



Circular 11/ 2019
June 2019

To: Presidents, CIRs and Standing Committee Conveners and Members
From: GWI Board of Officers
Subject: Conference Information, Policy Resolutions, Revised Internal Resolution 4 and proposed Amendments to the Constitution

Conference Information and Deadlines

The GWI Constitution requires that Conference information and deadlines for the 33rd Conference and Centenary Celebration in Geneva be posted regularly on the GWI website www.graduatewomen.org and circulated through the GWI email networks. This Circular contains policy and constitutional resolutions to be voted on at the General Assembly (GA).

The Board of Officers is submitting the following constitutional resolutions for consideration and approval at the General Assembly: A two-thirds majority is required for the adoption of any amendment, which shall come into effect immediately after the closure of the Conference, unless provision is made otherwise.

1. CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION 1 – RESTRICTED FUNDS

Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee

The 33rd GWI General Assembly resolves that:

Restricted Funds cannot be used for any other purpose than that specified unless approved by a two thirds majority of the Board of Officers and the Finance Committee.

Supporting Statement

Over time, restricted funds have been created to be used for a specific purpose only. The three current restricted funds, Hegg Hoffet, Bina Roy and Fellowships and Grants fund, are accounted for and shown separately in the monthly reports. However, only the Hegg Hoffet fund is on a separate bank account. It is too costly to open separate bank accounts for each restricted fund. The Caroline Spurgeon Centenary fellowship, which will be awarded at the AGM in 2019, is also in a separate bank account.

During the 2013 - 2016 triennium, funds were transferred from restricted funds and used to cover general expenses. This remit is designed to ensure that this does not happen in the future except in exceptional circumstances where the financial viability of the organisation is under threat.

2. CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION 2 – JOINT COUNTRY MEMBERSHIP

Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers

The 33rd GWI General Assembly resolves that:

Graduate Women in two or more countries unable to meet the numbers requirement for membership may apply to join together for membership as a single federation or association. Such a federation or association shall comprise at least 20 members and shall have the same status, rights and obligations as all national federations and associations.

Supporting Statement

This is simply a correction to clause 3 as a consequence of the GWI Constitution 2016 Article II MEMBERSHIP clause 1, being approved at the 32nd GA which states that a national federation or association of graduate women comprising of twenty (20) individual members who fulfil the membership requirements in Article III may become a member of GWI as provided in Article II.4.

NFAs are reminded that the GWI Constitution 2016 Article II MEMBERSHIP clause 1 was approved unanimously in 2016 with the proviso that existing affiliates whose membership is less than forty (40) at the time of passing the motion clause shall have a period of five (5) - years thereafter, in which to meet the required number of members (40). The 2016- 2019 Board of Officers considers this to be an aspirational goal and will not penalise NFAs that have made genuine efforts to meet the member numbers within the time period specified.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION 3 - LOSS OF MEMBERSHIP IF ANNUAL DUES NOT FULLY PAID UP.

Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers

The 33rd GWI General Assembly resolves that:

A National Federation or Association will not lose its membership immediately if it is in arrears providing that it has paid at least 50% of its annual dues by 31 March each year and an agreed promissory note and payment plan has been put in place for the remaining unpaid dues. This plan is to be negotiated with the Board of Officers who will inform the Finance Committee. Members of these NFAs will be able to stand for office and continue to participate in an in-person or electronic vote of the General Assembly.

The NFA must agree in writing to:

- 1. pay the arrears in agreed instalments within two years**
- 2. make the arrears payments on agreed dates.**

Failure to meet the requirements will result in immediate loss of membership.

Supporting Statement:

The Board acknowledges that NFAs can experience exceptional circumstances and financial hardship from time to time which makes it difficult, if not impossible for them to meet their commitment to the payment of the GWI annual dues. This situation does not mean that NFAs

have any less commitment to the vision and mission of GWI and should not prevent them from continuing to participate fully in the business of the organisation.

The introduction of a negotiated, payment plan provision and promissory note will give financially strained NFAs the 'breathing space' to restructure and review their internal affairs to enable them to meet their financial commitment to GWI. The duration of the agreed payment plan will be negotiated with the Board of Officers but will not be greater than two years.

Revised INTERNAL RESOLUTION 4 - APPROVAL OF TRIENNIAL FINANCIAL BUDGETS 2020-2022

Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee

The 33rd GWI General Assembly resolves to:

- **approve the triennial Financial and Functional Budgets 2020-2022**
- **approve the estimates as a triennial budget and not discrete annual budgets, so that money not spent in one year can be carried forward to the next**
- **approve that the 2020-2022 Board can adjust the budgets according to need and circumstances.**
- **approve the establishment of a General Reserve Fund, as funds permit, at no less than 33 % (thirty-three percent) of the triennial budget or one (1) year of GWI's expenditure whichever is the greater.**

Note:

The annual budgets are based on the income generated and the strategic plan, using historic data and estimates of spend required to carry it out. A different strategy will require a different plan and budget, with different resources. It is essential that the Finance Committee ensures that GWI's expenditure does not exceed its budgeted income. Every effort should be made to ensure the financial stability of GWI by maintaining a General Reserve Fund at no less than 33% of the triennial budget or one (1) year of GWI's expenditure whichever is the greater.

PROPOSED POLICY RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions will be voted on at the GWI 33rd General Assembly in July 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland, following an informal discussion meeting on day one (1) of the General Assembly to enable delegates to seek clarification and make further minor alterations to the text if required:

- Proposed Resolution 1: [Diversity in Teacher Education as a Positive Contribution to an Equitable Education](#)
- Proposed Resolution 2: [Building Peace through Women's Education](#)
- Proposed Resolution 3: [Public Sex Education as a Human Right](#)
- Proposed Resolution 4: [Women and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics \(STEM\)](#)
- Proposed Resolution 5: [Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children](#)
- Proposed Resolution 6: [Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers](#)
- Proposed Resolution 7: [Sexual Harassment in the Workplace](#)
- Proposed Resolution 8: [Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Global Goals](#)

The full text of the resolution, a suggested plan of action and supporting statement can be found in the members Section of the GWI website at: <https://graduatewomen.org/members-login/constitutional-material/resolutions/>

Best regards

GWI Board