



GW I UPDATE – 19 September 2018



Members of the Paraguayan Federation of Graduate Women (PFGW) attend the PFGW founding assembly. Top row, left to right: María Angélica Prono, Fátima Fleitas, Paola De la Sobera, Arizelis Memmel, Verónica Figueredo, Rachel Kimbrow, Gloria Brizuela, María José Méndez, María Teresa Ynsfran and Elena Prono. Bottom row, left to right: Ana Acosta, María José García, Malvina Segovia, Teresa Galiano, Marilis Bareiro.

— Graduate Women International News —

Welcome to the Paraguayan Federation of Graduate Women (PFGW)

Graduate Women International (GWI) is delighted to announce that the [Paraguayan Federation of Graduate Women](#) (*Federación Paraguaya de Mujeres Graduadas*) has joined our international network of graduate women. Located in the city of Asunción, Paraguay, PFGW is headed by President, Malvina Segovia and Vice-president, María José García. They are assisted by Paola de la Sobera as Coordinator of International Relations, Fátima Fleitas as Secretary and Ana Acosta as Treasurer. GWI enthusiastically embraces PFGW's mission to *"stimulate the public opinion on women's education and women's affairs and make representations on issues of concern to women and girls"*. As stated in the founding constitution, PFGW will additionally *"promote legislation affecting the rights and welfare of women"* and will endeavour to *"build a dynamic network of women from the public, private and non-governmental sectors in Paraguay and beyond"*. "With PFGW in our midst GWI is gaining a member with much experience, knowledge and professionalism", says Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI Vice-President Membership. "We warmly welcome PFGW to the GWI family and are looking forward to meeting them at our Centennial Conference in Geneva in 2019" she adds. GWI commends PFGW efforts in organizing this distinguished group of women as our newest National Federation and Association and we commit to working together to achieve their goals.

GW I garners co-signatories for Human Rights Council written statement on child widowhood

GW I submitted a written statement entitled "Child Widowhood: A Neglected Gender and Human Rights Violation" to the 39th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC39). Supporting the statement are other noteworthy nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) in general or special consultative status with ECOSOC including the European Union of Women, FAWCO, International Alliance of Women, International Council of Jewish Women, International Movement for Fraternal Union Among Races and Peoples, Soroptimist International, Women's Federation for World Peace, and Zonta International. Additionally, the Loomba Foundation, one of the largest world's foundations whose mission is to empower widows and education of their children, also joined in supporting the GWI statement. Equally, the statement was presented as

an oral intervention by GWI at the United Nations (UN) HRC39. To read the full written statement on child widows, [click here](#).

— GWI Member News —

GWI welcomes Terry Oudraad as the Hegg Hoffet Fund Convener

Earlier this month, Christel Moor, British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) passed the [Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates](#) Convener position to Terry Oudraad, GWI Netherlands (GWI-NL). Reflecting on her experience as the Convener, Christel Moor said, “Reading the applications for support from the Hegg Hoffet Fund is very humbling: the stories are often harrowing. There are so many graduate and professional women who are refugees and who need not only funding but connection with other like-minded women in their new country. In the four years that I have been Convener of the Committee we have been able to put applicants in touch with members of GWI in England, USA, France, etc. This has helped them to make the best use of the courses for which the Hegg Hoffet Fund has paid. I have often developed a strong email friendship with the recipients as it takes time to assess and advise these women”. She also reminds us that “The need is great: there are more refugees and the cost of language courses and professional examinations has increased so that the call on the Hegg Hoffet Fund continues. It is one small way in which women can help other women at an individual level. It has been a privilege to serve such a worthwhile enterprise and I am most grateful for the support and expertise of the other members of the Committee”.

On taking over as the Committee’s Convener, Terry Oudraad said, “I am honoured to have been asked to serve as the new Convener on such a wonderful committee of which I have been a member since the last Triennial Conference of GWI in Cape Town (2016). I believe that in these uncertain times the Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates once again can give women graduates (and in special cases tertiary women students) the much needed (small) financial support for a better and hopefully quicker integration in their new adopted country”. She also added “I would like to thank my predecessor Christel Moor for her outstanding work these past four years as the Convener of this Committee. And I am very glad that she will stay on for one more year to assist the committee and me in our work.” GWI wishes to thank Christel Moor for her years of invaluable service as Convener of the Hegg Hoffet Fund and would like to warmly welcome Terry Oudraad to the position. To learn more about the latest updates on our Hegg Hoffet projects and respective beneficiaries and to donate to the Fund, [click here](#).

Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA) receives UN ECOSOC Consultative Status

After a multi-year effort, WG-USA’s UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consultative status has recently been confirmed. Obtaining approval of ECOSOC status has been part of the WG-USA strategic plan set by WG-USA during the past two presidents’ terms and the current president, Fay Weber’s term. By building their program and action through years of advocacy and research, then submitting their application in 2017, WG-USA was officially granted consultative ECOSOC status in August 2018. Louise McLeod, GWI’s Vice-President for Marketing, adds that “it was Fay Weber's push and vision for WG-USA to get this done, and program and advocacy during her term that made it possible”. GWI wishes to congratulate WG-USA for its tireless efforts to achieve this elevated NGO status.

— GWI “Peace through Education” Triennial and Conference —



Peace through Education

Fostering the culture of peace for the future by empowering women through education

Early Bird registration opens 1 October 2018



Current Calls for participation in the GWI 33rd Triennial and Centenary Celebration

Call for Nominations Committee is [here](#). **CLOSED (deadline 7 September 2018)**.

Call for Song Competition is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 15 October 2018**.

Call for 2019 Chitra Ghosh Award is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 15 October 2018**.

Call for 2019 Nazan Moroğlu Young Member Award is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 15 October 2018**.

Interdisciplinary Seminar Papers and Posters [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 31 October 2018**.

Call for 2019 Workshops is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 11 January 2019**.

Call for Resolutions for the 33rd Triennial is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 2 February 2019**.

— **Advocacy** —

On International Day of Peace GWI announces Peace through Education Centenary Conference

This year, to mark International Day of Peace (IDP) on 21 September and in line with the Peace through Education theme of GWI’s upcoming [33rd Triennial and Centenary Conference](#) to be held 25-28 July 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland, GWI emphasises the role of education as a fundamental enabler to achieving peace and stability.

In 2019, GWI will turn one hundred years old and will mark this important milestone with a conference offering interactive workshops and seminars that will focus on a range of peacebuilding sub-themes including how education prevents conflicts and transforms societies; how curricula can deconstruct patriarchal and other societal paradigms bringing into fruition a culture of peace and non-violence; what

it means to live in a connected, conflict-ridden world; ways in which young professionals can be empowered to make connections between education, gender equality issues, culture change and environmental issues; and how graduate women can meaningfully influence the global society by working at the intersection of education, peace, advocacy and action in local, national and global policies.

While the organisation has changed over the years, what has not changed is the founders' vision. As GWI President, Geeta Desai says "At the end of the first World War, our founding mothers Virginia Gildersleeve, Caroline Spurgeon and Rose Sidgwick understood that graduate women, bound by friendship and mutual respect and working across country borders could provide leadership in advancing the full complement of human rights for all people including the right to live in peace. On the eve of our Centenary, the voices of our founding mothers ring in our ears, urging us to remember this vision. Therefore, with more than half the world ablaze in war and internecine conflict, over 200,000 refugees and displaced persons and the disproportionately higher price that conflicts and war extract from women and girls, it is only fitting that GWI facilitate a discussion about the role that education can play in establishing peace".

Additionally, plan to FOLLOW, LIKE and SHARE our awareness-building social media campaign on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) during IDP.

First International Day of Sign Languages to be observed on 23 September 2018

Ahead of 23 September, GWI highlights the crucial importance of sign languages for the full enjoyment of human rights for deaf and hearing-impaired people and deplores that access to sign languages training and services is still denied to millions around the world. GWI is actively committed to the promotion of equal and quality education for all, including people with disabilities. In 2016, the GWI General Assembly officialized this commitment by passing [Resolution 2](#) on fully accessibility and barrier free environments for persons with disabilities. Ahead of International Day of Sign Languages, GWI deplores that access to quality education is still denied to millions of deaf and hard hearing individuals around the world. Today, 80% of the 70 million deaf people worldwide receive no education at all. This profound breach of the fundamental right to education disproportionately affects deaf women and girls. Even those who are lucky to receive an education often lack teachers or specialists adequately trained in sign languages. Yet, as emphasized by the World Federation of the Deaf, sign language is inseparable from deaf people's human rights: without sign language, deaf people are not equal. GWI recalls [Resolution 2](#) and continues to call for the establishment of barrier-free learning environments for all people with disabilities.

— Call for applications —

Margaret McNamara Education Grants

The Margaret McNamara Education Grants offer scholarships for women aged 25 or over who are studying in the US, Canada. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a commitment to improving the lives of women and children and be from a country designated as a "lower or middle income developing member country". Applications are accepted between **15 September and 15 January** for the US and Canada programme and the Trinity Washington University programme. Further details on eligibility criteria and application checklists can be found [here](#).

Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future Fellowships for Women

The Faculty for the Future programme, launched in 2004, awards fellowships to women from developing and emerging economies to pursue PhD or Post-doctorate studies in science, technology, engineering and

mathematics (STEM) disciplines at leading universities worldwide. The grants are based on actual costs up to a maximum of \$ 50,000 per year. The deadline for application is **18 November**. Further information on eligibility criteria are available [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI congratulates newly appointed High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet

On Monday 10 September 2018, to commence HRC39, Michelle Bachelet, the newly appointed UNHCHR, made her first public address since assuming office earlier this month. The former Chilean president (serving two terms in office from 2006 to 2010 and 2014 to 2018), and also the first woman to occupy this position, replaces the previous UNHCHR, Zeid Ra'ad Al-Hussein. The High Commissioner's full speech is [here](#). As a young woman, Ms. Bachelet was tortured by a dictatorial regime she opposed and was forced to flee her country at the time. Now, she spearheads the UN body, tasked with protecting others from such rights abuses. Former High Commissioner, Al-Hussein has praised Bachelet's appointment and urged her not to waver in condemning serious abuses, cautioning that, "We are not in the silence business here". Additionally, the Secretary General of the UN, António Guterres has described the incoming High Commissioner as a "long-time champion of women's rights" with a "history of dynamic global leadership, highly honed political skills and a recognised ability to create consensus". GWI congratulates High Commissioner Bachelet on her new position and her commitment to promoting women and girls' rights; we look forward to seeing her action. GWI also expresses gratitude to her predecessor, former High Commissioner, Al-Hussein, on his efforts and commitments for the advancement and empowerment of girls and women worldwide.

HRC39 Side-Event: Social Exclusion of Older Persons: impact and solutions

As the world population continues to age, the human rights dimension of ageing becomes an ever-growing concern. Social exclusion of older persons is a complex process that affects both the quality of life of older persons and the equity and cohesion of an ageing society as a whole. Social exclusion has also significant implications for the enjoyment by older persons of their human rights. On 11 September, the side-event titled "Social Exclusion of Older Persons - impact and solution" provided a timely space to discuss the impact of social exclusion of older persons. This side-event was organized by the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, along with the governments of Argentina, Slovenia and the Geneva Group of Friends on Human Rights of Older Persons. Gaps and good practices were discussed in an informal interactive way with a wide diversity of discussants from civil society, international organizations, state representative and other stakeholders. Participants highlighted the need for a consistent application of a human rights-based lens to ageing, in order to consider older persons not just as objects of welfare but first and foremost as subjects of rights. To foster social inclusion of older persons there is a need to mainstream older persons' rights in development, urban policies and poverty reduction strategies, including by installing processes that allow to scrupulously scrutinizing policies and plans that promote or reinforce discrimination against older persons in ultimately all fields.

HRC39 Side-Event: Plan International's new online human rights platform

Plan International is an independent development and humanitarian organisation which advocates for the advancement of children's rights and equality for girls. At the HRC39, Plan International hosted a side-event showcasing their newly launched human rights' online database which is located on their [Girls' Rights Platform](#). The interactive human rights' database is a powerful tool which can be used to strengthen Human Rights Council language around girls' rights as it is made up of more than 1,300 international policy

documents, including over 800 previous HRC resolutions. The platform also contains training tools for girls' rights advocates and a UN debate tracker to hold States to account. This innovative policy resource will facilitate access for diplomats and civil representatives to more robust terminology on girls' rights, thus helping advance the case of women and girls' rights and their empowerment. GWI wishes to congratulate Plan International's initiative which will undoubtedly shift the playing field in advancing the status of women and girls'.

— 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 conference in 1963 of Graduate Women International, former International Association of University Women, some progressive and important points for the time have been appointed. The study conducted on the access of women to teaching at the university level was the last study in the series on the Access of Women to Higher Education of 1957. The conclusion of the study in brief summary were that: Gifted women should be encouraged to prepare for university posts by ensure equality with men in grants and in application for posts; The retirement age for men and women should be the same, with opportunity to continue a part time basis; Countries with a shortage of teachers should consider recruitment from countries without a shortage; Women no longer tied by family responsibilities should be encouraged to return to their profession, on a part time basis if necessary; Gifted women should be informed fully about opportunities and encouraged to prepare adequately for university posts.

— Other information and events —

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
22 September	WG-USA East Coast Regional Conference, Philadelphia, USA
22 September	BFWG Seminar on Women's Suffrage in the UK, Manchester
23 September	International Day of Sign Languages
1-2 October	GWZ International Conference, Lusaka
5 October	World Teachers' Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child, Global
22 Oct-9 November	CEDAW, 71 st session, United Nations, Geneva
24 October	United Nations Day, Global

17 November	International Students' Day, Global
20 November	Universal Children's Day, Global
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Global
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, 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.

Graduate Women International

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