



Graduate Women
International (GWI)

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Graduate Women International (GWI) reflects on the effects of poverty on girls' education

Geneva, Switzerland, 17 October 2019—The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty dates back to 17 October 1987. On that day, over 100'000 people gathered at the Trocadéro in Paris, where the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was signed in 1948, to honour the victims of extreme poverty, violence and hunger. They proclaimed that poverty is a violation of human rights and affirmed the need to come together to ensure that these rights are respected. To that effect, the United Nations General Assembly declared 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and invited all states to promote activities concerning eradicating poverty within their national context. Nowadays, 17 October is linked strongly to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 1, for instance, stipulates to end poverty in all of its forms everywhere, whereas SDG 2 sets out the goal of ending world hunger, which is connected firmly to eradicating poverty.

The theme for 2019, "Acting together to empower children, their families and communities to end poverty", is linked to the fact that the Convention on the Rights of the Child turns 30 this year. With 196 State parties, this document constitutes the most ratified human rights treaty ever. Since poverty is harmful to a child's development, it must be recognised as a denial of children's human rights.

As an organisation committed to improving girls' access to education, GWI is contributing to the eradication of poverty through its programmes, such as the [Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme](#) whose grants are awarded to GWI National Federations and Associations from developing countries to support projects empowering girls and women through education and leadership development.

Graduate Women International 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.

Contributing to this press release is GWI intern, Anna Indermaur.

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