



GW I UPDATE – 13 June 2018



On World Day Against Child Labour, Graduate Women International (GWI) joins the International Labour Organisation (ILO) calls for the protection of all children from exploitation and forced labour.

— Graduate Women International News —

World Day against Child Labour

Annually, on 12 June, the global community marks World Day against Child Labour. This year Graduate Women International (GWI) stands with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to shine a spotlight on the global need to improve the safety and health of young workers and eradicate child labour. GWI is deeply concerned that more than half of the 168 million children aged 5-14 that participate in child labour are thought to be working in hazardous conditions. In line with this year's theme, *Generation Safe and Healthy*, GWI highlights the risks facing the girl child when engaged in child labour. According to the United Nations, domestic service is the main economic activity for girls under the age of 16, with more girls employed in this sector than any other—and which is among the least regulated of all occupations. By working in the private, removed spaces of individual households, girls often become invisible and vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, abuse and trafficking. Beginning yesterday, GWI launched a social media campaign to raise awareness about child labour and our pursuit to end this injustice. Please read and share our [recent press release](#) and [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts.

— GWI Member News —

Irish Federation of University Women hosted a successful fundraiser, 'Finding Your Voice'



Find Your Voice speakers, Jane Urquhart, Austin McCracken and Lily Murphy

GWI congratulates the Irish Federation of University Women (IrFUW) for hosting a successful fundraiser on the 19 May 2018, titled “Finding Your Voice”. The event was held in the Dublin United Arts Club and three renowned speakers were organised to share their different perspectives of finding their voice. The first speaker was acclaimed Canadian author, Jane Urquhart. Urquhart went into detail about how women story tell through objects in their homes, ‘no matter how humble the home, there is always an object of beauty inside with a story attached to it and treasured by the woman of the house’. Lily Murphy, a career and executive coach followed from Urquhart. Murphy opened her talk with a quote from the poet Mary Oliver, “What is that you want to do with your one precious life?” In order to understand and answer this question Murphy stated that it is important that women ask themselves three questions. Firstly, “Are you crystal clear about what’s really important to you right now in your life?” Secondly, “Are you crystal clear about what you need in order to achieve this and are you asking for what you need?” And lastly, “Are you crystal clear at what you are the best at, your skills, talents and contributions?” The final speaker was art dealer and President of the Belfast Speakers Circle, Austen McCracken. It was outlined that key to collecting art is gaining a conversation between the artist and yourself. The lunch event offered attendees the opportunity to discuss the topics brought up within the talks, while also sharing their own stories. Lunch was followed by a fundraising raffle. GWI congratulates IrFUW for their successful event that raised €1,022 for their federation.

BFWG and UWE members gathered at the BFWG headquarters in London

The British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) held its European and International Relations study day at the BFWG headquarters in London on 28 April 2018. On this occasion, BFWG welcomed University Women Europe (UWE) President Edith Lommerse, UWE Vice-President Pina Foti, BFWG members and guests together with Aisha Alshawaf, UWE Vice-President from BFWG. The morning session started with a welcome note by BFWG President Patrice Wellesley-Cole on “Survival is an accomplishment” followed by Jenny Morley (Coordinator of European Relations - CER) inviting Ms. Lommerse to speak about her fascinating personal background as well as about UWE. The next speaker, Aisha Alshawaf, highlighted her one year as UWE VP, while Pina Foti told her story of breaking the crystal ceiling and becoming a teacher, before providing details about the upcoming UWE Conference in Rome. The afternoon session included Cynthia Burek, BFWG Coordinator of International Relations (CIR) introducing the Zainab Hussaini, a PhD candidate at Chester University who gave the audience a brief background of her journey from Afghanistan to the University of Chester, her research and the Hazara community in Afghanistan. Ms. Burek as Convenor of GWI Fellowships Committee, updated the audience on GWI fellowships. The day ended with a presentation on Zainab Hussaini’s research, titled “Reclaiming my Wanderer Belonging” and a round of thanks by the BFWG President. GWI appreciates BFWG’s commitment to the promotion of understanding and cooperation between graduate women at

the transnational level and warmly thanks Sudha Srivastava, BFWG Alternate CIR for her report comprehensive report of the event.

— Advocacy —

GWI stands with displaced women on World Refugee Day

On World Refugee Day, held annually on 20 June, GWI draws attention to the 65.5 million people worldwide who are displaced from their homes. As a result of this crisis, refugee children are five times more likely to be out of school than the global average, and only 1% pursue further education. Moreover, GWI recognises that refugee girls are arguably the most vulnerable when displaced from their homes. This is because girls are more likely to encounter human trafficking, smuggling, sexual violence or be forced into marriage. To contribute to helping girls and women advance their education, GWI's Hegg Hoffet fund provides grants for displaced graduate women who wish to continue their education or professional development. On 20 June, GWI calls attention to the UNHCR [#WithRefugees petition](#) campaign urging governments to ensure every refugee child has an education, every refugee family has somewhere safe to live and every refugee an work or develop new skills to make a positive contribution to their community.

