



GWI UPDATE – 4 March 2020



Little By Little Campaign

Donate to GWI's "[Train 50 women teachers in Uganda to educate 1000s](#)" and Global Giving will match donations



23-27 March 2020

From 23 to 27 March 2020, Graduate Women International (GWI) will participate in the GlobalGiving Little by Little Campaign, to fundraise for '[Train 50 university women teachers in Uganda to educate 1000s](#).' Click on the picture above to donate during this campaign!

— Graduate Women International News —

CSW64 format amended in light of current COVID-19 concerns

Following the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's recommendation to Member States to amend the format of the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) in light of the current concerns regarding coronavirus disease (COVID-19), an informal meeting took place in New-York on Monday 2 March 2020. During this meeting, it was decided that CSW64 will convene on 9 March, at 10.00 a.m. (EST), for a procedural meeting. The meeting will include opening statements, followed by the adoption of the draft Political Declaration and action on any other draft resolutions. The session will then suspend until further notification. No general debate will take place and all side events planned by Member States and the UN system, as well as all parallel events planned by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), in conjunction with CSW64, will be cancelled. Click [HERE](#) to read the statement from NGO CSW New-York for further information.

Grand Concert for the Rights of the Child: GWI joins the celebration of an historic convention



Grand Concert for the Rights of the Child, Geneva, Switzerland.

On Saturday 29 February 2020, Clémence Mathiaud, GWI Programme Officer represented GWI at the Geneva Grand Concert for the Rights of the Child, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Adopted in 1989, the CRC recognised children as their own beings entitled to non-negotiable rights. Nearly all governments - to the exclusion of one - have pledged to respect, protect and promote those rights. This makes the CRC one of the most visionary and universally accepted human rights agreement of all time. Taking place at Victoria Hall, the historic concert hall of the city of Geneva, this concert was attended by local Geneva authorities as well as ambassadors, representatives of international

organisations and NGOs in Geneva. Two of the performers were Juan Jose Pena, a 10-year-old violinist prodigy and already world-famous soloist, as well as a creative and gifted Swiss-based children strings ensemble called The Ministrings. The concert provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the urgent need to step up efforts to make children thrive, and for everyone, at all levels of public and private life, to renew their commitment to protect and promote the human rights of all children.

— GWI Member News —

GWI VP Marketing, Glenda Hecksher, receives tribute to 40 years of career

In January 2020, the Mexican National Lottery honoured GWI Vice-President (VP) Marketing and Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) Coordinator of International Relations (CIR), Glenda Hecksher, with a tribute for her 40 years of career by publishing a complete series of lotto tickets featuring herself and her artwork. These tickets were nationally distributed for one full day. GWI wholeheartedly congratulates Ms. Hecksher on this very important recognition.



Lottery tickets featuring Glenda Hecksher and her artwork.

Bina Roy Project Highlight – Enhancing Employability Skills for Women’s Empowerment in India

The Indian Federation of University Women’s Associations (IFUWA)’s Enhancing Employability Skills for the Empowerment of Girls and Young Women project is part of the current 2019-2020 funding cycle of GWI’s Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID). The project aims to enhance employability skills among girls and young women to achieve economic empowerment. Despite higher enrolments and improved access to education for women it has been observed that young women entering the labour force might often lack employability skills thus hindering their potential for economic empowerment. In order to support the entering of young women and girls into the labour market in India by enhancing their employability skills, IFUWA will provide girls and young women from economically marginalized backgrounds with employability skills training and individual mentoring and support. The project is carried out by IFUWA and their local branch in Delhi, India with the help of local subject experts. The BRPID programme is a grants mechanism of GWI, and its projects are supported by generous donations from impact investors, personal contributions and our own member affiliates around the world. For more information about the Enhancing Employability Skills for the Empowerment of Girls and Young Women project, please click [HERE](#).

— Advocacy —

International Women’s Day 2020: “I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights”

On 8 March 2020, GWI will join the international community in celebrating International Women’s Day, a day for world citizens to shine a spotlight on gender equity issues, how these issues impede global development, and how they can be eliminated. The year 2020 is pivotal for advancing gender equality worldwide, as the global community takes stock of progress made for women’s rights since the adoption of the

Beijing Platform for Action, 25 years ago. Several other decisive anniversaries are celebrated this year: the 75th anniversary of the UN, the 40th anniversary of the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the 30th anniversary of the [CRC](#), the 20th anniversary of [UN Security Council Resolution 1325](#) and the 10th anniversary of UN Women. For this special day, GWI created an infographic emphasising the importance of continuing to push for women's rights and GWI's work to empower women. Click [HERE](#) to view and share the GWI's International Women's Day graphic.

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI UN representative attends UNICEF First Executive Session in New York

Maureen Byrne, GWI UN Representative in New-York attended the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) First Executive Session at the UN headquarters in New York from 11 to 13 February 2020. At this meeting, UNICEF outlined improvements needed for the organisation to succeed and focus areas that require attention in the coming year(s). For more information about this Executive Session, read Maureen Byrne's full report [HERE](#).

GWI UN Representative participates in a UN75 Campaign (UN75) Dialogue in New York



Maryella Hannum, GWI UN Representative in New-York attended a [UN75](#) Dialogue called "*The Role of Global Citizenship in Global Governance: Today and in the Future*" that took place in New York on 20 February 2020. Hosted by the Baha'i International Community, this dialogue focused on how to overcome current obstacles hampering the success of the global governance system. For more information about this event, read Maryella's report [HERE](#).

