



## GWI UPDATE – 18 March 2020



*On World Water Day 2020, Graduate Women International (GWI) speaks up for the entire generation of girls who will be left out of school and women left behind in careers because of poor access to clean water.*

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### — Graduate Women International News —

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#### **GWI reaches 5,100 followers on Facebook**

GWI is thrilled to announce that we officially reached over 5,100 followers on Facebook! Through its active social media communication strategy, GWI shares daily impactful information, advocacy campaigns with infographics and advocacy ideas, ready-to-use toolkits, press releases and much more on all its platforms! If you have not yet done so, follow GWI's [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts to receive the latest updates and information from GWI.

#### **GWI Hegg Hoffet Committee Highlight**

The Hegg Hoffet Committee oversees the [Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates](#) and deals with applications for assistance from graduate women (in special cases tertiary women students) who have been displaced as a result of war or political upheaval, natural disasters, or other serious emergencies. They award short term grants for required courses for re-entry into the candidates' professional fields, retraining courses if the candidate is not able to practise her previous profession, and courses for integration into the new country of residence. They also correspond with grantees to follow their progress and offer moral support. In addition, they develop initiatives to publicize grant availability and solicit funds for future grants. The Hegg Hoffet Committee is composed of Committee Convenor Jazmeira Cabrera from the Panama Association of University Women (PAUW) and Committee Members Margaret Giles from the Australian Graduate Women Inc. (AGW) and Gomathy Venkateswar from the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA).

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **FEMU delivers proposals responding to demands of organised women to Mexican government**



*From left to right: Glenda Hecksher, (GWI Vice President Marketing and FEMU Convener of International Relations (CIR), Olga Sanchez, (Secretary of the Interior, FEMU member), Mirella Feingold (FEMU Executive President) Margarita Almada (FEMU Council of Honor Member) and Gloria Luz Alejandre (FEMU member).*

GW National Federations and Associations (NFAs) around the world are taking action to promote women's voice and leadership at the highest level. Earlier this month, the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) presented a proposal on how to respond to the demands of women organising for institutional change to the Mexican Secretary of the Interior Dr. Olga Sanchez. The proposals centre on reviewing the current regulatory framework, public politics and education in Mexico. Dr. Sanchez, a former judge on the Mexican Supreme Court and current member of FEMU is a prominent female political figure in the country. During the meeting with FEMU leadership and members, Dr. Sanchez stressed her commitment to equality and has instructed the Ministry of the Interior to prioritise ending violence towards women and other gender-related issues. To learn more, read the full FEMU newsletter [HERE](#).

### **University Women's Association Singapore (UWAS) Intergenerational Exchange Event**

Last November, UWAS organised an Intergenerational Exchange Event attended by more than 100 members and guests to celebrate Singapore women's contribution to the progress and development of Singapore as a nation. On this occasion, UWAS was honoured to receive Ms Halimah Yacob, President of Singapore since 2017 and first female president in the country's history. The event showcased the various ways UWAS projects and activities contribute to the empowerment of women and girls through education at the highest levels. GWI commends UWAS on this successful event and their outstanding contribution to promoting women and girls' rights to education and leadership in all spheres of life. To learn more about the event and the work of UWAS in Singapore, please click [HERE](#).



*UWAS leadership and President Halimah Yacob (first to the right) at the UWAS Intergenerational Exchange Event, November 2019.*

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## — Advocacy —

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### **On World Water Day, GWI calls for increased action to decrease girls' school absence**

On 22 March, GWI will join the global community in observing World Water Day that was established by the United Nations (UN) in 1993. Each year international communities join together to find cooperative solutions to water scarcity. On this day, GWI will be advocating for not just the challenge water scarcity poses to populations in need, but the particular hardship it inflicts on women and girls. The theme for 2020 World Water Day connects to SDG 13, mitigating the impact of climate change, as this year's day of observance centres on the linkage between climate change and water-related issues. Globally, women

and girls bear a disproportionate amount of the burden and consequence of irregular access to clean, safe, water. Among these burdens and consequences is the time water collection takes from women and girls' education. The UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) estimates that globally women spend 16 million hours a day collecting water. That is 16 million hours that women and girls are not in school. GWI will launch a social media campaign on 20 March addressing the negative consequences water scarcity creates for women and girls. You can follow our social media campaign on the GWI [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [Twitter](#) pages.

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **GWI written statement to the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (HRC43)**

The GWI written statement submitted on the occasion of HRC43 was published by the UN. Through this statement, as an organisation committed to SDG 4, education for all, and to empower all women and girls through the safe access to quality education, GWI urges member states to recognise that women and girls' participation at all levels of the climate crisis solution is imperative and, in the long run, will make a positive difference. Quality education of all women and girls will expose the global community to a transformative power never seen before and will function as an inclusive force for half of its population. To read and share the full GWI HRC43 written statement, click [HERE](#).

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## — Call for applications —

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### **UNESCO/ISEDV Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme**

This co-sponsored fellowships programme aims to increase capacity-building and human resources development of sustainable and renewable energy sources in developing and transitioning countries. The programme offers twenty fellowships, each four weeks long, held in Moscow, Russia. All instruction will be in English. Applicants must be no more than 35 years of age, proficient in English, and have received a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. The deadline to apply is **3 April 2020**. For more information click [HERE](#).

### **Applications for the AGW Barbara Hale Fellowships are being accepted**

AGW is accepting applications for their Barbara Hale Fellowships. The Fellowship funds are intended to facilitate a research project that encompasses both the nature of the currently approved PhD program and the specialised knowledge and skills of the applicant. The Fellowships are open to women who are Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia and are enrolled in a PhD degree by research in any discipline at any Australian university or equivalent Institution. Applicants must have successfully completed at least the equivalent of the first year of their PhD program. AFGW will select two recipients for 2020. The deadline to apply is **30 April 2020**. To learn more about the fellowships that are offered or to apply, click [HERE](#).

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## — Give the gift of education —

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What better way to start the year 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 Global Giving campaign that enables young women to achieve their potential, inspire girls to go to school and build more prosperous communities. [Give today](#).



*The five participants of GWI's current Teachers for Rural Futures project.*

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## — Did you know? —

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Did you know that the GWI, formerly known as the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), logo was designed by members of the Norwegian Federation in 1924? The logo was designed for the Third Conference, which took place in Oslo, Norway. The lamp became the logo for IFUW following this meeting. The original logo was an antique lamp to represent the “light of learning” with a blue background and IFUW letters. The logo also included an interlinked chain to symbolise the bonds of friendship between members. With time, the lamp placed greater meaning with friendship and became the lamp of friendship, resulting in the removal of the chain from the logo. This logo remains as the prominent image of GWI, revealing the bond between all GWI members with a common mission.

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## — Other information and events —

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24 Feb-20 March	Human Rights Council, 43 <sup>rd</sup> session, UN , Geneva
22 March	World Water Day, Global
23 April	World Book & Copyright Day, Global
23 April	International Girls in ICT Day, Global
7-8 May	Generation Equality Forum Mexico
15-17 May	UWE Meet & Greet – “Illuminations & Inspirations”, Dublin
19 May	5 <sup>th</sup> 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 Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Global
20 June	World Refugee Day, Global

23 June	International Widows Day, Global
7-10 July	Generation Equality Forum Paris
15 July	World Youth Skills Day, Global
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons, Global
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Global
18-20 September	Centenary of the French Association of University Women (AFFDU)

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## 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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