



## GWI UPDATE – 6 March 2019



*Buket Altınçelep, Turkish Association of University Women, delivering her statement to the United Nations Human Rights Council on youth democracy and rule of law*

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### — Graduate Women International News —

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#### **GWI civil society speaker addresses High Level Segment of the Human Rights Council**

On 27 February, Miss Buket Altınçelep, from the Graduate Women International (GWI) Turkish Association of University Women and civil society representative closed the annual General Segment of the High-Level Segment of the Human Rights Council (HRC) with a statement on youth democracy and rule of law. In her address, Miss Altınçelep underscored the importance role and responsibility young people possess for the achievement of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She passionately expressed the challenge facing global youth today: battling climate change. Her inspiring statement voiced a call for, not just policy change, but for concrete policy implementation and for youth to know their rights. The timely theme of Miss Altınçelep's statement was enveloped in a quote by Former UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, "No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline." Miss Altınçelep's attends the TOBB Economics and Technology University in Ankara, Turkey where she studies International Relations. As a Delegate of Sustainable Development Solutions Network Youth Turkey in 2018, she participated in the Vatican Youth Symposium, World Wide Fund for Nature European Union Youth Summit and UN SDG Action Campaign. Additionally, she is founder and president of Sustainable Development Solutions Network-Academy Club at her university. Miss Altınçelep embodies the essence of GWI and we congratulate her on her spirit and dedication to youth rights. To watch Miss Altınçelep's statement, click [here](#).

#### **GWI HRC40 statement highlights institutes of higher education impact on SDG implementation**

GWJ submitted a joint written statement to the 40<sup>th</sup> session of the HRC currently being held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva until 22 March. Co-signed by the Canadian Federation of University Women and Women Graduates-USA the statement underscores the weighted influence and power higher education institutions have on the implementation of the SDGs. The statement highlights targets SDG 4, “ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all” and SDG 5, “achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls”. Recommendations to the Council include creating a national and regional Sustainable Development Forum for institutions of higher education, working with universities to add to the curriculum a mandatory course about the SDGs for first year university students, promoting the creation of interdisciplinary teachings related to the SDGs, and more. To read and share the full statement click [here](#).

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## — GWJ Member News —

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### **Mexico affiliate joins global community in celebrating International Women’s Day**

On 5 March, the Federación Mexicana de Universitarias (FEMU) will inaugurate a temporary exhibition entitled “Facing the forgetfulness. Claiming social struggles and achievements of feminism”. The exhibition features work by 32 artists from around the world including Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Spain, France, Poland and Russia. The exhibition is dedicated to women who have been victims of violence and those who fight for the women’s rights. On 7 March, Dr. Patricia Galeana, Museum Director and Honorary President of FEMU, will coordinate an editorial presentation of the book “Dare to change: to a culture of substantive equality”. FEMU will also hold a conference entitled "International Women's Day" presented by Dr. Ydalia Pérez Fernández Ceja, Dr. Gloria Ramírez and MA. Lourdes Enríquez. The conference aims to provide the space for FEMU members to discuss the evolution of women’s rights in Mexico and internationally.

### **Bina Roy Project Highlight – Enhancing Girls’ Retention for University Entry in Sierra Leone**

The Sierra Leone Association of University Women (SLAUW)’s Enhancing Girls’ Retention for University Entry project is part of the recently concluded 2017-2018 funding cycle of GWJ’s Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID). The project’s main aim was to support 100 adolescent girls in five targeted secondary schools in the urban areas of Sierra Leone to complete their secondary education and encourage their pursuit of higher education. The project’s objectives were to establish measures to sustain the interest and development of appropriate behaviors among the adolescent girls and their parents for higher educational achievement leading to university enrollment by 2018, and to provide educational resources to the targeted girls to empower them to excel in school. SLAUW has organized meetings with authorities in the target schools to discuss the ways school authorities can engage in the project to provide the adolescent girls with additional support within the school environment. The BRPID programme is a grants mechanism of GWJ, and its projects are supported by generous donations from the VGIF. For more information about the Enhancing Girls’ Retention for University Entry project, please click [here](#).

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## — GWI “Peace through Education” Triennial and Conference —

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

### **GW1 presents opportunity for Young Members to prepare for future global trends**

As part of the Peace through Education conference, on 26 July 2019, GWI will hold a Young Member Workshop for GWI National Federation and Associations (NFA) and Independent members. At the workshop, generously sponsored by [VGIF](#), GWI



Young Member Workshop, Registration Fee and Travel Subsidies

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 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](mailto:E.G.A.Focke-Bakker@tudelft.nl) To apply for the financial subsidiary first register for the workshop then click [here](#).

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## — Advocacy —

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### **International Women’s Day: Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change**

On 8 March GWI joins the global community in celebrating International Women’s Day; a day for world citizens to shine a spotlight on gender equity issues, how these issues impede global development, and how they can be eliminated. The 2019 International Women’s Day theme, set by the United Nations, “Think equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change”, aims to inspire, encourage and empower women and men to improve education opportunity for other women and girl and advance social protection systems and sustainable infrastructure. To mark the day GWI is running a comprehensive social media campaign from today through 9 March complete with relevant articles, ideas for women’s empowerment advocacy, and facts on international women’s rights to read and share. FOLLOW, LIKE and SHARE on GWI’s [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) social media. Alongside the social media campaign, GWI issued a press release aimed to mobilise and challenge the patriarchal status quo and influence social norms to facilitate the growth of women and girl visionaries. Finally, in solidarity, University Women of Europe is calling for a strike on 8 March wherein, globally, women are encouraged to wear a purple scarf. The strike will represent the rejection of the devaluation and lack of recognition women’s global contributions receive as well as an international demand for equal rights.

