



GWI UPDATE – 4 April 2018



Members of the Turkish Association of University Women at the TAUW 2018 Women Leaders Award Ceremony on 23 March

— Graduate Women International News —

GWI Celebrates World Book and Copyright Day on 23 April

GWI invites you to join in the observance of UNESCO's 23rd World Book and Copyright Day on 23 April 2018. This day highlights the power of reading and promotes the accessibility, equitability and diversification of books for people, especially children, everywhere. GWI emphasizes the importance of reading's role in both formal and informal education and supports the effort to make books more accessible for those with physical and learning disabilities, increase language offerings, and introduce gender sensitive materials into schools. Part of World Book and Copyright Day's series of annual activities is the nomination of a "World Book Capital", which holds programmes to promote books and reading over the course of the entire year. UNESCO's 2018 World Book Capital is Athens, the capital of GWI NFA Greece. Athens's theme for the year was "Books Everywhere!" and focused on bringing books to everyone—boys and girls, men and women, Athenians and visitors, migrants, and refugees—in every corner of the city. GWI commends the efforts of Athens and UNESCO to eliminate barriers to education for all by promoting initiatives for accessible and inclusive reading.

— GWI Member News —

CFUW presents the conclusions of its 2018 Rural Women Survey

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) has published the executive summary of its 2018 Rural Women Survey, conducted in preparation for the ~~United Nations~~ Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62). This session's priority theme, "challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls" was the catalyst for the initiative to collect information and data on members' experiences as rural women in Canada. The Rural Woman Survey was distributed to CFUW clubs across the country on 6 December 2017 and closed on 15 January 2018. Two

hundred and forty-three members responded to the survey about their experiences in the following categories: Transportation, Health Care, Education, Technology, Gender Based Violence, Equity, Challenges and Opportunities. These categories were chosen because of informal feedback that needed to be verified on a larger scale. An additional survey for community organizations was developed to harvest information for rural community service agencies and advocates. The responses from the second/sister survey will be reviewed and shared when results are published. The Rural Women Survey results reveal patterns of opportunity and issues rural women in Canada face. This information empowered CFUW delegates to advocate for commitments from the United Nations Member states on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for rural women. CFUW sent a full delegation to attend CSW62 in March 2018. The valuable information gathered from the Rural Women Survey empowered CFUW delegates to advocate for commitments from the United Nations Member States on achieving the SDGs for rural women. Read the full Executive Summary [here](#).

Australia/New Zealand Fact Sheet

The 2030 Agenda is clear: there can be no sustainable development without gender inequality. Through its latest global monitoring report, UN Women asks the following key question, “How far have we come in turning the new development consensus into results for women and girls, and what is needed to bridge the remaining gaps between rhetoric and reality?” Using micro-level data, the report shows how, across countries, women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are often left behind and excluded from progress. In a recently published factsheet, UN Women examines how pervasive are gender inequalities in each and every dimension of sustainable development through the specific examples of Australia and New Zealand. GWI recommends reading this goal by goal review that provides key facts, ideas for action and statistics on the progress of these NFAs’ countries towards achieving gender equality in every aspect of sustainable development.

TAUW held its annual Women Leaders Award Ceremony

The Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) has been organizing a Women Leaders Awards Ceremony since 2008 as a traditional event for International Women’s Day. On 23 March, TAUW presented its 2018 awards to women who have worked actively towards improving women’s and girls’ status at various level and who have acted as outstanding role models for women in Turkey. The Honour Award was presented to Prof. Dr. Feride Acar, Governor of Grevia, while Prf. Dr. Gülsün Sağlamer received the Science Award for her quality of first female president of the Istanbul Technical University (ITU) and president of the European Women Rectors Association (EWORA). Ahu Özyurt, a popular TV programme producer and narrator highlighting the issues about enhancing women’s status, received the media award. The Sports Award went to Öznur Alumur, a Turkish visually impaired national athlete of 21, who won many medals and prizes while successfully pursuing a university degree. Finally, the Art Award went to Yeşim Ustaoglu who has recently directed a film about the lives of two women in a patriarchal society in which one of them is a psychiatrist trying to cure a child bride. GWI commends TAUW for its commitment to supporting and celebrating empowered and outstanding women across Turkey.

