



GWI UPDATE – 5 September 2018

****Correction****



BFWG members lunch with GWI President, London.

*Front row: BFWG President Patrice Wellesley-Cole, GWI President Geeta Desai, BFWG Past President Christel Moor.
Back Row: BFWG alternate CIR Sheila Youngs, BFWG Vice President Carrie de Silva, Past IFUW President Elizabeth Poskitt, BFWG Vice President Gillian Hilton, BFWG Finance Director Jennie Landsberg, Immediate Past BFWG President Gloria Banner.*

Not pictured: BFWG CIR Jenny Morley.

— Graduate Women International News —

GWI President, Geeta Desai, meets with the British Federation Women Graduates

Graduate Women International (GWI) President, Geeta Desai, recently met with the Management Team of the British Federation Women Graduates (BFWG). Over lunch at the Farmers' Club on Whitehall Court in London, they discussed several topics. The discussion included GWI's current financial oversight practices that have resulted in a balanced budget for the first time in four years, the need for Graduate Women to practice advocacy based on a knowledge of the global driving and resisting forces that impact education for women and girls, outreach to and recruitment of Universities as the next stage of membership growth for NFAs and GWI's 100th Anniversary to be celebrated in July 2019. The British Federation's Management Team has invited Geeta to speak at its own Annual General Meeting in June 2019.

Reflecting on the lunch meeting, Geeta said, "I'm always so impressed with the kindness, warmth and hospitality that BFWG has shown me. I'm equally impressed with its support for GWI and its conviction that Graduate Women have an unprecedentedly important role to play in the coming decades. The BFWG has already begun to reach out to Universities and students and is working on the next stage of the development of its organization. I thank the Management Team for a productive and inspiring afternoon".

GWI honours Kofi Annan, the distinguished proponent of peace

Given his recent passing, GWI wishes to express its profound condolences to Kofi Annan's family, friends and colleagues. The Ghanaian diplomat, who served as the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) from 1997 to 2006, was a pioneer for change, deeply committed, amongst other things, to the empowerment of women as a tool for development in fostering peaceful and sustainable societies. The UN Secretary General, António Guterres said, "in many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations".

The President of the UN Human Rights Council, Vojislav Šuc, released a moving statement expressing his thoughts, "I was profoundly saddened to hear of the passing of Kofi Annan - a global champion of peace, justice and human rights. Kofi Annan personified the notion of human rights. He was a unique visionary who brought fresh air into the United Nations helping it carry out its many noble tasks while overcoming numerous global challenges. It was this vision which led to the creation of the Human Rights Council just over twelve years ago".

The former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein made public his very heartfelt condolences, "I am grief-stricken over the death of Kofi Annan. Kofi was humanity's best example, the epitome, of human decency and grace. In a world now filled with leaders who are anything but that, our loss, the world's loss becomes even more painful. [...] There are some human beings who will seem irreplaceable to us, rare human beings. Kofi Annan is high among them. Goodbye my dear friend ... goodbye Kofi".

GWI reiterates its deep sorrow at the loss of such an honourable diplomat who championed women and girls' rights for decades.

— GWI Member News —

Graduate Women Fiji (GWF) hosts Lunch & Learn event



GWF members and guests take a group photo at their Lunch & Learn fundraiser event, of which proceeds shall go towards their scholarship fund.



Guests enjoy a scrumptious meal whilst listening to guest speaker's speech on the theme "Women in Leadership in Sports".

Every year, GWF hosts several luncheon events in order to raise funds for their scholarship awards. These Lunch & Learn events bring together GWF members to enjoy a delicious, three-course meal and hear motivational and inspirational speeches surrounding a day's theme. Last month, GWF hosted a Lunch & Learn event on the theme 'Women in Leadership in Sports'. Their guest speaker, Dr. Cathy Wong, physiotherapist and the Director of the Suva Physio Center, came with a commendable list of achievements including Oceania Rugby's first female representative to the World Rugby Council, the 2017 Women in Business Award and of the Distinguished National Achievement Award, the 2016 Olympics Team Fiji chef de mission, and is a Leadership Fiji alumnus. At the event, Dr. Wong shared wise words, experiences and guidance on the theme with guests who later engaged in conversation to discuss women in leadership in sports. GWF had a successful and profitable event, with a great turnout of some 40 people. The proceeds from this fundraiser shall go towards their scholarship fund in the STEM field, which will be announced once the designated amount has been raised.

GWI wishes to congratulate GWF on all of their fundraising events which exhibit their exemplary contributions towards promoting the advancement of lifelong education for women and young girls.

