



Graduate Women  
International (GWI)

# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Observing Anti-Corruption Day, Graduate Women International (GWI) aims for a CSW64 parallel event on the root causes and impact of corruption on women's potential**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 9 December 2019**—Anti-Corruption Day is observed annually by the United Nations (UN) to stress that corruption undermines social and economic development in all societies. Every year, some \$1 trillion is paid in bribes while an estimated \$ 2.6 trillion are stolen through corruption. This sum is equivalent to more than five per cent of the global gross domestic product (GDP; source: UNDP). Accordingly, corruption disproportionately affects vulnerable populations and hits the poor the hardest. Women are particularly concerned since they represent a higher share of the world's poor. Corruption affects women who experience compounded marginalisation, such as indigenous women, elderly or disabled women, women of colour and women migrants or refugees.

“Corruption is a fundamental multidimensional issue undermining the advancement of societies”, states Terry Oudraad, President, GWI. “GWI remains concerned by the adverse impacts corruption has on women, particularly with regard to their access to quality education and we are diligent in our efforts to reduce corruption on education”, she continues.

GWI addressed the gendered dimensions of corruption in its impactful [side event](#) during the Human Rights Council session in June 2019 (HRC41), co-sponsored by the [Women's United Nations Report Network](#) (WUNRN). Amongst the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) contributing to the panel were Transparency International and the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime.

Given the positive outcome of the HRC41 side event and as a continuation of awareness building, GWI applied to host a parallel event on women and corruption during the upcoming 64th session of the [Commission on the Status of Women in March 2020 \(CSW64\)](#), once again co-sponsored by WUNRN. Seizing the CSW64 theme, the event will focus on how corruption hampers the implementation of the [12 Critical Areas of Concern](#) formulated within the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#) (1995). Panellists will explore the implications of corruption regarding women in different areas, and share best practices, solutions and experiences acquired in addressing the issue. Currently, acceptance for this parallel event is pending by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women. Further information about the parallel event will be published on the [GWI website](#).

GWI is a membership-based international NGO located 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 the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947 and maintains official relations with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as well as the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

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

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