

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **GWI urges states, alongside civil society, to leverage the Sustainable Development Agenda to combat Trafficking in Persons**

Geneva, Switzerland, 30 July 2018 - On World Day against Trafficking in Persons (TIP), Graduate Women International (GWI) raises its members' collective voices to call for the elimination of TIP. We urge states, alongside civil society, to leverage the Sustainable Development Agenda to combat TIP and to justly and unreservedly commit to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) that aims for inclusive quality education for all. Successful implementation of SDG 4 will improve a girl's opportunities for education reducing the likelihood she will become a victim of TIP. We mark World Day against TIP also by reaffirming GWI [Resolution 7](#) adopted by the General Assembly in 2016 which empowers GWI National Federations and Associations (NFA)s to demand that governments review and implement national legislations aimed to eradicate trafficking.

Many of GWI's member NFAs in 54 countries are fighting human trafficking. As example, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) in June 2018 declared in [a brief](#) to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights, "To end human trafficking, the government needs to ensure that...vulnerable individuals and victims have ready access to fully resourced services...legal resources...and access to employment and education". GWI stands with CFUW and all NFA efforts.

GWI President Geeta Desai calls upon governments "to redouble their efforts to root out the causes of human trafficking. While it is important to bring down trade barriers, it is incumbent on governments to ensure that country borders do not become so porous that traffickers can move human beings in and out of countries without detection. And, it is imperative that border patrols, law enforcement and justice apprehend and prosecute traffickers to the fullest extent of the law".

Amid the migration crisis human rights protection and the right to education have been put aside. Governments are often "Ticking the Box" for social responsibility. TIP victims are, in the vast majority, women and children ([Global Report on Trafficking in Persons](#)). These girls and young women are stripped away from all sources that could provide them with a proper education, forcing them to perform inhumane works such as prostitution or begging and undermining their opportunities to reach their full potential. "The implementation of policies preventing irregular immigration has been designed to prevent crimes instead of protecting those who are victims already", said Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, [Special Rapporteur on Trafficking](#).

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 54 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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Graduate Women  
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# Press Release

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