



Some of the Graduate Women International Commission on the Status of Women delegates.

— Graduate Women International News —

GWI and its affiliates bring more than 60 delegates to CSW63

The 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) commenced at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 11 March and continues through 22 March. GWI participated with a full delegation with representatives from Australia, Canada, Democratic Republic of Congo, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Russia, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Switzerland, USA and Zimbabwe to name a few. Together, with our affiliates, some 60 delegates participated in a variety of side and parallel events. Among other activities, GWI hosted a parallel event where panelists examined a holistic approach to girls' education. GWI and our Canadian affiliate, Canadian Federation of University Women, were selected to deliver oral statement addressing the priority theme of social protection. Keep an eye out for our CSW63 Special Edition Update that will include delegates reports and information on the multiple events organised and attended by the GWI!

— GWI Member News —

Graduate Women Fiji receives funding towards STEM camp for girls and mentoring



Charlotte Taylor (left), GWF President and Melanie Hopkins (right) British High Commissioner to the Republic of Fiji.

Recently, Graduate Women Fiji (GWF) received generous funding to promote the empowerment of women and girls through mentoring and access to STEM education and careers. On 1 March, Melanie Hopkins, British High Commissioner to the Republic of Fiji, signed a grant to support the [GWF Vital Voice Mentoring Programme](#), a programme that comprises women leaders and representatives from various groups and movements to organize to inspire the generation of women leaders through mentorship. Additionally, on the eve of International

Women's Day, the Fiji Women's Fund announced 11 new grants to women's civil society organisations. Among the 11 successful recipients is GWF who plans to direct the funding towards a new STEM Camp for Girls to be held in April 2019. GWF congratulates GWF for their outstanding work and constant dedication towards the empowerment of women and girls in Fiji.

— GWI “Peace through Education” Triennial and Conference —

Early Bird registration to the GWI 33rd Triennial, Centenary Celebration and Conference closes on 30 April! Don't miss out, [REGISTER NOW !](#)



GWI presents opportunity for Young Members to prepare for future global trends



VGIF is the official GWI Peace through Education Young Member Workshop.

As part of the Peace through Education conference, GWI will hold a Young Member Workshop for GWI National Federation and Associations (NFA) and Independent members on 26 July 2019.

At the workshop, generously [sponsored by VGIF](#), GWI Young Members, those 40 years and younger, will examine and discuss 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 and 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, recognize the power they hold as young people, and take action to create an impactful GWI Young Member community. The workshop is available for 40 participants on a first-come first-served basis. For more information click the link [here](#), or you can contact Eileen Focke-Bakker at E.G.A.Focke-Bakker@tudelft.nl To apply for the financial subsidiary first register for the workshop then click [here](#).



Young Member Workshop, Registration Fee and Travel Subsidies

— Advocacy —

GWI co-signs Human Rights Council oral statements

As participants in the 40th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC40), GWI submitted a written statement on higher institutes of learning obligation to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and co-signed three oral statements. The oral statement delivered by Soka Gakkai International highlighted the importance of specific indicators to measure the impact and progress of human rights education at both the local and national level. The statement called for the inclusion of young peoples' voices as consideration of the various needs of youth to generate an inclusive plan of action. Additionally, GWI co-signed an oral statement delivered by Make Mothers Matter that addressed the realization of women's right to work and the challenges young people face with unemployment, especially the employment challenges of young women. The statement urged States to provide unpaid carers social protection, training and include unpaid care work in pension calculations. GWI co-signed the Plan International oral statement on empowering children with disabilities. The statement underscored that mainstream education systems can and should be adapted to meet the needs of all learners, and should offer learning opportunities for every child, regardless of gender or disability. Not to do so is to ignore the potential of all children and to violate their basic human rights. GWI underscores each of these statement with its own work as well. For more information on GWI participation in the HRC40, please visit www.graduatwomen.org.

