



GWI UPDATE – 7 August 2019



Graduate Women International centenary flags flying with the Swiss country and Canton of Geneva flags over the famous Mont Blanc bridge in Geneva.



Graduate Women International graciously thanks all of our sponsors!

— GWI 33rd Triennial and Peace through Education Conference —

The 33rd Triennial General Assembly (GA), Centenary Celebration and Peace through Education conference held 25-28 July 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland was a tremendous success! The Graduate Women International (GWI) Board and office were honoured and excited to welcome more than 400 GWI delegates, independent members and friends from more than 50 countries to the heart of Geneva, to celebrate a century of international friendship between graduate women who believe in Peace through Education.

This Centenary milestone event represents a new beginning for GWI within a changing global landscape - one of strategic relationships with the United Nations (UN), focusing knowledge competencies on global policies that widen the social and economic divide and advocacy for global and national governance that protect women's and girls' rights worldwide. Our theme Peace through Education reflected our deep-rooted recognition of education, particularly education for women and girls as the cornerstone of peaceful, just and sustainable societies.

More than one year of systematic efforts by the GWI Board, Executive Director, office, a host on interns, as well as the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC), composed of members of the Swiss Association of University Women (SVA), came to fruition through this momentous occasion.



From left to right: Naomi Hicks, GWI Intern from the University of East Anglia (UEA), Clémence Mathiaud, GWI Junior Office Administrator, Dearbhaile Hunt, GWI Intern from UEA, Nabilah Doyle, GWI Intern from UEA and Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director

Our outmost gratitude goes to the University of Geneva (UNIGE) for their generous support and for hosting the GWI 33rd Triennial, Conference and Centenary Celebration on their prestigious premises. Finally, our deepest thanks go to all, from membership to leadership, staff to volunteers and our three outstanding interns from the University of East Anglia, who gave their unsurpassed efforts to make this unique event the success that it was. This would never have been possible without you!

— GWI 33rd General Assembly —

Opening remarks of the GWI 33rd Triennium

The GA kicked off 25 July with opening remarks by GWI President, Geeta Desai, who acknowledged that GWI members attending from about 50 countries demonstrates their common passion for GWI and women and girls' rights to education. A welcome from Doris Boscardin, President of the Swiss NFA and Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee, followed in which she expressed gratitude to UNIGE, all organizers and volunteers; and said that the Swiss Association of Graduate Women was proud to host the GWI GA and Conference in Switzerland for the third time.



Then GWI President, Geeta Desai opening the GWI 33rd General Assembly

Lisa Mazzone, member of the Swiss National Council, next spoke saying that a century ago there were only 10 percent of women in universities and that thankfully this has changed. She spoke of women pioneers who are role models that have paved the way for women but that women still must fight to have a place in the public sphere. She mentioned the historical mobilization in Switzerland on 14 June 2019 when half a million people gathered to bring awareness about the still lacking gender quotas and undelivered promises for equal pay in Switzerland.

Next, Brigitte Mantilleri, Director Gender Equality, UNIGE delivered the opening keynote address on "*Education: A Tool Against Misogyny*". Ms. Mantilleri shared stories that illustrated disparities in gender equality and misogyny, which she said are still present in subtle ways in Europe despite the progress in the field of women's rights. She gave examples of misogyny in the portrayal of women through history. GWI members were seen taking careful notes of the speech.

During the second day of the GA, Ms. Desai, re-enforced that the understanding of the intersection between education, trade, development, peace and gender equality, as well as between national and

global policies is critical. Without this understanding, it will be difficult for GWI to influence governance and to perform knowledge-based advocacy in its countries. To this end, GWI had organised a keynote panel discussion entitled, “*A Common Goal of Development in the Global Economy*”. Panellists Simonetta Zarrilli, United Nations Chief on Trade, Gender and Development Program, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Anoush der Boghossian, Trade and Gender Focal Point, World Trade Organisation (WTO) facilitated by Gabrielle Marceau, Professor of Law, UNIGE and Senior Counsellor, WTO expressed the importance of the relationship between trade and women’s rights and therefore peace. Panellists discussed how trade impacts women’s everyday life, impacts the prices of goods and the provision of public services by governments, of which women are the biggest users. Additionally, the connection was made between trade and human rights as trade can help achieve the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to food and to gender equality.

