



GWI UPDATE – 23 January 2019



Graduate Women International (GWI) is delighted to announce that Ms. Emily Lawson from the Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) won the GWI Centenary Celebration Song Contest.

— Graduate Women International News —

Congratulations Emily Lawson GWI Centenary Celebration Song Contest winner!

Graduate Women International (GWI) is pleased to present its official Centenary Anthem as composed, written and interpreted by Emily Lawson from Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW). The song, entitled "[Every Women and Every Girl](#)". This song perfectly reflects the GWI mission to promote and advocate for the right to quality and safe lifelong education for girls and women at all levels and for the advancement of the status of girls and women. "This song recognises and pays respect to the organisation that has advocated for the empowerment and advancement of women and girls on a global scale. This song honours the great work GWI has done in the past 100 years through their initiatives to ensure opportunities and education for all women and girls around the world", explains Ms. Lawson. "The focus on education and peace as interlinked concepts is one that underpins this song as well as the GWI Centennial Celebration. Fostering peace through education and in turn educating through peaceful means that foster friendship and empowerment of women worldwide is the central message of this song", she adds. GWI congratulates Ms. Lawson on her outstanding song that captures the emotions felt by our membership for achieving 100 years. We warmly thank all the other song competition contestants for their wonderful submissions honouring the 100-year GWI history of peacebuilding through education. We invite you to listen and share "[Every Women and Every Girl](#)" song on the [Here](#).

GWI sponsors civil society speaker to address the 40th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC)

On the occasion of the 40th session of the Human Rights Council held at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, GWI will sponsor civil society speaker, Miss Buket Altınçelep, a young member from the

Turkish Association of University Women. As an active member of the NGO Committee on Human Rights in Geneva, GWI has the annual opportunity to submit for review a civil society candidate to address the HRC on one of the Committee's priority themes. On behalf of youth everywhere, Miss Altınçelep will emphasize the importance of youth being aware of their rights and the significance of their active participation in democracy. In her motivation letter, Miss Altınçelep said, "I would like to talk about how youth can have a visionary perspective on rule of law and democracy because young people are not only future guardians of human rights but also they are talented, passionate individuals for transformative change in societies".



Buket Altincelep

Miss Altınçelep will deliver her statement on 27 February at the General Segment of the High-Level Segment of the HRC. Her full statement will be published thereafter. GWI is pleased to have Miss Altınçelep represent us and we congratulate her on being selected.

— GWI Member News —

The Israel Association of University Women sponsors a symposium on Israeli Women

To mark the 70th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, the Israel Association of University Women sponsored a symposium on "The Struggle of Women in Israeli Society": the continuous fight for recognition, obstacles to be overcome, and achievements.

Four remarkable speakers included Professor Rachel Elijor, author and lecturer on Jewish Thought at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Retired Judge Nili Arad, former President of the National Labor Court; Anat Serogosi, journalist and social activist; and Fani Sukenik, ultra-orthodox advocate for women's rights. Each discussed the problems and progress in her specific field of activity.

The November event was held in the preserved historic home - a prefabricated wooden structure - of the second President of the State of Israel, Yitzchak Ben Zvi. His wife, Rachel Yanait, was herself an early champion and fighter for the rights of women and for advancement through education.

Dr. Joan Krauss, CIR, Israel Association of University Women

Bina Roy Project Highlight – New Video of the RAUW Girls Enhanced Learning Project

The Rwanda Association of University Women (RAUW) Girls Enhanced Learning Project is part of the 2017-2018 Funding Cycle of GWI Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID), funded with the generous support of the VGIF (www.vgif.com). The overall goal of the project was to increase girls' access to and participation in primary and secondary education. The project objectives were aligned with the overall goal, centred around enhancing girls' education in Rwanda. The specific objectives were to improve access and inclusive participation of girls in school,



Convenors and beneficiaries of the RAUW Girls Enhanced Learning Project part of the 2017-2018

improve learning for girls on sexual reproductive health and care services, empower girls to claim their rights in order to fight violence against women in and out of school, promote an effective schools/community dialogue on girl's health by use of existing community channels such as parent evenings, community councils and community work aftermath meetings and school clubs. The BRPID programme is a grants mechanism of GWI, which began in 1978 and was later named in honour of Dr. Bina Roy, educator and former GWI President from India. The Bina Roy projects are supported by generous donations from the [VGIF](#). For more information about the Girls Enhanced Learning project, we invite you to view the following [video](#), put together by RAUW.