On World Water Day, GWI calls for increased action to decrease girls' school absence

On 22 March, GWI will join the global community in observing World Water Day that was established by the United Nations (UN) in 1993. Each year international communities join together to find cooperative solutions to water scarcity. On this day, GWI will be advocating for not just the challenge water scarcity poses to populations in need, but the particular hardship it inflicts on women and girls. Globally, women and girls bear a disproportionate amount of the burden and consequence of irregular access to clean, safe, water. Among these burdens and consequences is the time water collection takes from women and girls' education. According to UN reports gathered by Global Citizen, 80% of water-deprived households impose the task of water collection onto women. UNICEF estimates that globally women spend 16 million hours a day collecting water. That is 16 million hours that women and girls are not in school. GWI will launch a [social media campaign](#) on 21 March and press release addressing the negative consequences water scarcity creates for women and girls. You can follow our social media campaign on the GWI [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) pages. Additionally, the press release will be available on the GWI [website](#).

— Call for applications —

UNESCO/ISEDV Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme

This co-sponsored fellowships programme aims to increase capacity-building and human resources development of sustainable and renewable energy sources in developing and transitioning countries. The programme offers twenty fellowships, each four weeks long, held in Moscow, Russia. All instruction will be in English. Applicants must be no more than 35 years of age, proficient in English, and have received a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. The deadline to apply is **1 April**. For more information click [here](#).

Applications for the AFGW Barbara Hale Fellowships are being accepted

The Australia Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) is accepting applications for their Barbara Hale Fellowships. The Fellowship funds are intended to facilitate a research project that encompasses both the nature of the currently approved PhD program and the specialised knowledge and skills of the applicant. The Fellowships are open to women who are Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia and are enrolled in a PhD degree by research in any discipline at any Australian university or equivalent Institution. Applicants must have successfully completed at least the equivalent of the first year of their PhD program. AFGW will select two recipients for 2019. The deadline to apply is **30 April**. To learn more about the fellowships that are offered or to apply, click [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI UN Representative Report: women as rights holders through the UPR

On International Women's Day (8 March) GWI Intern, Valerie Nam, participated in an HRC40 side event hosted by UPR Info that explored promoting women as right-holders through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Panellists discussed the importance of technology in promoting women's rights and they shared information on their work in connection to women's rights that includes encouraging governments to effectively implement laws on women's rights that they adopt, encouraging women to get more involved in the health-technology field, and encouraging representativeness of all women. For a full summary of the event, please click [here](#).



UPR-Info Executive Director, Mona M'Bikay (second from left), with the four panelists of the UN side event.

GWI UN Representative Report: Gender and Language

On Wednesday, 6 March, GWI UN Representative, Helen Lom, participated in the 3rd Annual Geneva Gender Debate hosted by the Graduate Institute of Geneva and the International Gender Champions. The event occurred during International Women's Week and focused on this year's topic of Gender and Language. The session provided attendees with a simulation in line with the Oxford University Union Debates. The topic of debate was, "This house believes gender neutral language is not a necessity for gender equality". A lively discussion followed by a Q&A session focused on the role of language, namely, gender neutral language as well as gender sensitive and gender transformative language in advancing gender equality. Most debaters agreed that language plays an important role, but the majority believed that it is not a priority for advancing gender equality. In the end, this simulated motion narrowly passed with participants voting 50% vs. 49% (1% unsure).

— Give the gift of education —

GWI is directly addressing 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 GlobalGiving 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? —

The 1924 Conference in Christiania (now Oslo), Norway was very special for a variety of reasons. One being that at this Conference the Fellowships Fund was created. It was the custom for Norwegian students to reunite on the 25th and 50th anniversaries of the day they entered university. In 1913, a group of old men gathered in Christiania for their jubilee. Incredibly, they decided to fund a research fellowship for a woman. The war interfered with this at first, but the money remained intact. One of the men, father of a Norwegian International Federation of University Women (IFUW), now GWI, member, contacted his fellow students and together they agreed to donate the money to the newly formed IFUW Fellowships Fund.

— Other information and events —

25 Feb-22 Mar 2019	40 th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
11-22 March 2019	Commission on the Status of Women 63 rd session, New York
22 March 2019	World Water Day, Global
26 April	International Girls in ICT Day, Global
10-21 June 2019	International Labour Organisation Conference, Geneva
24 June-12 July 2019	41 st Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
25-28 July 2019	Peace through Education General Assembly, Centenary and Public Conference, 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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