Election of the 2019-2022 Board of Directors, Committee Members and Committee Convenors

GWI congratulates the newly elected Board of Directors for their election by the GWI GA. Their knowledge and experience will be fundamental to the work of the organisation in the next triennium and beyond, as they will pave the way for the next 100 years of women’s empowerment, advocacy and international friendship between graduate women. The 2019-2022 GWI Board of Directors are:

- **President:** Terry OUDRAAD (Graduate Women Netherlands (GW-NL))
- **VP Membership:** Eileen FOCKE-BAKKER (GW-NL)
- **VP Advocacy and Education:** Louise MCLEOD (Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA))
- **VP Fundraising:** Basak OVACIK (Turkish Association of University Women)
- **Treasurer:** Katharina STRUB (Swiss Association of University Women (ASFUDU))

Alongside the new Board, new Committee Convenors and Members were elected. Their work and expertise will be invaluable to the next phase of GWI.

Membership Committee:

- **Convenor:** Meera BONDRE (Indian Federation of University Women’s Associations (IFUWA))
- **Members:** Nneka CHIEDOZIE (Nigeria Association of University Women), Perine WADGY (Egyptian Association of Graduate Women, (EAGW)), Pouya SAEEDI (Graduate Women New-Zealand (GW-NZ))

Education Committee:

- **Convenor:** Shirley GILLET (GW-NZ)
- **Members:** Shaila MISTRY (WG-USA), Gloria RAMIREZ (Federacion Mexicana de Universitarias), Confidence DIKGOLE (South African Association of Women Graduates), Alba Evelyn CORTEZ (Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de El Salvador).

Finance Committee:

- **Assistant Treasurer Canada:** Beverley RHODES, Canadian Federation of University Women
- **Assistant Treasurer Switzerland:** Karoline DORSCH (ASFUDU)
- **Members:** Kathryn B. HORVAT (WG-USA), Pat SIVERTSEN (GW-NZ), Abeda INAMDAR (IFUWA).

GWI GA adopts eight new policy resolutions

The GWI GA adopted eight new policy resolutions, which define the GWI advocacy priorities for the next triennium. GWI’s advocacy programme encompasses the following resolutions:

Policy Resolution 1: Diversity in Teacher Education as a Positive Contribution to an Equitable Education

Policy Resolution 2: Building Peace through Women’s Education

Policy Resolution 3: Sexual and Reproductive Health Education as a Human Right for All

Policy Resolution 4: Women and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)
Policy Resolution 5: Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children
Policy Resolution 6: Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers
Policy Resolution 7: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
Policy Resolution 8: Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Global Goals

— GWI Centenary Celebration—

GWI celebrates 100 years of international friendship between graduate women



GWI Centenary Celebration

On the evening of 25 July, more than 300 GWI members and friends gathered in the grand atrium of the Uni Mail Campus of UNIGE to celebrate 100 years of friendship and understanding between graduate women around the world. Entertainment and ceremony accompanied guest's re-dedication to friendship, mutual and respect and women's and girls' right to education.

The evening began with an Inauguration of the Evening Ceremony and continued with the Recognition of Honorary Co-Chairs, National Federations and Associations (NFAs) countries that were represented at the first International Federation of University Women Conference in 1920 and all NFAs which today form the dynamic and multicultural network that is our organisation. A GWI Lamp Ceremony and Commemoration of New Beginning then went on to officially celebrate the commencement of the GWI's second century of existence, with the performance of "Every Woman and Every Girl", GWI Centenary Song by song competition winner, Emily Lawson of Australia Women Graduates.

Ms. Lawson was awarded with a certificate for her cherished musical contribution to the centenary celebration. Mrs. Maria Ronna Luna Pastorizo-Sekiguchi of Graduate Women Fiji, winner of the GWI Logo Contest was also honoured with a certificate in recognition of the beautiful logo she created for the occasion.

