



GWI UPDATE – 13 November 2019



Graduate Women International joined several sessions organised within the context of Geneva Peace Week.

— Graduate Women International News —

Graduate Women International participates in the 2019 Geneva Peace Week

From 4 - 8 November 2019 Geneva Peace Week (GPW) took place at the Maison de la Paix and the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. GPW is a flagship initiative of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform in collaboration with the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG) and the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies. With this context, about 40 events serve as a platform for in-depth discussions about diverse elements of peacebuilding with numerous actors ranging from international organisations to research institutions. Headquartered in Geneva, Graduate Women International (GWI) participated on behalf of its National Federations and Associations (NFAs) in several of these events during the GPW, including the opening session, a discussion on gender dimensions of social conflict, armed violence and peacebuilding and an interactive discussion on Overcoming Challenges to Women's Participation in Sustainable Peacebuilding. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Geneva Peace Week and these notable events.

— GWI Member News —

Canadian Federation of University Women showcases 100 years with a video

As part of their centenary year, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) produced a video of milestones. The video aimed to enhance member pride for such a momentous occasion and attract new members. The challenge was what to include in a five-minute video. The video covers highlights from 1903 to present day and includes such milestones as 1903 when the first University Women's Club was founded; 1922 when scientist Marie Curie visited Niagara Falls and CFUW assisted in raising \$100,000 for the radium to be used in her work; 1947 when CFUW promoted women to the parole boards and as probation officers; 1967 when CFUW President Laura Sabia forged a women's coalition to lobby the federal government which led to the creation of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women to the present day where CFUW clubs and the Charitable Trust are providing \$1 million annually in scholarships, fellowships and bursaries to women and girls. To view the video click [HERE](#).

AMUS to hold conference on investing in women to advance economic growth

The Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de El Salvador (AMUS) is hosting a conference on Saturday, 16 November 2019 about the correlation between supporting women and visible development of countries. During the event, speaker Dr. Rosa Maria Mendoza De Serrano will speak about investing in women as an effective strategy for advancing economic growth in countries. GWI wishes a successful event for AMUS.

JAUW 2019 National Seminar addresses education, harassment and inclusion

On 19 – 20 October, the Japanese Associate of University Women (JAUW) held its biannual national seminar on education, gender and social inclusion related to combating harassment. The seminar shared reports about GWI's 33rd Triennial Peace through Education Conference which took place in July this year in Geneva, Switzerland. With nearly 110 members and non-members from all over Japan participating in the two-day [programme](#) at the National Women's Education Center, there was much discussion about education, harassment and inclusion. During the seminar, members shared meaningful experiences from Geneva, which created a better understanding of the GWI's missions in relation to the seminar's theme, and relay talks were facilitated by a guest speaker, who is a pioneer in feminism in Japan and an advocate of gender equality. GWI looks forward to future events and engagement with JAUW on topics of education for women.



JAUW biannual seminar in October 2019.

— Advocacy —

GWI calls for safe learning environments at school on International Students' Day

Ensuring that schools are safe is not only essential in times of armed conflict. On International Students' Day, GWI emphasises that for students to thrive, schools and universities must be safe and welcoming places in order to improve student motivation to learn. In over 100 years of experience, GWI has considered this in the past in several of its General Assembly [resolutions](#) addressing for example violence at school or bullying. Moreover, GWI commits to safe access to quality education through its different projects. One example is the [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) programme, through which GWI is supporting the university education of five young female students from Uganda with the goal that they themselves become teachers, and therefore role models for other young girls in their communities. They are expected to graduate in January 2020. Click [HERE](#) to read the full press release on International Students' Day.

On World Toilet Day, GWI highlights the significance of leaving no one behind

Among other issues, World Toilet Day raises awareness about the lack of access to proper sanitation facilities, especially for women and girls. This, in turn, severely jeopardises girls' access to education, particularly where female hygiene and menstruation are concerned. Proper sanitation and access to clean and segregated toilets play an integral role in women's health and education. If they are not available, girls choose to not go to school during their menstruation. Furthermore, menstruation is still an unspoken topic in many societies, which inhibits open discussions about addressing health concerns regarding sanitation facilities. Since girls' access to quality education, therefore, includes access to proper sanitation facilities, GWI has made it its mission to improve the standards of sanitation for women all around the world. For instance, through the [Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme](#), the Sierra Leone Association of University Women aimed to spread health education to female college students by facilitating discussions

about menstruation. The GWI press release for World Toilet Day is upcoming and will be published on www.graduatwomen.org.

