



Graduate Women
International (GWI)

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On World Toilet Day, Graduate Women International highlights the sanitation crisis as a barrier to education

Geneva, Switzerland, 19 November 2019— As an advocate for girls' education, World Toilet Day carries significant meaning for Graduate Women International (GWI). As an organisation deeply concerned about how the lack of toilets and sanitation impact women and girls' right to education and hygiene, GWI emphasises today the global sanitation crisis that increases the spread of fatal diseases through human waste and poor sanitation due to the transmission of viruses.

Concerning [Sustainable Development Goal 6](#), GWI insists that for women and girls, maintenance of toilets and sanitation has an immense impact on health and education. According to UN Women, currently, 1.25 billion women and girls do not have access to clean toilets, and 526 million of these do not even have a toilet. GWI raises awareness today that insufficient toilet facilities poses challenges and risks for women during menstruation and creates barriers to education that can affect attendance and performance of girls in school.

Through the [Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme](#) GWI has focused on improving the standards of sanitation for women. The Sierra Leone Association of University aimed to spread health education to female college students by facilitating discussions about menstruation and emphasising the need to improve sanitation facilities, such as toilets. GWI urges local communities and organisations in ensuring adequate sanitation facilities and continuing to remove barriers to women and girls' education.

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, Kate Choi, Boston University

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