



GW I UPDATE – 25 July 2018



People don't have price tags.

— Graduate Women International News —

On World Day against Trafficking in Persons, GWI urges leveraging the Sustainable Development Agenda

To mark annual World day against Trafficking in Persons (TIP) on 30 July Graduate Women International's (GWI) [press release](#) urges states, alongside civil society, to leverage the Sustainable Development Agenda and its many targets to combat TIP. In conjunction with the press release, GWI will run a comprehensive, TIP awareness-building social media campaign between 25-30 July that includes three daily posts offering advocacy ideas, eye-opening articles and educating facts about TIP. We invite you to Follow, Like and Share our campaign on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). #HumanTrafficking and #EndHumanTrafficking.

Human trafficking is one of the most widespread crimes in the world, worth an estimated \$32 billion dollars in activities annually (Global Citizen). TIP includes coercing girls and women (boys and men too) into modern day slavery, forced and bonded labour, child soldiering, sexual servitude and child sex tourism. Each instance immorally ending a girl's opportunity for an education. Although labour trafficking and sex trafficking are usually analysed as separate TIP categories, victims of both forms of trafficking often share a common denominator: their trafficking ordeal started with a migration in search of economic alternatives.

Fear and division have settled in the hearts of millions of people recently, with life's uncertainties about what is beyond the other side of the fence erasing a girl's hopes for going to school. GWI asks, where is

the accountability in the school systems and policies said to help those who fled from their homeland? How can a girls' right to education be left behind and unprotected? This year's World Day against TIP theme, 'Act to Protect and Assist Trafficked Persons' aims to highlight the mixed migration flows and how natural disasters can potentially expose migrants to traffickers. GWI [Resolution 7](#) adopted by the General Assembly in 2016, empowers our National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to demand that governments review and implement national legislations aimed to eradicate trafficking. GWI Resolutions Convener, Marianne Singh-Waraich, puts the consequences of this tendency into words, "The issue of trafficking is poorly understood. It is not just about the movement of people across borders but about the subsequent exploitation within those borders. Women and children are the main victims, lured with promises of good jobs or marriage but working as slave labour instead. It affects the persons involved as well as their families left behind. Victims are powerless, controlled by criminals. They are left without options and afraid for their families left behind. Although many countries have anti-trafficking treaties, they fail to recognize the problem, seeing victims as economic migrants. GWI encourages members to urge their governments to enact anti-trafficking legislation with a clear definition of what constitutes trafficking, provide support for victims and informers".

— GWI Member News —

Graduate Women Queensland Sunshine Coast awards Bursaries

On 7 July the Graduate Women Queensland Sunshine Coast branch held their annual Bursary Presentation Breakfast at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC) Innovation Centre. These annual undergraduate bursaries are offered to students who have completed at least one year of their degree at the University of the Sunshine Coast. The program included a presentation by Professor Tim Wess, Deputy Vice-Chancellor; introductions by Mrs. Marilyn Keelty, chair of Refugee Education Program of Yeronga State High School guests, sisters Kiros and Mealat Gebrehiwet, who are refugees from Ethiopia. Highlighting the morning was Judy Allinson, Chair of the Undergraduate Bursary Committee, presenting the 2018 winners and the three bursaries to:



AFGW Sunshine Coast Branch 2018 Undergraduate Bursary Winners: Asha Sara, Nicole Lambert and Melissa Bartels

Melissa Bartels, Bachelor Social Science (Psych)/Bachelor Criminal & Justice. Melissa (35) has a GPA of 6.81. She left home at an early age and, after surviving a challenge past, chose to seek a better future for herself and her children. Nicole Lambert, Bachelor of Psychology (Honours). Nicole (45) has a GPA of 6.6. As a school leaver, Nicole had wanted to attend university and study psychology, but had been discouraged by her parents, who saw the woman's role as "to get married and have a family". As a sole parent of three children, and wanting a better life for the family, Nicole made the decision to attend USC. Asha Sara, Bachelor of Nursing Science. Asha (42) has a GPA of 6.9. Before commencing her university studies, Asha worked as a hairdresser for 10 years. She currently studies at the Fraser Coast campus and has been instrumental in the formation of the first student club there, called the USC Fraser Coast Social Calendar. Biographies for these three remarkable women can be read on the Graduate Women Queensland Sunshine Coast [Facebook](#) page.



Kiros and Mealat Gebrehiwet from Ethiopia with Marilyn Keelty, chair of Refugee Education Program.

The event is held in support of the Australia Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) SDG4 Task Force main priority SDG4.b.1. Traveling to the event from Brisbane were Dalma Jacobs, Miranda Mortlock, Convenor of the AFGW SDG4 Task Force, and Marion Jones AFGW Website Manager. GWI congratulates each of the bursary winners and commends AFGW Graduate Women Queensland Sunshine Coast branch for their programme.

