



GW I UPDATE – 6 February 2019



On 6 February, Graduate Women International (GWI) marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

— Graduate Women International News —

GW I observes the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Mutilation (FGM)

Today, 6 February 2019, GWI marks the 7th International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM. GWI, as an organisation promoting the empowerment of women and girls of all ages through education, remains concerned about the barrier this practice puts between girls and their education. FGM has no known health benefits. On the contrary, it is known to be harmful in many ways. FGM is painful, traumatic and has immediate and long-term health consequences. Despite the ancestral sociocultural roots supporting FGM, the practice is internationally recognised as a violation of human rights. Learn more about GWI's commitment and advocacy towards the elimination of the harmful practice of FGM through the [press release](#) on the topic that also recalls [Resolution 6](#), unanimously passed during the GWI 32nd triennial conference in 2016.

— GWI Member News —

University Women Europe (UWE) announces May Meet and Greet in Dundee, Scotland

UWE recently announced its upcoming Meet and Greet, hosted by Graduate Women Scotland, to be held in Dundee, Scotland 17 and 18 May 2019 at the University of Dundee Department of Equality and Diversity. Over the two days of the Meet and Greet, inspirational stories of women, present and past will be shared and participants will be invited to discover the city of Dundee's history and uniqueness. The detailed programme of the event, costs and booking details can be found on the UWE website [here](#).

Members of the Russian Federation of University Women meet with GWI Board Member



From left to right: Zoya Apevalova, Irina Trofimova and Eileen Focke-Bakker

During a recent trip to Saint-Petersburg, Russia, Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI Vice-President Membership, met with members of the Federation of University Women Russia (FUWR), Zoya Apevalova, FUWR Convener of International Relations (CIR,) and Irina Trofimova. The meeting provided a space for discussion about the upcoming GWI Peace through Education 33rd General Assembly, Conference and Centenary Celebration and its preparations. The discussion also focused on FUWR's increase in membership and the welcoming of 10 young women, the launching of their new website, graduatewomenofrussia.ru and the development of their social media presence, which incorporates Russian social media

network, VKontakte. News regarding the notable contribution of FUWR to the promotion of girls' and women's access to STEM education and career through their twinning project with the USA were also shared during this meeting. Started more than five years ago, the Twinning project for STEM and women, initiated by FUWR, has made progress, including the creation of an Interregional Network of STEM Clubs for Girls in Russia and the creation of Summer STEM Camp for Girls sub-project to be launched in 2020. In support of this project and through the sponsoring of the Open World Foundation, 10 FUWR members involved in the STEM project travelled to the USA to learn about best support practices for women and STEM education and careers. They had the opportunity to visit STEM schools and universities in Hawaii, Kansas, Florida and Colorado.

Tel Aviv Association of Israel Association of University Women hosts scholarship evening

On 16 December 2018 the Tel Aviv Chapter of the Israel Association of University Women (IAUW) held its annual scholarship event at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. Four hundred guests attended, including 140 young women from the boarding schools in which members of the Chapter volunteer.

Over 100 women in the Chapter are active volunteers in several of the programmes described during the evening:

- One-on-one mentoring for the 100 young women living in four boarding schools in the central area of Israel. Activities vary widely including: individual and group counselling, workshops on sports, photography and financial planning for adult life. Highlighted at the annual event was a photography exhibit displaying these girls' work.
- Aiding women and children residing in a shelter for battered women meet every-day needs.
- Awarding academic scholarships to young women who have graduated from the boarding schools visited regularly by the volunteers.

Following the reception which featured a girls' chorus, 13 graduates of the boarding schools received scholarships amounting to one-half a year's tuition at the colleges and universities they are attending. Removed from their dysfunctional family homes at an early age, all the young recipients have had difficult lives. The funds were donated by members of the Tel Aviv Chapter, including the Past President of IAUW,

Dr. Rena Shachar, Vice-President of the IAUW, Ms. Ora Sharon, leading figures in business and legal circles, and others.

Chair of the evening was the President of the Tel Aviv Chapter, Adv. Shiri Malca. Greetings were extended by Professor Marta Rosen who is a former Israel Prize in Medicine recipient and Israeli singing star Shiri Maimon closed the memorable presentation.

— 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 Uni Mail campus 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**)

[The Call for Resolutions has been extended to 18 February 2019 \(Circular 4/2019\)](#)

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

Call for Board of Officer and Committee Nominations is [here](#). Nomination deadline is 21 February 2019.

Call for NFA Reports for the 33rd General Assembly is [here](#). Deadline to submit reports is 17 May 2019.

