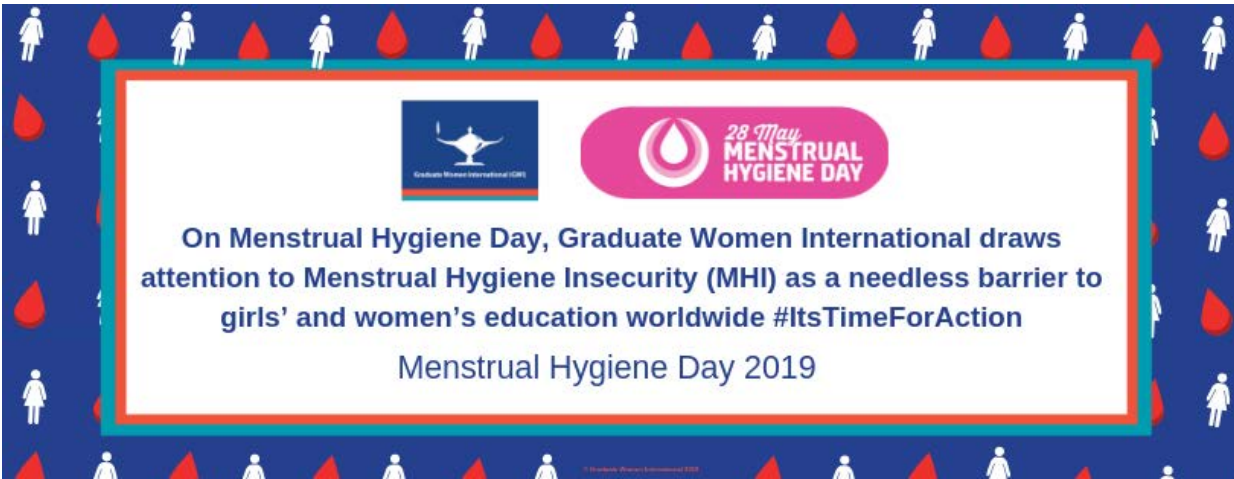




GWI UPDATE – 29 May 2019



Graduate Women International (GWI) marks Menstrual Hygiene Day with an impactful and ready to use advocacy toolkit in partnership with Menstrual Hygiene Day.

— Graduate Women International News —

GWI Vice President, Fundraising earns Political Science and International Relations PhD

GWI warmly congratulates Basak Ovacik, GWI Vice President, Fundraising, on the successful completion of her PhD in Political Science and International Relations from the Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey. Basak Ovacik presented a thesis on the role of the Turkish women nongovernmental organizations (NGO) on decision making in the case of amending the Civil (2002) and Penal (2004) codes. This study investigates the involvement of women's NGOs in Turkey regarding their contribution to the legislative decision-making processes between 2001 and 2004. It places emphasis on the amendments made to the Civil Code and the Penal Code and examines the extent to which women's NGOs were effective in achieving legislative change during this period. Congratulations Basak!



Basak Ovacik, GWI Vice President, Fundraising at her PhD graduation ceremony

— GWI Member News —

The Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) elects new board of officers

TAUW members elected their new Board of Directors during the TAUW General Assembly held in Istanbul on 13 April 2019. GWI extends its warmest thanks to the members of the previous Board for their outstanding work towards the empowerment of women and girls in Turkey. GWI also congratulates the newly elected TAUW officers: Mrs. Hülya Yücel, TAUW President; Prof. Gönül Balkır, Şerife Özdemir, Meral Güler, TAUW Vice Presidents; Hüsnüye Altın Yeşil, Prof. Nilgün Okay, Secretaries; Berrin Önürmen, Aynur Sarac, Treasurers; Prof. Nilgün Okay, Coordinator of International Relations (CIR); Prof. Fulya Sarvan, Prof. Fatma Sirmatel, Ezgi Yetkiner, Members. GWI looks forward to continuing its excellent collaboration with the newly elected Board members.

The Senegalese Association of University Women holds blood drive and conference

The Senegalese Association of University Women (ASFDU) holds multiple awareness raising event to showcase the importance of women’s education and empowerment. On International Women’s Day, ASFDU organized a day long celebration at the Confucius University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal. In the morning, members, friends and followers of ASFDU, along with members of the university community, were invited to participate in a blood drive, before attending in the afternoon a conference on women’s role in peace building and conflict management. During this conference, participants discussed and reflected on the importance of women’s empowerment and the crucial role that women and girls can play in the building of a more peaceful, equal and sustainable future. GWI congratulates and thanks ASFDU for these notable and successful events.



ASFDU International Women's Day Activity Participants

UWCM Montreal founding member designated as historic personage in Quebec



Elizabeth C. Monk

The University Women’s Club of Montreal (UWCM) is proud to announce that one of its founding members, Elizabeth C. Monk, has been designated as historical personage by the Quebec Minister of Culture, Communication and French Language, Ms. Nathalie Roy under the Quebec Cultural Heritage Act. Elizabeth Monk (1888-1980) graduated in Civil Law from the Faculty of Law, McGill University in 1923. She was the first woman to win the faculty’s gold medal for academic excellence. Because of sex-based discrimination in law at that time, Monk had to fight for 20 years before becoming one of the first two women officially admitted to the Quebec Bar in 1942. She was one of the first women to sit as a Montreal City Counsellor in 1940. She was the first Quebec woman lawyer to receive a Queen’s counsel designation in 1955. Over her distinguished career as a corporate lawyer, she advocated for the advancement of women within the legal profession, the political arena and in Quebec society. She was president of the UWCM from 1932 to 1938. Because of her pioneering work, Monk and seven others were designated historic personage and are registered at the *Registre du Patrimoine Culturel du Québec*.

