WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION?

International Day of Education was introduced in 2018 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to celebrate the role of education in development and to demonstrate the world’s political will towards providing quality education to all and achieving sustainable development by 2030. The 2020 theme “Learning for people, planet, prosperity and peace” inspires to examine the many ways learning can empower people, protect the planet, build shared prosperity and foster peace.

DID YOU KNOW?

GLOBALLY, 132 million GIRLS ARE OUT OF SCHOOL. (UIS/GEM)

1 ADDITIONAL SCHOOL YEAR CAN INCREASE A WOMAN’S EARNINGS BY 10 to 20%. (WORLD BANK)

SOME COUNTRIES LOSE MORE THAN $1 billion a year BY FAILING TO EDUCATE GIRLS TO THE SAME LEVEL AS BOYS. (PLAN INTERNATIONAL)

GLOBALLY, 9 in 10 girls COMPLETE THEIR PRIMARY EDUCATION, BUT ONLY 3 in 4 girls COMPLETE THEIR LOWER SECONDARY EDUCATION.

IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES, LESS THAN TWO THIRDS OF GIRLS COMPLETE THEIR PRIMARY EDUCATION, AND ONLY 1 IN 3 COMPLETES LOWER SECONDARY SCHOOL. (WORLD BANK)

24 JANUARY 2020

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF EDUCATION

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Education for all forms integral part of the 2030 Agenda in its SDG 4 on quality education. Yet, education plays a crucial role in the eradication of poverty, developing skills and improving living standards. Therefore, without education sustainable development becomes impossible.

GWI INITIATIVES

As an ECOSOC-accredited NGO with over 100 years of experience, GWI is very active in adopting policy resolutions, particularly in the area of education. Here are a few examples:

Resolution 1/19: Diversity in Teacher Education as a Positive Contribution to an Equitable Education
Resolution 2/19: Building Peace through Women’s Education
Resolution 3/19: Sexual and Reproductive Health Education as a Human Right for All
Resolution 7/13: Right to Safe Access to Education for All Girls and Women
Resolution 9/13: Education for Indigenous Peoples
Resolution 2/10: Numeracy and Women
Resolution 3/10: Financial Literacy
Resolution 4/04: Cultural Diversity and Education
Resolution 1/01: Education and Career Training of Women in Prison
Resolution 1/98: Right to Education

GWI actively supports and advocates for access to education for all women and girls worldwide through its different projects and programmes. A few examples are listed below:

**Teachers for Rural Futures**: supports 5 young women from rural Uganda in obtaining their University degree and become teachers themselves and inspire young girls in their communities to follow their example.

**Bina Roy Partners in Development**: supports local projects initiated by GWI national affiliates with the goal to empower girls and women through education and leadership development. Currently, such projects are running in D.R. Congo, El Salvador, Ghana, India, Mexico and Turkey.

For more information on our projects, please visit: [www.graduatewomen.org/what-we-do/projects/](http://www.graduatewomen.org/what-we-do/projects/).

In order to enable more young women to fulfill their aspirations, GWI and its national affiliates award fellowships and grants to support the research, study and training needed to open doors to quality higher and continuing education for women and girls around the world.

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CALL FOR ACTION

Access to free and compulsory education is a fundamental human right. However, women and girls particularly continue to face disproportional barriers hindering them from obtaining the education they are entitled to.

An organisation advocating for over 100 years for access to quality, lifelong education for all women and girls, GWI calls out to all stakeholders to remove these barriers and to empower all women and girls through the means of education.