GWI marks the International Day of Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

GWI marks the International Day of Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, held annually on 19 June, calling governments and organizations to advance new legislation to prevent sexual violence in conflict. Terror groups, such as Boko Haram, use sexual violence as a weapon of war to destroy communities and drive people away from their homes. As a result, girls and women across the world have their right to equal access to education taken from them. Acts of sexual violence in conflict often leads to girls and women becoming displaced from communities. This write up notes GWI's [resolution 7](#), which is concerned at ending human trafficking, whether this is for purposes of sexual exploitation or other forms of corruption as defined in the United Nations Protocol. This day of observance allows GWI to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, to honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world and to pay tribute to all those who have courageously devoted their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes.

— Call for applications —

Nestle MBA Scholarships for Women from Developing Countries

The Nestle Scholarship for Women from Developing Countries was initiated by a group of women who had completed Masters in Business Administration (MBA) and wanted to encourage more women to follow their path. The value of the scholarship is CHF 25,000. To apply you must send the MBA financial aid application form and submit a 750-word essay, using the IMD MBA Scholarship template, on "Many have argued that greater diversity in the Top Management team of an organization is good for profits and customers. What would you recommend as ways to achieve greater diversity?" The deadline to apply is 30 September 2018 and the course begins in January 2019. To find out more information and to apply for this scholarship please click [here](#).

Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship

International Women's Media Foundation offers the Elizabeth Neuffer Fellowship. This programme provides academic and professional opportunities to advance the reporting skills of female journalists who focus on human rights and social justice. To apply for the fellowship, you must have a female journalist with at least three years of professional experience working in print, broadcast, or digital media. The deadline to apply for this fellowship is 19 March 2019. To find out more information and contact International Women's Media Foundation, please click [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI attends the Organisational meeting of the 38th session of the Human Rights Council

The 38th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC38) will open on Monday 18 June 2018 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. In the meantime, GWI is working on the preparation of the upcoming session. On Monday 4 June, GWI participated in the HRC38 Organisational Meeting. Several hundred state and civil society representatives gathered at the Palais des Nations to discuss the provisional programme of work for the upcoming session of the HRC in the distinguished presence of His Excellency Ambassador Vojislav Šuc, President of the HRC. Attending delegates and representatives discussed the main issues and topics that will be addressed during HRC38 by sharing information on the multiple resolutions proposed for the session. Several GWI NFA countries, such as Canada, Mexico and Bangladesh are proposing resolutions related to the advancement of the status of women and girls. Those resolutions address the link between women's rights and climate change, women's right to education and the elimination of all forms of Violence Against Women and Girls in all spheres of society, including digital space. Finally, this meeting also provided the unique opportunity for all attending members to get first-hand information on the multiple side events that will be organized by states, international and non/governmental organizations throughout the two weeks of the session. GWI is gearing up its plans to cover a large number of side events related to the topic of women's rights. Such events provide a unique space for GWI to exchange knowledge and good practices with like-minded NGOs and Member States and to raise the voice of our global network of graduate women for the right of all women and girls to quality and lifelong education.

GWI UN Representative's artwork exhibited at the United Nations in Geneva

GWI UN Geneva Representative, Helen Lom, participated in the Art Exhibition organized by the United Nations Women Guild (UNWG) at the Palais des Nations in Geneva in May 2018. UNWG was founded in 1970 as a non-profit organization. In accordance with the principles of the United Nation's Charter, it aims to foster friendship and understanding amongst women of different nationalities and cultural backgrounds. Membership is opened to women connected by work or family relationships to the United Nations. The Guild offers support to newcomers in Geneva and raises funds for the benefit of



GWI Geneva UN Representative, Helen Lom, presents her art at the UNWG exhibit

vulnerable children throughout the world. The Guild offers a variety of monthly and weekly activities on a voluntary basis, from language classes and skills training to Help Line, cultural exchange, fundraising,

sports and leisure groups, as well as organizing special events. The purpose of the Art Exhibit was not only to provide an opportunity for UNWG members to showcase their creative work: each participant also donates the revenues from the art that they sold, towards the various humanitarian projects that the UNWG sponsors. GWI congratulates Helen Lom for participating in such creative and thoughtful fundraisers.

— Give the gift of education —

Do you know a graduate woman who would like 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 join a global community of some 18'000 members in 60 countries, either as a GWI independent member or national member of one of our National Federations and Associations (NFAs).

— Did you know? —

Did you know GWI is represented at four key United Nations centres which includes Geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna? Our UN Representatives advance the GWI mission by participating in UN meetings and then report back on various on-mission topics being discussed by international policy makers. GWI's New York UN representative, Dr. Maureen Byrne, recently attended the UNICEF NGO Committee meeting. Within this meeting Dr. Byrne discussed GWI's emphasis on the importance of secondary and tertiary education for girls. GWI would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our UN Representatives who continue to successfully advance the GWI's values and mission to empower all women and girls around the world through quality and lifelong education up to the highest level.

— Other information and events —

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
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Global
12 August	International Youth Day, Global
10-28 September	Human Rights Council, 39 th Session, United Nations, Geneva
17 Sept-5 October	Committee on the Rights of the Child, 79 th session, United Nations, Geneva

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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.

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