



## GWI UPDATE – 2 October 2019



*Graduate Women International (GWI) looks back on the success of the GWI 33<sup>rd</sup> Triennial, Peace through Education Conference and Centenary Celebration.*

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### — Graduate Women International News —

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#### **Pictures of the GWI 33<sup>rd</sup> Triennial, Peace through Education Conference and Centenary Celebration are now available!**

Pictures taken during the Graduate Women International (GWI) 33<sup>rd</sup> Triennial, Peace through Education Conference and Centenary Celebration held 25-28 July in Geneva, Switzerland are now available on [GWI's Flickr](#) page. The photo stream gives an account of the event from portrait to group photos and live shots of the General Assembly, Peace through Education Conference, Centenary Celebration, WTO Keynote Discussion on Women's Empowerment. This collection of pictures relives this unique and joyful moment of friendship within GWI. Click [here](#) to view the photos. Do you have photos of your own that you would like to contribute to the collection? Email them to [gwi@graduatewomen.org](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org). (Photo credits include Louise McLeod, GWI VP Advocacy and Education; Curtis Cowhill and Brian McLeod along with GWI member submissions.)

#### **GWI reflects on 25 years of progress for girls on International Day of the Girl, 11 October**

Since 2011, 11 October is marked as the International Day of the Girl, that draws global attention to the unique challenges girls face around the world, whilst promoting girls' empowerment and rights. This year's theme "[GirlForce: Unscripted and Unstoppable](#)" marks 25 years of progress for girls since the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, which constitutes the most progressive blueprint for advancing the rights of girls. Simultaneously, the Convention on the Rights of the Child turns 30 this year. Following this year's theme, GWI stands with girls to develop their skills now and reach their full potential through education at the highest level. As an organisation committed to improving the education space for girls, GWI aims through its programmes, such as the [Bina Roy Partners in Development](#), to provide girls and women with opportunities for training and skills development, thus helping them to develop the foundational, transferable and job-specific skills they need to thrive as individuals and professionals. Ahead of this very important day, GWI invites you to read and share its [press release](#) that reflects on 25 years of progress for girls. On 9 October GWI will launch a [social media](#)

[campaign](#) specific to the International Day of the Girl. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) to participate. Please check the [GWI website](#) for the soon-to-be-released IDOG toolkit.

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **GWI's Egyptian and Independent Members attend conference organised by Bibliotheca Alexandrina**

On 24 September, GWI's Egyptian Association of Graduate Women (EAGW) member, Magda Omar and GWI Independent Member, Sahar Gamal, participated in the Bibliotheca Alexandrina's BAIFA conference on "[Africa Talks Education: For a Better Tomorrow](#)". This conference recalls Egypt's declaration of 2019 as 'the Year of Education' and Bibliotheca Alexandrina's commitment to its role in building sustainable and knowledgeable societies, not just in Egypt, but in Africa as well. The conference focused on three main points including the state of higher education in Africa and the challenges it faces, the role of informal education provided through libraries in supporting and enhancing the quality of higher education in Africa, and discussions on [Target 4.3](#) of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



*From left to right: Ms. Rania Shaarawy, Prof. Gahada Abd ElBary, Dr. Magda Omar, and Ms. Sahar Gamal. (photo courtesy: Sahar Gamal)*

### **The Geneva Section of ASFDU releases September Newsletter**

The Geneva Section of the Swiss Association of University Women (ASFDU) has released their September newsletter that celebrates GWI's Centenary conference in July of this year through various photos of their time during the conference. The complete newsletter can be read [here](#).

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## — Advocacy —

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### **GWI praises young female teachers on World Teacher's Day, 5 October**

Marked annually on 5 October since 1994, World Teacher's Day commemorates the efforts made by teachers worldwide to progress education for women and girls. This year's theme "Young Teachers: The future of the Profession" resonates with GWI's Teachers for Rural Futures Programme in which GWI supports young women in obtaining a university degree in education and to return to their rural communities and become teachers and role models for other young girls' education. To read the full press release, please click [here](#). Likewise, please follow, like and share GWI's social media campaign on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for the day starting on 3 October.

### **GWI celebrates the limitless potential of rural women and girls**

Celebrated annually on 15 October, International Day of Rural Women aims to strengthen rural women and girls' voices. This year's theme "Rural women and girls building climate resilience" reminds us how central rural women are to developing a sustainable future. When these women are empowered, families, communities and countries benefit economically. GWI will advocate throughout a social media campaign for rural women and girls to be considered in decision-making processes and for their needs to be listened to because they will be key to the future of all our livelihoods. This year, to mark critical areas of concern

for rural women, GWI is producing a comprehensive toolkit for release in the coming days. Please look out for this on the GWI website's advocacy page.