Bina Roy project highlight: citrus products processing and marketing education in Turkey

On the heels of a successful third International Youth Skills Day, GWI recognises the crucial role that Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) plays in helping societies to address their multiple socio-economic demands by helping youth and adults develop the skills they need for decent work and entrepreneurship. Around the world, women continue to be disproportionately exposed to lower quality jobs, greater labour market inequalities and longer and more insecure school-to-work transitions. Consequently, TVET equips youth and disadvantaged women with the skills required to access the world of work, including self-employment. In Turkey, the Turkish Association of University Women (TUKD) Adana branch is working in partnership with the Cukurova University Faculty of Agriculture to empower economically disadvantaged women through vocational training, while supporting the transmission and knowledge of traditional citrus production techniques. Indeed, the region of Adana is one of the main areas of citrus production in Turkey. Through this training programme, 25 women aged 18 to 50 who immigrated from poor rural areas will access practical livelihood skills. They will then be able to gain employment in citrus production or assist them in the creation of their own citrus-related business. This project is part of the 2018 edition of the Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID). A grants mechanism of GWI, BRPID began in 1978 and was later named in honour of Dr. Bina Roy, educator and former GWI President from India. GWI remains ever grateful to VGIF (www.vgif.com) for their generous donations supporting the Bina Roy Projects.

Israel Association of University Women holds awards eight STEM scholarships

The Jerusalem chapter of the Israel Association of University Women held a gala tea in mid-June to award grants to winners of the competitive scholarship application for women in advanced stages of their PhD research at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Although the competition was open to PhD candidates in all the study disciplines and across all ages, the eight winners out of 40 applicants were primarily in their 30s and studying in the STEM fields: Genetics (stem cells), Neurobiology (multiple sclerosis), Chemistry (non-polluting materials) Medical Neurobiology (emotional dysregulation), Brain Sciences (basal ganglia), Psychology. (Internet-based treatment for anxiety disorders), and Nutrition (cognitive functioning of type 2 diabetics). Dr. Maayan Salton, representing the Hebrew University at the ceremony, described the disparity in Israeli universities between the percentage of women currently earning PhDs (53%) and women representation among senior faculty (17%). GWI celebrates these eight grant awardees and congratulates IAGW on their programme.

Additionally, the newly revived Tel Aviv chapter has recruited 75 members to provide one-on-one mentoring to girls from disadvantaged backgrounds residing in youth hostels. Group activities are also provided to raise self-esteem and confidence as well as to open new cultural and career opportunities to

these young women. The goal is to recruit more women mentors to reach a level of 100 mentors and 100 young participants. The chapter is also working with Tel Aviv University to institute special grants in STEM fields for 10 BA and 10 MA women candidates from families with few resources, cultural as well as financial.

Shiri Malca, Adv Chair of the Tel Aviv and Central Region chapter, and Ora Sharon, Vice President of the Israel Association of Graduate Women, were among the many women who recently attended the esteemed conference of the University Women of Europe in Rome.

— Advocacy —

CEDAW 70th session NFAs under review Australia, Mexico, New Zealand

On 2 July the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) opened its seventieth session with a statement by Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights. In her opening remarks, Ms. Gilmore described the current period of human rights progress as one of “rollback, backlash and hostility to recent progress, and called on CEDAW Committee members to maintain strength in the context of the difficult environment, and to bravely confront power on behalf of women and girls”. Accountability, she emphasized, “must be demanded, retrogressive laws and policies must be exposed, and harmful practices across every culture and polity must be called out for what they were”. She urged that today the times require strength and robust compassion to bravely confront power on behalf of women and girls. The CEDAW seventieth session was held from 2 to 20 July, during which GWI NFAs Australia, Mexico and New Zealand were reviewed.

Australia

Patricia Bergin, First Assistant Secretary, Office for Women, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of Australia, recalled her country’s historic accomplishments in fighting discrimination against women. The CEDAW Committee experts acknowledged Australia’s successes yet expressed concern over the lack of a constitutional structure for human rights. Experts also wanted to know how the recognition of Indigenous peoples was being formalized and, given the much-criticized offshore screening process, how the rights of migrants were guaranteed. A few highlighted replies from the Delegation include:

- The Australian Delegation put emphasis on the challenges Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander women and girls face in education, as well as disabled and pregnant women and girls.
- Though there has been positive progress with the programmes implemented to support the completion of education and to encourage the participation on science and technologies careers for Aboriginal women, experts questioned the effectivity, funding and measuring system used to keep track of the progress made.
- Gender segregation in both education and workplace were also brought to light, as experts showed concern on the handling of stereotypes in the education system and the expulsion of pregnant girls at school, as well as the gender pay gap and the Parental Leave Pay. Delegates acknowledged the problems exposed and explained the measures taken to tackle such problems.
- As for the economic opportunities for women, a Delegate reassured that the main and single problem in Australia are the segregated industries, issue that needs much analysis in order to achieve the G20 target to reduce the work gender gap.

