



## GW I UPDATE – 27 November 2019



*From 25 November to 10 December, GWI joins hands with the global movement to end violence against women.*

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### — Graduate Women International News —

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#### **16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Advocacy Campaign**

Every year, in solidarity with survivors and survivor advocates who work to end violence against women and girls, Graduate Women International (GWI) takes an active role in the 16 Days of Activism against GBV Campaign. On 22 November, GWI released a [comprehensive advocacy toolkit](#) that increases awareness about and advocates for the elimination of all forms of GBV through a united, global voice. The interactive toolkit includes powerful messages and easy-to-use resources for GWI members, friends and followers to participate in this international movement for the elimination of GBV. Also, during the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, GWI posts daily facts and articles related to the topic on its social media networks. FOLLOW, LIKE and SHARE GWI post on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) during this time! Access the full advocacy toolkit [HERE](#).

GBV is a human rights violation and every single day, GBV severely jeopardises the education rights, safety, dignity, human rights, and the emotional and physical wellbeing of millions of women and girls who experience it. GBV is a major obstacle to the fulfilment of women and girls' right to education and to the successful achievement of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). The GWI advocacy toolkit and social media posts can be widely shared as models to spread the word about GBV, its causes and ways to eliminate it. Together we can end GBV!

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### — GWI Member News —

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## Dr. Seema Singh, IFUWA member conducts rights awareness raising work in Indian rural school

On 9 October 2019, Dr. Seema Singh, member of GWI's Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA), visited a rural primary school in the village of Harkaina, where she conducted an interactive discussion with school children and their teachers on education, rights and hygiene. The goal of the discussion was to raise children's awareness of the importance of education for their empowerment and the reaching of their full potential. Dr. Singh emphasized the importance of Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) studies for the future and the excellent career prospects offered in those fields to girls and boys alike. When asked what they wanted to become when they grow up, the students notably answered that they wanted to become teachers, police officers and doctors. Dr. Singh distributed chocolates to bring a lovely end to the awareness-raising visit. GWI thanks Dr. Singh for her successful contribution to education.



Dr. Seema Singh (middle near the blackboard), two female teachers and students at the Harkaina village school  
©Dr. Seema Singh

## AMUP celebrates 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary and sponsors round table on Panama's education system



AMUP members celebrating their 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The Asociacion de Mujeres Universitarias de Panama (AMUP) celebrated their 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary with members and special guests to reflect upon all the accomplishments of the organisation. The anniversary commemorated the work of the founding members as well as the collective vision of improving women and girls' lives through education. GWI congratulates AMUP on their successful milestone.



AMUP sponsors round table discussion on Panama's education system

On 9 October 2019, AMUP sponsored and participated in the round table discussion on the "Prospective and Retrospective Analysis of Panama's Education System". Teachers and former Education Secretaries shared their opinions about the shortcomings of the Panamanian education system. The session conclusions will contribute to recommendations to the Panamanian Education and Economic Authorities to benefit the future generations.

## AFFDU hosts Bookfair and talk on identity



AFFDU Bookfair at the Town hall with authors

The Association Française des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU) held a bookfair on 23 November 2019 at a town hall in Paris, France. More than 70 women authors of non-fiction books ranging from geography, medicine and sociology were present to sell their books. AFFDU also successfully sold their last copies of their review, *Diplômées*, which was met with much interest. Additionally, a talk and discussion entitled "Questioning Identity" was facilitated by feminist and philosopher Geneviève Fraisse. The session gave a glimpse of the milestone Centenary of AFFDU to be held 18 to 22 September 2020 and which all GWI members are warmly welcome.



Pictured left is AFFDU Secrétaire Générale Adjointe, Mme Annie Crépin. Ms. Crépin is a university researcher and presented a book, *The Military History of France*, written by a bevy of experts under her responsibility. Pictured right is Christine Le Bozec, French historian specialising in the history of the French Revolution. Behind reading is Marguerite Cocude, AFFDU President from 2015 to 2018. The others are authors attracted by the good reputation of the AFFDU Bookfair.

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## — Advocacy —

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### **On Universal Children’s Day, GWI emphasises the right to education**

Children, and particularly girls, continue to face critical barriers to education, such as gender discrimination, conflict and child labour, overwhelming stress and school fees, to name only a few. As century-long advocates for women and girls’ safe access to lifelong, quality education, GWI takes [Universal Children’s Day 2019](#) as an opportunity to emphasize all that is enshrined in the United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), especially noting that all children are entitled to receive free and compulsory education. In multiple ways, GWI aims to improve the access to education for girls. As example, in the press release GWI issued to commemorate this year’s Universal Children’s Day. Click [HERE](#) to access the full press release. To draw further attention to the issues children face nowadays, GWI also launched a comprehensive social media campaign involving facts and articles related to children on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). Have a look at our advocacy ideas if you are looking for inspiration on how to connect with children.

### **On Anti-Corruption Day, GWI recollects its written statements to the Human Rights Council**

Corruption contributes to poverty and is a principle factor driving fragile and unstable countries towards state failure. It has serious consequences on women’s and girls’ fundamental rights, including their right to quality education. GWI draws attention to the particularly harmful effects of corruption on women and girls. In doing so, GWI submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC) 35<sup>th</sup> session in 2017 [written](#) and [oral](#) statements on corruption as a barrier to girls education. In June 2019, GWI organised, with co-sponsor [WUNRN, Women’s United Nations Report Network](#), a side event entitled, Women and Corruption. The panel, composed of international anti-corruption experts from Transparency International and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime, addressed the gendered dimensions of corruption to raise awareness about how women experience corruption in unique and specific ways and are targeted disproportionately as victims of corruptions. To accompany the HRC side event, GWI also submitted a [written statement](#) entitled, *Educating Women and Girls is Key to Building a Corruption - Free World*.

