



GWU UPDATE – 5 February 2020



On 6 February 2020, GWU observes International Day for Zero Tolerance for FGM.

— Graduate Women International News —

GWU releases video mosaic for International Day of Education

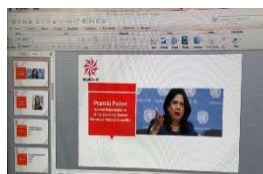


GWU celebrated International Day of Education 2020 with a membership mosaic video.

To celebrate International Day of Education on 24 January 2020, Graduate Women International (GWU) compiled video contributions from its National Federations and Associations (NFAs) members to create a video mosaic. Members were asked to answer one of three questions: 1) *What is the role of education today?* 2) *How can education be improved in your country?* 3) *Why are you a member of GWU?* GWU received responses from NFAs around the world including Great Britain, Canada, El Salvador, Hong Kong, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Paraguay and Senegal; the GWU Board of Officers and staff. GWU thanks all who participated and is pleased to share the [video](#).

— GWU Member News —

BFWG attends the First Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan Conference



First Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan Virtual Conference.

On 5 November 2019, Sudha Srivastava, Editor of the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG), attended the First Feminist and Women's Movement Action Plan Virtual Conference. The global lineup of professional and independent experts in women's rights experts included Pramila Patten, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict and former expert of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Melissa Upreti and Krishanti Dharmaraj, Senior Director, Programme and Global Advocacy and Executive Director of the Rutgers' Center

for Women's Global Leadership respectively. Panelists highlighted the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and background before ending in a panel discussion on human rights, climate change, health, as well as peace and security. Participants left the conference informed, enthused and committed to looking beyond short-term goals and towards long-term commitments. For a complete account of the conference and for sharing, GWI encourages everyone to access Ms. Srivastava's notable write-up [HERE](#).

AMUP provides virtual training programmes thanks to recent agreements



AMUP cordially provided GWI with pictures of the training programmes.

The Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de Panamá (AMUP) recently formed an alliance and signed an agreement with the Hazme Brillar Foundation, the Carlos Slim Foundation, the National Institute of Vocational Training of Panama and the Support Center for Battered Women of Panama. As part of the agreement, AMUP received 15 Huawei tablets and a multiple-charger case from the cited organisations for the AMUP Culture Center. The tablets will enable AMUP to provide virtual training programmes through modules to the Center's users and give them an opportunity to prepare as they enter the workforce. Indeed, on 25 November 2019, 12 motivated candidates and representatives of all sponsors initiated the training programme. GWI congratulates AMUP on the successful conclusion of the aforementioned alliances and agreements and wishes success to the virtual training programmes.

ASFDU celebrates 30th anniversary

With great excitement, the Senegalese Association of University Women (ASFDU) celebrated its 30th anniversary on 30 November 2019. Tribute was paid to three former presidents, Ms. Aminata Sow Camara, Ms. Madeleine Deves Senghor and Ms. Marie-Pierre Sarr, the founder of ASFDU, Ms. Annette Mbaye D'Erneville as well as the late Ms. Huguette Delevault, former President of the French Association of University Women (AFFDU), who sponsored ASFDU's accession to GWI. The festivities began with the three former presidents addressing the guests, followed by various presentations on education for women and girls, gender parity in Senegal, rural girls' participation in sustainable development as well as the organisational model of women's associations and women's leadership held by different experts, academics and NGO representatives. The event was moderated by Prof. Bouba Diop who reminded the young members of their responsibilities as members of the future generation and took the opportunity to welcome the recent adoption by the Senegalese government of a bill criminalising rape and pedophilia. GWI congratulates ASFDU on this milestone and wishes them continued motivation for the future.



ASFDU celebrated its 30th anniversary in November 2019.

— Advocacy —

On Zero Tolerance for FGM Day, GWI urges stronger government action

International Day for Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) was first introduced in 2003 by the UN General Assembly to promote the eradication of FGM. GWI hereby stresses that unless we do not accelerate action to eliminate FGM, 68 million girls will be mutilated from now until 2030 (UNICEF), and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 will not be met. As mentioned in the last Update from 22 January, the Norwegian government recently launched a strategy towards the eradication of harmful practices such as FGM within the next 3 years through collaborative actions within the areas of education, health care, gender equality and human rights. GWI contributes to the efforts towards eliminating FGM through measures such as its [Policy Resolution 6](#) from 2016, which states that NFAs shall encourage their governments to criminalise all actions related to FGM. However, more coordinated action is necessary to tackle the underlying socioeconomic causes that trigger FGM, one of the greatest being poverty. Contribute to GWI's advocacy work to end FGM by following and sharing our extensive social media campaign and [press release](#) over the next few days. Let's take a stand against FGM together!

GWI highlights underlying issues resulting in a lack of women in STEM fields

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, introduced by the UN General Assembly in 2015, recognises the critical role women and girls play in science and technology and raises awareness that the number of women working in fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) remains far fewer than men. This year's theme, "Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Growth", focuses on the fact that science and gender equality are both vital for the achievement of the SDGs. However, the issue at stake is that fewer women are educated in scientific fields than men due to society roles and expectations, such as girls being steered toward domestic work and rural professions. GWI, however, with its membership consisting of many women graduates with scientific degrees, serves as an example on how women can successfully operate in STEM careers and, in turn, aspires to inspire more women to choose their professional path in science. Over the last century, the GWI General Assembly has adopted several policy resolutions concerning women and science, and the successful [Bina Roy Partners in Development programme](#) has helped finance several NFA projects encouraging girls to be interested in science. Join GWI in raising awareness about the power of women in STEM by sharing our social media campaign and [press release](#) for International Day of Women and Girls in Science over the next few days. Support Women in Science!