UWCM announces the first winner of the Olympes de la Parole Competition in Canada

The University Women’s Club of Montreal (UWCM) announced the winners of its first North American school competition called Olympes de la Parole on 12 March 2018. The “Olympes de la Parole” competition is based on a highly successful model launched by the French Association of University Women (AFFDU) in 2000. The competition is named after Olympe de Gouges, a French politician, playwright and activist who authored the Declaration of the Rights of Woman and the Female Citizen in 1791. Because of her writings, she was convicted of treason and was guillotined in Paris in 1793. A

speaking competition for high school students, the “Olympes de la Parole” competition aims to encourage primary and secondary school girls to examine issues relevant to gender and women. Students are incited to reflect upon the place of each person, male and female, in school and in society at large through the lens of equality between boys and girls. The Olympes de la Parole involves teamwork, critical thinking innovation and parental and community participation. This competition offers a unique opportunity for secondary school girls to engage in the global conversation on gender equality and learn how to influence policies that foster a gender equal society. UWCM launched the first Canadian edition of this competition on 15 November 2017 by highlighting the relationship between the competition and the themes debated at the CSW62 in New York from 12 to 23 March 2018. The theme for this first Canadian edition of the competition was, “How access to information technology can empower indigenous girls and women in Canada”. GWI commends UWCM for spearheading this very successful first North American edition of the Olympes de la Parole in Canada and invites you to read the UWCM press release [here](#).

— Advocacy —

UN Women Turning Promises into Action report

UN Women released a [global monitoring report](#) evaluating gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development entitled “Turning Promises into Action. This report has assessed the progress made and yet to be made concerning implementation of the SDG’s in a gender-conscious manner. It uses a gender-responsive monitoring approach that examines both the ends and means of achieving equality in the context of the 2030 Agenda. This report is an outstanding resource for understanding where girls and women truly stand in terms of steps taken towards each of the SDG’s, especially following the conclusion of this year’s CSW62 the recommendations it put forth for moving forward. In addition to this general report, UN Women has produced a separate [fact sheet](#) that examines the progress GWI NFA’s Australia and New Zealand have made on these goals in a gender-responsive manner. This informative brief highlights their successes and provides helpful suggestions for these states to consider implementing within the period of the agenda.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Education Advocacy

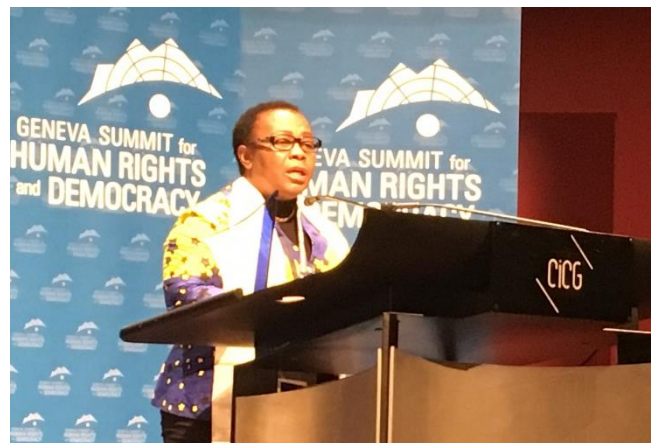
On the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s assassination, GWI celebrates the life of a critical actor in the Civil Rights movement, remembers his contributions to the dialogue surrounding race and civil rights in the United States as well as around the world, and highlights his advocacy for equal education for all. In a 1947 edition of the Morehouse College student paper, *The Maroon Paper*, then-student King, suggests how education contributes to helping people “become more efficient”, “achieve... the legitimate goals of [one’s] life”, “think critically”, and accumulate “knowledge of the race” and “the experience of social living”. In his 1964 speech to the Federation of Teachers while receiving the John Dewey award, Dr. King expresses that while “education is one of the vital tools the Negro needs in order to advance”, Black people do not reap the same benefits such as “equality and citizenship” from their educational experience as other races. He also signaled to American policymakers for failing to “allocate enough resources to build sufficient schools, to compensate adequately its teachers, and to surround them with the prestige [their] work justifies”, advocating that schools and educators must be held at a higher regard considering their impact on society’s social welfare. In his final book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*, Dr. King speaks on the relationship between education and poverty and the solution to unequal education between races writing that “the problems of housing and education... will themselves be affected if poverty is first abolished”. Dr. King’s publications regarding education echo several of GWI’s key messages such as the call for educational systems “to provide equal opportunities for all in the

transition from school to university, further education or professional work”, to ensure “safe access to, and completion of, quality secondary education to provide girls and young women with the tools and skills necessary to progress further”, to “increase access and gender equality in education by removing barriers” to it, and to “transform the school environment to ensure safety, access and quality learning for all”. Dr. King’s education advocacy, more of which can be found [here](#), also aligns with the UN’s SDG 4, which calls for an inclusive and quality education for all.

