



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

8 MARCH 2020

WHAT IS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY?



International Women's Day first appeared in 1911, but no country, group or organisation can claim it as it belongs to all groups collectively everywhere. Today, International Women's Day stands for a collective celebration of the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The 2020 theme promoted by UN Women is "I am Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights", which aligns with their new multigenerational campaign, #GenerationEquality, to mark the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action .

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

DID YOU KNOW?

The year 2020 is pivotal for advancing gender equality worldwide. In addition to Beijing+25, several other decisive anniversaries are celebrated this year: 75th anniversary of UN, 40th anniversary of CEDAW, 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, 10th anniversary of UN Women, 10 year countdown for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.



One additional school year can

increase a woman's earnings by 15 to 25%.

(UNICEF)

25%

Domestic violence is costlier than warfare, with a worldwide annual cost of

\$ 8 trillion.

(Copenhagen Consensus Center)



Domestic violence is still not considered a crime in more than 20 countries.

(World Bank)



Husbands can object to their wives working

and prevent them from accepting jobs in

15 countries.

(World Economic Forum)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

"Achieving gender equality is the best chance we have in meeting some of the most pressing challenges of our time. Women are not only more affected by these problems, but also possess ideas and leadership to solve them. The gender discrimination still holding too many women back, holds our world back, too."

(UN Women)

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



5 GENDER EQUALITY



GW I 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 2/19: Building Peace through Women's Education

Resolution 3/19: Sexual and Reproductive Health Education as a Human Right for All

Resolution 4/19: Women and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Resolution 5/19: Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children

Resolution 3/16: Polygamy

Resolution 6/16: FGM

Resolution 8/16: Child Marriage

Resolution 1/01: Education & Training of Women in Prison

Resolution 2/01: The Future of Women's Employment

Resolution 5/01: Women's Leadership

Resolution 7/13: Right to Safe Access to Education for All Girls and Women

Resolution 12/13: Effects of Globalisation on Women & Girls in Developing Countries



Resolution 14/69: Education of Handicapped Youth

Resolution 15/50: Equal Pay



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/.

GWI is invested in women's economic empowerment. During the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN headquarters in New York, GWI is going to host a **parallel event** on "Women and Corruption - Root Causes and Impact on Women's Potential". GWI already held a similar event on women and corruption during the 41st session of the Human Rights Council at the UN Office in Geneva.



CALL FOR ACTION

Without gender equality, we will not achieve sustainable development. Pushing for gender equality is everyone's responsibility. It is our goal to create an environment where the maximum number of people can thrive, which requires women and men leaders striving towards this ideal.



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 all barriers and to empower all women and girls through the means of education.



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Join a GWI affiliate today at www.graduatewomen.org.

Contribution by GWI intern, Anna Indermaur

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