



GWI UPDATE – 19 February 2020



On 1 March 2020, GWI aims for a discrimination-free world.

— Graduate Women International News —

GWI prepares for the upcoming 64th Commission on the Status of Women

This year, GWI is contributing to CSW64 with a parallel event on women and corruption.

From 9 to 20 March 2020, Graduate Women International (GWI) Board, members, national affiliates and staff will participate in the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) at the United Nations (UN) in New York. This milestone is of historical significance, as it marks the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA). The CSW64 programme will centre around reviewing the progress on BPfA since its adoption in 1995. The landmark session, with more than 11,000 registrants from around the world, is a time to raise global awareness about the challenges that are most prominent today with regards to gender equality and empowering women. As an enhancement to participation to CSW64, on 11 March, GWI with co-sponsor Women's United Nations Report Network (WUNRN), will host a parallel event on Women and Corruption, Root Causes and Impact on Women's Potential focusing on causes and impact of corruption as

a gender-based issue that disproportionately affects women. The panel discussions will relate gender-based corruption to BPfA and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). GWI affiliates the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA) will also host parallel events. Details of these events and other exceptional happenings can be found [HERE](#). Further information will follow. [Can't attend CSW64?](#) Follow all official meetings and events live on UN Web TV!

Introducing the GWI interactive Mock Trial Event for CSW64



GWI is hosting a Mock Trial during CSW64.

On 12 March from 12:30 to 14:30pm EST, GWI will host a Mock Trial at Hampton Inn Manhattan Grand Central to delve deeply into the eight policy resolutions adopted by the 33rd GWI General Assembly in 2019. The Mock Trial will analyse the resolutions in relation with the [Beijing 12 Critical Areas of Concern](#). This event aims to enhance membership experience and familiarise participants with GWI's global advocacy strategy. Constructive conclusions from the Mock Trial will be widely shared with GWI members and international organisations. For more information, consult the [event invitation](#).

Highlighting the work of the GWI Membership Committee

The GWI Membership Committee (MemCom) promotes GWI membership growth and establishes new national federations and associations (NFAs) for GWI. MemCom is responsible for reviewing applications for new GWI NFAs and it takes an advisory role with the Board of Officers to create membership policy. "The MemCom is of utmost importance to GWI. This triennium MemCom's primary focus is membership development and growth, including close contact with the GWI Young Members. The Committee develops new membership communication channels with members to better understand the critical areas they face in their countries. MemCom is a very enthusiast group", says Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI VP Membership. Additionally, MemCom advises NFAs on best practice and organisational structures, and it is involved in the selection process of new national affiliates as well as the establishment of proper operations for the affiliates.

Farewell and thank you, Anna!



Anna Indermaur representing GWI at Human Rights Council Session 42.

As part of its mission to empower women and girls, GWI welcomes interns from all around the world to its international office in Geneva, Switzerland. The extraordinary contributions of our interns are crucial to the work of GWI. On 28 February, GWI is celebrating one of those amazing young women as she embarks on a new step of her professional career after a six-month internship with GWI. In the past six months, Anna Indermaur has become an integral member of the GWI small but dedicated staff and has made remarkable contributions to the organisation. A brilliant writer speaking multiple languages, Anna also possesses an impeccable work ethic and excellent organisational skills, that already stood out before the start of her internship, as she volunteered throughout the Peace through Education Conference in July 2019. We are beyond grateful for her commitment and will miss her deeply, for the spark her enthusiasm could ignite and for the sheer dedication that Anna always gave to her job. Anna recently graduated from a Master's programme in European and International Human Rights Law at Leiden University in the Netherlands. Before that, she studied international relations at the University of Geneva. Anna is now moving to Bern where she will be working

for the Swiss Federation's Ministry of Justice. We wish her the greatest success on her professional career. Thank you, Anna, for contributing immensely to GWI's achievements in so many ways! We wish you the very best for the future and know that whatever it holds, you will excel and continue to be successful.

— GWI Member News —

PFGW celebrates GWI Centenary with roundtable on women's rights



PFGW celebrates GWI Centenary with a round table event.

In continuation of the [GWI Centenary Celebration from July 2019](#), the Paraguay Federation of Graduate Women (PFGW) on 25 November 2019, hosted, with support from UN Women Paraguay and the National University of Asunción, a round table to explain the most important legal instruments in terms of women's rights and discussing gender gaps and inequality at different levels, particularly with regard to violence against women and education. Speakers included María José Méndez, a lawyer specialised in Human Rights, Eugenia Peroni, a political scientist, and Rachel Kimbrow, a schoolteacher who started in her school the "Girls Space Project" to empower girls. Special guest was Cecilia Jarolin, who recently became the first female Student Council President in her school in 60 years. Co-supporters UN Women Paraguay provided refreshments and the National University of Asunción offered their auditorium free of charge. A cake celebration and a musical performance by Olivia Berendsohn playing the harp and singing wrapped up the event. GWI congratulates PFGW on this very successful and inspiring event!

