GWI UPDATE – 17 April 2019

The Graduate Women International (GWI) 33rd Triennial, Centenary Celebration and Conference will take place 25-28 July 2019.

— GWI “Peace through Education” Triennial and Conference —

Early Bird registration for the GWI 33rd Triennial, Centenary Celebration and Conference ends 30 April! Don’t miss out, REGISTER TODAY!

GWI presents opportunity for young members to prepare for future global trends

As part of the Peace through Education conference, Graduate Women International (GWI) will hold a Young Member Workshop for National Federations and Associations (NFAs) and independent members. The workshop, generously sponsored by VGIF, is open to GWI young members who are 40 years and younger and will examine future global trends in technology, jobs and employment, social and economic justice and human behaviour. Strategic Foresight Specialist and Futurist, Aarathi Krishnan, will guide participants to understand the impact that these trends have on young people. She will facilitate brainstorming for ways to implement trends in women’s empowerment. The workshop will be interactive (audience participation is highly encouraged) and will use inside and outside spaces. The workshop presents an opportunity for young women from around the world to connect, to recognize the power they hold as young people, and to act create an impactful GWI Young Member community. The workshop is being offered to 40 NFA and independent members on a first-come first-
served basis. For more information click [here](#), or you can contact Eileen Focke-Bakker at [E.G.A.Focke-Bakker@tudelft.nl](mailto:E.G.A.Focke-Bakker@tudelft.nl). A travel subsidy will be offered to GWI young members coming from an official development assistance (ODA) recipient country, as established by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC). To apply for the financial subsidy all participants must first register for the workshop then apply for the subsidy click [here](#).

**GWI offers conference participants Local Tours of Geneva**

Traveling to the 33rd Triennial, Centenary Celebration and Conference is also a great opportunity for participants to explore Geneva, Switzerland! GWI will be hosting four local sightseeing tours in which participants are welcome to register. These tours, to take place before and after conference programming, will guide visitors through historical areas of the city as well as neighbouring mountains and vineyards. The tours include a guided, walking tour through the Old Town of Geneva; a visit to CERN, the world’s largest physics laboratory; a day trip to Chamonix and Mont Blanc in France; and a trip to the Swiss Riviera and Lavaux. To register for these local tours, please click [here](#).

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**Graduate Women International News**

**GWI calls for the elimination of gender bias in textbooks**

On 23 April, join GWI in observing World Book and Copyright Day. This year, GWI is calling attention to the widespread gender bias used in textbooks globally. A myriad examples of gender stereotypes and lack of female role models are found in textbooks. Textbooks comprise between 70-95% of classroom time. That amounts to 70-95% of the time girls are in class, unproductive stereotypes about the roles women and girls play in the world are institutionally reinforced. On 22 April GWI will begin a comprehensive social media campaign about gender bias in textbooks. For advocacy ideas, interesting, sharable facts and articles, follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter (@GradWomen)](#).

GWI also acknowledges a prominent GWI historical figure who is tied to textbooks. Professor Mary Hayden from Ireland was a brilliant historian and writer. Her most famous work, *A Short History of the Irish People*, is a textbook published in 1921 and widely used throughout Irish schools and universities into the 1960’s. GWI proudly remembers her work and the legacy she left behind.

**Nazan Moroğlu Young Member Award**

The Nazan Moroğlu Young Member Award (NMYMA) will be awarded to a young GWI NFA member at the GWI Young Member Workshop on 26 July 2019. Sponsored by Nazan Moroğlu, previous President of Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW), the award recognizes an outstanding member of an NFA who encompasses the mission of GWI and is a role model for all young graduate women. The recipient of the award must be 40 years of age or younger and have completed extraordinary work on women’s law in an international conference, or on justice for women through the legal system of her country.
World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) nominates UWCM for a 2019 Prize

Earlier this year, the University Women’s Club of Montreal’s (UWCM) project, Les Olympes de la Parole, was nominated for a World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2019 Prize. The WSIS Forum is a United Nations (UN) multistakeholder platform that facilitates the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UWCM’s project was nominated in the Ethical dimensions of the Information Society category. The project, Les Olympes de la Parole is an academic competition named after Olympes de Gouge, a French activist who was convicted of treason in 1793 because of her writings, including La Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne. In 2017, UWCM launched the first North American edition of the competition which invited secondary school girls to reflect on technology and how it can contribute to the empowerment of indigenous girls and women in Canada. GWI congratulates UWCM on their nomination for such an impactful project!

