

# GWI United Nation Representative Advocacy Report 2019

## GWI advocacy goals

1. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to policy, legislation, budget and infrastructure to facilitate transition of girls from primary to secondary school and ensure gender parity and gender equality throughout secondary education by 2030.
2. By 2030 100% of United Nations low income Member States have increased access to tertiary education for girls and women by 50%.
3. 100% of United Nations Member States commit to and implement policies for continuing education to empower women throughout the life course, within the formal and informal economies.
4. Influence the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.
5. All 17 SDGs will include girls' education targets.

**Please bear in mind these five overarching, long-term goals during any United Nations intervention that you make on behalf of GWI. Any intervention should push these five goals further.**

**NB:** Although these goals represent GWI's mission, UN Reps are also invited to promote GWI key messages on areas where especially relevant e.g. women in STEM, securing investment in women teachers, addressing barriers to girls' education such as child marriage.

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**Name:** Maureen Byrne, Ph.D

**City of Representation:** New York

**Meeting attended: (place, date, time, name of meeting) :**

## **30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child United Nations General Assembly 20 November 2019 ; New York City**

**Subject of meeting:** Review of the CRC- Successes and Challenges.

**Presenters:**

- H.E. Mr. Tijani Muhammad-Bande – President of the General Assembly
- Ms. Henrietta Fiore – UNICEF Executive Director
- Ms. Virginia Gamba – Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict
- Ms. Najat Maalla – Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children
- Mr. Luis Ernesto Pedernera Reyna – Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- Ms. Maud DeBoer-Buquicchio – Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography, and other child sexual abuse material

- Mr. Andrew Morley – CEO World Vision. Representative from Civil Society appointed by the President of the General Assembly
- Ms. Michelle Bachelet – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva
- David Beckham – UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
- Millie Bobby Brown – UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador
- Children from PS22
- NYC Child Ambassadors

*There was a lot of talking, celebration, and concern expressed on this day.  
I am going to just give you what I considered the highlights:*

### **Topics:**

#### **Education**

- All children need universal access to quality education.
- Early childhood education is a major investment with a huge payback.
- Reimagine secondary education for all those in and out of school.
- Laos has committed to seeing that all children complete secondary education by 2030.

#### **Ratification**

- The USA was called on to ratify the CRC by H.E. Muhammad-Bande and Mr. Reyna; we are the sole remaining country not to do so.

#### **Violence and Sexual Abuse**

- The cost to the world's economies due to violence against children is estimated at \$7 trillion.
- The absence of internet governance has created a huge human cost in terms of child sexual abuse.
- Meet Esther. She has undergone Female Genital Mutilation. Her family sold her to a much older man in marriage for 6 cows. Esther is 8 years old.

#### **To the Countries of the World**

- Despite successes we have remaining issues as well as new challenges, including climate change, the use of technology to divide and abuse us, and forced migration, to name a few.
- We have prioritized short-term gains.
- Standards only on paper do not change the world of children. Turn good intentions into action.
- We need to get back on track on the SDGs.
- Recognize the value of immigrants. Half of all Fortune 500 Companies started by an immigrant or the child of an immigrant.

#### **To the children of the world:**

- We hear you. You are the stakeholders in your own future. In this hall, people are listening and will uphold your rights.

**Refers to SDG no #: (please reference): All**

**Relevant treaties/Agreements: Convention on the Rights of a Child (CRC)**

**Intervention by GWI Representative: Disseminate**

#### **How this serves GWI members:**

- Explain trends in development in this particular subject.
- Explain why these trends and developments are relevant to GWI and NFAs.
- Outline what needs to be done at international and national levels.
  - Shows us how much work we still have to do.

**Next steps:** (what needs to be done)

- Petition Congress to ratify the CRC.
- Support youth movements on climate change, guns.
- Support politicians who support the rights of children.
- Identify private corporations that can support GWI's goals as well as the CRC and the SDGs.
- Continue to demand accountability from our governments.