



Graduate Women International (GWI)  
promotes opportunities for girls in the tech sector on

# INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY

23 APRIL 2020

International Girls in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Day is an initiative backed by the United Nations (UN) International Telecommunication Union (ITU) member states. Officially created in 2014, through the adoption of Plenipotentiary Resolution 70, International Girls in ICT Day is observed on the fourth Thursday of April every year. This day provides an opportunity for all ITU members unite to celebrate the empowerment of young women and girls in pursuing careers in the fields of ICT.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Women hold only 20% of technology jobs worldwide.



- **Only 26% of computing jobs** are held by women, with this number in decline.
- **Only 12% of engineers** at Silicon Valley startups are women
- **Only 11% of executive positions** in these companies are held by women.
- **Only 5% of leadership positions** in the tech sector are occupied by women.

Source: Dreamhost, State of Women in Tech

## We need women in ICT!

There is a large gap between the technology skills needed by employers and the number of jobseekers with these skills. With so many job opportunities, **it is vital that women have access to the career-support and tech-education.** Girls need to be prepared to study math, engineering, computing, and sciences in higher education.



Source: ITU

## Promotion of Women, Promotion of the World



The ICT sector is male-dominated, with women usually in low-level, low-skilled jobs. ICT companies and government agencies are consciously looking to increase the number of women working in the sector, **There is a positive correlation between a higher number of women at the top of tech companies and financial performance,** proving that inclusion of women in the tech sector is in fact good for business!

Source: ITU

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are designed to create a better and more sustainable world, for everyone.

- **SDG 4** encourages higher accessibility to quality education, especially for women and girls. Relating to ICT, girls are encouraged to achieve higher levels of mathematics and science education.
- **SDG 5** promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Girls in ICT Day promotes the empowerment of girls in pursuing education and careers in ICT.



## GWI Resolutions

Every three years at Graduate Women International's General Assembly meeting, new resolutions are passed that are implemented through action plans for our NFAs to promote women's and girls' rights and empowerment. The following resolutions are implemented to empower women and girls to achieve higher levels of education and pursue careers in ICT.

- 1962: Girls and Careers (No. 10)**
- 1965: Women and Science Teaching (No. 10)**
- 1965: Women and Scientific Employment (No. 15)**
- 1980: Science and Math Education (No, 16)**
- 1998: Higher Education (No. 2)**
- 2001: The Future of Women's Employment (No. 2)**

## GIRLS IN ICT DAY CELEBRATIONS 2020



**PARTICIPATE IN THE ITU  
ONLINE MEETING:  
GIRLS IN ICT: INSPIRING  
THE NEXT GENERATION**



With the current COVID- 19 pandemic limiting opportunities to gather, ITU strategically reorganised the international celebrations of Girls in ICT Day by bringing it massively online.

Director of Telecommunication Development at ITU, Doreen Bogdan-Martin, called on everyone to **make use of social media platforms** to encourage participation of women and girls around the world in ICT.

Additionally, the ITU will be hosting an **online dialogue on Girls in ICT: Inspiring the Next Generation on 23 April 2020**. The online dialogue will highlight the importance of governments' engagement in empowering women through technology and will also draw attention to role models and mentors and how they can inspire girls and young women to take up careers in the tech field. Please **CLICK HERE** for more details on the meeting and how to join.

This is a great opportunity to show the **power of technology** in engaging the world in the dialogue to bridge the gender divide in ICT, and strategies to allow more women and girls to realise their full potential in ICT studies and careers.

"Gender equality is a human rights issue, but it is also in all our interests: men and boys, women and girls. **Gender inequality and discrimination against women harms us all**. There is overwhelming evidence that investing in women is the most effective way to lift communities, companies and countries. Women's participation makes peace agreements stronger, societies more resilient and economies more vigorous... Gender equality is the unfinished business of our time".



**Source: UN Secretary General, António Guterres**



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Join a GWI affiliate today at [www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org).

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