



GWI UPDATE – 8 August 2018



British Federation delegates pictured on 22 July at Denman College, Oxfordshire after the 108th Annual General Meeting where they celebrated the award of European Association of the Year 2018.

— Graduate Women International News —

GWI celebrates Safe Spaces for Youth on International Youth Day – 12 August

International Youth Day, celebrated each year on 12 August, is a global reminder of the tremendous potential of young people in building more sustainable, stable, peaceful and inclusive societies. The theme for International Youth Day 2018 is Safe Spaces for Youth, timely, considering the ongoing global conflicts that challenge the world's youth development. Graduate Women International (GWI) has long recognized that the creativity and contributions of young people are vital for the continuing development of the societies in which we all live and we bolstered this commitment by adopting [Resolution 10](#) at the GWI 32nd triennial in 2016. GWI Resolution 10, among other goals, established a permanent structure within the framework of GWI for a Young Members Committee to support and promote opportunities and training for young members to gain managerial knowledge and expertise of GWI.

This year GWI draws its attention back on the [World Programme of Action for Youth](#) (United Nations (UN) 1995) that set policy framework and guidelines for national actions to improve the situation of young people. Among the 15 Priority Areas, and fitting for GWI are Education, Globalisation, and Girls and Young Women. As a worldwide organisation that aims for the advancement of women and girls through the safe and equal access to education, GWI marks this important day by revering the vitality and spirit of the world's youth. We invite you to join us in this celebration with added focus on the recognition of education as crucial tool for the empowerment of young girls. Girls' education is about so much more than knowledge. By ensuring that a girl has equal and safe access to education, the benefits will pass on to her children (both boys and girls), community and her country. Beginning 10 August, plan to follow GWI's social media campaign that celebrates today's youth by featuring assorted articles, advocacy ideas and educating facts surrounding International Youth Day and the world's youth. We invite you to FOLLOW, LIKE and SHARE our campaign on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). #YouthDay2018 #SafeSpaces4Youth.

GWI honours African Women's Day

July 31st marked the commemoration of African Women's Day, a day dedicated to African women since 1974, and which celebrates the achievements of all African women. The first African Women Organisation, which came to be known as the Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO) was founded in 1962, uniting African women within a single platform, with the aim of sharing practices, exchanging points of view and calling for joint action to promote human rights and gender equality, with a view to eliminating any form of discrimination. Through the promotion of the full integration of women in economic and social development, substantial progress has been made concerning women's rights and the recognition of their role within society. From this came as we know it today World African Women's Day, this year marking its 56th anniversary. GWI and the global community honour this day, celebrating the accomplishments and successes of African women, along with promoting the recognition of their right to participate in the decision-making process at the political, economic, social and cultural levels.

— GWI Member News —

Bina Roy Partners in Development project highlight: volunteer university students provide parent and student coaching to reduce school dropout rate in Turkey

As part of the GWI 2017 round of the Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID), the Turkish Association of University Women (TUKD) Antalya Branch work tirelessly to lower early school withdrawal rates among girls from disadvantaged families with low support from their parents. TUKD developed an innovative, collaborative model of parent empowerment and student coaching that provided 20 young female students, at risk of leaving school due to a lack of family support, with active support from volunteer university students. By engaging both parents and young girls in a variety of social and cultural activities, TUKD significantly improved the attitude of parents and students towards attending secondary school. The BRPID projects are run throughout the world by GWI National Federations and Associations (NFAs) and focus on a wide array of issues aligned with GWI's missions and values, from the economic empowerment of women to illiteracy eradication, girls' school dropout prevention, the promotion of gender equality, women's sexual and reproductive rights and girls' and women's right to education up to the highest level. GWI remains grateful to VGIF (www.vgif.org) for their generous support of the BRPID projects. GWI also congratulates TUKD on their inclusive approach to decreasing school drop out rates.

British Federation of Women Graduates recent highlights

The 108th Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference of the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) was held from 20-22 July at Denman College, a Georgian mansion set in lovely Oxfordshire countryside. It was attended by more than forty members plus several accompanying husbands.

Organized under the theme 'Representative Women', keynote speaker, Caroline Singh, who works in the male dominated technical world of sound recording for TV dramas and documentaries, gave participants demos of various microphones and discussed the secrets and pitfalls of her profession. Ms. Singh began her career as an assistant operating the boom and built a reputation for reliability, tact, accuracy and patience with sometimes temperamental stars and she is now a lead recordist, one of only three women in the UK.

The after-dinner speaker was Prof Carolyn Carr of the Biomedical Science Research Team in the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics at the University of Oxford who specializes in the study

of cardiac stem cells. She is also a Governor of the BFWG Charitable Foundation, FfWG (Funds for Women Graduates) and chairs the Grants Committee which disburses more than 250 thousand pounds per annum to women post graduates studying for a research degree. She had recently taken time out for family but was then a recipient of a Daphne Jackson Fellowship to help her return to research.

