



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On International Girls in ICT Day, GWI envisions young girls as ICT creators

Geneva, Switzerland, 25 April 2019— Girls in ICT Day is an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) backed initiative, celebrated annually on the fourth Thursday in April. Girls in ICT Day aims to create a global environment that empowers and encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), enabling both girls and technology companies to reap the benefits of greater female participation in this area. Graduate Women International (GWI) marks this day with our commitment to encouraging all girls to pursue their education and career dreams.

“Worldwide, women and girls must be aware of the outstanding opportunities presented by gaining ICT skills and in pursuing careers across ICT sectors. Increased participation of women and girls will substantially increase the productivity and innovation of companies, ICT and otherwise. The international community must join GWI in our commit to empowering and encourage girls and women to envision their future as ICT creators,” says GWI President, Geeta Desai.

The ICT sector presents amazing opportunities for women, but they must first be empowered and encouraged as girls to harness these opportunities as adults. The ITU estimates that by 2020, more than two million technology jobs will remain unfilled because of the lack of certified ICT specialists. Girls can seize such career opportunities when given the chance to pursue education. Today, on International Girls in ICT Day, GWI is raising awareness about the wide possibilities yet inequalities that hinder girls pursuing education and careers in the ICT field.

GWI is encouraged by the opportunities in technology fields for which girls can aim. However, we are also concerned by studies indicating that fewer girls and young women are pursuing careers in ICT. A recent study published in *Science Magazine* found that girls as young as six years-old are already less likely to join an activity for “very very smart kids”. It is imperative to break the stereotypes around the skills and abilities of young girls, and to create interest in ICTs at an early stage. As a result, women will have equitable access and eagerness to pursue ICT careers. GWI stands committed to doing so through our [programmes and projects](#).

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 60 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls’ and women’s global organisation advocating for women’s rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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Contributing to this press release is GWI intern, Valerie Nam, Boston University

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