



## GWU UPDATE – 1 April 2020



### International Girls in ICT Day

23 April 2020



*On 23 April, Graduate Women International (GWI) will mark the International Girls in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Day.*

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## — Graduate Women International News —

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### **Emphasising the role of the Finance Committee**

The role of the Finance Committee is to oversee GWI's finances, advising the GWI Board of Officers and the General Assembly on financial policy, and ensuring that GWI policy is implemented and expenditure remains within budget. The Committee is not autonomous but works under the supervision of the Treasurer and its committees share a common purpose.

The FinCom prepares triennial GWI budgets for approval by the GWI General Assembly; supervises annual expenditure and ensure that it remains within budget; recommends the per capita rate of annual dues to the Board for approval by the General Assembly; develops appropriate and flexible procedures and rules to handle the issue of special arrangements for unpaid dues; recommend the formula for calculating the per capita dues to the General Assembly; approves the conference budget and oversees investments.

"The GWI FinCom plays a critical role in overseeing GWI financial policy. In this regard, the FinCom safeguards that the expenditure remains within the limit of the budget that the General Assembly approved", says Dr. Katharina Strub, GWI Treasurer.

For more information on GWI committees, click [HERE](#).

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **Message of Solidarity, Strength & Resilience from Australian Graduate Women (AGW)**

"Dear Members, We are in a very different place to where we were a century ago, when the Spanish Flu struck at the end of the First World War, as we can translate superior capabilities to rapidly respond to the current pandemic using evidence-based research. This situation is difficult for us as parents, friends, partners, teachers, students and educators. All of us have family and friends who have been directly and

indirectly impacted by COVID-19. Together our community - political, business and community leaders; health care providers; individuals and families - will come through this current crisis, and the contributions being made by our clinicians, medics, nurses and researchers, will help ensure the best possible outcomes. This pandemic highlights the critical importance of investment in education, health, medical research and preparedness for global health and security as shown by the responses in Singapore, Taiwan and South Korea. This is a message of Solidarity, Strength and Resilience to all colleagues. Let us stay focused on three important Cs — **Care, Collaboration and Creativity**. Stay safe and take care and let us all do our best to maintain social distancing to flatten the curve. From the Chronicle – I share the following links - the Playlist is cool & the National Emergency Library is amazing.

- **Learn.** The Internet Archive opened its National Emergency Library this week. About 1.4 million digital books [are free](#) for anyone with an internet connection.
-  **Read.** Sourdough is all the rage in quarantine kitchens. [What gives?](#)
-  **Listen.** I made [this playlist](#) for chill nights in. So every night.
-  **Watch.** If you're bored at home, readers of the Daily Briefing, another of my *Chronicle* newsletters, [compiled this spreadsheet](#) of documentaries to watch. The resource even includes where to stream them.

My best wishes to all,

Professor Jaya Dantas, AGW President”.

### **The French Association of University Women (AFFDU) presents its Youtube Channel**

As social distancing measures are temporarily preventing GWI members around the world from showing their solidarity through social contacts in order to preserve the health of all, our NFAs are finding innovative ways to communicate and continue their work towards the empowerment of all women and girls. In France, AFFDU has launched a [Youtube Channel](#) through which AFFDU leadership and members are sharing documentaries, informative videos and other tailored musical and non-musical playlists to maintain contact and share knowledge with their members and followers. Content is available on the [AFFDU Youtube Channel](#) in French and English. GWI congratulates AFFDU on their excellent initiative and is energised to hear about the determination of all our members worldwide to pursue their work and mission in these multifarious times. Click [HERE](#) to visit the [AFFDU website](#) and [HERE](#) for the [AFFDU Youtube Channel](#).

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## — Advocacy —

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### **GWI stands in solidarity with its members and friends in these unprecedented times**

As we are all watching our world face an unprecedented public health challenge in the fight against COVID-19, GWI stands in solidarity with all of you and particularly those who are most vulnerable during uncertain circumstances like this. Through this unprecedented period, GWI will continue doing what it knows best: raising the voice of graduate women around the world and working for the preservation and improvement of women's and girls' fundamental right to education. Read and share the letter from the GWI Board, Committees and Office to all our members and friends [HERE](#).

