



GWI UPDATE – 18 September 2019



Ahead of International Day of Peace (IDP) on 21 September, Graduate Women International (GWI) urges Peace through Education.

— Graduate Women International News —

GWI addresses inequality in trade opportunities for women through its written statement to the 42nd session of the Human Rights Council (HRC42)

On the occasion of the HRC42, GWI is [raising awareness](#) through its [written statement](#) about the importance of women participating in trade as a means to improve their financial situation. In doing so, GWI voices support of the [World Trade Organization Declaration on Gender and Trade on Women's Economic Empowerment](#), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) [Trade and Gender Toolbox](#) and the [International Trade Centre \(ICT\) SheTrades](#) programme. GWI affiliates in 54 countries stand ready to work with these initiatives and organisations to advance the status of women through trade and to demonstrate how women positively complement trade agreements, regionally and internationally.

GWI appreciates the complexity of addressing women's inequality in value chain and trade opportunities yet underscores that trade and gender are two cornerstones for job creation and economic growth. Additionally, the organisation recognises that improving the economic empowerment of women through trade depends on extensive strategic partner networks. To this end, GWI urges Member States and United Nations (UN) agencies to collaborate with international non-government organisations. These organisations offer access to vast globalized networks and local partners who understand regional nuances and who can tailor gender responsive trade partnership strategies from community to community. Thereby, increasing women's confidence to enter the trade markets and probabilities for future success. **The full GWI HRC42 written statement can be read [here](#).**

— GWI Member News —

GWI shares sympathies for the passing of CFUW, Past President, Susan Dyer Murphy (1950-2019)



*CFUW Past President,
Susan Murphy*

It is with deep sorrow that GWI writes of the unexpected passing on Friday, 6 September 2019, of Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Past President, Susan Murphy. We offer our deepest condolences to her family, friends, the members of CFUW and CFUW Nanaimo. GWI will fondly remember Susan as a friend of unwavering support of its mission and programmes.

As a regular generous donor to the GWI Teachers for Rural Futures Programme, she was recently asked by GWI crowdfunding source, GlobalGiving, "What inspired you to give today"? Susan replied, "It is such a great cause. This educational opportunity for women will change lives". GWI will forever be grateful for her support and the delightfulness she brought to our work with her will be sadly missed.

Susan was a mentor to many CFUW leaders in her positions at the club, regional, national and international levels. In the introduction to Susan's CFUW presidential biography she is quoted with saying *"I've tried to share my CFUW experience in words and pictures wherever I go, believing that the more we get to know one another, share stories and successes, the more CFUW clubs and members in our federation will feel a kinship among us and all benefit from those experiences"*.

Grace Hollett, CFUW President, published a touching tribute to Susan that GWI shares via [this link](#). Grace said, "Susan will be remembered for her friendship, dedication to CFUW, her ability to analyse situations and offer opinions, and for her many achievements".

Hearing Women's Voices: Irish Federation of University Women (IrFUW) Annual Conference

IrFUW will be holding its Annual Conference at Trinity College, Dublin on 18 and 19 October 2019, under the promising theme of "Hearing Women's Voices". On Friday, guests are invited to participate in several afternoon activities, including a discussion and a guided tour, before the IrFUW reception that evening. On Saturday, presentations and panel discussions on Women's Voices in Europe, Women's Voices in Business and Women's Voices in the Arts will be held. [Programme](#) and [registration details](#) can be found on the [IrFUW website](#).

— Advocacy —

GWI calls the UN Secretary General to speak about Child Marriage

GWI, along with numerous other concerned [Girls Not Brides](#) member organisations, signed a letter calling the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, to urgently address the issue of early and forced marriage around the world. GWI maintains membership in the "Girls Not Brides: Global Partnership to End Child Marriage", a global partnership of more than 1,250 civil society organisations from over 100 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential. In this letter, GWI and other signatories are urging Guterres to emphasise during the upcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Summit in New York the need for accelerated action by member states to address child marriage and empower adolescent girls. Each year, 12 million girls are married before the age of 18. Child marriage is a violation of human rights which has far reaching consequences for a girl - and her country. Child marriage puts girls at greater risk of violence and increases her chances of remaining trapped in poverty. It also often results in her being pulled out of school and can leave her with serious health complications or even facing death due to early pregnancy. By not addressing child marriage we risk impeding the development agenda of countries across the world. By signing this letter, GWI calls on governments to take action to accelerate their efforts to end child marriage.

