



Graduate Women International (GWI) celebrates women authors on

World Book and Copyright Day

23 April 2020

World Book and Copyright day is an international day to celebrate the value of knowledge and reading. In 1995, UNESCO decided to create this day of observance as a tribute to authors and books on 23 April, the anniversary of the deaths of prominent authors such as William Shakespeare, Miguel Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (UNESCO).

Graduate Women International (GWI) observes this day to highlight the achievements of literary women all over the world as well as emphasise the need to continue promoting increased female literacy for women's empowerment.

Women Authors



Books written by women authors published by major publishers cost on average **45%** less than books written by men. (The Guardian)



Yet, **8 out of 10** of the best-selling books since 2008 were written by women. (Lithub)

World Literacy for Women



82.8% of women over 15 are literate

(World Bank)

However,



The literacy rate is **7%** higher for adult males than females

(World Bank)



Today, **2 out of 3** illiterate individuals are female

(World Literacy Foundation)

We all can help women and girls succeed!

It is our collective responsibility to work towards gender equality, which includes equal opportunity to gain an education. Today, there are still more women than men who are illiterate. Everyone can do their part. How can we all help women succeed? **WE CAN:**

- Support women and girls in pursuit of education and reading skills.
- Buy books written by women to support women authors.
- Encourage women and girls to pursue writing as careers to inspire women and girls everywhere.

GWJ calls on governments, organisations and societies to encourage women and girls to go to school and learn to read in order to gain additional opportunities for empowerment. Additionally, there need to be more spaces to motivate women and girls to succeed in literary careers around the world.

GWJ Resolutions

At every General Assembly, GWJ passes resolutions that, since 1998, include action plans for members to implement the resolutions in their home country. The 1992 resolutions directly address women's literacy. However, there are additional resolutions listed below that strive to gain increased access to education for women and girls, increasing opportunities to become literate.

1992 : Education for all & Literacy (No.1), Literacy and Women (No.3)

1995: Adolescents (No.1)

1998: Right to Education (No.1)

2013: Right to Safe Access to Education for all Girls and Women (No.7) SDGs (No.9)

2001: Educational Opportunities for Adolescent Mothers (No.6)

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



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Contribution by GWJ intern, Annalise Simons

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