The interesting full report of the Australia session can be read [here](#).

Mexico

Presenting the report for Mexico, Mr. Miguel Ruiz Cabanas, Under-Secretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, reiterated Mexico's determination to make reforms on behalf of women's advancement. He said that the Committee's recommendations had guided Mexico's work towards ending discrimination and empowering women in the country whilst acknowledging that many challenges lay ahead. The CEDAW Committee experts affirmed the Committee's awareness of the huge challenges faced by Mexico as well as the complexity of its federal system and the prodigious amount of work being done to meet the challenges. The Experts noted, however, the still prevalence of harassment and sexual violence in the educational system; concerns about teenage pregnancy; gender employment gap (49% women) and increasing femicide among other issues. A few highlighted replies from the Delegation include:

- Teachers are trained to prevent violence in schools and protocols are in place to prevent violence and harassment, along with a robust legal framework to promote peaceful co-existence and human rights in schools.
- A national strategy on teenage pregnancy had engaged the participation of civil society and the administrations of each state, and it utilized the Internet to create awareness and conduct sex education. Over 5,000 reproductive health centres across the country provided guidance and contraception.
- Equality in workplace is guaranteed by the federal labour law. The authorities are fostering a cultural change through work fairs across the country. Gender-related discrimination complaints could be lodged under national law, and the requirement for pregnancy tests does still exist but is being targeted by a number of initiatives.
- The Delegation noted that not all states in the country had criminalized femicide but key criteria had been introduced to carry out investigations on deaths of women within a gender perspective. They reported over 9,000 cases of enforced disappearance and there are prosecutors at the national and local level that specialized in dealing with such cases.

The engrossing full report of the Mexico session can be read [here](#).

New Zealand

The CEDAW Committee report on New Zealand outlined some of the gender challenges faced in the country. Statistics show that Maori and Pasifika women are less likely than their European and Asian counterparts to complete tertiary education and that men still dominate the field of information technology and engineering. Furthermore, because teenage pregnancy lead to dropping out of school it has been brought to the attention that this problem needs to be solved. Acknowledging the problem, the New Zealand Delegation has committed to implement measures and initiatives. A few highlighted replies from the Delegation include:

- The Positive Behaviour for Learning programmes help parents, whānau, teachers and schools promote positive behaviour and create inclusive learning environments. Furthermore, the Attendance Services project aims to be responsive to the needs of Māori and Pacific students and address the root causes of truancy and non-enrolment.

- Toloa Kenese Clubs run in various schools across the Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch regions are designed to encourage participation of Pacific students from year seven to year 10 in hands-on STEM learning activities.
- In June 2017 the New Zealand Ministry for Women published [Decoding Diversity](#), a guide for educators about how to attract and retain young women and girls in technology-based education and careers.
- 2014 NCEA data shows that female student levels of participation and achievement across STEM subjects is equal to or greater than that of male students.
- Since 2016, the Ministry of Education has offered tertiary level STEM related scholarships; in 2017, 37% of recipients were female.
- The Government is committed to reducing the high rates of teen pregnancy and providing support services to teen mothers and their children. Efforts remain focused on providing comprehensive sexuality education.
- In 2016, 83.6% of students remained in school to the age of 17. Female students (86.3%) were more likely to remain at school until age 17 than their male counterparts (81.0%).

The interesting full report of the New Zealand's o session can be [here](#).

— Call for applications —

Win

WIN works with media companies and their high potential female employees to overcome the gender gap in management and senior management positions. The programme seeks to equip women media professionals in middle and senior management positions with the right skills, knowledge and attitudes to help advance their careers. WIN provides them the support networks they need to take on a greater leadership role within their organizations and works with their organizations to create environments for high potential women to succeed. Botswana, Rwanda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania and Kenya are welcome to apply. **Deadline: 15 August 2018.** For more information click [here](#)

Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD) Fellowship

The Early Career Women Scientists (ECWS) fellowship is an award of up to USD 50,000 offered to women who have completed their PhDs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects and are employed at an academic or scientific research institute in one of the listed [Science and Technology Lagging Countries \(STLCs\)](#). ECWS fellows will be supported to continue their research at an international level while based at their home institutes and to build up research groups that will attract international visitors. Applications are completed and sent online, and the **deadline is on 31 August 2018**. More information can be found [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2018 Forum theme, Transformation Towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies, set the tone for the more than a thousand governments, businesses and civil society leaders who gathered at the Forum 9 to 18 July at

