



GWI UPDATE – 15 April 2020



The Generation Equality Forum, due to take place in Mexico and France in May and July 2020, will be postponed until further notice considering the situation surrounding COVID-19.

— Graduate Women International News —

Generation Equality Forum Postponed

The Generation Equality Forum is a global gathering for gender equality, convened by UN Women and co-chaired by the governments of France and Mexico, with and the close partnership of civil society. As the situation surrounding COVID-19 evolves, the number of people around the world affected by this disease continues to increase. This global public health crisis has direct implications for the Generation Equality Forum and for gender equality and women's human rights. In response to this crisis, the Generation Equality Forum will be postponed until further notice. The new dates will be announced in the coming months. In the months leading to the Generation Equality Forum, a series of virtual engagements will be organized in collaboration with partners to foster continued momentum, participation and commitment of all stakeholders. The Forum was supposed to kick-off in Mexico City, Mexico, on 7-8 May 2020 and culminate in Paris, France, on 7-10 July 2020. You can read more about the gatherings by selecting the events below. Read the UN Women official announcement to [learn more](#).

— GWI Member News —

News from the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) Women's Museum

In 2011, FEMU was instrumental in the creation of the Mexico City's Women's Museum (MCWM) and continues to actively contribute to the museum's work and mission. Dedicated to examining the History of Mexico using a gender studies approach, from pre-Hispanic times to the present, the museum aims to increase the visibility of women's work and contributions toward the construction of the Mexican nation. On 18 March, the MCWM, which is one of the many museums belonging to the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), was honoured to receive Dr. Guadalupe Valencia, Coordinator of Humanities at UNAM. She was welcomed by Dr. Mirella Feingold (FEMU Executive President), Dr. Nadima Simón (FEMU Honorary Adviser), and Dr. Guadalupe López Acosta (FEMU Treasurer). Dr. Valencia stressed the importance of the MCWM and the relevance it has had in making visible the role of women in Mexico's history.



From left to right: Guadalupe López Acosta, Mirella Feingold, Guadalupe Valencia and Nadima Simón.

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Gender Lens Article Research

CFUW has published an article that includes helpful tips and recourses for how CFUW members can apply a gender lens to their research. Using a gender lens is essential for the advancement of gender equality because it allows for greater insight into social issues. A gender lens raises questions of why social processes, standards, and opportunities differ systematically between men, women, and gender diverse people. Click [HERE](#) to access the article. Graduate Women International (GWI) commends CFUW for their continued work towards the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life and the advancement of gender equality to the top of national and global agendas.

— Advocacy —

World Book and Copyright Day

On 23 April, GWI will join the global community in celebrating World Book and Copyright Day: a day created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to celebrate reading, publishing and copyright. Now more than ever, at an unprecedented time when globally most schools are closed and children are having to limit time spent out of their homes, the power of books can be leveraged to combat isolation, to reinforce ties between people, and to expand our horizons, while stimulating our minds and creativity. GWI marks this day with our commitment to promote the achievements of literary women and over the world as well as our commitment to promote increased literacy and equal access to education for all women and girls. Follow our campaign with impactful facts and ready-to-use advocacy ideas on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

— Call for applications —

Applications being accepted for UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

Applications are now open for representatives of indigenous organizations and communities to participate in the treaty bodies of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. The fund was established in 1985 as a response to the needs of indigenous peoples and now provides support for representatives of indigenous peoples to participate in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Human Rights Council, and UN human rights bodies. The Treaty Bodies sessions will take place between July and September 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. Applications will be accepted no later than 30 April 2020. To ensure full eligibility for consideration, verify the criteria [here](#). For more information, please click [here](#).

1325 & Beyond International Essay Competition

In the run up to the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325 (2000)) Women In International Security (WIIS) and the Heinrich Böll Foundation Washington, DC are launching an international graduate student essay competition 1325AndBeyond. The essay contest is intended to highlight innovative and imaginative ideas and strategies to achieve the objectives of 1325 in the 2020s. We hope they will provide important input for the 20th anniversary deliberations of UNSCR 1325. Essay submissions are open to young professionals with an MA or higher academic degree, and students currently enrolled in a MA, PhD, JD or corresponding graduate program at a university or equivalent academic institution in 2020. Recent graduates, as well as individuals who will be enrolled in a graduate program within the next academic year, will also be considered. All genders are encouraged to apply. Deadline is pending. For more information, please click [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

COVID-19 Update from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

Even in these extraordinary times, GWI United Nations (UN) Representatives are keeping active and are continuing to represent GWI in the remote meetings and events organized by the UN. On 9 April, GWI UN Representative in New-York Maryella Hannum attended the UNDESA Webinar on the economic and social impact of COVID-19. This webinar was critical in raising awareness and sharing information on COVID-19 in three critical areas: Economic Impact; Social Impact; Financial Markets and Financing. Approximately 900 global participants were on the call. The call included topics such as a need for a measured and coordinated global response, global lock down, containment, testing, various approaches to stimulus packages, risk of debt crisis, digital divide, timing and sequence, as well as the way forward. Learn more by reading Maryella's full advocacy report [HERE](#).

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights “COVID is a colossal test of leadership”

On 9 April, GWI participated in the UN Human Rights Council virtual informal conversation with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, on the human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic. During this first ever virtual informal conversation, the High Commissioner said that, COVID “is a colossal test of leadership”. She urged global unity to promote strong, multilateral, cooperative COVID-19 exit strategies to ensure that extensive economic and social measures were taken in every country to minimize the further growth of inequalities. She noted that the continued funding to civil society organizations was particularly important so they could continue their human rights-based work. She also noted that, while school closure in many countries raised concern about deepening educational inequalities, the situation also presented an opportunity to address those very inequalities and provide access to education for all children. Summaries of the discussion in English and French can be found on the UN Office at Geneva News and Media [page](#).

— Give the gift of education —



GWI is marked as a Top-Ranked fundraising organisation by GlobalGiving.

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](#).

— Did you know? —

Did you know that GWI members have free and exclusive access to all GWI webinars? The GWI webinars provide invaluable resources and skills training on a wide range of topics, from membership building to awareness raising and new advocacy methods and strategies. The upcoming GWI webinars will address the topics of “GWI NFA Twinning” and “Advocacy after COVID-19”. Passed webinars can still be viewed for free on the GWI member corner. Valued GWI members can contact info@graduatewomen.org to obtain the necessary password to view those previous webinars again. Please visit the [GWI Member Corner](#) for more information on the previous and upcoming GWI webinars.

— Other information and events —

23 April	World Book & Copyright Day, Global
23 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
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour, Global
15 June-3 July	Human Rights Council, 44 th 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 Populations, 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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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.

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