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI attends the 10th Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy

Helen Lom, GWI UN Representative in Geneva attended the 10th Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy, a one-day annual event held in Geneva. Among various panels, interviews and presentations, Ruth Dreyfus, the first woman president of Switzerland, presented the prestigious Women’s Rights Award to Julienne Lusenge, a grassroots activist from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), who founded the Female Solidarity for Integrated Peace and Development (SOFEPADI), a coalition of 40 women’s organisations fighting rape in eastern RDC. Ms. Lusenge’s central message in her inspirational acceptance speech and in her



Julienne Lusenge, recipient of the Women's Rights Award

work is “From Victim to Agent of Change”. The award to an activist fighting rape takes place at a moment of unprecedented world attention to sexual harassment and violence against women. When war erupted in eastern DRC in 1998, Ms. Lusenge was a journalist who heard first-hand from victims of abuses by warring parties, including rape and sexual slavery. An estimated 48 women are raped every hour in the DRC, a country known as the “rape capital of the world.” Outraged, she founded the Female Solidarity for Integrated Peace and Development (SOFEPADI), a coalition of 40 women’s organizations in eastern DRC. Today, Ms. Lusenge and her group help survivors of sexual violence in the DRC to bring perpetrators before courts and promote reintegration of survivors into their communities.

— Call for applications —

Alliance of Women in Media Foundation Scholarships

The Alliance of Women in Media (AWM) Foundation has partnered with the Ford Motor Company Fund to award two scholarships, the Ford Emerging Voices Scholarship and the Ford Empowering America Scholarship. These scholarships award female students scholarships ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000 dollars, as well as opportunities to write blog posts for AWM, create two profiles/interviews to be featured on the AWM website, and to attend the Women in Media event held in the Fall. **Apply [here](#) by 4 May 2018.**

UNIGE MEIG Scholarship

The UNIGE MEIG Scholarship awards women who demonstrate financial need and have been denied other funding to attend the Université de Genève for their September 2018-June 2019 Master of Advanced Studies in European and International Governance Programme. The scholarships work towards the applicant's tuition. The programme and scholarship forms can be accessed [here](#) and [here](#), respectively. **Deadlines are 15 April, 15 May and 15 June 2018.**

— Give the gift of education —

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, but it cannot be done without your generous donations and support. [Donate today.](#)



— Did you know? —

Did you know that published authors Dr. Patricia Galeana de Valdés, Mexican Federation of University Women, and Nellie D. Nath are also GWI members? Dr. Galeana de Valdés books highlight various figures and events such as Benito Juarez, the Second Mexican Empire, and the McLane-Ocampo Treaty to contextualize them in Mexican history. Ms. Nath's publication, *"Women and Human Rights"*, is a book on which she worked with a group of women that discusses human rights through the lens of international law and how that impacts the lives of women in the legal system. GWI encourages women and girls to write and hopes to welcome more GWI member authors in the future.

— Other information and events —

17-19 April	Federation of University Women Africa (FUWA) Regional Meeting, Bibliotheca Alexandria's Conference Center, Alexandria, Egypt
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day, Global
27 April	International Girls in ICT Day, Global
14 May-1 June	Committee on the Rights of the Child, 78 th session, United Nations, Geneva
12 June	World Day Against Child Labor, Global
18 June-6 July	Human Rights Council, 38 th session, United Nations, Geneva
19 June	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Global

20 June	World Refugee Day, Global
21-23 June	University Women of Europe (UWE) Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy
2-20 July	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 70 th session, United Nations, Geneva
15 July	World Youth Skills Day, Global
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons, Global
31 July-2 August	4 th Gender & STEM Network Conference, Oregon, USA

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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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