United Nations headquarters in New York. Annually, the Forum brings together these world leaders to discuss challenges and successes of the SDG implementation as well as to determine best practices going forward that will ramp up engagement with the SDGs even as the world contends with other pressing problems, such as an increase in conflicts and rising trade tensions. The Forum aims to promote accountability and encourages international cooperation. To this end, GWI actively participates annually in the Forum. GWI United Nation Representatives Dr. Maureen Byrne and Maryella Hannum contributed to the Forum with the following attendances:

Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI)

The HESI is a partnership between United Nation units and agencies with commitments from over 300 universities who focus on topics related to higher education, science and policymaking. The HLPF side event considered four themes: 1) leveraging innovative partnerships with higher education institutions towards sustainable and resilient societies, 2) student engagement towards realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 3) how can Higher Education Institutions engage with HESI and, 4) how are Higher Education Institutions mainstreaming the SDGs into curricula. The connectivity between the SDGs, Higher Education Institutions and the advocacy work of GWI towards advancing the status of women and girls is encouraging and instrumental to the successful implementation of the SDGs. In this session, the topics treated are directly related to GWI [Resolution 5](#), Tolerance of Minority Groups; [Resolution 6](#), FGM; [Resolution 7](#), Human Trafficking and [Resolution 8](#), Child Marriage. Maryella's noteworthy full report can be read [here](#).

Advancing Science, Technology and Innovations (STI) for Achieving the 2030 SDGs

As part of the HLPF, on 11 July GWI participated in the Advancing Science, Technology and Innovations session. The rapid technology evolution was key to the discussion. Artificial intelligence, robotics, nanotechnology and other technologies are having, and will have, a profound impact on global society, creating opportunities as well as challenges for the economy and the environment. In order to benefit from these advances, systemic educational changes are needed in training, skills and creative capacities. Noted in the session was that local capacity-building for a renewable environment is essential, especially in the rural areas. In addition, steps must be taken to address the gaps that technology has initiated and will exacerbate in the future. Likewise, as the world continues to urbanize, smart city technology becomes more essential to deal with issues such as air pollution, urban sprawl and infrastructure. Presenters observed that science information is needed for a balanced implementation of 2030 SDGs. Other objectives discussed where the reduction of the gaps between science and public policy and the need to translate research into policy. Advocacy for girls in STEM and for all students from developing countries was emphasized. GWI encourages you to read more about the session in Maureen's report [here](#).

How far have we come?

At the HLPF side event on the 9 July, the United Nations Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs outlined the importance of taking stock of existing actions, monitoring plans to ensure actions keep up with aspirations. He noted the need to bring together leading universities to demonstrate how they are integrating SDGs into their curriculum and research. Furthermore, the progress report by the Secretary General described how climate change and conflict hinder SDG progress, and how poverty in rural areas remains severe. Reportedly, approximately four billion people were without social protection in 2016 and hunger is on the rise for the first time in a decade. On the other hand, there are improvements in maternal health and a reduction in deaths of children under 5 years of age. Some forms of discrimination against women have decreased; child marriage rates are down 40%. However, gender inequality is still persistent. New sources of income are needed. GWI encourages you to read Maureen's complete full report [here](#).

Education for Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability Side Event

On 9 July, Education for Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability session was held at the HLPF. The session covered the trends of education in the context of the 17 SDGs.

With an intersectional focus, the side event conversation recognized the need of dialogue and coordination of all 17 SDGs in order to achieve SDG 4 centered around education. This session was presented by the Education and Academia Stakeholder Group (EASG), Global Campaign for Education, Education International, International Council for Adult Education and the European Students' Union. We GWI invites you to read Maryella's comprehensive report [here](#).

— Give the gift of education —

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](#).

— Did you know? —

During the 15th conference held in 1965, in Brisbane, Graduate Women International, the former International Federation of University Women, discussed the topic of part-time work for women. In the questionnaire held by 22 association in 1962, it is shown that the topic was highly controversial, which can be different from the vision we have now in 2018. Despite the trend of the time, the first vice president, DR. Stella Wolff, stood by the side of women, stating that it had appeared necessary to dissociate IFUW from the attitude so generally taken "regarding part-time work as something solely to do with women". The resolution had been strengthened since the meeting of the committee. An important point was also made about the urged of all part time workers to be guaranteed the same security as full time workers with fair remuneration.

This strong revolutionary position was brought up in the same year that Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioners (EEOC) were appointed to oversee enforcement of the Civil Rights Act in which Aileen Hernandez, a future president of NOW, was the only woman appointed to the Commission.

— Other information and events —

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
5 October	World Teachers' Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Global
22 Oct-9 November	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 71 st session, United Nations, Geneva
24 October	United Nations Day, Global
25-28 July 2019	GWI Peace through Education 33 rd Triennial and Centenary Conference, 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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