— Call for applications —

Women of Distinction Award

Every year NGO CSW/NY presents the Woman of Distinction Award to a woman in recognition of her leadership in the struggle for gender equality, human rights and women's empowerment. In 2020 as we commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing +25, we have decided to honour five women, one from each United Nations Region: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America Caribbean, Eastern Europe, Western Europe and others. The five Women of Distinction will receive their awards at the 2020 NGO CSW Consultation Day on Sunday, 8 March. The award winners will be introduced at the NGO CSW Reception on 10 March. The deadline to submit nominations is **2 December 2019**. Click [HERE](#) for criteria and details.

Barbara Lotze Scholarship

The American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) Executive Board offers scholarships supported and endowed by Barbara Lotze for future high school physics teachers. They are available only to U.S. citizens attending U.S. schools. Successful applicants receive a stipend of up to \$2000 and a complimentary AAPT Student Membership for one year. Applications close on **1 December 2019**. Read more about the scholarship [HERE](#).

Birmingham Business School Doctoral Scholarships

The University of Birmingham offers multiple full-time PhD scholarships for the 2020-21 academic year centred on nine research topics. Open to both domestic and international students, they are accepting applicants with an undergraduate degree and a master's degree or in the final year for either degree. If English is not the applicants' first language, applicants must satisfy a language requirement. Applications are **currently open**. For more information, click [HERE](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI United Nations Representatives meet with United States Mission Policy Adviser

On 23 October, Dr Maureen Byrne, Maryella Hannum, and Dr Sophie Turner Zaretsky, GWI United Nations Representatives in New-York, met with Laurie Phipps, former Policy Adviser on social and human rights issues including gender and women's rights to the United States Mission to the United Nations (USUN). During this meeting, they presented the work of GWI and explained how GWI United Nations Representatives in New-York could work more closely and more effectively with the USUN and with other United Nations Missions located in New York. A full report of the meeting is available [HERE](#).

GWI attends International High-Level Conference: Educating for the Rule of Law

As a GWI UN Representative in Vienna, Elisabeth Francis actively attends international conferences focused on education. Recently, she participated in the International High-Level Conference on Educating for the Rule of Law hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) from 7 - 9 October 2019. The conference centred around the [United Nation's Education for Justice \(E4J\)](#) global initiative that UNODC organised to prevent crime through education of law and human rights. The conference fostered discussion

about creative methods of teaching law in all levels of education. GWI strongly encourages members to read Francis's full report [HERE](#).

GWI participates in Addressing and Preventing Anti-Semitism through Education side event

On 18 October 2019, Sophie Turner Zaretsky, GWI UN Representative in New York, participated in a panel discussion on "Addressing and Preventing Anti-Semitism through Education". Herewith, the side event encapsulated antisemitism and actions based on education to prevent and end the sentiment of antisemitism around the world. The panel was organised by the United Nations Department of Global Communications, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, Ahmed Shaheed, and referred to the latter's report about "Combatting Antisemitism to Eliminate Discrimination and Intolerance Based on Religion or Belief" which he had presented to the United Nations General Assembly. The report highlights the need to recognise and prevent antisemitism on a global scale. For more detailed information, please read Zaretsky's full account of the panel [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of membership —

This November instead of making an advent calendar – [give the gift of membership](#) to the outstanding graduate women in your life! GWI membership allows graduate women to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training. Give the gift of membership to become part of a global community of some 16'000 members in 60 countries, either as a [GWI independent member](#) or national member of one of our [NFAs](#).

— Did you know? —

GWI received 40 applications for the upcoming 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York (CSW64). That is an extraordinary outcome and GWI is pleased for the willingness of its members to represent GWI at the CSW64. We thank all applicants for their commitment to GWI's mission. Currently, GWI is in full preparation for CSW64 to provide its delegates with all the necessary information for an enjoyable two weeks of sessions. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance in December whether they have been selected to the GWI CSW64 delegation.

— Other information and events —

17 November	International Students' Day
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

10 Feb- 28 Feb
2020
9-20 March
2020

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 75th session,
United Nations, Geneva
Commission on the Status of Women 64th session, New York

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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 maintains official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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