BRPID Highlight: Illiteracy Eradication and Handicrafts Lessons for Women and Girls in Cairo

International Literacy Day is a reminder of the need for a global effort to promote literacy as an instrument to empower women and girls around the world. According to UNESCO, there are today 758 million adults worldwide who cannot read or write a simple sentence, two thirds of them are women, with the greatest bottlenecks to progress being in Africa. Yet, literacy is essential for the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as it provides men and women with skills to shape the world according to their aspirations and dreams. Literacy is also an essential source of dignity and rights and a transformational force to combat poverty, to advance gender equality and improve family health. As part of the 2017 edition of Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID), the Egyptian Association of University Women (EAUW) Cairo Branch contributed actively to the reduction of illiteracy rates among 50 girls and women aged 15 to 40 years-old in Imbaza, Giza by providing them with literacy and numeracy classes, along with opportunities for vocational training. At the end of this 6-month training, participants received a certificate equivalent to year six of primary school, enabling them to earn higher wages than before. A grants mechanism of GWI and generously funded by VGIF, BRPID began in 1978 and was later named in honour of Dr. Bina Roy, educator and former GWI President from India. 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 at the highest level. GWI remains ever grateful to the [VGIF](#) for their generous donations supporting the [BRPID projects](#). Read the 2017 Mid-term reports summary [here](#).

— 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](#). **Deadline to apply is 7 September 2018.**

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

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

— Advocacy —

GWI recognizes literacy development as fundamental in empowering women and girls through education

On International Literacy Day (ILD), held annually on 8 September, GWI shall mark the occasion by celebrating progress continuously being made in literacy development around the globe whilst also raising awareness of the improvements still necessary in order to achieve illiteracy eradication. Since ILD was first observed, in 1967, this date provides the opportunity to mobilise the global community in recognising

literacy as a human right and its importance both for individuals and for their communities. This year's theme focuses on "literacy and skills development", endorsing both the simultaneous development of literacy and skills and their necessity in achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs) set by the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), particularly that of SDG 4, to "ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning".

GWJ extends this year's message with a press release, which you can check out [here](#), promoting literacy both as a human right and as a cornerstone of development. Plan to also FOLLOW, LIKE and SHARE our awareness-building social media campaign on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) during ILD, which shall highlight how literacy development is a powerful tool for women and young girls in their pursuit of self-development and growth.

— Call for applications —

30% Club and Women's Scholarships at ESMT, Berlin

Several scholarships are available at the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT) in Berlin, Germany. The 30% Club is a global gender diversity campaign which aims to increase the number of women on boards, and throughout the pipeline. ESMT and the 30% Club are committed to addressing gender imbalance and to helping more women reach influential positions. Their MBA Scholarship has been established to encourage and support outstanding women who are aspiring towards senior leadership roles. There is also the Women's Academic Scholarship for a full-time MBA program which is available, as well as their Women in Leadership Scholarship. For more information on these scholarships, [click here](#).

— GWJ at the United Nations —

39th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC 39) Report: Organisational Meeting

On 27 August 2018, GWJ attended the Organisational Meeting for HRC 39, which is set to commence this coming Monday 10 September. During the occasion, delegations were invited to share information on any initiatives planned during the upcoming HRC 39, including draft resolutions, panels, or side events. The draft programme of work for this HRC 39 was also distributed. GWJ looks forward to attending, advocating, and reporting on these events which shall include the Annual Discussion on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the Annual Discussion on the Integration of a Gender Perspective which calls for a renewed focus on other forms of gender-based violence rather than solely on sexual violence. Other side events, which delegations shared information about during the meeting included, amongst others, Spain's side which focuses on women and girls' hygiene, highlighting the necessity of quality sanitation and safe drinking water. New Zealand also shared information on a draft resolution concerning the issue of maternal mortality and its prevention, whilst Lithuania will be presenting an exhibition focused on the portrait of a working mother and Slovenia put forth a draft resolution concerning education in training with a focus on youth. The HRC 39 kicks off 10 September and GWJ will actively participate and updates.

— 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 about the six-part SDG 4 tutorial the president of GWI is creating? In its fourth part, Ms. Desai reflects about the price of Education and what it takes in certain countries to get it. She expresses her faith in the funds this cause receives from both private and public sectors. However, Ms. Desai also reminds the reader to bear in mind the complex nature of investments and the importance of environmental factors in developing countries and its direct relation to economic capacity. A guide on how to get involved in the financing and spreading of SDG 4 for GWI NFAs closes the tutorial, giving the option of collaborating with our NFAs.

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 —

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
22 September	WG-USA East Coast Regional Conference, Philadelphia, USA
21 September	International Day of Peace, Global
22 September	BFWG Seminar on Women’s Suffrage in the UK, Manchester
1-2 October 2018	GWZ International Conference, Lusaka
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.

Graduate Women International

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