### **62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Ministerial Segment to take place**

The 62<sup>nd</sup> session Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND62) is the central policy-making body of the UN for drug control issues and the governing body of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in matters that pertain to drugs. Annually, the CND investigates the global drug situation and constructs proposals to strengthen the international drug control system in order to combat global drug issues. CND62 will be held in Vienna 18-22 March. The Ministerial High-Level Segment will take place beforehand on 14-15 March. To be discussed at CND62 are several draft proposals including one with a focus on the promotion of measures to prevent transmission of HIV for women who use drugs. The session aims to reaffirm the elimination of discrimination against women in the field of medical care and to mainstream the involvement of women in all stages of development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of drug policies and programmes. GWI UN representatives in Vienna will attend and report on the session. GWI is encouraged by the proposal considerations for the specific circumstances faced by women and girls regarding the world drug problem. For more information on the CND or the 62<sup>nd</sup> session, click [here](#).

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## — Call for applications —

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### **Conference of the Americas on International Education (CAIE) call for proposals**

The Conference of the Americas on International Education (CAIE) is an essential forum for stakeholders in higher education. It features productive dialogues and debates working toward the internationalization of higher education. CAIE gathers, “the key decision-makers involved in the internationalization of higher education in the Americas to strengthen contacts, exchange experiences and prepare the future of academic cooperation in the region.” The CAIE organizers are calling for parallel session proposals that will take place at their 2019 forum. The proposals should inspire a fresh perspectives or insightful conversations on any of the conference’s subthemes. Ideally, the proposals will suggest new initiatives, and establish links to related current issues, trends, challenges or good practices. The CAIE Colombia 2019 conference subthemes are:

1. Research and Knowledge transfer: Innovation for Development
2. Redesigning Higher Education: Learning for Innovation
3. International Partnerships: Platform for Sustainability
4. Social Synergies: Sustainability, Equity and Inclusion

The **deadline to submit a proposal is 10 May 2019**. To learn more about CAIE and proposal criteria or to submit a proposal click [here](#).

### **Global survey on sustainability and the SDGs**



Global Survey has created a questionnaire to inquire about ordinary people's personal and professional opinions on sustainability in their country. Additionally, the questionnaire aims to probe the global population's knowledge, acceptance and expectations of the SDGs. The survey is intended for a variety of individuals including private citizens, representatives in politics, business, academia, the media and national or international civil society. The results from the survey

are scheduled to be released in May 2019. The deadline to take the survey is the end of this month, March 2019. The survey is available in 16 different languages. For more information or to share your thoughts on sustainability and the SDGs click [here](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **GWI attends 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission for Social Development**

GWI UN Representative, New York Maryella Hannum attended the fifty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD57) that took place from 11 - 21 February 2019, at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Commission acts as the advisory body responsible for the social development pillar of global development. The theme for the 2019 session was the addressment of inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies. The session featured a high-level discussion on "The empowerment of people affected by natural and human-made disasters to reduce inequality: Addressing the differential impact on persons with disabilities, older persons and youth." This subject is of important to GWI as the organisation is concerned about women and girls who are disproportionately affected by natural and human-made disasters. Reducing the disproportionate gender suffering during disasters is imperative to increase equality and human rights especially those rights that guarantee access to education. For more information on this session click [here](#).

### **CEDAW half day discussion on trafficking in women and girls in the context of migration**

From 18 February to 8 March, CEDAW is holding its 72<sup>nd</sup> session in Geneva. For this session, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) organized, on 22 February, a half-day discussion on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration in the framework of the provisions of the CEDAW. The half-day discussion concluded with recommendations to States towards procedures that should be implemented to ensure full compliance with their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil women’s human rights in the context of trafficking and global migration. GWI participated in the event and will present a final report at the end of the CEDAW session that will also include a wrap of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland session. In the meantime, more information regarding CEDAW , the 72<sup>nd</sup> session and those that are featured is available [here](#).



*CEDAW Half Day Trafficking Session*

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## — Give the gift of membership—

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With St. Patrick’s day approaching, there’s no better stroke of luck for outstanding graduate women in your life than receiving [the gift of membership!](#) 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 \(NFAs\)](#).

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## — Did you know? —

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Did you know that being a GWI member gives you exclusive access to GWI toolkits that are designed to help your advocacy reach its full potential and improve the lives of women and girls worldwide? GWI has toolkits designed on topics including: 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Gender Quality, International Day of the Girl, Advocacy, Fundraising, and more! Members can improve their advocacy strategies by accessing the toolkits on our [website](#).

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## — Other information and events —

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8 March 2019	International Women’s Day, Global
18 Feb-8 Mar 2019	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 72 <sup>nd</sup> session, United Nations, Geneva
25 Feb-22 Mar 2019	40 <sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
11-22 March 2019	Commission on the Status of Women 63 <sup>rd</sup> session, New York
22 March 2019	World Water Day, Global
10-21 June 2019	International Labour Organisation Conference, Geneva
24 June-12 July 2019	41 <sup>st</sup> 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.

### **Graduate Women International**

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