



GWU UPDATE – 27 June 2018



The 2018 Graduate Women Victoria (GWV)'s Scholarship and Bursaries Programme's winners. Photo courtesy of Dalma Jacobs, Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW), CIR

— Graduate Women International News —

GWU President: University Women Europe video message

The University Women of Europe (UWE) recently held their annual conference in Rome from 21-24 June. The overarching theme of the conference was towards increasing women's participation in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) professions with additional focus on how to create opportunities and assist systems for women in STEM professions. To support UWE's conference, GWU President, Mrs. Geeta Desai, provided a [video message](#) saying that the GWU Board is impressed with UWE's leadership on this important topic and voiced her concern about the overwhelming number of women who are currently unable to take advantage of STEM opportunities because, from an early age, they have been discouraged from studying these male dominated subjects. Mrs. Desai also emphasizes that, without female contribution, STEM fields will become increasingly male centric and fail to serve half of the global population. Outcomes and details of the UWE conference will be available soon.

— GWU Member News —

Graduate Women Victoria awards 31 deserving young women with scholarships

GWU joins Graduate Women Victoria (GWV), Australia, in congratulating the winners of the GWV's 2018 Scholarship Programme. GWV has been offering scholarships and bursaries for women students enrolled in Universities in Victoria since 1931. Through its four-category Scholarship Programme, GWV actively contributes to changing the lives of deserving women, who have overcome or who are overcoming disadvantage in the pursuit of their studies, including for instance financial difficulty, migrant or refugee status, disability, family/caring responsibilities, geographical isolation or career/study disruption. The winners of the GWV 2018 Scholarship Programme were presented with their awards during a customary ceremony on Scholarship Presentation Day on 2 June at the University of Melbourne Burnley Horticultural College Hall. In the presence of Dr. Kerry Ferguson, President, GWV, each winner was presented with a

certificate and a cheque by one of the three guests of honour of the day: Marilyn Godley, Sasse Family and Helen Imber from the Australian Communities Foundation. Each winner shared her story and presented her studies to the audience, that included family members, donors and representatives of the universities where winners study. In total, 31 students have benefited from GWV's 2018 Scholarship Programme, including three Indigenous students. The full list of winners is available on the GWV [website](#).

The Senegalese Association of University Women held a conference on peace education

L'Association Sénégalaise des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (ASFDU) organises each year during the month of Ramadan a thematic conference, gathering members, friends and other notable stakeholders to discuss a topic related to women's rights and the advancement of the status of women and girls through education. This year's theme was "Women's Role in Peace Education". Resolution 1325 of the United Nations Security Council recognises that women have a crucial role to play in the prevention, reconstruction and peacebuilding process. The African Charter of Human Rights, recalling Resolution 1325, further recognises the transformative role of women in the preservation of the crucial values of equality, peace, freedom, dignity, justice, solidarity and democracy. The conference was held on 9 June at the Dakar National Theatre with the aim to raise the level of awareness of teachers, mothers and decision makers about the importance of promoting a culture of peace and equality and advancing women's education and leadership as peace advocates. GWI warmly congratulates ASFDU for this successful event and its continuous commitment to the advancement of the status of Senegalese women and girls.



ASFDU Conference on Women's role in Peace Education"

Canadian Federation of University Women, Ottawa continues efforts to help Afghan women

The 7th annual University Women Helping Afghan Women (UWHAW) Voices for Afghan Women concluded with a June garden reception. UWHAW is an outreach group of the Canadian Federation of University Women-Ottawa that aims to learn about the realities of life in Afghanistan, raise awareness in their own community about the ongoing challenges that face women and girls in that country, to advocate for their rights, and to raise funds for their university education.



Voices for Afghan Women VII offered outstanding speakers who told the more than 100 guests about current affairs in Afghanistan and Canada's efforts to help the Afghan people by promoting human rights, with a special focus on women and girls. Diane Harper, Executive Director of the

Voices for Afghan Women VII June 2018. From left to right: Sarina Faizy, Provincial Councillor, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, Diane Harper, Executive director, Afghanistan division, Global Affairs Canada, Hally Siddons, founder of UWHAW and garden party hostess, Maryam Monsef, Minister Status of Women Canada, Francois Rivest, Canada's Ambassador to Afghanistan, Heather Lewiis, President, CFUW-Ottawa and Lorna Bickerton, Convenor, UWHAW

Afghanistan Division of Global Affairs Canada, noted that “the situation has gone from appalling to merely very bad”. But, she acknowledged that fundamental change is occurring. Canada’s aid includes funding for health projects, particularly the fight against polio, and the establishment of schools in remote areas where community support ensures the children are less likely to drop out. Canada also partners with foreign governments, international aid organizations and Canadian non-profit groups to fund reconstruction efforts.

Sarina Faizy, an elected representative to the Kandahar Provincial Council, urged Canadian leaders to further their support for Afghan peace efforts and she voiced optimism that more women will become elected officials since 30 women are currently standing for election in the provinces.



Canada’s Ambassador to Afghanistan, Francois Rivest, spoke of the declining security in rural areas and the rise of the Taliban where young men join for a minimal income and to protect their families. Other concerns voiced included, the still common practice of child marriage, that only 18 per cent of the women are literate, and that 55 per cent of the population earns less than \$1 per day. He described Afghans as living in “survival mode” yet he has hope given that maternal mortality has declined and children’s attendance at school has increased nine-fold.

