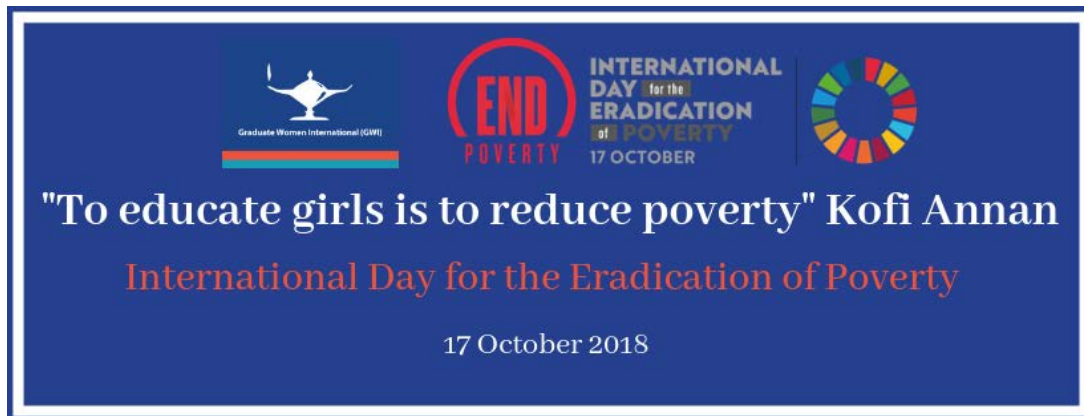




GWI UPDATE – 17 October 2018



On International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Graduate Women International (GWI) calls attention to the transformative power of women's and girls' education and its ability to break the cycle of poverty around the world

— Graduate Women International News —

On International Day of the Girl, GWI celebrates “Skilled GirlForce” and girls’ future potential

Since 2012, the International Day of the Girl, observed each year on 11 October drives global attention to the challenges girls face worldwide, while promoting girls’ empowerment and human rights. This year’s theme [“With Her: A Skilled GirlForce”](#) shines a light on the pressing need to enable every girl to acquire the necessary skills and training for employability in a world of work that is being transformed by innovation and automation. This year, GWI marked this significant day with a [press release](#), comprehensive [social media campaign](#) and [Advocacy Toolkit](#), offering impactful and easy-to-do advocacy ideas that can be used throughout the year each underlining the importance of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with respect to women and girls. GWI’s commitment to girls’ education does not end with the International Day of the Girl: GWI will continue its year-round advocacy and actions for girls’ education with its Escalade Run and Fundraising in December.

— GWI Member News —

The Canadian Federation of University Women honors 100 Notable Women

In 2019, not only will GWI turn 100 years but so will the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). To celebrate this pivotal moment, CFUW is preparing a number of projects and awards, including the 2019 Notable Women Award, that will honour a hundred outstanding women amongst CFUW membership. One hundred awards will be given to members of CFUW who have made outstanding contribution within CFUW and/or to the wider community; locally, nationally or internationally in the fields of Education, Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Economics, Political Engagement, Organizational Leadership, Cultural Endeavours or Social Innovation. To endeavour to make the distribution of awards as equitable as possible throughout Canada, the number of awards will be proportionate to the number of members per region. Further information on the award can be found on

[CFUW website](#). Some awardees have already been named but GWI cannot tell you now; you must wait for the official CFUW announcement.

Women Graduate-USA (WG-USA) holds East Coast Regional Meeting in Philadelphia

On 22 September, WG-USA held its East Coast Regional Meeting at the Cosmopolitan Club in Philadelphia. The daylong event featured presentations from WG-USA membership on topics related to the WG-USA programme of work. The event also provided a opportune space for discussing solutions to issues faced by women in transition including immigrants, refugees and women suffering violence, loss and/or life-changes due to cultural interruption or man-made disaster. Participants were welcomed by Dr. Fay Weber, WG-USA President and Geeta Desai, GWI President, who set the stage for presentations ranging from anti-refugee policies in the U.S. to the inspirational developments and ideas emerging from the alliance between WG-USA and the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU). Participants further learned about the importance of the newly-achieved