During the session workshops were held on the topics raised by the Resolutions before the AGM prior to voting. Outcomes were:

- to have only three regions
- to enable the formation of Campus Groups with Executive Committee control of the process
- to recombine the roles of Coordinator of European Relations (CER) with that of Coordinator of International Relations (CIR). Jenny Morley, a previous President and current CER, was elected as CIR.
- the 2019 AGM will be held in the Cathedral City of Lincoln

A Bring-and-Buy stall raised 150 pounds for the GWI Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates programme. GWI is appreciative of the generous contributions to the Hegg Hoffet programme and congratulates BFWG on their successful AGM.

Federación Mexicana de Universitarias Women's Museum

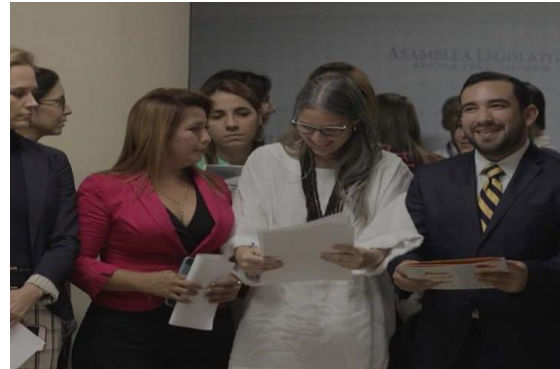
The Federación Mexicana de Universitarias (FEMU) Mexico City-based Women's Museum continues its active line of awareness-raising events this summer. Recently, they coordinated the temporary exhibit of Mexican photographer, Patricia Aridjis, entitled "Las horas negras" (Black Hours), which reflects the lives of women in different detention centres across Mexico. Also, at the Women's Museum recently, Dr. Erik Velásquez García, Coordinator of the Postgraduate Seminar in Art History at the National University of Mexico, UNAM, presented a conference entitled, "Mayan Woman: A Written and Visual Portrait of the Classical Period". Another lecture, "The discovery of the Red Queen, a powerful woman from Palenque" was presented by Fanny López, MA, Coordinator of the Degree in Archeology at the University of Sciences and Arts of Chiapas. Thereafter, the National Union of Women Lawyers of México coordinated a workshop on "Discrimination and Gender: Legal Self-Defense for Women" and Rafael Roura, BA, shared stories, "Mexico City, City of Legends" about the City's Historic Center. During May 2018, the museum received 1250 visitors: 806 women and 432 men; (609 were young people and 635 adults.) When your plans include Mexico City, take time to visit the Women's Museum where you will surely discover an event put forth by Mexico's scholars and FEMU's promoters of women's rights

FEMU also produces a weekly radio program entitled: "Mujeres a la Tribuna", (Women to the Stand), broadcast nationally by the Mexican Institute of Radio (IMER, in Spanish), coordinated by Historian Patricia Galeana, PhD, and presented by Lourdes Enríquez, M.A. FEMU is the first organization of the civil society to have a program on Ciudadana 660 (Former Radio Ciudadana 660 AM) of the Mexican Institute of Radio, IMER. GWI congratulates FEMU on their achievements at the Women's Museum and with its radio programming.

Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de El Salvador



Course being held by AMUS on the prevention of violence against young girls, children and adolescents.



AMUS members Claudia Cristini and Alexandra Auraujo presenting their bill.



AMUS presenting before El Salvador's Legislative Assembly Commission of Deputies of Health.

Last month, Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de El Salvador (AMUS) celebrated its 65th anniversary. Alongside this milestone, they inaugurated a new training centre “AMUS El Salvador” and introduced a comprehensive training course, comprising five modules, that examines the prevention of violence against young girls, children and adolescents.

As demonstration of AMUS’s commitment to strengthening the education system through responsible youth and safer environments for women and young girls, AMUS members Claudia Cristini and Alexandra Auraujo presented to Deputies of the Legislative Branch a legislative bill entitled, Ley de Educación en Afectividad, which advocates for the provision of sexual education among Salvadorian youth. Additionally, before the Legislative Branch Commission of Deputies of Health, and in an effort to change policy, AMUS’ draft law on the regulation and control of the working hours of medical students and dentistry internships and residencies was recently presented.

GWJ applauds AMUS for these remarkable achievements and measures taken to advance the status of women and girls in El Salvador.