GWI-NL hosts a meeting in pursuit of furthering sexual and reproductive health curricula

GWI national affiliate Graduate Women International-Netherlands (GWI-NL), on 27 November 2019, held a meeting centred on [GWI Resolution 3](#) (2019), 'Sexual and Reproductive Health Education as a Human Right for All.' The event featured a presentation by Marieke Ridders-Wiskere, Director of International Programs Rutgers, a non-profit organisation with expertise on sexual and reproductive health and rights. In the presentation, she emphasised the push back that the comprehensive sexual education programme (CSE) faces and highlighted that Rutgers prepares to respond to this pushback while encouraging stronger sexual education programmes. Following this presentation, Fabiola Wollants, member of GWI Graduate Women El Salvador (AMUS) requested advice on the implementation of Resolution 3, which urges NFAs to convince government to improve sexual and reproductive health curricula. Among other recommendations, GWI-NL suggested investigating root causes of the limited sexual and reproductive rights in El Salvador. GWI welcomes this very important initiative and highlights its significance for the empowerment of women and girls. For more information on the event, explore the [E-Nieuwsbrief](#).

NAUW, FUNAAB holds seminar focusing on examination preparation



Numerous students attend the NAUW, FUNAAB seminar.

On 19 December 2019, the Nigerian Association of University Women, Federal University of Agriculture Abeokuta Branch (NAUW, FUNAAB) organised a seminar, "Tips on how to prepare for and succeed in examination." Around 300 students and prominent members of the university administration attended this seminar to learn from the educated and accomplished lecturers. Notably, Professor Biola Philips engaged the students in a fascinating lecture focusing on preparation for examinations. Additionally, Dr. O.G.F. Nwaorgu, a male

lecturer and friend of NAUW, addressed the students and highlighted the responsibility for males in the society to encourage the education of their female children. Following the lectures, 100 level students presented a cultural display illustrating cultural diversity in Nigeria. GWI is delighted by this initiative as it considerably supports women and girls in obtaining a university degree.

UWCV holds discussion on violence in schools

The Education Committee of the [University Women's Club of Vancouver](#) (UWCV) is presenting a discussion on violence in schools, causes, prevention and possible solutions on 27 February 2020. Dr. Elizabeth Saewyc, Director and Professor of UBC Nursing School, who leads the Stigma and Resilience Among Vulnerable Youth Centre (SARAVYC), is going to present her findings on violence in schools, followed by a panel of Educational Professionals. GWI welcomes this very important opportunity to address this issue, which constitutes a severe barrier to girls' education.

— Advocacy —

On Zero Discrimination Day, GWI calls for stricter laws to eliminate discrimination against women and girls

Zero Discrimination Day emphasises the right for all people, throughout the world, to live full and dignified lives. GWI recognises Zero Discrimination Day annually on 1 March, to highlight the need to continue the push for progress. This year's theme, "Zero Discrimination against Women and Girls," aligns with GWI's mission to empower women and girls on an international level. Due to discriminatory laws, women and girls struggle to gain access to fundamental services, such as healthcare and education services. Therefore, GWI calls on governments to remove such laws. GWI considers discrimination against women and girls to be an issue of top priority. For example, GWI adopted Resolution 6 on [fair and non-discriminatory treatment of refugees and asylum seekers](#) in 2019 and Resolution 4 in 2016 focusing on [sexual-harassment](#). In order to combat discrimination against women and girls, governments need to implement measures to limit the underlying social biases targeting women. The UN SDGs will never succeed without the elimination of discrimination against women and girls. Click [HERE](#) to read the full press release on Zero Discrimination Day. Everyone can contribute to a discrimination-free world! ***Follow and share our extensive social media campaign on Zero Discrimination Day!***

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI represented at 58th Commission for social development

GWI UN Representative, Maryella Hannum, attended the 58th Commission for Social Development (CSocD58) held from 10 to 19 February 2020 at the UN headquarters in New York. This year's session is significant as it marks the 75th anniversary of the Commission and the 25th anniversary of the [Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development](#). It was focused on affordable housing and social protection systems in order to address homelessness. The right to adequate housing is accepted in international human rights law, and women are particularly impacted. Some estimates indicate that women-led households make up 70 percent of the world's homeless population. This is a result of various factors, such as domestic violence, disproportionate evictions, divorce and separation and abandonment (UN). Access to affordable housing can reduce the need to move, which can create stability in children's education as a result. Therefore, access to affordable housing has the potential to improve the educational success, especially

regarding women and girls (Centre for Housing Policy). The Secretary General's report for this session highlights potential solutions that can improve access to affordable housing in all countries, such as financial support for housing suppliers. For more information regarding the 58th Commission on Social Development, consult the [Report of the Secretary General](#). GWI thanks Ms. Hannum for representing GWI at this important event.

