



## GWI UPDATE – 30 May 2018



*Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI Vice-President Membership and Elisabeth Francis, GWI United Nations Representative, Vienna at the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*

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### — Graduate Women International News —

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#### **Hegg Hoffet grant sponsors OSCE exams**

The mission of Graduate Women International (GWI) is to promote the safe access to quality, lifelong education for girls and women up to the highest levels. This includes empowering women and girls to apply their knowledge and skills in leadership and decision-making in all forms of public and private life. To further this mission, GWI offers the [Hegg Hoffet](#) programme to assist graduate women who have been displaced as a result of war, political upheaval or other serious emergencies. The Hegg Hoffet programme offers grants for courses such as refresher courses that validate re-entry into professional fields, training courses leading to other employment, language training and other courses to assist with integration into the new country. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, GWI recently awarded one of its applicants the opportunity to attend the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme OSCE, Objective Structured Clinical Examination, Parts 1 and 2. Displaced from her home country of Palestine and for fear of prosecution, she sought asylum in the United Kingdom. Given the opportunity to take the OSCE exam in London she can now continue to pursue her legal profession. Support for such classes embodies the very mission of the GWI Hegg Hoffet programme and we are ever grateful to our [donors](#).

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **FEMU's Coordinator for International Relations receives a Medal of Merit for Arts**

The Mexico Federation of University Women (FEMU) is pleased to announce that Glenda Hecksher, celebrated artist and FEMU's Coordinator for International Relations, received the Medal of Merit for the Arts for a sculpture she crafted. The Legislative Assembly of Mexico City presented the award to twenty artists whose creations excelled in the fields of literature, architecture, visual and performing arts and music. FEMU also supports and develops local and national projects to empower women in Mexico. These projects include the *Mujeres a la Tribuna* radio programme which translated into English this means *Women to the Stand*. The programme is broadcast nationally by the *Mexican Institute of Radio* coordinated by Patricia Galena and presenter Lourdes Enriquez. To commemorate World Health Day, FEMU also successfully arranged a lecture with Dr. Luz Maria Moreno titled, "Health with a gender perspective". GWI is proud to have one of Ms. Hecksher's sculptures on display at the its headquarters in Geneva and congratulates her on this award.



*Glenda Hecksher receiving the Medal of Merit for the Arts.*

### **AFFDU celebrates a successful 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the Olympes de la Parole Competition**



*Left: The 18<sup>th</sup> Olympes de la Parole Award. Right: The Primary, middle and Secondary School students participating in the 2018 Edition of the Competition and their professors.*

GWI congratulates the French Association of University Women (AFFDU) on the successful closing of the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the Olympes de le Parole competition that took place in Paris on 15-16 May 2018. On this

occasion, Ginette Bazelaire, Evelyne d'Auzac, Eliane Didier jury members, Raymonde Courtaud and several members of the AFFDU Paris Branch welcomed students and their professors from 12 elementary and secondary schools and 13 high schools. This 18<sup>th</sup> edition built on the success of the initial model launched by AFFDU in 2000. The Olympes de la Parole competition aims to encourage boys and girls alike to examine issues relevant to gender. Students are incited to reflect upon the perceived values each person, male and female, in school and in society 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 primary, middle and secondary school girls and boys to engage in the global conversation on gender equality and learn how to influence policies that foster a gender equal society. The candidates present a written file and illustrate the theme of the year by playing a skit before the jury. The theme of the 18<sup>th</sup> French edition of the Olympes de la Parole was centered around the following question, "With the multiplicity of supports (newspapers, magazines, internet, social networks) are medias always respectful of equality between girls and boys, women and men?". The competition is organized by the French Association of Women University Graduates (AFFDU), with the support of the Ministry of National Education- State Secretariat and High Council for Gender Equality (HCE), the Ministry of Women's Rights, the Gender Observatory and the *Mairie de Paris*.