Australian Federation of Graduate Women welcomes Graduate Women Scotland

Submitted by: Dalma Jones, Covenor of International Relations, AFGW

“On New Year’s Eve 2018, Dalma Jacobs (AFGW CIR at the time) and Marion Jones (AFGW Website Manager) renewed their friendship with Scottish member Anne Williams when she visited her son and family who live in Brisbane. Pictured at lunch at Mt Coot-tha’s scenic lookout they recalled their first meeting in 2007 in Edinburgh before they later joined international members at the IFUW Conference in Manchester. Dalma and Marion were among the first members to congratulate Scottish members on the formation of Graduate Women Scotland which was approved at the Conference.

Dalma, Anne and Marion had so much to talk about including an earlier visit to Brisbane by Anne when she helped them and Agnes Whiten (Graduate Women Queensland) prepare for the national AFUW Conference which was held in Brisbane.

In early February, AFGW Immediate past President Jane Baker and AFGW Secretary ‘Tricia Blombery at the time met for dinner in Sydney with Catriona Sutherland GWS CIR and GWI Resolutions Committee Member while Catriona was visiting was visiting family and friends in Australia and New Zealand. ‘Tricia was entertained by Catriona and other Glasgow Branch members when visiting the city in 2017. They have kept in touch and facilitated GWI Past President Catherine Bell’s introduction to GWS members when she began working in Glasgow.”
SDG Lab “So What?” on sustaining peace and sustainable development

On 1 April, GWI participated in the 5th installment of the SDG “So What?” series. Co-hosted by the United Nations (UN) SDG Lab, the SDG “So What?” series aims to break down the complexity of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) intersectionality into actionable terms.

This most recent SDG “So What?” event explored the interrelated nature of two global agendas – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and sustaining peace. The Lab invited five practitioners from the worlds of peacebuilding, gender, labour, conservation and diplomacy to discuss the connections and correlations between both agendas and find ways to increase the exchange of ideas and collaboration.

The overarching point speakers and the audience agreed upon are the correlation between inequalities and conflicts. This baseline understanding, in turn, helped reinforce the notion that the SDGs play an instrumental role in sustaining peace and preventing conflict. Another common thread was the commitment to raising the voices of all stakeholders, especially those who are marginalized, are represented in policymaking, including civil society and the private sector, and the importance of identifying inequalities and tackling the issue at source. These two points taken together, panellists noted, could serve as one of the most effective conflict prevention approaches. Other linkages:

- **Gender** – peacebuilding goes beyond eliminating war. True peace is when violence is prevented in the home, workplace and so forth. Building systems that fundamentally shift how women are included and valued is key to a peaceful future.
- **Conservation** – many conflicts stem from illegal use of or inequitable access to natural resources. In some cases, the environment is used as an instrument of war, such as scorched-earth practices. However, communities can become more resilient through the protection and conservation of biodiversity.
- **Water** – this precious resource is a first entry point to inclusion and equality. Because of the unequal distribution of water on the planet, managing it across countries, communities and groups can promote peacebuilding.
- **Work** – lack of access to decent job opportunities is often a driver of conflict. Providing decent work for all (particularly for displaced populations) gives strong livelihoods and a sense of purpose, thereby fostering peaceful societies.
GWI UN Representatives participate in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna

In March, GWI UN Representatives, Vienna, Olivia Klemmer, Amarie Klemmer and Ingrid Szabolcs attended the 62nd session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, Austria. Olivia Klemmer attended the “Science in context: freedom of research with scheduled substances” meeting, which focused on the right to science and freedom of research while referring to the SDGs 3, 5 and 10. Aura Roig, a harm reduction researcher, presented social/anthropological research for harm reduction services. The Metzineres project is Catalonia’s first integrated harm reduction program and generates data research on those who use a harm reduction service for women in the centre of Barcelona. It performs grassroot research as women who use drugs in general don’t appear in data and therefore are invisible. Their research questions include “who is using these services, their profile, needs and relation with substances etc”. The conduct of this research faces multiple challenges as it deals with controlled substances. Nevertheless, there are strong positive impacts and notable conclusions. Additionally, Olivia Klemmer attended the “Collaborations between government and civil society to prioritize prevention of substance misuse through the community coalition construct” meeting. The event highlighted the actions of coalitions in Peru in using the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) model to transform their communities. For summaries of her reports on the “Science in context” and “Government and civil society” sessions, please click here and here, respectively.