The Fellowship Committee then opened the official award ceremony for the GWI Centenary Fellowships and Awards. GWI was honoured to welcome and congratulate the winners of the following awards:

- The GWI Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship (CHF 12,000) awarded to Vidya Diwakar from Cambridge University
- The Fund for Women Graduates (FfWG) Crosby Hall Fellowship (£6000) awarded to Ariana Markowitz from University College London
- The BFWG Marjorie Shaw Fellowship (£5000) awarded to Mireille Widmer from Sussex University
- The Chitra Gosh Award (CHF 1000) awarded to Swati Bedekar from India
- The Nazan Moroglu Young Member Award (CHF 1000) awarded to Irina Trofimova from Russia

Thereafter, was the GWI centenary cake cutting and members presented multicultural song and dances performances to the membership. These delightful performances included traditional songs and dances Japan, India, Nigeria and Turkey.

— Celebration with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) —

WTO Keynote Discussion on Trade and Gender

On 26 July, GWI members were invited by the WTO for a panel presentation on the importance of gender equality in trade followed by a reception. Having the opportunity to visit the WTO where so many world-changing trade decisions take place was an opportunity of a lifetime.

Since gender was made an integral part of the WTO's work in the past two years, progress has been building and growing. The WTO follows the recommendations, actions and objectives set in the Buenos

Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment as well as the WTO Trade and Gender Action Plan for 2017-2019. The discussion highlighted the work of the WTO on trade and gender and the role of trade in fostering education, peace and women's empowerment.



World Trade Organisation Discussion on Trade and Gender

GWI believes that as an organisation with a vast network, we can support the work of WTO in gender equality in trade such as GWI members mentoring women in rural and intensely urban areas.

Speakers were Roberto Azevedo, Director General, WTO via video message, Ambassador Sunanta Kangvalkulkij, General Council Chair, WTO; Arancha Gonzalez, Executive Director, International Trade Centre; Ratnakar Adhikari, Executive Director, Enhanced Integrated Framework; Gabrielle Marceau, Counsellor, Legal Affairs Division, WTO; and Anoush der Boghossian, Trade and Gender Focal Point, WTO; and Geeta Desai, GWI President.

GWI members were very impressed with DG Azevedo's commitment to gender equality and his personal congratulations to GWI for reaching 100 years. Having heard the all of the speakers, GWI members have returned to their countries to discuss among themselves and with other women's organizations as well as their governments on how they can work to extend the WTO's focus on gender equality more widely - to empower women entrepreneurs and women who run small processing and manufacturing co-operatives and to support their entry into international markets - to bring the most vulnerable women a step closer to economic independence.

— GWI Peace through Education Conference —

Swati Dlamini Mandela opens the GWI Peace through Education Conference

GWI members were honoured to welcome Zamaswazi (Swati) Dlamini Mandela, Human Rights Activist and granddaughter of Nelson Mandela as the Peace through Education conference keynote speaker. GWI sincerely thanks Graduate Women New Zealand, Otago branch for funding this guest speaker opportunity.



Zamaswazi Dlamini Mandela (left) and Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director (right)

In her opening remarks, Ms Dlamini shared heartfelt parts of her Mandela family story, highlighting how the fight for

education, empowerment and freedom for all is deeply rooted in their ideals and life's work. Sharing her knowledge and expertise of human rights activism in South Africa and beyond, she also reflected on her remarkable heritage and the influence of her grandfather and grandmother on her life. She went on to discuss directly with the GWI membership thoughts and ideas on the work of our members around the world past, present and future.

Ms. Dlamini is the granddaughter of Nelson and Winnie Mandela. She is the daughter of Zenani Mandela, Ambassador to Mauritius and co-author of the autobiography *491 Days with the Nelson Mandela Foundation* about her grandmother, published by McMillan Publishing Company. She is co-producing, with Mandy Jacobson, an authorized documentary about the life of Winnie Mandela for release in 2019 with the Ichikowitz Family Foundation's African Oral History Archive. She recently participated in the publishing of *The Prison Letters of Nelson Mandela* in which she wrote the forward.