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## — Advocacy —

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### **GWI calls for the elimination of Child Labour**

GWI marks World Day Against Child Labour, held annually on 12 June, by calling on governments and organizations to advance new legislation to prevent child labour. According to the United Nations (UN) 64 million girls across the globe are currently victims of this violation of human rights. This year the UN and GWI stress the global need to improve the safety and health of young workers. GWI calls governments and organizations to pursue efforts to accelerate implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8, Decent work and economic growth with emphasis on targets 8.8 to ensure safe and secure working environments for all workers and target 8.7 to end all forms of child labour. During the next four years the International Labour Organization (ILO) is committed to acting as a catalyst to re-energize global alliance in support of national action to abolish child labour. The ILO is working to ensure a new focus on national policies and programmes to promote an integrated approach to all fundamental principles and rights at work. Through its advocacy and projects run by its National Federations and Associations, GWI strives to empower women leaders in communities. These programmes improve women's global leadership skills for overcoming barriers to girls' education, including child labour. Freeing children suffering from child labour allows them to claim their inalienable right to education and healthy development.

### **GWI raises awareness about Menstrual Hygiene Insecurity on Menstrual Hygiene Day**

On 28 May 2018, GWI celebrated its very first observance of Menstrual Hygiene Day. On this occasion, GWI was pleased to announce its alliance with Menstrual Hygiene Day (MHD) in raising global awareness of the challenges women and girls worldwide face due to their menstruation. In addition to the [press release](#), drawing attention to Menstrual Hygiene Insecurity (MHI) as a needless barrier to girls' and women's education worldwide, GWI marked Menstrual Hygiene Day with a [full advocacy report](#) and a social media campaign promoting related articles, advocacy ideas, and achievements. On the heels of this successful first observance of MHD, GWI encourages you to review [this campaign](#)—and to continue

the spirit of Menstrual Hygiene Day by sharing our custom-made advocacy posters in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese with your friends and followers.

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## — Call for applications —

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### **Rhodes Scholarships at Oxford University for International Students**

The Rhodes Scholarship is offered to exceptional all-round international post graduate students who wish to study their masters or PhD at the University of Oxford. 95 Scholars are selected per year from countries such as Israel, Canada, Hong Kong, Zambia, Australia and many more. A Rhoads Scholarship covers all University and College fees, a personal stipend and one economy class airfare to Oxford at the start and end of their academic year. **Application deadlines vary from July to October, with the course starting in October 2018.** To find out more information and apply for this scholarship click [here](#).

### **Foundation Rainbow Bridge**

This scholarship is available for women from Asia or African countries affected by natural disasters, drought or famine. The scholarship awards approved applicants two scholarships of €20,000 per year whilst pursuing an MBA programme at HEC Paris. Women applying must be able to demonstrate exemplary leadership skills in community work, charity engagement and sustainable development practices. **Application deadline for the September 2018 and January 2019 intake is in August 2018.** For more information on this scholarship click [here](#).

### **SDGs&Her**

This is an online competition for female entrepreneurs to display how they are supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through their business operations. The competition is aimed to help increase knowledge about the SGDs and their potential impacts on women among non-tradition audiences and collaborate with private sector partners on all SDGs, to share innovative ideas. Winners will be recognized at the September 2018 UN General Assembly High-Level Week in New York. **The deadline for the competition is 30 June 2018. To find out more information and apply click [here](#).**

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **GWI recognises secondary school as a means to eliminate child marriage**

GWI recently submitted its [written statement](#) to the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) to be held in June. Noting HRC resolution 32/20, 'Realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl', GWI urges international organizations and Member States to implement methods to eradicate child marriage. GWI also recalls [Resolution 8](#), passed at its 32<sup>nd</sup> Triennial in 2016, that "GWI should use its influence to promote international agreements to forbid child marriages and raise awareness of girls' rights to education and a better future". GWI remains resolute that it's unacceptable that for more than 12 million girls per year, child marriage becomes their reality. This is a clear obstacle to girls' access to education all girls, which decreases their future opportunity for economic independence. Within the statement, GWI stressed the importance for girls to complete their secondary school education. Statistics produced by the World Bank highlight this prominence by forecasting, for each year that a girl completes at secondary school; it reduces her chances of marrying before the age of eighteen by 5%. GWI pledges

that governments and organizations across the globe consider the SDGs and specific targets, where States agreed to end all child marriage by 2030.

