



GWI Update – 16 October 2019



On 15 October 2019, Graduate Women International (GWI) joined the celebration of rural women around the world.

— Graduate Women International News —

GWI celebrates International Day of Rural Women by publishing an advocacy toolkit

Observed annually on 15 October, the International Day of Rural Women celebrates the limitless potential of rural women and girls around the world. Following the 2019 theme “Rural women and girls building climate resilience”, GWI published a [press release](#) calling for the voices of rural women to be heard and their leadership potential recognised. In addition, GWI published an [advocacy toolkit](#) featuring facts and figures concerning the situation of rural women, linking them to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and delivering an account of the corresponding GWI advocacy campaign of 2019. Moreover, the toolkit contains an in-depth portrayal of the GWI [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) project, which enables young rural women in Uganda to obtain a university degree and become teachers themselves, which in turn inspires the next generation of rural girls to strive for higher education. GWI encourages you to download the toolkit [HERE](#).

Tribute to Mary Hamilton Purcell



*Source:
The Tennessean
Obituaries*

Mary Purcell, former President of the American Association of University Women and former President of the International Association of University Women (IFUW), passed away in July 2019 at the age of 92 in Nashville, Tennessee. In her honour, Jackie Shapiro, past Chair of the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Committee on the Status of Women, New York (NGO CSW, New York) submitted a moving tribute praising Mary’s many accomplishments in the realm of United Nations (UN) NGO advocacy work. For instance, she successfully lobbied with the Working Group on Girls to include the Girl Child as one of the 12 Critical Areas of Concern within the Beijing Platform for Action. Furthermore, she managed together with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to let girls speak for the first time in the UN itself. With her passing, the world lost a pioneer in efforts to advance the status of women and girls and an architect of an extraordinary undertaking for girls at the UN.

— GWI Member News —

University Women’s Club of Vancouver (UWCV) to hold a lecture with the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls Commissioner

Michele Audette, Commissioner of the National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls, will speak at the UWCV Club meeting on 26 November. Commissioner Audette entered politics at a young age, first as president of the Quebec Native Women’s Association and then as Associate Deputy Minister for the Status of Women in the Government of Quebec. She then leapt to the national scene as president of the Native Women’s Association of Canada. More information on the event will follow.

Women Graduates-USA produces interactive document on the Beijing Platform for Action

In 2020, the international community celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995. In anticipation of the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) where the main focus will be Beijing +25, Louise McLeod, GWI Vice President Advocacy and Education and Women Graduates-USA ECOSOC Committee Convener, produced comprehensive document on the historical background leading up to the Beijing Platform for Action and its progress over the last 25 years. The publication explains the remarkable framework set forth by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 12 Critical Areas of Concern. GWI encourages downloading and sharing the full document [here](#).

— Advocacy —

UN Women publishes progress report on SDGs from a gender perspective

Recently, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in collaboration with UN Women published a report giving an account of progress made towards reaching the SDGs regarding the advancement of women and girls. This report is extremely relevant to the work of GWI, because it shows how much has been done to achieve substantive gender equality in specific areas and regions of the world, and what challenges still remain and how they can be addressed. A very crucial method was hereby identified to be the collection of high-quality, timely and disaggregated data because they inform decision-making on all aspects of the SDGs. Find the full report [here](#).

International Day of the Girl (IDOG) 2019: GirlForce – Unscripted and Unstoppable

On the heels of a successful 2019 IDOG, GWI would like to thank all members and followers for their active participation in the GWI 2019 IDOG Advocacy Campaign. This year’s theme “GirlForce – Unscripted and Unstoppable” marked 25 years of progress for girls since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995. On 11 October, GWI released an [impactful and ready-to-use advocacy toolkit](#), including advocacy ideas, historical and current information and much more about what our organisation and others do to mark this central day. Alongside the toolkit, GWI produced an exclusive [press release](#) as well as a multichannel social media campaign on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#). Did you miss out? Click [HERE](#) to read, download and share the GWI 2019 IDOG toolkit and [HERE](#) to view our social media campaign.

— Call for applications —

Working to Advance Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education for African Women (WAAW) Application for 2019/2020 STEM Scholarship

WAAW foundation's annual scholarship initiative aims to support African female STEM-focused college graduation. Eligible candidates must be female students of African origin, living and studying in Africa. They must be currently enrolled in a STEM-related undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree programme in a university or college in Africa and account for an excellent academic record. Furthermore, they must demonstrate financial need and be younger than 32 years old. More information on the scholarship programme is available [here](#). Applications are open until **15 November 2019**.