— Advocacy —

GWI promotes the protection of culture, knowledge and languages of the world's Indigenous women and girls

On the 2018 International Day of the World's Indigenous People, held annually on 9 August, GWI marked the occasion by promoting the protection of culture and language of the world's Indigenous women and girls; and the preservation of their cultural rights. Indigenous people are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment, yet the protection of their rights as distinct peoples is still often compromised and violated. "GWI calls on all countries to protect and support Indigenous people. GWI strongly believes that Indigenous knowledge, particularly the knowledge of Indigenous women, is invaluable to the protection of the earth and its natural resources and biodiversity and that if we are to create sustainable societies we must respect Indigenous cultures and the rights of all Indigenous people", says Geeta Desai, GWI President.

Indigenous people are, historically, among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of people in the world. Increasingly though, the international community is recognizing the need to promote the protection of their rights and the right to maintain their distinct cultures and ways of life. With a focus this year on the theme of Indigenous peoples' migration and movement, the UN General Assembly [Resolution on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) highlights the "importance of the empowerment and capacity-building of indigenous women and youth, including their full and effective participation in decision-making processes in matters that affect them directly [...], particularly in the areas of health, education, employment and the transmission of traditional knowledge".

GWI extends this year's message with a press release that promotes the protection of culture, knowledge and languages of the world's Indigenous people through education. The press release can be read and shared [here](#). We also invite you to FOLLOW, LIKE and SHARE our awareness-building social media campaign on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) that promotes Indigenous peoples' rights, particularly those of women and young girls, and protect these rights as they seek to pursue self-development, empowerment and capacity-building.

— Call for applications —

L'Oréal UNESCO For Women in Science Fellowships

Each year the L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science awards fellowships on national and regional levels programs that represent over 9,500 applications, 275 talented young women scientists granted Fellowships to pursue promising research projects, 48 programs covering 115 countries, 44 prestigious partners among the highest scientific authorities in their countries and over 350 international scientists participated in selecting the national and regional fellows. Application deadlines vary, and you can find out more [here](#). An upcoming September 2018 deadline is for female citizen of China Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau pursuing research in the field of Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics. You can review details [here](#).

Science4Refugees

Partnering with EURAXESS, Science4Refugees is an initiative that aims to provide refugee researchers in European host countries with information and support services, as well as part-time and full-time jobs. Currently, Science4Refugees is offering more than 9000 jobs around Europe. Information can be found [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI Bids Farewell to GWI United Nations Representative, Nina Joyce

After eight years with GWI, GWI bids fond farewell to Nina Joyce, UN Representative in Geneva. During her time with GWI, Nina has served under three different boards and has worked her way around the UN Human Rights Council and many diplomatic missions in Geneva. She also actively contributed to NGO coalition groups, in particular NGO CSW Geneva, and in human rights education through the NGO WG on HREL. GWI and its mission remains close to Nina's heart and she credits her time at GWI as getting her started with advocacy in international policymaking. She will take these skills forward into her new role as Policy and Government Liaison Officer with Control Arms. She is also completing an Executive Education Certificate in Advocacy in International Affairs at the Graduate Institute in Geneva.

Kate Gilmore and the upcoming 39th session of the Human Rights Council

On the heels of CEDAW's 70th session and in preparation of the commencement of the 39th session of Human Rights Council (HRC39), the HRC Bureau met with Kate Gilmore, Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights of the United Nations. In her remarks, Ms. Gilmore noted several significant gender-related draft resolutions that are currently under review for the HRC39. These include texts on eliminating discrimination against women and girls in the effort of economic empowerment; on accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women, with a focus on digital contexts; on strengthening human rights on the Internet; and on the human rights dimensions of climate change.

The HRC39 session to be held 10-29 September will offer 42 meetings to accommodate the scheduled programme, including five additional interactive dialogues compared to HRC36 last September. GWI will be participating in HRC39 with a written statement and attendances to the General Session and side events.

— Give the gift of membership —

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 15'000 members in 54 countries, either as a GWI national member of one of our National Federations and Associations (NFAs) or as an independent member.

— Did you know? —

Did you know GWI helps to influence the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 in all states involved? GWI president, Geeta Desai, is working on a six-part SDG 4 tutorial to understand what the SDGs are and how to implement them in your country or community. In its third part, Ms. Desai talks about the initiatives from the countries involved. She expresses her concern in the ineffectiveness of governments alone while applying the policies to ensure the completion of SDG 4 by 2030 and calls for private and public sectors to join in collaboration for the future of education.

GWI members can access the tutorials by logging into the Member Corner of the website and clicking on Toolkits. If you are not a GWI member and would like to explore our member benefits, please join us [here](#). You can also learn more about SDG 4 [here](#).

— Other information and events —

9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Global
12 August	International Youth Day, Global
8 September	International Literacy 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
20 September	WG-USA East Coast Regional Conference, Philadelphia, USA
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	CEDAW, 71 st session, United Nations, Geneva
24 October	United Nations Day, Global
25-28 July 2019	GWI Peace through Education Convention, 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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