From left to right, Louise McLeod, GWI Vice-President and WG-USA Immediate Past-President; Dr. Maureen Byrne, GWI UN Representative in New-York; Maryella Hannum, GWI UN Representative in New-York; Sally Chamberlain

ECOSOC status for WG-USA from Louise McLeod, GWI Vice-President Marketing and Immediate Past-President of WG-USA. Maryella Hannum and Dr. Maureen Byrne, GWI United Nations (UN) Representatives in New-York, presented the work of GWI at the UN. Working group representatives Dr. Elise Russo, Stella Obita and Camille MacDonald-Polski described how the working groups have responded with action plans that address access to education, domestic violence and human trafficking in the U.S. GWI congratulates Dr. Fay Weber, Caroline Cowgill and Sally Chamberlain for their powerful reports delivered at this regional meeting and offers its warmest compliments to WG-USA for organizing such an inspiring meeting. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the upcoming WG-USA Western Regional Conference in Claremont, California on 3 November. The free event is open to all, members and guests. A 20\$ fee for breakfast and lunch will be collected at the door. For additional information on the event, please visit [WG-USA website](#). Registration is mandatory and can be made online [here](#).

Bina Roy Project Highlight: Capacity Building among rural women in Kenya

International Day of Rural Women is a reminder of the need for a global effort to promote the rights and empowerment of rural women. When rural women are economically empowered, they grow more, earn more, and are more likely to feed their families more nutritious food and send their daughters to school. As part of the 2017 round of the Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID), the Kenyan Association of University Women (KAUW) set up a project titled “Capacity Building through Livelihood Skills Development among Rural Women in Siaya County”. The project aims to address gender inequality and reduce poverty prevalence among rural women by improving the girl child education (at the primary and secondary level). The new component of the project focuses on empowerment of mothers of girls attending primary and secondary school knowledge through livelihood skills and income generation, to increase girl child school enrolment, attendance, retention and transition rates. The main objective of the project is to provide livelihood skills training for a start-up group of 20 women so that the women can engage in income-generating activities that will reduce poverty and contribute to women’s socio-economic development and access to education for girls within such households. 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 —

The GWI 33rd Triennial GA, Centenary Celebration and One – Day Conference will be held 25-28 July 2019 at the University of Geneva in Geneva, Switzerland.

This major milestone event represents a new beginning for GWI, within a changing global landscape - one of strategic relationships with the UN, knowledge competencies in global policies that widen the social and economic divide and advocacy for global and national governance that protect women's and girls' rights.

Our Theme “Peace through Education” reflects our deep-seated recognition of education, particularly education for women and girls as the cornerstone of peaceful, just and sustainable societies.

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

 Applications are now being accepted for the Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship. Instructions and link to the form are [here](#). **Deadline the apply is 1 December 2018.** 

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

EXTENDED: Call for Song Competition is [here](#). **EXTENDED (new deadline 30 November 2018).**

EXTENDED: Call for 2019 Chitra Ghosh Award is [here](#). **EXTENDED (new deadline 30 November 2018).**

EXTENDED : Call for 2019 Nazan Moroğlu Young Member Award is [here](#). **EXTENDED (new deadline 30 November 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 GWI Centenary Project – NFA Outstanding women is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 15 January 2019**

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

— Advocacy —

GWI NFAs reviewed by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) will be holding its 71st session in Geneva from 22 October to 16 November 2018. The State parties assessed during this session included GWI NFAs Nepal and Democratic Republic of the Congo. CEDAW is the body of independent

experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The CEDAW Committee consists of 23 experts on women's rights from around the world. Countries who have become party to the treaty (States parties) are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights of the Convention are implemented. During its sessions the Committee considers each State party report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of concluding observations.

