



Graduate Women  
International (GWI)

# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **On World Teacher's Day, Graduate Women International celebrates young female teachers**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 5 October 2019**— Today, World Teacher's Day, Graduate Women International (GWI) joins the global community in honouring young teachers worldwide. This year's theme "Young Teachers: The future of the profession" is of special relevance and appeal to GWI who currently administers its [Teachers for Rural Futures Programme](#), which [supports](#) young women to train as secondary school teachers and return to their rural communities as qualified teachers and role models for girls' education.

GWI is proud to announce on World Teacher's Day that five girls from the programme will, in fact, graduate with teaching degrees from Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, in January 2020. The opportunity kickstarts their careers as teachers and empowers them to educate other young girls.

"Education is crucial in the development of any country. It is also crucial that young women are offered the opportunity and incentives to become teachers. Only with unwavering commitment will leaderships produce more young women teachers and provide more girls' the opportunity for education, says GWI President, Terry Oudraad.

GWI remains concerned about the challenges faced by young women today who want to become teachers. The teaching profession has become more difficult in the twenty-first century; it is less valued, incentives are reduced, hours are longer, resources are fewer and government commitment to producing qualified teachers is a shadow of yesteryear. As a turning point, GWI is encouraged by the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are the shared blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all; notably [SDG 4](#), that aims towards recognising teachers as key actors in the success of the 2030 Agenda.

GWI is also concerned about the lack of incentives for female teachers to continue their career path. According to Education International's 2018 report on the 'Global Status of Teachers and the Teaching Profession', in the United States, 41% of 50,000 teachers leave the profession during the first five years. A similar statistic or even worse can be found throughout the world. GWI underscores that more must be done to attract and retain more female teachers who stay in the profession.

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 60 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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*Contributing to this press release is GWI intern, Ciara Rainsby, from the University of Exeter.*