— GWI “Peace through Education” Triennial and Conference —

The GWI 33rd Triennial GA, Centenary Celebration and public 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 United Nations, 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.

✈ [REGISTER NOW](#) ✈

GWI 33rd Triennial, Centenary Celebration and Conference
(early bird registration is open until **30 April 2019**)

[Circular 3/2019 - 33rd General Assembly Preliminary Agenda is here.](#)
Deadline for action is 23 May 2019

Current Calls for Participation in the GWI 33rd Triennial and Centenary Celebration [Summary](#)

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

Circular 1/2019 – Call for Board of Officer and Committee Nominations is [here](#). Deadline to apply is 21 February 2019.

Circular 2/2019 – Call for NFA Reports for the 33rd General Assembly in Geneva is [here](#). Deadline for action is 17 May 2019

— Advocacy —

GWI celebrates the first International Day of Education on 24 January 2019

On 3 December 2018, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted with consensus a resolution proclaiming 24 January as [International Day of Education](#), in celebration of the role of education for peace and development. GWI salutes the proclamation of this crucial day of observance through which the international community reiterates that education plays a key role in building sustainable and resilient societies, and contributes to the achievement of all other [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). This new day of observance allows GWI to draw attention to the GWI Centenary Celebration Theme, “Peace through Education”. As an organization committed to improving the education space for girls, the conscience of the intrinsic interconnection between education, peace and development has always been

at the heart of the vision, values and mission of GWI since its creation close to a hundred years ago. Today, more than ever, GWI members are brought together by the belief that education is key to building a more peaceful, equal and sustainable world. Many of the world's women and girls are still struggling for the right to education to liberate themselves and their families from poverty and repression. They are unable to reach their full potential because of conflict and economic disruption and many are locked into cultural practices and traditions which take away their ability to choose their own paths. Other women and girls are facing issues of gender inequality, environmental and economic disparity and access to justice. A peaceful society and access to education enables women and girls to empower themselves and reach their full potential. Starting today, 23 January, plan to follow our [social media campaign](#) and join GWI in celebrating the first International Day of Education! GWI UN Representatives, Dr. Maureen Byrne, Dr. Sophie Turner Zaretsky and Maryella Hannum will be attending the session at the UN in New York with detailed reports forthcoming.

GWI participates in a university study about international women's rights organisations

GWI was called upon as subject matter experts to contribute to a university study about non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that address women's rights concerns and their different structures. This study is part of a long-term research project conducted by Kayla Campion. A senior student at the College of Wooster in the United States, Ms. Campion studies political science and international relations. During an interview conducted at the GWI headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Ms. Campion and Clémence Mathiaud, GWI Junior Office Administrator, examined how GWI's membership-based structure, history and specific missions make it a unique organisation on the international scene.



Kayla Campion, student at the College of Wooster, USA (left) and Clémence Mathiaud, GWI Junior Office Administrator (right)

“It was an honour to have had the opportunity to learn more about the important work GWI does to support the education of girls and women across the globe”, says Kayla Campion. “It is clear to me that GWI has established itself as an organization incredibly proficient and experienced in advocating for education as a human right. The interview with Ms. Mathiaud will be a vital component to my thesis and of my research on the structure of non-governmental organizations” she adds.