— GWI at the United Nations —



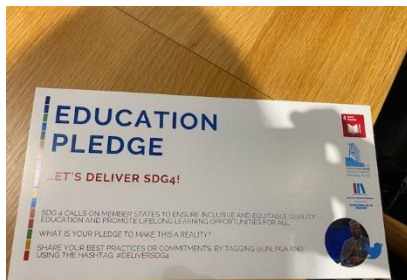
Maryella Hannum, GWI
UN Representative,
New York

GWI participates in the International Day of Education at the UN, New York

On 24 January, Maryella Hannum, GWI UN Representative in New York, participated in the International Day of Education High-Level Interactive Dialogue titled, *Aligning Inclusive Quality Education Policies with the Sustainable Development Goals*, held at the UN, New York, and organised by the UN General Assembly and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). The event was a call for member states to increase political commitment to education as a means to achieve the SDGs; to urge governments around the world to place more focus on engendering partnerships to increase access to free and quality primary and secondary education for all as well as

affordable vocation school. Member states were also called to recognise that education plays a key role in building sustainable and resilient societies; and to urge states to safeguard inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The panel was followed by an interactive session of statements from delegations on behalf of groups of Member States. The afternoon panel examined, *“Matching the Imperative of Inclusiveness with the Quest for Quality Education: Policy Choices and Action Priorities”*. Ms. Hannum reported that the sessions acknowledged and emphasised the many advances and progress made in accessing education including an increase in school enrolment rates worldwide with more children attending and staying in school longer and higher literacy rates within and across countries. However, much that remains unacceptable was also examined such as the decline in the quality and standards of education and concerns about education in conflict zones. To “fix” this crisis in learning, raise the standards and quality of education around the world, the President of the General Assembly called for proposals to ensure that education systems respond to several issues and that address the tasks at hand. GWI thanks Ms. Hannum for her participation on this relevant event. Her full and noteworthy report recapping the day can be read and shared [HERE](#).

GWI supports International Day of Education 2020 Education Pledge



What is your pledge to make SDG 4 a reality?

Looking back to International Day of Education on 24 January 2020, and in view of the 10-year threshold towards achieving the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, GWI joins the world in sharing and promoting the Education Pledge on delivering SDG 4. SDG 4 calls on UN member states to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. GWI has been advocating for women and girls’ access to quality education for over 100 years and has enabled generations of women and girls to access education by financing local projects and representing their voices on international level.

— Call for applications —

(ISC)² Women in Information Security Scholarship

The (ISC)² Women’s Scholarship, administered by the Center for Cyber Safety and Education located in Clearwater, Florida, offers students scholarships from \$1000 to \$8000 per recipient. Applicants must be female and pursuing or planning to pursue a degree with a focus on cybersecurity, information assurance or related field and be a high school senior, undergraduate or graduate student. A minimum 3.3 GPA is required. Applications close on **17 February 2020**. For more information or to apply, please click [HERE](#).

2020 KIGEPE Asian Gender Trainer’s Network Programme

The Korean Institute for Gender Equality Promotion and Education (KIGEPE) calls for participants for the 2020 Asian Gender Trainers’ Network Program (AGeNT). The AGeNT is an intensive and application-oriented training programme intended for “gender trainers” in Asian countries, who facilitate any forms of educational activities that centre on raising gender equality awareness, with a goal to enhance their professional capabilities to understand and deliver gender-related key concepts in easy and clear words, develop strategic approaches to engage uninformed or uninterested audiences in gender equal attitudes and behaviours and be part of the network of gender experts in Asia. The programme will last two weeks, will be held in English and will take place in Seoul, South Korea. **Application deadline is 23 February 2020**. If you have any questions, you are free to contact global@kigepe.or.kr. To apply, please click [HERE](#).

JAUW International Fellowship Programme For Women Leaders 2020

The Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW) International Fellowship Programme allows two promising non-Japanese women researchers or graduate students in any field to spend 4 to 6 months at a graduate and/or research institute in Japan. Awarded are between ¥ 500.000 and ¥ 1.000.000 to support transportation to and from Japan as well as living costs. Applications close on **31 March 2020**. Find out more about the fellowship programme [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of membership —

It is not too late to formulate New Year's resolutions! One could be to [give the gift of membership](#) to the outstanding graduate women in your life! GWI membership allows graduate women to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training. Give the gift of membership to become part of a global community of some 16'000 members in 60 countries, either as a [GWI independent member](#) or as a national member of one of our [NFAs](#).

— Did you know? —

The year 2020 marks several important anniversaries in the promotion of women's rights. It is the year of the 40th anniversary of CEDAW, the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, from which emerged the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, the 20th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which addressed the impact of war on women and the importance of women's full and equal participation in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, the 10th anniversary of UN Women, as well as the 5th anniversary of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The deadline for achieving the SDGs is now only 10 years away. These key anniversaries provide us with opportunities to review, debate and renew commitment to those frameworks and ensure its relevance in a changing global context. *GWI's advocacy work is enshrined in these conventions and resolutions.*

— Other information and events —

6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation, Global
10-28 February	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 75 th session, United Nations, Geneva
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Global
24 Feb-20 March	Human Rights Council, 43 rd session, United Nations, Geneva
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day
8 March	International Women's Day, Global
9-20 March	Commission on the Status of Women 64 th session, New York

23 April	World Book & Copyright Day, Global
25 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
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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