GWI, UN Representative Ingrid Szabolcs participates in the Global Civil Society Hearing

On 20 February, GWI UN Representative, Vienna, Ingrid Szabolcs, participated in the Global Civil Society Hearing. As part of its engagement with these important stakeholders, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) hosted the Global Civil Society Hearing in Vienna to update Member States on the results of a recent global civil society consultation on drugs. The Hearing was organized by the Civil Society Task Force (CSTF) and supported by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations in Vienna. At the opening of the event, UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov said that "civil society is an indispensable partner in our efforts to promote the health and safety of individuals, their families and communities." He also thanked all the civil society organizations, and their dedicated staff, working with UNODC in the field to provide help to people in need, often in hardship conditions. The results of the report regarding global consultations and the key findings regarding the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action Goals to be extended to 2029 were represented in form of a report that will be made available to the delegates and NGOs at the CND62. Of interest, was a presentation by Mr. Paul Vitale (Brightpoint, USA) who reported about experience gained at the U.S. Federal financed drug center with 2300 employees including clinics and a high school located in The Bronx and Staten Island, New York. Emphasis is on gender-based treatment. In follow up, Szabolcs spoke with the Chair of NYNGOC and offered assistance in linking activities with the very active branch of GWI at the UN in New York.
Call for applications

Applications being accepted for UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples
Applications are now open for representatives of indigenous organizations and communities to participate in the treaty bodies of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. The fund was established in 1985 as a response to the needs of indigenous peoples and now provides support for representatives of indigenous peoples to participate in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Human Rights Council, and UN human rights bodies. The Treaty Bodies sessions will take place between July and September 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. Applications will be accepted no later than 30 April 2019. To ensure full eligibility for consideration, verify the criteria here. For more information, please click here.

International Federation of Home Economics (IFHE) is calling for abstracts
International Federation of Home Economics (IFHE) is calling for abstracts for XXIV World Congress 2020. The Congress theme is “Home Economics: Soaring Toward Sustainable Development”. The first author must be an individual member of IFHE by August 31, 2019 and must pay full Congress registration no later than April 10, 2020. If accepted, the author must present the paper in person at the conference. Abstracts will be selected based on merit and relevance to the Congress theme and should be related to Systems of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals. Full papers must be: previously unpublished, a maximum of 5000-6000 words, and include the title, with no identification of the author/authors. Abstracts must be a maximum of 300 words and follow the abstract form. Papers may be submitted from 1 June 2019 to 31 August 2019. For more information click here.

Give the gift of empowerment

The Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID) is a grants mechanism of GWI. BRPID began in 1978 and was later named in honour of Dr. Bina Roy, educator and former GWI President from India. To date, over half of the GWI NFAs have participated in BRPID, either as project sponsors or donor partners. For the 2018 round of funding, applications were received from Egypt, Ghana, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Turkey. These BRPID project applications focus on entrepreneurial knowledge and skills for disadvantaged women (citrus production in Turkey; horticultural and artisan skills in Egypt; STEM involvement for young female students in Ghana; gender-based violence education and prevention in schools in Sierra Leone; and the advancement of children’s learning methods through technology in Nepal.) The Bina Roy projects are supported by donations from impact investors, personal contributions and our own member affiliates around the world. GWI needs further support for this years’ upcoming BRPID projects. Please consider contributing or recommending an organization or institution that would consider funding a project.
Did you know?

On 5 April 2019, Google Doodle celebrated Hedwig Kohn who received a rare teaching position in 1930 with the help of Graduate Women International (formerly the International Federation of University Women). Kohn was a trailblazing physicist who defeated the stereotypes had of women in STEM. She became one of only three women who earned habilitation – the qualification for university teaching in Germany – prior to the second World War. Kohn left an unforgettable mark on the physics world, having successfully produced 20 scientific publications on radiometry and flame spectroscopy, and contributed several hundred pages to the physics textbooks that would be used by the next generation of scientists.

Other information and events

- 23 April 2019: World Book and Copyright Day
- 26 April 2019: International Girls in ICT Day
- 17-18 May 2019: Women Graduates Scotland, Meet and Greet, Dundee, Scotland
- 28 May 2019: Menstrual Hygiene Day
- 12 June 2019: World Day Against Child Labour
- 20 June 2019: World Refugee Day
- 23 June 2019: International Widow’s Day
- 10-21 June 2019: International Labour Organisation 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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