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era Training Institute for young feminists

The **Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era** ([DAWN](#)) [Training Institute \(DTI\)](#) is an intensive training programme for young feminist activists and advocates from the economic South, that exposes activists to theory, discussions and interactive processes related to feminism, feminist movements, women's rights, as well as local and global strategies to achieve social justice. The three-week programme draws on DAWN's feminist analysis, which interlinks issues under the themes of Political Economy of Globalisation (PEG), Political Ecology and Sustainability (PEAS), Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), and Political Restructuring and Social Transformation (PRST). This 6th DTI held from **16 November – 6 December 2020** in Izmir, Turkey, will also address DAWN's new areas of analysis and advocacy in relation to Public Accountability, Corporate Power and Women's Human Rights; Reclaiming the Body, Deep Democracy and Women's Agency; Political Economy of Conflict and Violence Against Women; and Digital Justice and Gender Equality. Eligible candidates must be women (including trans-women) between 25 and 35 years old and able to communicate fluently in written and spoken English. Find more information on eligibility and the application process [here](#). Applications are open until **1 December 2019**.

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI attends panel on “Futures of Education” at UN General Assembly in New York

On 25 September 2019, GWI representatives in New-York Sophie Zaretsky, Maryella Hannum and Maureen Byrne attended a panel organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the State of Portugal concerning the launch of UNESCO's “Futures of Education” project in attempt to generate debate on the need to rethink education in order to respond to the current challenges in our society. With this, UNESCO is establishing a High-Level International Commission of eminent thought leaders of diverse expertise and perspectives from the realms of politics, academia, the arts, science and business which engage through a consultative process with governments, policymakers, civil society, youth, educators and other stakeholders. The final product of this collaboration will be a report for 2021 providing an agenda for policy debate and resulting action. Topics addressed in the panel session were, among others, the need for quality education, keeping girls in school and using technology for education. In that regard, Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway, noted that “the world is not on track to meet SDG 4 by 2030.” To read their full report of the panel, please click [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of education —

GWI will be leading a team of runners at the 42nd Course de l'Escalade to be held on 30 November 2019. Our objective is to promote the importance of girls' education and celebrate GWI's centennial commitment to improving the status of women and girls' worldwide through education at the highest level. Each year, on the first weekend in December, the most popular sporting event in Geneva takes place in the old town - The Escalade Race. Last year nearly 45,000 runners participated. This event is for everyone - famous international runners to beginners, children and adults alike. Distances run vary from 2km to 8 km depending on the category. All runs take place in the narrow streets of the old town and finish in the Bastion Park. With this fundraiser, we are promoting the importance of girls' education and raising funds for our programs such as Teachers for Rural Futures and GWI mentoring programmes. We are rallying support as we plan to run as a team on this very special Geneva event. If you are in Geneva and want to join the GWI team, contact Stacy Dry Lara at sdl@graduatewomen.org, before 4 November. If you are not in Geneva but would like to support our running for girls' education, please click [HERE](#) to contribute.

30 novembre - 1er décembre 2019
42^e Course de l'Escalade



— Did you know? —

From 29 – 30 October 2019, GWI will participate in the Beijing +25 UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Regional Review Meeting at the Palais des Nations in Geneva Switzerland. On 28 October, GWI will also attend the Civil Society Forum to the regional review meeting on Beijing+25, along with more than 500 representatives of other international women's rights organisations. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 is the most ambitious road map for the empowerment of women and girls everywhere. In 2020, it will be 25 years since the Beijing Platform for Action set strategic objectives and actions for the achievement of gender equality in 12 Critical Areas of Concern. The October meeting provides a forum for UNECE member states and international organisation such as GWI to review progress and identify challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The event is jointly organised by UNECE and the UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. For more information about the Beijing Platform of Action or the Regional Review Meeting, click [here](#).

— Other information and events —

17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Global
18-19 October	IrFUW Annual Conference, “Hearing Women’s Voices”, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
24 October	United Nations Day, Global
28 October	UN ECE CSO Forum, Geneva
29-30 October	UN ECE Regional Review B+25, Geneva
17 November	International Students’ Day, Global
19 November	World Toilet Day, Global
20 November	Universal Children’s Day, Global
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Global
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global
28-30 November	Mexico (FEMU) International Seminar, Mexico
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Global
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day, Global
10 December	Human Rights Day, Global
18 December	International Migrants Day, Global
20 December	International Human Solidarity 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.

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