"The Role of Global Citizenship in Global Governance: Today and in the Future" UN75 Dialogue.

Bulgaria, Pakistan and Zimbabwe under review of 75th CEDAW session

GWI represented its members at the 75th CEDAW session, which took place at the UN Office in Geneva, Switzerland, from 10 to 28 February 2020. CEDAW is a committee of 23 experts that ensures and evaluates the implementation of the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#). CEDAW sessions take place three times per year, with each session focusing on reviewing the progress and status of women's rights in a selection of member countries that changes on a rotating basis. The 75th session of CEDAW included the reviews of three GWI NFA countries, [Bulgaria](#), [Pakistan](#) and [Zimbabwe](#). Please click on each country name to access their review report. The reviews of these countries emphasis the progress and areas for improvement regarding women's constitutional rights, policies targeting gender violence, representation in government, health, economic empowerment and education. GWI's mission to improve women's education and opportunity to empower women in all aspects of life aligns with the reviews and recommendations from the 75th CEDAW session.

— Call for applications —

Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) 2020 Prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life

Awarded since 1994 by WWSF - an international, non-profit, humanitarian NGO, serving the implementation of women and children's rights and the UN development agenda - the Prize (\$ 1000 per laureate) honours women and women's groups around the world exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment for the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities. Nominees should be women and women's groups currently active in rural life whose efforts have not yet been acknowledged by other awards. They may not nominate themselves. Prize laureates are selected by an international Jury composed of WWSF Board of Directors; are announced officially in October and celebrated in their countries on 15 October – International Day of Rural Women. WWSF has a commitment to award annually between five and 10 creative rural women and women's groups around the world. The application deadline is 30 April 2020. To find out more about the Prize, click [HERE](#).

European Central Bank Women in Economics Scholarship

The European Central Bank is one of the newest official institutions of the European Union (EU) with the goal of protecting the value of the euro and keeping prices stable. The Bank's Women in Economic Scholarship offers grants of € 10.000, each, to five female economics students currently enrolled, or about to enrol, in a master's programme in economics at a university or business school in Europe. Successful candidates also have the opportunity to visit the European Central Bank to gain an insight into their cutting-edge research and to learn about the career opportunities they offer. However, applications from a broad range of topics are accepted and do not have to necessarily concern central banking. Applications open in March and close on **30 April 2020**. Learn more about eligibility and the application process by clicking [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of fundraising —

The [Little by Little Matching Campaign](#), will run between 23-27 March and GlobalGiving will match 50% of any donations made in this five-day period at a value of \$50 or less. Additionally, GlobalGiving will 100% match any recurring donations set up in this five-day window that last for at least four months and have a monthly value of \$200 or less. GWI will participate in this campaign to fundraise for [‘Train 50 university women teachers in Uganda to educate 1000s.’](#) Please click [HERE](#) to donate.

— Did you know? —



Four awards given to GWI by GlobalGiving in 2020.

GWI has received four distinguishing badges from GlobalGiving for its fundraising efforts. GlobalGiving is a fundraising platform where GWI collects donations for projects, such as [‘Train 50 women teacher in Uganda to educate 1000s.’](#) GlobalGiving has awarded GWI Top-Ranked, Effective, Site Visit Verified, and Vetted Organisation badges in 2020. The Top-Ranked Organisation badge signifies that GWI is an ‘active, approved, top-ranked non-profit in GlobalGiving’s network.’ GlobalGiving, as a site, offers GWI many opportunities to maximize funding and have an even larger impact. To learn more about the GWI Teachers for Rural Futures Programme and contribute to this project, please visit the [GWI GlobalGiving Page](#).

— GWI Spring Interns 2020 —

Annalise Simons

“My name is Annalise, and I am 21 years old. I am a third-year American student at Colgate University and I study International Relations. Living in the United States my whole life, I became interested in International Relations because I always desired to learn about the world beyond my country. All countries are interconnected, and those intertwined relationships interest me most of all. I am interested in NGOs because NGOs make a difference in society through giving a voice to individuals all over the world. I am very excited for this opportunity to learn more about International Relations and NGOs through my internship at GWI.”

Morgan Cassidy

“My name is Morgan Cassidy, and I am a 21-year-old American student. I am in my third year at Boston University in the United States, studying International Relations and Arabic. I am interested in International Relations, women’s rights and the work of NGOs in providing a voice for individuals in the international arena. I am passionate about education advocacy, and I look forward to learning more about the work of NGOs within the greater context of international relations through my internship with GWI. I am grateful for the opportunity to intern with GWI and am excited to begin my work for this spring!”

— Other information and events —

24 Feb-20 March	Human Rights Council, 43 rd session, UN Office, Geneva
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, New York
22 March	World Water Day
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
15-17 May	UWE Meet & Greet – “Illuminations & Inspirations”, Dublin
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
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
7-10 July	Generation Equality Forum Paris

15 July
18-20 September

World Youth Skills Day, Global
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

48, Chemin du Grand-Montfleury, CH-1290, Versoix, Geneva, Switzerland

E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org

Copyright © 2020 GWI. All rights reserved.