Swati, as she likes to be called, is the Founding Partner and Shareholder of Qunu Workforce, South Africa's leading consultancy creating equality in the workforce for those living with disabilities. She served as a spokesperson for 21 Icons - a visual celebration of South Africa's most iconic people capturing human achievement through photography, film and narratives.

GWI affectionately thanks Swati for her participation and support.

— Workshops, Seminars and Papers —

More than 68 workshops, papers and seminar presented during the GWI Conference

The Peace through Education Conference (27 July) featured speakers who shared their experiences and expertise in research, policy development and helped us develop strategies to prioritise education, women and peace. Members also presented multiple papers, workshops and seminars responding to one or more of the five sub-themes: respond to one or more of the five sub-themes:

1. How can education of women and girls, prevent conflicts and transform societies?
2. How can curricula grow and change to bring about a culture of peace?
3. What does it mean to live in a connected world, two-thirds of which are in conflict and how does conflict impact on our daily lives?
4. How can young professionals be empowered to understand and make connections between education, gender issues and their personal and professional success?
5. How can graduate women work at the intersection of education, peace, advocacy and action to influence local, national and global policies?



GWI members attending on the 68 workshops given during the GWI Peace through Education Conference

The full list of conference Workshops, Seminars and Papers can be found [HERE](#).

— World Leaders —

The Peace through Education conference brings together experts and world leaders who participated in leading-edge panel discussions.

Panel 1: *The Evolving Roles of Education and Gender Equality in the Prevention and De-Escalation of Conflict and in Building Sustainable Societies*

As part of the Peace through Education public conference held Saturday, 27 July, GWI organised two panel discussions. This first, *The Evolving Roles of Education and Gender Equality in the Prevention and De-Escalation of Conflict and in Building Sustainable Societies*. Panellists, experts in gender and education and how integrating gender equality and education in conflict zones can have better outcomes and can actually de-escalate conflict, were:

Dr. Barbara Mercer- Moser, Founder of In - Zone. In- Zone, who has pioneered innovative approaches to multilingual communication and higher education in communities affected by conflict and crisis. **Dr. Christelle Rigual**, Researcher and Coordinator at the Gender Centre at the Graduate Institute. She has researched the relationship between gender inequality and armed conflict and how gender equality can de-escalate conflict. **Adiba Qasim**, is previously from Sinjar District in Iraq. She is a student at UNIGE and young leader in foreign and security policy at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. She has experienced first- hand the invasion of her district. She has a unique perspective as a woman in a conflict zone and an understanding of the role of women in security.

The panel aimed to encourage GWI members to incorporate, in their practice of advocacy, a role in supporting women as peace-builders; become part of critical decision-making themselves; and promote education and support for all people but particularly women and girls who have had to flee their homelands.

GWI cordially thanks each panellist for their contribution.

Panel 2: *Global Awareness and Engagement: Understanding Our Global Economic, Social, Environmental Connectedness as a Path to Education and Development rather than as a Driver of Conflict.*

The panellist, together, brought greater awareness about the nature of global connectedness - its challenges and its advantages and why we should understand the implications and obligations that come from connectedness.

GWI warmly thanks panellists Dr. Jaya Krishnakumar, Professor of Economics and Econometrics, UNIGE; Dr. Sunoor Verma, Development Strategist – Practitioner, Boston University and Strategists' World; Barbara Zeus, Education Specialist, UNHCR; and Facilitator, Dr Katia Vladimirova, International Researcher on Sustainable Development, Politics and Ethics.

The discussion had a considerable impact on GWI members' understanding the nature of connectedness so that they can use it create peaceful societies rather than to let it drive conflicts, wars and among other things, the degradation of women' and girls' rights. Additionally, the panellists verified the critical need for GWI members to have a greater awareness of global connectedness in order for them to advocate with their country governments for the rights of women and girls - particularly education rights.

— Photos —

Photos of the GWI 33rd Triennial, Conference and Centenary Celebration are currently being collected. They will be shared in due course through a secured repository on the GWI website. A link to download your favourite photos of the event will be shared in the next Update. Through this link, you will also be able to upload your own photos to share with the rest of the GWI conference participants: stay tuned!

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.

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