### **GWI attends Monica McWilliams' talk on education, peace and conflict resolution**

On 27 September, GWI Intern, Ciara Rainsby, attended a speaker event at the La Châtaigneraie campus of the International School of Geneva, Switzerland. The invited speaker was Monica McWilliams, Northern Irish peace activist and human rights defender. McWilliams is known for her participation in the multi-party talks of the Northern Irish peace process that established the 1998 Good Friday Agreement that, of its many attributes, addressed integrated education.



During her talk, McWilliams focused on the role that education plays in conflict resolution saying that education is a critical element that should always be on the peace table. She emphasised that education enables people to learn from different experiences. In addition, she highlighted her work with women in conflict regions that aims to empower them pointing out the fact that many groups have consistently been missing from peace negotiations, such as women and children as she witnessed during the peace talks in Northern Ireland. In effect, she believes that achieving and sustaining peace is achieved through a participatory process that involves such groups. Today, her work has expanded into research on domestic violence at the Ulster University in Northern Ireland.

*Monica McWilliams' talk on education, peace and conflict resolution at the International School of Geneva. (photo courtesy: Interpeace)*

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## — Call for applications —

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### **American Association of University Women (AAUW)'s International Fellowship Programme**

AAUW's International Fellowship programme has been in existence since 1917. The programme provides support for women pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the US who are not US citizens or permanent residents. A limited number of awards are available for study outside of the US (excluding the applicant's home country) to women who are members of GWI. Preference is given to women who show prior commitment to the advancement of women and girls through civic, community or professional work. Up to five International Fellowships for master's/first professional degrees will be renewable for a second year; fellows will receive application information of this competitive programme during their fellowship year. Applications for AAUW International Fellowships are opened until **15 November 2019**. For more information, please visit the [AAUW website](#).

### **Australia Awards Scholarships for African Students with 3<sup>rd</sup> Class**

Australia Awards, a cornerstone of the Australian Government's development assistance program for Africa, provide access to postgraduate education, training, and professional development opportunities for suitably qualified Africans from eligible countries. On their return to the workplace, Australia Awards Alumni are expected to contribute actively to development in their home countries. The Scholarship is offered annually and the deadline for the scholarship is **December and March of the academic year**. For further information about requirements and the application process, please [click here](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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## UN Women launches “Progress of the World’s Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World” report



*UN Women "Families in a Changing World" report.*

On 18 September 2019, GWI attended a presentation at the United Nations, Geneva by UN Women on their flagship report, [“Progress of the World’s Women 2019-2020: Families in a Changing World”](#). The UN Women report assesses the reality of families today in the context of sweeping economic, demographic, political, and social transformations and proposes a comprehensive family-friendly agenda to advance gender equality in today’s diverse family settings.

At the event, representatives from member states, international organisations and civil society discussed policies and laws aimed to meet the needs of women and girls within the family context. Panellists examined key issues such as family laws, employment, unpaid care work, violence against women, and families and migration.

Families around the world live differently in today’s global world. Families are a critical juncture that can profoundly influence women and girls achieving their rights. Families can be places of love, nurture and accomplishment but, unfortunately, too often they are also spaces where women’s and girls’ rights are violated, their voices left unheard and where gender inequality prevails.

GWI encourages reading the [report](#) and adopting the recommendations in your advocacy work.

### **GWI features the experience of talented GWI Interns in an Update Special Edition**

As part of its mission to advance the status of all women and girls through safe, quality education and lifelong training, GWI annually hosts interns from various universities around the world. We value their invaluable contributions and viewpoints, as young women who are progressing GWI’s mission. On 25 September, GWI released a special edition of the GWI Update, that features the experience of two talented GWI interns who participated in the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (HRC42) at the United Nations, Geneva. Missed this publication? Simply [click here](#) to view and download it. Click [here](#) to subscribe to the Update to make sure you are informed about GWI advocacy work.

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## — Give the gift of education —

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GWI is directly addressing the lack of women teachers as a barrier to girls’ secondary education by sponsoring girls from rural areas in Uganda to qualify as teachers through the [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) project. An increase in qualified women teachers in rural Uganda will have a huge impact on girls’ education in the country. Educated girls and women are better equipped to participate effectively in society, to protect themselves from harm and to care for their children. Children of educated women are healthier and far more likely to go to school, creating long-term positive effects for generations. We invite you to contribute to our GlobalGiving campaign that enables young women to achieve their potential, inspire girls to go to school and build more prosperous communities. [Give today.](#)

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## — Did you know? —

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Did you know that during the GWI 33<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in July 2019, the GWI membership elected its new leadership? GWI's Board of Officers, Committee Convenors and Committee members are elected every three years by the GWI General Assembly. GWI welcomes its newly elected and re-elected leaders and thanks them for their outstanding commitment to the values and missions of the organisation. Learn more about the GWI leadership on the [GWI website](#).

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## — Other information and events —

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5 October	World Teacher's Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Global
24 October	United Nations Day, Global
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
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

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## 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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