GWI celebrates the potential of rural women and girls on International Day of Rural Women

Every year on 15 October, International Day of Rural Women provides a global platform for the recognition of rural women and girls as key agents of change and for the promotion of their empowerment. As distributed by the [Women's United Nations Report Network](#) (WUNRN), women make significant contributions to agricultural production, food security and nutrition, land and natural resource management and building climate resilience. Even so, women and girls in rural areas continue to unjustly suffer from multi-dimensional poverty and repeatedly see their voices shunned by gender inequalities and discrimination. Rural women are too often required to spend long hours inefficiently collecting water or firewood, impeding their productivity. They are underrepresented in decision-making that shapes the future of their families, businesses and communities; they have fewer market opportunities than men and frequently have weak or non-existent land rights. On 15 October 2018, GWI recalled its written statement to the [62nd session of the Commission of the Status of Women](#) on education as a precondition to the empowerment of rural women and girls. Education is the most powerful tool to increase society's equality and inclusiveness; it is also the most powerful tool to help the too many rural women and girls living in severe conditions around the world to break out of the cycle of poverty, reach their full potential and thrive as individuals. The statement also underscored that the time is now for global, multilateral action and the importance of agricultural and financial training for rural women and girls. The full statement is available [here](#).

GWI marks International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Today, 17 October, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty provides the opportunity to recognise that all people must come together to end poverty and discrimination in order to build a sustainable future. While both men and women suffer in poverty, gender discrimination means that women have far fewer resources to cope. They are likely to be the last to eat, the ones least likely to access healthcare and gain work or education. Yet, the positive correlation between education and overall development is well established. Investing in the education of girls brings high returns in terms of breaking cycles of poverty and aiding economic growth — but it also improves children's and women's survival rates and health, delays child marriage and early pregnancies, empowers women both in the home and the workplace, and helps tackle climate change. GWI underlines that the eradication of poverty and women's economic empowerment require quality education and work opportunities for all women and girls and an increase in women's decision-making power.

— Call for applications —

Call for Input for the UN Working Group on women and business-related human rights abuses

Women experience business-related human rights abuses in unique ways and are often affected disproportionately. They also face multiple forms of discrimination and experience additional barriers in seeking access to effective remedies for business related human rights abuses. In order to assist States and business enterprises to meet effectively their respective human rights duties and responsibilities

under the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the UN Working Group is developing gender guidance for the UNGPs. This guidance will provide practical recommendations for what it means to “protect, respect and remedy” the rights of women in a business context in line with the UNGPs. The gender guidance to the UNGPs, which will cover all three pillars, will be the theme of report of the Working Group to be presented to the UN Human Rights Council in June 2019. All stakeholders, such as states, international and regional organisations, national human rights institutions, policy makers, civil society organisations, human rights defenders, trade unions, research centres, business enterprises, industry associations, lawyers and academics are invited to provide input. **The deadline is 30 October 2018. Further information available [here](#).**

TU Delft | Global Initiative offers four Sub-Saharan Africa Excellence Scholarships

Every year, TU Delft | Global Initiative offers four talented motivated and broadly interested students from Sub-Saharan Africa the opportunity to study at the Delft University of Technology. The Global Initiative aims to support capacity building in the Global South and to advance future leadership focusing on sustainable development at the global level. The UN Sustainable Development Goals are a guiding principle for TU Delft. Eligible candidates should be excellent international applicants admitted to one of the two-year regular TU Delft’s MSc programmes. **The deadline is 1 December 2018. Further information on eligibility criteria and extent of the scholarship are available [here](#).**

Google Europe Students with Disabilities Scholarship

In partnership with EmployAbility, a non-profit organisation dedicated to assisting students with disabilities while they pursue education and promising careers, Google Europe provides scholarships for computer sciences students with disabilities to make the most out of their talent and help build a more sustainable future. Applicants must be university students studying computer science, computer engineering, informatics, or a closely related technical field at a university in Europe or Israel with a disability and exemplify leadership and a passion for computer science and technology. **The deadline to apply is 6 December. Further information on eligibility and application are available [here](#).**

— GWI at the United Nations —

Policy Dialogue: Emerging Issues in Addressing Female Genital Mutilation in West Africa