### **CSW62 Report by Dr. Jaya Dantas, PhD**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) may be over but noteworthy reports are still flowing in from GWI delegates around the world. Those reports provide the opportunity to reflect on the success of this session of the CSW and its contributions to rural women around the world. GWI appreciates the comprehensive report from Professor Jaya Dantas, PhD, from the Australian Federation of University Women, who was also representing Curtin University and the Public Health Association of Australia. In her recap, Dr. Dantas' provides highlights of the various events and sessions that she attended on behalf of GWI. "Once again CSW62 networking, and the commitment of delegates especially women from around the world was an important part of the experience and a testimony to the strength of advocacy, voice, and ongoing lobbying at all levels: the government, non-government, religious and civil society", she concluded. Read her full report [here](#).

### **GWI co-hosted a side event during the 27th session of the CCPCJ**

The 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) took place in Vienna, Austria from 14 to 18 May 2018. As contributors to this 27th session, GWI co-hosted 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. The panel, titled *Make Young People Aware of and Protect Them from The Dangers of Cyberspace*, included a contribution from Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI Vice President Membership. Mrs. Focke-Bakker gave a comprehensive speech emphasizing that the subject is of great importance and crucial concern to GWI, and recalled [Resolution 1](#) on cyberbullying, passed during the 32<sup>nd</sup> GWI General Assembly in Cape Town in 2016. Eileen rightfully pointed out that the importance of education at all levels as a first line of defence against cybercrime in all its forms. "Maximizing the opportunities that the internet brings to girls and young women while also closely managing the threats and dangers will be one of the main challenges our future generations will face", said Mrs. Focke-Bakker. "Young women must be made aware of what these threats are. But it is of importance that they also know what measures to take", she added. Educational measures should be implemented at all schools to address all forms of bullying including cyberbullying. GWI strongly emphasizes that education is the key to achieving full awareness and involvement to mitigate the above threats. The informative [full report of the side event](#), submitted by Elisabeth Francis, GWI UN Representative in Vienna, can be found on the GWI website.

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— Give the gift of education —

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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).

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— Did you know? —

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GWI fondly remembers “A Lamp of Friendship” by Edith C. Batho. Did you know that Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, Rose Sidgwick and Caroline Spurgeon suggested the idea of an international federation of women to prevent another catastrophe like World War 1?

On an autumn evening 1918, Dean Virginia Gildersleeve of Barnard College and two of her English friends Prof. Caroline Spurgeon from University of London and Miss Rose Sidgwick from the University of Birmingham, met and discussed how they could prevent another catastrophe similar to the war that had just ended. Miss Spurgeon is reporting to say, “We should have, an International Federation of University Women (IFUW)”. From there the women agreed they “must rally the Association of Collegiate Alumnae”, with Sidgwick suggesting, “We must go back and talk with the British Federation of University Women”.

Dean Gildersleeve believed that this was the birth of IFUW, though it had a long gestation period. It was on 11 July 1919 that the IFUW was officially formed. The first conference was held in London in 1920. Representatives gathered from nine organized national federations of university women. Those present included the United States of America, Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, The Netherlands, Italy and Spain. As well as this, eight other delegations attended, these were Australia, Belgium, Denmark, India, Norway, South Africa and Sweden. Among the delegates were Louisa MacDonald and Mildred Muscio, representing Australia. Shortly after the conference, these delegates successfully became national associations. The second conference occurred in Paris, 1922, whereby, an Otago representative Miss Cameron also represented New Zealand.

*GWI would like to thank Louise Croot, from New Zealand, and Jane Baker, from Australia, who kindly informed us of the first conversations and conferences of IFUW.*

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## — Other information and events —

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14 May-1 June	Committee on the Rights of the Child, 78 <sup>th</sup> session, United Nations, Geneva
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
17 Sept-5 October	Committee on the Rights of the Child, 79th session, United Nations, Geneva
21 September	International Day of Peace, Global

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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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