— Call for applications —

1000 Dreams Scholarship Fund

1000 Dreams Fund supports high school and college girls in the United States (US) in fulfilling their dreams. The 1000 Dreams Scholarship provides one-time educational assistance for currently enrolled high school or college-aged women throughout the US. This can include assistance for needs such as: educational conferences, instructional programmes related to creative or artistic pursuits, graduate exam application fees, or textbooks. Needs that are ongoing (e.g. utility bills, food costs) or related to medical care are not covered by this fund. This scholarship is not intended to fund tuition but to provide access to educational opportunities beyond tuition. Eligible are young women attending high school or a college/university in the US and demonstrating financial needs. Application deadline is **1 April 2020**. For more information on the application process, click [HERE](#).

Women in International Security '1325 And Beyond' Essay Competition

Women in International Security (WIIS) and Heinrich Böll Foundation Washington, DC, are jointly organising the international graduate student essay competition, '1325 And Beyond.' This opportunity comes in the year of the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325), which urges increased involvement by women in UN peace and security efforts and the inclusion of various gender perspectives into international security analyses. UNSCR 1325 also asks parties involved in conflict to take measures to ensure the protection of women and girls from gender-based violence. The essay competition seeks to inspire creative strategies to achieve UNSCR 1325 objectives. It is open for young professionals that possess an MA degree or higher or are currently enrolled in an MA, PHD or JD program in 2020. Essays will be evaluated based on clarity of arguments as well as the unique nature of the policy recommendations. The prize for the first-place essay is \$1,325, second-place prize is \$1,000, third place is \$750 and fourth/fifth places are \$250 each. **Deadline to submit is no later than 22:59 EST on 15 April 2020.** For more information visit the [WIIS webpage](#).

Zonta International Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship

Because Zonta International believes in gender equality, the Jane M. Klausman (JMK) Women in Business Scholarship program helps women pursue undergraduate and master's degrees in business management and overcome gender barriers from the classroom to the boardroom. The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship was established in 1998 from a generous bequest by Jane M. Klausman, a member of the Zonta Club of Syracuse, New York, USA, and the 1990-1995 Zonta International Parliamentarian. The programme operates at the Zonta club, district/region and international levels. Zonta annually awards up to 32 scholarships of US\$2,000 each at the district/region level and six international scholarships in the amount of US\$8,000 each. Women of any age, pursuing a business program with major field of specialisation in accounting, finance, business management, marketing, operations management, human resources management, international business, or entrepreneurship at an accredited university/college/institute, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible. Online students are also eligible to apply if enrolled at an accredited

university/college/institute. Applications are posted in **January** and must be completed and presented to Zonta clubs according to the club's **assigned deadline**. The district/region recipient is selected, and the application is presented to Zonta International Headquarters by **1 September 2020**. Find more about the scholarship [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of education —



GWI is marked as a Top-Ranked fundraising organisation by GlobalGiving.

What better way to promote women and girls' access to education than by giving the gift of education to rural women and girls in Uganda? GWI directly addresses 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. The project aims to enable some 2500 more girls to attend school over ten years. 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; hence, the project creates 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](#).

— Did you know? —

The International Federation of University Women (IFUW) became Graduate Women International (GWI) in 2015 after 96 years as an organisation. The change in name reflects the desire for the organisation to promote inclusivity. Graduate Women International sought to represent the contemporary diversity and inclusion of the members on an international scale, while promoting the focus of education for women and girls. For more information on the name change and the history of GWI, please visit [our story page](#).

— Other information and events —

10-19 February	Commission for Social Development, 58th session, New York
10-28 February	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 75 th session, United Nations, Geneva
24 Feb-20 March	Human Rights Council, 43 rd session, United Nations, Geneva
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day, Global
8 March	International Women's Day, Global
9 March	WG-USA Parallel Event: Positive Changes for Women and Girls Through Innovative Education, CSW64, New York
9 March	CFUW Parallel Event: Mobilising for Impact, CSW64, New York

11 March	GWI Parallel Event: Women & Corruption – Root Causes and Impact on Women’s Potential, CSW64, New York
9-20 March	Commission on the Status of Women, 64 th session, United Nations, New York
22 March	World Water Day, Global
23-27 March	Little by Little Matching Campaign (Global Giving)
23 April	World Book & Copyright Day, Global
23 April	International Girls in ICT Day, Global
7-8 May	Generation Equality Forum Mexico
19 May	5 th Edition of the Swiss Olympes de la Parole, Switzerland
25 May-5 June	International Labour Organisation Conference, Geneva
28 May	Menstrual Hygiene Day, Global
12 June	World Day against Child Labour, Global
19 June	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Global
20 June	World Refugee Day, Global
23 June	International Widows Day, Global
25 June - 3 July	Human Rights Council, 44 th session, United Nations, Geneva
7-10 July	Generation Equality Forum Paris
18-20 September	Centenary of the French Association of University Women (AFFDU)

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.

Graduate Women International

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