**

Graduate Women Queensland Sunshine Coast Branch (GWQ SC) has provided significant and long-standing support for University of the Sunshine Coast students via a range of bursaries. The organisation aim is to promote the advancement of women through education and offer to this end numerous bursaries annually. These bursaries are available to three undergraduate students in 2018 with a high-grade point average (GPA). Applications are opened to female students in second year or above and who studied for at least one year at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC). The deadline is 28 March. Further information about eligibility conditions and the application process are available [here](#).

### **9<sup>th</sup> UNESCO International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) call for funding**

On 26 February 2018 UNESCO launches its 9th IFCD call for funding and a new initiative with Sabrina Ho "U40 Empowered: Women entrepreneurs powering the digital creative industries". The International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) is a multi-donor fund, established by the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) to support its implementation in developing countries. U40 Empowered is a special call to expand the IFCD's actions to support young women entrepreneurs in the digital creative industries. This initiative is made possible thanks to the generous contribution of Sabrina Ho, a rising young cultural entrepreneur and philanthropist. "U40 Empowered" represents a unique opportunity to increase young women's opportunities to access funding, infrastructure, equipment and co-production opportunities in the digital creative industries. "U40 Empowered" will also support strategies that address the different needs, aspirations, capacities and contributions of women. "U40 Empowered" supports projects from national and international NGOs from developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention. Project proposals submitted in the framework of this unique opportunity will be reviewed by an independent Panel of Experts and approved directly by Ms Sabrina Ho. The deadline for submitting project proposals is 16 April 2018. Find more info about the conditions and the procedure [here](#).

### **Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) 2018 Prize**

Since 1994, WWSF awards a annual prize of 1000\$ per laureate to women and women's groups around the world exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment for the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities. The Prize aims to draw international attention to laureates' contributions to sustainable development, food security and peace, thus generating recognition and support for their initiatives and projects. By highlighting and awarding creative development leaders and their work, innovations and experiences enhancing the quality of rural life, WWSF participates in empowering rural women in their contribution to end rural poverty, improve gender equality, and advance women's rights to peace and well-being. Nominees should be women and women's groups currently active in rural life whose efforts have not yet been acknowledged by other awards. They may not nominate themselves. The nominating organization or individual must have direct experience of the nominee's work. Prize laureates are selected by an international Jury composed of WWSF Board of Directors; are announced officially in October and celebrated in their countries on 15 October.

Nomination materials should arrive no later than 30 April through the post only. Further information on the prize and its selection process is available [here](#).

### **ZONTA International Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship**

The ZONTA International Jane M. Klausman (JMK) Women in Business Scholarship programme helps women pursue undergraduate and master's degrees in business management and overcome gender barriers from the classroom to the boardroom. Women of any age, pursuing a business or business-related program who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible. The deadline is 1 July. Download the 2018 JMK Women in Business Scholarship application, [here](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **GWI to give an oral statement at the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (HRC)**

GWI will address the 37<sup>th</sup> session of the HRC Agenda Item 3 through an oral statement on the urgency of fostering tolerance of minority groups and creating a more inclusive world. GWI will notably draw attention to GWI Resolution 5 adopted by its 32<sup>nd</sup> triennial General Assembly as it highlights GWI's commitment to fostering values of tolerance, inclusiveness and recognition of others' rights.

### **GWI participates in the HRC Annual Full-Day Meetings on the Rights of the Child**

On 5 March 2018, GWI participated in the HRC Annual Full Day Meetings on the Rights of the Child by attending a side event on child soldiers. The side event, sponsored by the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, proposed countering the epidemic of child soldier recruitment through rehabilitation. UNICEF defines a child soldier as "any child, boy or girl, under the age of 18 who is part of any kind of regular or irregular armed force or armed group in any capacity", however, GWI emphasizes this definition's elaboration upon the roles of child soldiers, including "cooks, porters, and messengers... girls and boys recruited for forced sexual purposes and/or forced marriage". Young boys are typically the center of the debate regarding child soldiers, but this side event addressed the fact that 40% of child recruits are young and adolescent girls. The panel's recommendations to assuage the psychosocial trauma that these children face and prevent recidivism include rehabilitation programs at the individual, family, and community levels as well as reintegration into said community. For these child victims, returning to school would mean returning to a normal childhood and returning to them their right to education. #childrennotsoldiers