The Hon. Maryam Monsef, Canada’s Minister for the Status of Women, a refugee to Canada and the first Afghan-Canadian in Parliament, said “Volunteers make the world go round”, recognizing the work of UWHAW, and encouraged the group to continue to advocate on behalf of the Afghan people. It is the young people in Afghanistan who are rebuilding the country and the world should know about the important successes and progress that is being made.

Recent Graduates of the Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education, Kabul, Afghanistan. All of the graduates were supported by UWHW

Throughout the year the group learned from outstanding speakers about women’s empowerment in rural areas, misogyny within the justice system, and social change in

the country as it is reflected in public opinion, among other topics. Fundraising efforts at the garden party and a luncheon will ensure more poor and marginalized women in Afghanistan have an opportunity to attend the Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education. To date UWHAW has supported 31 graduates with 35 more currently attending school.

According to Hally Siddons, who was the driving force behind the establishment of UWHAW, GWI has provided “tremendous encouragement to our group and has shared information about our activities in their publications and at the Triennial meetings. We are very grateful for the opportunities provided by GWI. As a consequence of this support and exposure, several other university women’s groups have taken on projects with Afghan women.”

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

On 19 June, GWI joined the International Community in observing the third International Day of Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict calling on governments and organisations to advance new legislation to prevent sexual violence in conflict. In addition to the [press release](#) - noting the crucial role of education in conflict and crisis and raising concerns about the dangers women and girls encounter when attending school and teaching during periods of armed conflict- GWI marked the Day with a [social media campaign](#) promoting related articles, advocacy ideas and achievements. On the heels of this emerging Day of Observance, GWI encourages you to [review this campaign](#) and share our posts on social media to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence and honour the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world.

GWI to participate the 70th session of CEDAW

The 70th session of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) will open on 2 July 2018 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. CEDAW is the body of independent experts that monitor implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and consists of 23 experts on women's rights from around the world. During this session of CEDAW, several GWI National Federations and Associations (NFAs) countries will be placed under review, including Australia, Cyprus, Mexico and New Zealand. Plan to follow our [social media](#) and Update newsletter to get first-hand information and reports of those reviews.

— Call for applications —

American Fellowship Summer/Short Term Research Publication Grants

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) offers a fellowship program that provides a grant of up to \$6,000 to support scholars and independent researchers who wish to prepare manuscripts for publication. AAUW stresses that preference will be given to applicants whose work supports the vision of breaking through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance. Applications for this grant is open from the 1 August until 15 November 2018, find out more information please click [here](#).

Amelia Earhart Fellowship

The goal of the Amelia Earhart Fellowship is to assist the future of women in the fields of aerospace-related sciences or aerospace-related engineering. Each year, 35 talented women, pursuing Ph.D degrees in aerospace related sciences around the globe have the chance to received the \$10,000 Fellowship from Zonta International. The deadline to apply is 21 August 2018, to find out more information please click [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

HRC 38 Annual Full Day Discussion on the Rights of Women

The 38th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC38) will take place Monday, 18 June through Friday, 6 July at the Palais des Nations in Geneva Switzerland. The GWI office, United Nations Representatives and interns are actively participating in this session of the HRC which includes submitting a [written statement](#), giving oral statement and covering the regular session of the council as well as the plethora of side events taking place within the Palais des Nations. Among notable sessions during the first week is the Annual Full Day Discussion on the Rights of Women. This session comprised two panels addressing the downside and the potential benefits of information and communication technologies (ICTs) for the advancement of the rights of women. The first panel addressed the impact of online violence on women human rights defenders while the second panel looked into how women's rights could be advanced through access and participation in information and communication technologies (ICTs). GWI, UN representative, Geneva attended the panel. Her report can be found on the [GWI website](#).

GWI UN representative, Dr. Maureen Byrne, participates in UNICEF Executive Board statement

Recently, GWI UN representative, New York City, Dr. Maureen Byrne, participated in NGO Committee on UNICEF Annual Session of the UNICEF Executive Board. As a means to further the GWI mission that aims to ensure the safe access to quality education for all girls, Dr. Byrne orchestrated the wording of the statement's item 3 that says, "Providing quality education for all children from early childhood through secondary school, including through early childhood development and education, education in emergencies, education for difficult to reach children, and education through non-traditional approaches". The full UNICEF Executive Board statement can be read [here](#).

— 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 16'000 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, in October 1992, the Federation of Argentina De Mujeres Universitarias organized a series of conferences, workshops and seminars titled 'Eco Girl-Woman'? These events, over two days, brought together 140 girls and 30 teachers from public and private schools around the country, as well as government officials from Argentina and Uruguay, with the aim of encouraging girls and women to take an active role in protecting the environment. These events sparked in November 1993 a three-day Latin America regional conference, 'Education and Environment – Eco – Woman', which discussed issues of energy use, consumer education, waste disposal and recycling, impact on health and environmental education.

— Other information and events —

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
21 September	International Day of Peace, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
22 Oct-9 November	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 71 st 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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