### **International Girls in ICT Day**

On 23 April, GWI will mark International Girls ICT Day with a special social media advocacy campaign. This International Telecommunications Union (ITU) backed initiative takes place in over 170 countries worldwide and creates a global environment that encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of ICT. GWI marks this day with our commitment to encouraging all girls to pursue their education and career dreams. Follow our campaign with impactful facts and ready-to-use advocacy ideas on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **Elisabeth Francis, UN Representative, Vienna participates in the Commission on Narcotic Drugs**



*Elisabeth Francis,  
GWI UN  
Representative,  
Vienna*

The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) is the central policymaking body within the United Nations (UN) system on drugs. GWI UN Representative in Vienna, Elisabeth Francis, participated in the session along with nearly 1,500 participants from more than 130 countries, 17 inter-governmental organizations, more than 370 civil society representatives and members of the scientific community. This was the last major event at the UN in Vienna before the Coronavirus related lockdown.

An estimated 271 million people worldwide aged 15 to 64 are using illegal drugs. Ms. Francis reports that this year's CND session adopted five resolutions: improving data collection and analysis to strengthen evidence-based responses to the world drug problem: increasing youth participation in drug prevention efforts: ensuring access to internationally controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes: partnerships with the private sector: and promoting alternative development approaches to illegal crop cultivation. Various of these resolutions contain gender related measures.

The new United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime Director-General, Ghada Waly, urged countries to scale up their responses to the world drug problem. She said that 35 million people around the world suffer from drug use disorders but only one in seven receive treatment. Far fewer women than men are able to get the treatment and services they need due to persisting barriers and stigma, each diminishing opportunities for education. We encourage you to read Ms. Francis's excellent and comprehensive report of the CND session [HERE](#).

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## — Call for applications —

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### **Applications for the Women PeaceMakers Programme are being accepted**

The Women PeaceMakers Programme (WPM) is accepting applications for 2020/2021 PeaceMakers. Women will have the opportunity to participate in a twelve-month fellowship in which they will build peace and engage in a cycle of learning, practice and strengthening of partnerships. The WPM Fellowship has the goal to perpetuate collaborations between women peacebuilders and conflict-affected communities in order to end cycles of violence. Four Women PeaceMakers and four individuals, who represent international non-governmental organizations, will be selected. The deadline to apply for the fellowship is **1 May 2020**. For more information or to send in an application, click [HERE](#).

## Alliance of Women in Media Foundation Scholarships

The Alliance of Women in Media (AWM) Foundation has partnered with the Ford Motor Company Fund to award two scholarships, the Ford Emerging Voices Scholarship and the Ford Empowering America Scholarship. The winning applicant will each receive a scholarship of \$3,000 and the student that is selected as the runner-up will receive a scholarship of \$1,000, made payable directly to each student's educational institution in the name of Ford Motor Company Fund. Both recipients will receive opportunities to write blog posts for AWM, create two profiles/interviews to be featured on the AWM website, and to attend the Women in Media event held in the Fall. Apply [HERE](#) by **8 May 2020**.

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## — Give the gift of education —

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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.](#)



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

## — Did you know? —

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Did you know that published authors Dr. Patricia Galeana de Valdés, Mexican Federation of University Women, and Nellie D. Nath are also GWI members? Dr. Galeana de Valdés books highlight various figures and events such as Benito Juarez, the Second Mexican Empire, and the McLane-Ocampo Treaty to contextualize them in Mexican history. Ms. Nath's publication, "Women and Human Rights", is a book on which she worked with a group of women that discusses human rights through the lens of international law and how that impacts the lives of women in the legal system. GWI encourages women and girls to write and hopes to welcome more GWI member authors in the future.

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## — Other information and events —

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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
25 May-5 June	International Labour Organisation Conference, Geneva
28 May	Menstrual Hygiene Day, Global
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour, Global
15 June-3 July	Human Rights Council, 44 <sup>th</sup> session, United Nations Office, Geneva
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	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
12 August	International Youth Day, Global
8 September	International Literacy Day, 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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