### **Oral Update of the High Commissioner on child, early and forced marriage**

Child, early and forced marriage is a harmful practice, which violates human rights and perpetuates other harmful practices, including female genital mutilation. Child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) remains a major concern in humanitarian settings. In these settings, various factors exacerbate the incidence and risk of child, early and forced marriage. These include insecurity, breakdown of rule of law and state authority, the misconception of providing protection through marriage, the use of forced marriage as a warfare tactic, a disruption of social networks, increased poverty, and the absence of livelihood opportunities. Yet, CEFM is not being sufficiently addressed in humanitarian settings.

Recently the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights posed questions to NGOs regarding CEFM for his oral update to be given at the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council in June 2018. Accordingly, GWI, United Nations Representative, Amy Paunila, prepared a submittal from GWI. The QA can be read [here](#) under the GWI at the United Nations section.

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## —Give the gift of education—

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The Hegg-Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates was established in 1936 as an emergency fund to help graduate women deprived of the right to work, and in many cases the right to live, in their native countries. This fund assists graduate women who have been displaced due to war, political upheaval, or gender related atrocities such as rape, honour crimes, forced marriage, and FGM. It provides short-term grants to help women adapt and integrate in their new country, such as providing financial support for language lessons, or tuition grants to re-enter a professional field. Displaced women deserve the opportunity to rebuild their lives and use their education and skills in a new country. Recently, the GWI Hegg Hoffet programme supported a SiSwati programme for a very deserving and fellow woman graduate. Support for such classes embodies the very mission of the GWI Hegg Hoffet program and we are ever-grateful to our donors. [Donate today](#).

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## — Did you know? —

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Did you know that the GWI will celebrate its centenary with a special Fellowship in honour of one of our founding mothers, Caroline Frances Eleanor Spurgeon? Ms. Spurgeon was the first president of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW, now GWI) (1920-1924) and a leader in education for women. A child of the Raj, born in India in 1869, she was educated at Cheltenham Ladies College, Kings College London and University College London. Her ground-breaking scholarly criticism of English literature led to her appointment in 1913 as the first woman professor in that field and the second woman professor anywhere in the United Kingdom. She was then elected to the Royal Society of Literature in 1916.



*Caroline F.E. Spurgeon (1869-1942)*

Ms. Spurgeon consistently used her own academic prestige to advocate strenuously for women's access to all academic degrees. In 1918, she was a member of the British Educational Mission to America. There, she met Virginia Gildersleeve, Dean of Barnard College, Columbia University, New-York. The friendship and common aspiration for women's education shared by these two formidable women would be a major inspiration for the creation of the IFUW. From that time, Ms. Spurgeon lived between England and United States, settling finally in Tucson, Arizona, where she died in 1942.

Applications for the Fellowship will be accepted beginning in the Spring of 2018. The Fellowship will be open to established PhD and postdoctoral students in any country engaged in research relevant to GWI. Thus, research in education, gender issues or sustainable development would be looked upon favourably. Having a doctorate can change a women's life and open doors that were previously closed to her. A title is a powerful tool in today's world and can help with funding, provide research opportunities as well as an important network facility.

GWI appeals to the generosity of all, members and non-members alike, to support the Fellowship to awarded in 2019. Thank you for contributing to a brilliant female student and her to reach her full potential. [Please donate today](#).

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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)
Until 23 March	37 <sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, United Nations, Geneva
8 March	International Women's Day, Global
12-23 March	<a href="#">Commission on the Status of Women, 62th Session</a> , United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
14-15 March	<a href="#">ZurichEduCaExpo 2018</a> - 2nd International Education & Career Exhibition, Zurich, Switzerland
22 March	World Water Day, Global
17-19 April	Federation of University Women Africa (FUWA) Regional meeting, Bibliotheca Alexandrina's Conference Center, Alexandria, Egypt
23 April	International Book and Copyrights Day, Global
27 April	International Girls in ICT Day, Global
21-23 June	University Women of Europe (UWE) Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy
4-7 July	Joint World Conference on Social Work, Education and social development, Dublin, Ireland
31 July – 2 August	<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.

### **Graduate Women International**

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