— GWI “Peace through Education” Triennial and Conference —



SVA Schweizerischer Verband der Akademikerinnen
 ASFDU Association Suisse des Femmes Diplômées des Universités
 ASI Associazione Svizzera delle Laureate
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 Sektion Zürich



Early Bird registration for the GWI 33rd Triennial, Centenary Celebration and Conference ends 31st May

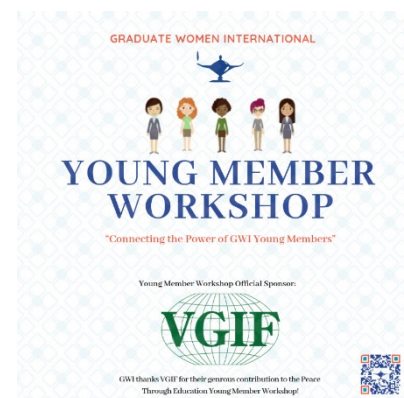
Don't miss out, [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

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](#).

Under 40? Then register for the GWI Young Member Workshop. Space is limited!

As part of the Peace through Education conference, 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. 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. Sign up today because space is limited to 40 NFA and independent members on a first-come first-served basis and we are half full. For more information click [here](#), or you can contact Eileen Focke-Bakker at 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 subsidiary all participants must first register for the workshop then apply for the subsidy click [here](#).**



— Advocacy —

GWI and its NFAs celebrate Menstrual Hygiene Day

Menstrual Hygiene Day, observed annually on 28 May, is a reminder that women and girls across the world continue to face a variety of unnecessary challenges due to their menstruation. This year marks GWI's second observance of Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day). GWI is once again collaborating with the Menstrual Hygiene Day organisation in their efforts to raise awareness about Menstrual Hygiene Insecurity (MHI). The 2019 theme is "Leave No Girl Behind: Action for Menstrual Hygiene Education". GWI and its National Federations and Associations (NFAs) actively contribute to raising awareness of the detrimental impact of MHI and the importance of providing every woman and girl with safe, universal and equal access to Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). Amongst other NFAs, Graduate Women Scotland (GWS) contributed to scoping exercises in 2016-2017 that led to a pilot project by the Scottish Government in July 2017 providing underprivileged women and girls in Aberdeen with free sanitary products. The success of this pilot project led to its expansion in 2018, with the Scottish government dedicating £5.2 million to offer free sanitary products to all pupils and students in Scotland. "We are delighted that continues to roll out with January 2019 seeing the announcement of [free sanitary products being available in public places](#)", says Catriona Sutherland, GWS Convener of International Relations (CIR). "Whilst I understand that the issues faced in other less developed countries is far more extensive, this move tackles poverty in our own country and assists the poorest families where as we know the women are in

the main the ones trying to juggle home and work lives, this may assist to remove one stressor” she adds. To facilitate and encourage the participation of all in Menstrual Hygiene Day to prevent MHI, galvanize support and empower women and adolescent girls, GWI offers a comprehensive and impactful advocacy toolkit, featured on the [Women’s United Nations Report](#) (WUNRN), with ready-to-use social media graphics. Click [here](#) to access the toolkit.

— Call for applications —

NRF and Nuffic call for South African PhD candidates

The National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF) and Nuffic have launched the second call for applications for PhD candidates from South Africa. The programme provides doctoral scholarships for South African citizens and permanent residents, to do full-time PhD studies in The Netherlands and full-time PhD studies in a joint degree construction (studying partly in the Netherlands, partly in South Africa). The deadline is **7 June 2019**. For more information about the application process, please click [here](#).

UNESCO Literacy Prizes 2019

UNESCO is calling for applications and nominations for the 2019 UNESCO International Literacy Prizes, which this year will award outstanding programmes and individuals who promote literacy around the world within the theme of ‘Literacy and Multilingualism’. Since 1967, the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes have rewarded excellence and innovation in the field of literacy. Over 490 projects and programmes undertaken by governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals around the world have already received recognition and support for their excellent work. Governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals are kindly invited to apply before **16 June 2019**. Click [here](#) for more information about the prizes available and the application process.

— GWI at the United Nations —

Call to all members: increase your SDG knowledge with the SDG Academy

The SDG Academy is the online education platform of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a global initiative for the UN. The SDG Academy offers free online courses on sustainable development as a global public good. Courses cover the headline issues and a multitude of interdisciplinary topics related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. Courses are dispensed by a team of experts in international development, policy, pedagogy and content production, passionate about leading global education on sustainable development. Learn more about the SDG Academy and the courses available [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 year's upcoming BRPID projects. Please consider [contributing](#) or recommending an organization or institution that would consider [funding](#) a project.



Current 2018 NFAs with BRPID projects.

— Did you know? —

Did you know that more than 340 members from 48 different countries have already registered for the GWI 33rd triennial, conference and centenary celebration? By popular demand, GWI is extending the Early Bird Registration to 31 May 2019. If you or the members of your NFA have not registered yet, please do so by 31 May 2019 to take advantage of the Early Bird Discount. We invite you to read and [share this letter](#) from the GWI Board of Directors and Executive Director to encourage all to [register](#) and make sure that none of your friends and fellow members miss the opportunity to join us for this momentous event!

— Other information and events —

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 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 |
| 24 June – 12 July 19 | 41 st session of the Human Rights Council, 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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