



Graduate Women  
International (GWI)

# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GWI President urges the United Nations Convention against Corruption to improve actions towards SDG 4, 5 and 16 implementation**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 9 December 2018** – Corruption is a poisonous social, political and economic condition that affects all countries, denying people, especially vulnerable women and girls, access to infrastructure and services, condemning them to lives of inequity and gender-based violence. Stemming from the United Nations (UN) Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the first legally binding international anti-corruption instrument, International Corruption Day is observed annually on 9 December as a means to redirect Government policies towards more peaceful, inclusive and developed societies. GWI marks this day with continued work, alongside our National Federations and Associations (NFA) to unite against all facets of corruption for improved development, peace and security of women and girls worldwide.

“GWI, an organization committed to achieving global access to education for women and girls, upholds the principles of the UNCAC yet urges for its improved action towards addressing corruption as it relates to the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially SDG4 (quality education), SDG5 (achieve gender equality) and SDG16 (to build effective, accountable and inclusive institution)”, says Geeta Desai, GWI President.

There are forms of corruption that affect women and girls more specifically, such as sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) that are among the most widespread, monstrous and least prosecuted of all gender-based corruption. GWI voices outrage that these incidents often escape reporting because of the shame women and girls associate with sex-based violence or gender power dynamics. On this International Anti-Corruption Day GWI encourages public leaders to create local alliances with women’s non-governmental organisations (NGOs) whose members can serve as listening and action partners for victims. Furthermore, by partnering with NGOs active in education, young women are engaged in discussions about socially necessary ethical behavior with the goal to teach future generations to expect and to function in corrupt-free environments.

The UN estimates that every year \$1 trillion USD are paid in bribes and an estimated \$2.6 trillion USD are stolen annually through corruption and worth noting is that women experience corruption differently to men. Corruption exasperates the uneven power dynamic between men and women denying them access to infrastructure, education and often condemning them to lives of disparity and violence.

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 60 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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