GWI urges Peace through Education on the International Day of Peace (IDP)

IDP, marked annually on 21 September, was established by a unanimous resolution of the UN in 1981. Its mission is to provide a common time period for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on or near a shared date, and to bring together efforts from around the world whose ultimate focus is to promote peace and sustainability. This year, GWI joins the UN in encouraging all nations and people to honour the IDP as a period of non-violence and ceasefire. Accordingly, as an organisation dedicated to peacebuilding through education for 100 years, GWI passed [Policy Resolution 2/2019](#) at its Peace through Education General Assembly and Conference held 25-28 July 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. To read the full press release, please click [HERE](#) . Additionally, plan to FOLLOW, LIKE and SHARE our awareness-building social media campaign on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) during IDP.

— Call for applications —

Margaret McNamara Education Grants

The Margaret McNamara Education Grants offer scholarships for women aged 25 or over who are studying in the US and Canada. Applicants should be able to demonstrate a commitment to improving the lives of women and children and be from a country designated as a “lower or middle income developing member country”. Applications are accepted between 15 September and 15 January for the US and Canada programme and the Trinity Washington University programme. Further details on eligibility criteria and application checklists can be found [here](#).

Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future Fellowships for Women

The Faculty for the Future programme, launched in 2004, awards fellowships to women from developing and emerging economies to pursue PhD or Post-doctorate studies in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines at leading universities worldwide. The grants are based on actual costs up to a maximum of \$ 50,000 per year. The deadline for application is 14 November. Further information on eligibility criteria are available [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI UN Representative participates in the UNICEF Executive Board Second Regular Session

Dr. Maureen Byrne, UN Representative, New York recently participated in the UNICEF (United Nations International Emergency Children’s Fund) Executive Board Second Regular Session at the UN Headquarters in New-York from 11 to 13 September 2019. Dr. Byrne participates in the Non-Government Organisation (NGO) Committee on UNICEF on behalf of GWI who maintains active membership in the

Committee, based in New York, that comprises approximately 60 organizations that promote children's rights and development globally. In existence for over 50 years, the Committee provides input to the UNICE Executive Board meetings, that are open to Civil Society Organisation representatives. These annual meetings provide an opportunity for further exchange around issues of mutual interest. The statement presented the NGO Committee on UNICEF concerns in three specific areas related to the status of children: downward trends in child well-being, the falling off of children from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and concerns regarding the fact that NGOs are barred from the special session on children despite the fact that civil society is the biggest shareholder in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). GWI encouraged you to read Dr. Byrne's full report [HERE](#).

The CRC opens its 82nd session

The CRC opened its 82nd session at the Palais Wilson in Geneva on 9 September 2019. The Committee adopted its agenda and programme of work for the session, during which it will review the reports of Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mozambique, the Republic of Korea and Portugal under the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the report of Georgia under the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; as well as the reports of Georgia and Panama under the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict. The eighty-second session of the Committee will run from 9 to 27 September 2019. All the documents relating to the Committee's work, including reports submitted by States parties, can be found on the session's webpage. The webcast of the Committee's public meetings will be available [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of empowerment —

The Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID) is a grants mechanism of GWI that needs your financial support! 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 support for this years' 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 the GWI bi-monthly Update Newsletter provides outstanding information about GWI advocacy work and news about its members to a readership of nearly 5000 subscribers across the globe? GWI encourages and thanks you for sharing the subscribe link below with colleagues, friends and family who would be interested in following the exclusive biweekly updates on GWI advocacy work with the UN and its agencies, social media campaigns, member activities and NFA news. Please share this link today to encourage participation in GWI's international network of gender equality champions and supporters of advancing the rights of women and girls through education!

[Sign Up Now Here](#)

— Other information and events —

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| 25 September | European Platform of Women Scientists Conference, Brussels, Belgium |
| 9 – 28 September | Human Rights Council, United Nations, Geneva |
| 11 October | International Day of the Girl, Global |
| 18-19 October | IrFUW Annual Conference, "Hearing Women's Voices" Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland |
| 28-30 November | FEMU International Seminar, "Empowerment of Girls and Women through Education, Mexico City, Mexico |
| 25 Nov-10 Dec | 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global |
| 3 December | International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Global |
| 9 December | International Anti-Corruption Day, Global |
| 18 December | International Migrants Day, Global |
| 6 February 2020 | International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation, Global |
| 11 February 2020 | International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Global |

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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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