On 18 September 2018, Helen Lom, GWI Un Representative in Geneva attended a Policy Dialogue on Emerging Issues in Addressing Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in West Africa. The meeting was organized by Equality Now, an international nongovernmental organisation (NGO), in collaboration with Association Mauritanienne des Droits de l’Homme and the Inter-African Committee. This interactive policy dialogue gathered a panel of distinguished speakers from international organisations and NGOs with much needed expertise in this area. Despite tremendous efforts by governments to put in place legal mechanism to address FGM, the prevalence remains high in West Africa with some countries such as Guinea recording a rate of about 96 percent. With the exception of countries such as Burkina Faso, runaway FGM practice appears to be impervious to interventions. Other than making assumption that the practice is a matter of culture and therefore difficult to change, there is urgent need, to interrogate the drivers of this harmful practice as well as the prevailing circumstances and emerging issues exacerbate this practice. GWI is committed to denouncing this harmful practice and contribute to all efforts towards the elimination of all forms of genital mutilation. In 2016, on the occasion of the 32nd GWI General Assembly, GWI adopted Resolution 6 on FGM. Through this resolution, GWI urges governments to pass laws forbidding all forms

of FGM. Encourage the enactment of legislations making FGM illegal with the effect that anyone found involved in aiding, abetting, perpetrating this practice will be punished in a court of law. Helen Lom's full report of the event is available [here](#).

— Give the gift of education —

GWI will be leading a team of runners at the 41st Course de l'Escalade to be held on 1 December 2018. Our objective is to promote the importance of girls' education and celebrate GWI's centennial commitment to improving the status of women and girls' worldwide through education at the highest level. Each year, on the first Saturday in December, the most popular sporting event in Geneva takes place in the old town - The Escalade Race. Last year nearly 45,000 runners participated. This event is for everyone - famous international runners to beginners, children and adults alike. Distances run vary from 2km to 8 km depending on the category. All runs take place in the narrow streets of the old town and finish in the Bastion Park. With this fundraiser we are promoting the importance of girls' education and raising funds for our programs such as Teachers for Rural Futures and GWI mentoring programmes. We are rallying support as we plan to run as a team on this very special Geneva event. If you are in Geneva and want to join the GWI team, contact Stacy Dry Lara at: sdl@graduatewomen.org, before 5 November. If you are not in Geneva but would like to support our running for girls' education, please click [here](#) to contribute.



— Did you know? —

Did you know that GWI, formerly known as the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), held its first International Conference outside of Europe from 11 to 16 August 1947 in Toronto, Canada? It was also the first gathering to be held after the end of World War II. Given the difficult circumstances for the delegates travelling from Europe, who were subject to restrictions of currency change and other regulations, a great collective effort of cooperation was put in place. Thanks to the generosity and enthusiasm of the Canadian Federation who hosted the event, with the invaluable assistance of the American and British federations, all European delegates could be present at this important meeting. The

IFUW blue books, preciously kept at the GWI International Office in Geneva, offer a unique insight into this historical and moving moment:

“The Ninth Conference of the International Federation of University Women was formally opened on the morning of Tuesday 12 August, in the Convocation Hall of the University of Toronto. [...] Dr. Adamowicz, the Chairman, addressing the large gathering of members and their guests recalled the trials of the eight hard years since the last Conference held in Stockholm in 1939. “Our hands,” she said, “accustomed to using weapons, are very clumsy in their attempts to collect the delicate threads of peace. [...] Only the proper education and training of future leaders and scientists in whose hands the future fate of nations lies, and the predominance of constructive tendencies among them, can prevent the fate of nations being decided by means of arms; and not in words and agreements but in deeds and realities””.

— Other information and events —

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
3 November	WG-USA Regional Meeting – West Coast, Claremont, California, USA
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
29-30 Novembre	FEMU International Seminar “The role of women in Latin American Migration to the United States”
25 Nov-10 Dec	
10 December	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global
18 December	Human Rights Day, Global
	International Migrants 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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