— Call for applications —

The Centre for Research and Interdisciplinarity (CRI) calls for Research Fellow candidates

The CRI, based in Paris, opens group leader positions to join its Collaboratory. CRI seeks candidates at different career stages, from postdoctoral young investigators to tenured scientists. CRI particularly call for candidates with interest in: Open health, open learning, open artificial intelligence, open synthetic and systems biology, open phronesis. CRI is looking for scientists seeking a home to expand their research focus or jump start a new research program as: Long-term fellows (1-3 years) or Core fellows (5 years). The Fellows will receive competitive research funding, funding for their PhDs/post-docs, and access to state-of-the-art facilities. The application deadline is **30 January**. Click [here](#) for further information.

Moremi Initiative for Women's Leadership in Africa Fellow Programme

Moremi Initiative for Women's Leadership in Africa invites applications from exceptional emerging African women leaders for the 2019 MILEAD (Moremi Initiative Leadership Empowerment and Development) Fellows Programme- to identify Africa's most promising women leaders. The MILEAD Fellows Program is a long-term and paradigm-shifting leadership development program to identify, develop and promote a new generation young African female leader to attain and thrive in critical leadership across Africa. The program targets dynamic young women interested in developing transformational leadership skills that help them address issues facing women and girls across communities in Africa. Applications are invited from young African women between 19 – 25 years of age, living in Africa and the Diaspora. The MILEAD Fellowship will be awarded to 25 outstanding young women who have exhibited leadership potential in their community, organization, and/or profession. To be eligible for the program, an applicant must be African, living on the continent or in the Diaspora; agree to participate in all required activities related to MILEAD – beginning with a three-week residential Summer Institute in Ghana; and commit to a community change project. The application Deadline is **Friday 22 February**. Specific requirements of the program and related dates are outlined in the application package [here](#).

– GWI at the United Nations –

CSW63 Official Written Statement

As the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) is fast approaching, GWI calls attention to our [official written statement](#) co-signed by the following organisations: Canadian Federation of University Women, FAWCO, Make Mothers Matter, Mothers Legacy Project, Soka Gakkai International, Soroptimist International, Women Graduates — USA, Inc. and World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations. The GWI official written statement addresses the priority theme of "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls" and is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#). We invite you to [read this statement](#) and share it widely with your membership and networks.

Intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights

On 16 January GWI attended the Intersessional meeting for Dialogue and Cooperation on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN in Geneva. The meeting provided a space for States, relevant United Nations and civil society to voluntarily share good practices, achievements, challenges and lessons learned in the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The meeting outcomes aim to influence the 2019 High-Level Political Forum and will focus on measures to promote empowerment, inclusion and equality in the context of the implementation of the SDGs; the role of the human rights mechanisms in supporting the



Executive Director and NGO CSW Geneva President, Stacy Dry Lara (left) with Anne Riz, NGO CSW Geneva Treasurer and FAWCO member (right)

of the human rights mechanisms in supporting the

SDG process; and the importance of ensuring adequate space for civil society, business and other partners in this regard.

— Give the gift of education —

What better way to start the year than by giving the gift of education to rural women and girls in Uganda? GWI directly addresses 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 [Global Giving 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? —

Did you know that in 2018, the [GWI Advocacy Toolkit for the International Day of the Girl](#) and [the GWI Written Statement to the Human Rights Council on Child Widowhood](#) were featured on the Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN)? WUNRN, based on a UN Study, is considered the best, most respected, comprehensive global resources on women's and girls' issues. WUNRN provides research, documentation, programs, reports - TOOLS - to move forward advocacy and activism, local to global, on the human rights, oppression, and empowerment of women and girls all over the world. We invite you to visit the [WUNRN website](#) and subscribe to their newsletter to receive WUNRN's releases which highlight issues and actions happening to women and girls around that world.

— Other information and events —

21 Jan – 1 Feb	32nd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, Geneva
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation, Global
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Global
18 Feb-8 Mar 2019	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 72 nd session, United Nations, Geneva
25 Feb- 22 March	40 th session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva
11-22 March 2019	Commission on the Status of Women 63 rd session, New York
10-21 June 2019	International Labour Organisation Conference, Geneva
25-28 July 2019	Peace through Education General Assembly, Centenary and Public Conference, Geneva

Follow us on social media!



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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