



## GWI UPDATE – 2 May 2018



*The winning team of the first North American Edition of the Olympes de la Parole Competition along with organizers from the University Women's Club of Montreal (UWCM)*

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### — Graduate Women International News —

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#### **GWI to co-host a side event during the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the CCPCJ**

The 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice ([CCPCJ](#)) will take place in Vienna, Austria from 14 to 18 May 2018. The Commission acts as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The CCPCJ also offers Member States a forum for exchanging expertise, experience and information to develop national and international strategies. As contributors to this 27<sup>th</sup> session, GWI will be co-hosting a side event on cyberbullying with Zonta International and the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW). Cyberbullying has become a fast-growing problem in our societies, severely affecting the social and psychological wellbeing of an increasing number of young people. Cyberbullying is a serious concern of GWI, who recalls [Resolution 1](#) on cyberbullying, passed during the 32<sup>nd</sup> GWI General Assembly in Cape Town in 2016. This side event will provide a space to share and discuss a variety of topics related to cyberbullying such as the newest cyberbullying statistics and analyses, prevention models under the European perspective and the crucial importance of education/awareness programs at all levels as the first line of defense against cybercrime. The panel, titled *Make young people aware of and protect them from the dangers of Cyberspace* will include contributions from Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI Vice President Membership, Catherine Bosshar, IFBPW Vice President, Barbara Buchegger, Safer Internet, and Daniel Fuhry, Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs of Austria. Follow up on our next issues of [the Update](#) and [social media](#) for more information about the side event.

### **FEMU laid the cornerstone of the new Women's Museum wing**

GWI congratulates the Federación Mexicana de Universitarias (FEMU) on laying the cornerstone of the Women's Museum new wing in early March. This event provided the opportunity to commemorate both International Women's Day and the seventh anniversary of the Women's Museum in the distinguished presence of Dr. Enrique Graue, rector of UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), FEMU members, UNAM academics and Mexico City officials. Dr. Graue unveiled the seventh anniversary plaque and laid the corner stone of the future Women's Museum new wing. Architect Leonardo Zeevaert, General Director of Buildings and



*From left to right: Dr. Jesús González Schmal, authority of Mexico City's Historical Center; Dr. Alberto Vital, Coordinator of Humanities at UNAM; Dr. Enrique Graue, UNAM's Rector; Dr. Patricia Galeana, FEMU's Founding President; and Dr. Mirella Feingold, FEMU's Executive President*

Conservation of the UNAM, presented the blueprints of what will be the future wing, that will be composed of the new Clementina Díaz and Ovando Library, as well as a multipurpose showroom for temporary exhibitions, and academic and cultural presentations. The Women's Museum is "an open book for all people, making it possible to visualize the work of women and their contribution to the construction of our nation, so that its history ceases to be a forgotten one", said Dr. Patricia Galeana, FEMU's founding president.

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

On 12 March, the University Women's Club of Montreal (UWCM) announced the winners of its first North American school competition called Olympes de la Parole. GWI congratulates these exceptional young women from Villa Maria College (lead photo) on their winning project: Using Raspberry Pi Technology to Disseminate Mental Health Information Amongst Nunavummiut Girls and Women.

The competition is based on a highly successful model launched by the French Association of University Women (AFFDU) in 2000. 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. 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 noteworthy, first North American, edition of the

Olympes de la Parole in Canada. GWI invites all readers to watch the winning project video as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place project videos won by groups from Montreal private school, The Study, on the [webpage](#) and to read the UWCM press release [here](#).

### **Federation of University Women Africa Regional Meeting**

Federation of University Women of Africa (FUWA) held its regional meeting in Cairo, Egypt, from 17 to 19 April 2019. The theme of the meeting was *Education and Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls to Achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda*. Ten participants from several African countries along with 26 Egyptian Association of Graduate Women (EAUW) members and guests attended the meeting.



*FUWA regional meeting participants*

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## — Advocacy —

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### **Cyberbullying by Marianne Singh-Waraich, CFUW**

“One of the resolutions passed in Cape Town concerned cyberbullying. Cyberbullying occurs via electronic means and can include the posting of derogatory photos/video and text on the internet. Psychological bullying is subtle and involves relational aggression such as social isolation via intentional exclusion, spreading defamatory rumours, manipulating friendships/‘ganging-up’ on a person. Whilst bullying generally occurs at school, or on the way to or from school, cyberbullying can occur anytime. To be considered as bullying behaviour the act must include hostile intent, imbalance of power, repetition, and the causing of distress. The effect of bullying on a student may include anger, depression, stress and suicide. It is a common experience for children and young people around the world. It can be addressed with school policies of zero tolerance and teaching children to be critical in evaluating posts on the web. Children should be taught how to express their emotions in a healthy way and how to stand up for themselves. The Convention on the Rights of the Child covers mental abuse, which cyberbullying definitely is”, by Marianne Singh-Waraich, CFUW.

### **GWI at the CSW62**

GWI members from around the world gathered in New-York in March to participate in CSW62, the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The priority theme for this year was *Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls*. GWI warmly thanks all of the GWI delegation, participating members and friends for their presence and commitment to CSW and this

year's theme. On 19 April GWI released the [CSW62 Special Edition Update](#). If you missed it, please read it [here](#).