Governments, the private sector, nongovernmental organisations, media and citizens around the world are joining forces to combat corruption. In doing so, GWI continues to raise awareness about the topic and will issue a press release and social media campaign on 9 December. A parallel event application co-sponsored by WUNRN is pending approval from the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

### **Human Rights Day – 10 December**

This day marks the end of the 16 Days of Activism and celebrates the adoption of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) in 1948. This Declaration has allowed the creation of 60 various human rights instruments

to set up an international standard of human rights. Indeed, it is a very fitting conclusion to this campaign as it reinforces commitments that will be made towards human rights across the world and thus its engagement towards fighting GBV and enabling education for all, particularly for young girls - GWI's fundamental message. GWI will issue a press release on 10 December along with an awareness-building social media campaign that reinforces commitments towards fighting GBV by ensuring lifelong education for women and girls.

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## — Call for applications —

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### **Next Day Animations Illustrating Awesomeness Scholarships**

Next Day Animations helps organisations and brands communicate complex ideas quickly in a way that is engaging and fun. Since 2016, they yearly award a scholarship to young women or gender non-binary people of colour currently attending college or university or who will enrol in the spring semester of 2020. Applications are **currently open**. For more information click [HERE](#).

### **CEDAW for Change Oxford Institute 2020**



This intensive capacity-building institute organised by the Women's Human Rights Institute focuses on feminist activist approaches to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), alongside complementary international and regional human rights frameworks and mechanisms to support strategic advocacy and leadership capacities amongst women's human rights defenders. Innovative approaches to combating intersectional discrimination against women in a context of backlash and processes to support cross-movement and cross-regional alliances will be explored with international women's human

rights defenders and leaders. The programme will run from **1-6 June 2020 in Oxford, UK**. The first round of application has already opened and ends on **1 December 2019**. A second and third round of applications will follow in January and February. For more information click [HERE](#).

### **Swedish Institute Leader Lab 2020 – connecting advocates for gender equality**

The Swedish Institute (SI) Leader Lab is a programme for advocates of gender equality who wish to grow in their role while exploring new tools and forms for collaboration. It will bring together 50 young influential civil society leaders in South Asia, Middle East and North Africa and Sweden who are active advocates of gender equality. Apply to SI Leader Lab if you want to grow as a leader, develop your advocacy skills and share knowledge in a network of inspirational peers. Applications are open until **4 December 2019** for applicants from Afghanistan, Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and Yemen. For more information click [HERE](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **GWI participates in “Women’s Economic Empowerment and the SDGs” event**

Helen Lom, GWI United Nations Representative, Geneva, attended a panel discussion on 5 November 2019 hosted by, among others, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Committee, UN Women, Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. With the incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the panel discussed



women's empowerment in the economy and addressed the apparent inequalities such as gender pay gaps and lack of women in fields of science and technology. To address these challenges, the panel called for societal changes for women's economic empowerment and support for women's education in STEM fields. For more information, please read the full report by Lom [HERE](#).

### **GWI participates in the 81<sup>st</sup> session of the Committee on the Rights of a Child**

Attending the 81<sup>st</sup> Session of the Committee on the Rights of a Child, Maureen Byrne Ph.D., United Nations Representative, New York, reports significant inputs from international organisations such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) who made valuable contributions in discussing challenges of organisations implementing children's rights. Dr. Byrne notes significant upcoming events about education and child rights such as the 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CRC that promise progress and reaffirmation of advancing the rights of the child. To read the meeting's full report by Dr. Byrne, please click [HERE](#).

Additionally, Dr. Byrne participated in the 30th anniversary of the CRC at the United Nations General Assembly in New York City on 20 November 2019. Focusing on the successes and challenges of the CRC, Dr. Byrne outlines various presentations about issues surrounding children, such as armed conflict, violence and sexual exploitation. Dr. Byrne also states while there are many successes, there are more challenges to overcome with more implementation and adherence to the SDGs. Moving forward, she calls for the United States to ratify the CRC and further support the rights of children. Please read her full report [HERE](#).

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## — Give the gift of education —

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*The current participants of our Teachers for Rural Futures programme in Uganda.*

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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The 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign was initiated in 1991 by the first Women's Global Leadership Institute. Since then, more than 6000 organisations from approximately 187 countries have participated in the campaign. Every year, the 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign features a theme focusing on a particular area of gender inequality to help drawing attention to these issues and provoke change that will have an impact. The dates for the campaign, 25 November-10 December were chosen to link violence against women and human rights and emphasise that GBV is a violation of human rights. Therefore, the campaign starts on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against

Women, and ends on 10 December, Human Rights Day. For several years now, GWI joins the campaign every year by providing its own [advocacy toolkit](#), social media posts and press releases. Follow our daily posts on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to be up to date on every day of the campaign! Read more about the campaign [HERE](#).

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## — Other information and events —

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25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against GBV, 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
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
10 Feb-28 Feb 2020	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 75 <sup>th</sup> session, United Nations, Geneva
9-20 March 2020	Commission on the Status of Women 64 <sup>th</sup> session, New York
31 May-18 Jun 2020	International Labour Conference, 110 <sup>th</sup> session, Geneva

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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.

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