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

— Advocacy —

GWI issues a Policy Update on FGM

As a materialization of our organisation’s commitment to end this harmful practice, GWI unanimously passed Resolution 6 on FGM during the 32nd Triennial Conference in Cape Town, South Africa in 2016. Through this resolution, GWI affirms that FGM is “an act of extreme violation of the female body. It is an expression of supreme power of man over women’s bodies”. Today, in support of International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM, GWI publishes a [FGM Policy Update](#).

GWI marked the first United Nation’s International Day of Education

On 26 January, GWI joined the global community in observing the first International Day of Education, celebrating the role of education for peace and development. This new international Day of Observance provides a space for raising awareness of the indispensable role that education plays in building more open, educated and sustainable societies. To mark the inauguration of this occasion, GWI released a [press briefing](#) to raise awareness of the crucial intersection of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the right of all women and girls to lifelong learning.

— Call for applications —

The Right Livelihood Award

The Right Livelihood Award, widely known as the “Alternative Nobel Prize” has opened its 2019 selection process. After extensive research work, the international jury will choose four recipients on the basis of their visionary and exemplary contribution to solving global problems. The Right Livelihood Foundation seeks to protect award recipients whose life and liberty may be at risk because of their commitment to improving the world and to strengthen the network of its Laureates through events, advocacy and cooperation activities. Since its inception, 174 laureates from 70 countries have received this life changing recognition. The award is meant to help the laureates to achieve an even greater impact by providing them with long-term support. Everyone is welcomed to present candidates. **The deadline for submitting a nomination is 1 March 2019.** Read more about the nomination process and the guidelines for proposals on [the Right Livelihood Award’s website](#).

Women as agents of change in the Americas

Global Affairs Canada has launched a call for preliminary proposals to enhance gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) region. This call will seek projects that focus on up to three areas targeting gender equality by: (i) enhancing women and girls’ participation in public life; (ii) preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence; and (iii) promoting women’s economic empowerment. Under this call, proposed projects must contribute to the achievement of this ultimate outcome: enhanced gender equality and empowerment of women and girls in the LAC region. Proposed projects must also contribute to at least one of the following intermediate outcomes: enhanced and more systematic engagement of women in public leadership and decision-making processes in LAC, including on climate-change issues; strengthened prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) by individuals and state or non-state actors in LAC; improved and more equitable access to employment and control over resources by women in LAC. **The deadline to submit a proposal is 13 March 2019.** Further information about the application process and requirements are available [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI participates in the Paris Peace Forum

From 11 to 13 November 2018, Dominique Ciavatti, GWI UN Representative, Paris participated in the Paris Peace Forum in Paris. Inspired by the model of the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference, COP 21, the Paris Forum on Peace brought together multiple stakeholders in governance: government and state leaders, elected officials, regional and international organisations, business representatives, non-governmental organisations, think tanks, media, trade unions....On this occasion was held the first “Betting on Peace Forum” which coincided with the celebration of the centenary of the end of the first world war. The full summary of the event, submitted by Ms. Ciavatti is available [here](#).

GWI UN Representative Report: International Day of Education

On International Day of Education, 24 January, Louise McLeod, GWI Vice President Marketing and GWI UN Representatives, Dr. Maureen Byrne and Maryella Hannum attended the inaugural celebration of the

Day at the UN Headquarters in New York. The event was co-sponsored by Ireland, Qatar, Singapore, Norway, UNESCO, and UNICEF along with Nigeria and consisted of presentations from three sectors: UN representatives, the academic sector, governments and corporations, and civil society organisations. A summary of the event, key findings and remarks as submitted by our UN Representatives is [here](#).



Louise McLeod, GWI Vice President Marketing (top left corner) and Dr. Maureen Byrne (top right corner), GWI UN Representative in New York at the first celebration of the International Day of Education

— Give the gift of membership —

This Valentine's Day do better than a box chocolate – [give the gift of membership](#) to the outstanding graduate women in your life! Membership allows graduate women 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 become part a global community of some 16'000 members in 60 countries, either as a [GWI independent member](#) or national member of one of our [National Federations and Associations \(NFAs\)](#).

— Did you know? —

Did you know that being a member of GWI gives you exclusive access to the GWI's Discussions and Connections network? Becoming a GWI member is synonymous with joining an international network of graduate women and making contacts and friends with fellow graduates of all ages, from different countries, cultures and professions. It is this unique gathering of exceptional women committed to the

advancement of the status of women and girls through the power of education that has fuelled GWI's action for the past 99 years. Care to join us and influence policy and legislation on women's issues at the international level? Find out more about [membership eligibility and benefits](#).

— Other information and events —

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 Mar 2019	40 th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC), 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.

Graduate Women International

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