### **GWI observes Menstrual Hygiene Day**

Menstrual Hygiene Day, observed annually on 28 May, is a reminder that women and girls across the world continue to face a variety of unnecessary challenges due to their menstruation. This year marks GWI's first observance of Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day). Initiated by the German-based NGO WASH United in 2014, this annual awareness day brings together non-profit organisations, government agencies, private sector, the media and individuals from around the world to promote Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). GWI is pleased to announce the start of its collaboration with [Menstrual Hygiene Day \(MH Day\)](#) in their efforts to catalyze a growing, global movement that recognizes and supports girls' and women's rights and advocate for the integration of MHM into global, national and local policies, programmes and projects. A comprehensive [write up about the day](#) has already been published. In the coming days a press release and social media campaign will be released so please follow up on [social media](#) for sharing.

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— Call for applications —

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### **International Women's Forum Fellows Programme**

The International Women's Forum (IWF) provides comprehensive and curated leadership training for fellows with influences from components of Harvard Business School and INSEAD. The program also matches participants with IWF members who will act as their mentors, giving participants advice and insight from women at the top of their respective fields. Participation in IWF's annual World Leadership Conference is included, which brings together over 850 female executives from over 40 countries worldwide. To be considered for this Fellows Program, apply [here](#) by **1 June 2018**.

### **Eira Davies Scholarship at the University of Swansea, United-Kingdom**

The Eira Davies Scholarship is a full tuition fee scholarship that will be awarded to a student demonstrating academic excellence and evidence of financial need. Female students ordinarily resident in a developing country who are admitted to pursue taught master's postgraduate courses within the College of Human and Health Sciences at Swansea University shall be eligible to apply for the Eira Francis Davies Scholarship. It is also a condition of the award that students return to their home country and detail how completion of the programme will better the lives of those at home. Further information about eligible countries and the application process is available [here](#). **Deadline for applications is 1 June 2018**.

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— GWI at the United Nations —

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### **Sustainable Development Goal 16 highlight**

Information and Communication technologies (ICTs) increasingly permeate our everyday lives and are now crucial tools for education at all levels. But these new tools can bring new risks to all digital citizens and especially the young and vulnerable: technology has raised new challenges, turning bullying, for example, into the even more toxic cyberbullying. Ensuring the protection of all people and especially children, women and girls from cyberbullying is an integral component for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, dedicated to the promotion of just, peaceful and inclusive societies for

sustainable development. This goal aims to significantly reduce all forms of violence and abuse around the world. Through its second target, “End Abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children”, SDG 16 also particularly recognizes reducing violence against children as a key area for development. This target aligns with Article 19 of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. This Convention affirms that states have an obligation to take all appropriate measures (whether legislative, administrative, social or educational) to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence. Article 19 applies to psychological bullying and hazing by adults or other children, including via information and 3 communication technologies (ICTs) such as mobile phones and the Internet (known as ‘cyberbullying’). To achieve SDG 16, it is therefore necessary to resolve potential threat and seize opportunities to tackle the issue of cyberbullying. In that respect, GWI recognized education at all levels as the primary line of defense that must be used to bring about change in [Resolution 1](#) on cyberbullying, adopted during the 32<sup>nd</sup> GWI General Assembly in 2016.

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### — Give the gift of education —

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GWI is directly addressing the lack of women teachers as a barrier to girls’ secondary education by sponsoring girls from rural areas in Uganda to qualify as teachers through the [Teachers for Rural Futures project](#). An increase in qualified women teachers in rural Uganda will have a huge impact on girls’ education in the country. The project aims to enable some 2500 more girls to attend school over ten years. Educated girls and women are better equipped to participate effectively in society, to protect themselves from harm and to care for their children. Children of educated women are healthier and far more likely to go to school, creating long-term positive effects for generations. We invite you to contribute to our GlobalGiving campaign that enables young women to achieve their potential, inspire girls to go to school and build more prosperous communities. [Give today](#).

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### — Did you know? —

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Did you know that GWI has been supporting projects that empower girls and women through education and leadership development for the past 40 years?

In 1978, Graduate Women International (then the International Federation of University Women) established the Counterpart Aid Programme to provide grants to deserving projects organised by GWI’s National Federations and Associations (NFAs) from developing countries, on a competitive basis, to be further continued in country. The programme was later named the [Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme](#) (BRPID) in honour of GWI’s first Asian President. Dr. Bina Roy believed in the power of friendly and supportive links between GWI NFAs and encouraged the implementation of Counterpart Aid Programme projects.



Today, BRPID are generously funded by VGIF and donations from supporters around the world. Nearly 60% of GWI’s NFAs have participated in the programme, either as sponsors or donors. GWI recently approved projects for 2017-2018 cycle and details about each valuable project are forthcoming. GWI thanks VGIF for its continued support!



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## — Other information and events —

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14 May-1 June 24 May	Committee on the Rights of the Child, 78 <sup>th</sup> session, United Nations, Geneva GWI-NL & Student Team The Hague University of Applied Sciences Seminar: Future of Technology—Future of Women, The Hague.
12 June	World Day Against Child Labor, Global
18 June-6 July	Human Rights Council, 38 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> Gender & STEM Network Conference, Oregon, USA
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Global
12 August	International Youth Day, Global
10-28 September	Human Rights Council, 39 <sup>th</sup> Session, United Nations, Geneva

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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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