GWI voices concerns about the shadow pandemic of GBV during COVID-19

GWI is cautiously encouraged by governments’ phase-in measures to reopen schools and economies around the world. Yet, our organisation remains focused on raising the voices of graduate women against the proclivity of GBV against women and girls worldwide as a by-product of COVID-19. Importantly, as countries phase-in COVID-19 recovery, GWI is focusing efforts on helping the GWI National Federations and Associations (NFAs) address the lingering, sustained and consequential effects of GBV. To this end, GWI customized for its 52 NFAs a statement with findings on the acute impacts of the COVID-19 on GBV. The goal of the statement is to provide members, partners, friends and colleagues with information to identify COVID-19, GBV-specific risks in their communities and how to take actions to mitigate those risks. Individualized statement have been distributed. However, for further awareness-raising, the overarching statement that includes space for each GWI NFA to include local information additional impact regarding local concerns about GBV is available for download HERE. We encourage members to localise and widely distribute the statement.
GWI to mark Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28 May 2020

Menstrual Hygiene Day, observed annually on 28 May, is a reminder that women and girls across the world continue to face a variety of unnecessary challenges due to their menstruation. This year marks GWI’s third observance of Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day). Initiated by the German-based NGO WASH United in 2014, this annual awareness day brings together non-profit organisations, government agencies, private sector, the media and individuals from around the world to promote Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). GWI is pleased to announce the continuation of its alliance with Menstrual Hygiene Day (MH Day) in their efforts to catalyse a growing, global movement that recognizes and supports girls’ and women’s rights and advocate for the integration of MHM into global, national and local policies, programmes and projects. A comprehensive infographic as well as an advocacy toolkit with ready-to-use and will be released in the coming days. Look for the full campaign on the GWI LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter pages.

— Member News: GWI 2020 Webinar Cycle —

GWI kickstarted its Spring 2020 Webinar Cycle “Connecting across Borders for Growth of Knowledge and Friendship” on 8 May with a successful webinar on the GWI Twinning Programme. Through this exclusive discussion, GWI members discovered how to build international friendship and collaboration between National Federations and Associations (NFAs) through participation in the Twinning Programme and in line with the vision of GWI’s founding mothers. This webinar provided a comprehensive overview of the programme, presented the purpose and benefits of twinning as well best practices to make the most of the programme. Missed the change to participate? Not a problem! The recording of the video will be available soon for all current GWI Members. Stay tuned and in the meantime do not loose the chance to register for the upcoming GWI webinars!

REGISTER TODAY! (GWI Members Only)

GWI Gender and Media Webinar
15 May 2020
10-11am Central European Summer Time (CEST) or 4-5pm CEST

The GWI Gender and Media Webinar: Empowering or threatening? A Representation of Woman in Media will provide members with the tools to view and analyse films, TV series, advertisements and news
through a gender lens. Whether communication takes place between individuals or via mass communication through the media, it is not simply a transmission of news, information or images and is often biased. Knowledge of what is happening in real life is produced by professionals working in the media. Therefore, every news broadcast, image, series, films, or advertisement that is filtered through the production processes of the media cannot be neutral. To maximize participation opportunities for all members, the GWI Gender and Media Webinar will be held twice. Participants can choose between the two following times on 15 May 2020: 10-11 am CEST or 4-5pm CEST. Click here to register today!

REGISTRATION TODAY! (GWI Members Only)

GWI Advocacy Webinar
21 May 2020
4-5pm CEST

With the exclusive participation of NGO Committee on the Status of Women New York guest speakers: Houry Geudelekian, President and Ivy Koek, Vice Chair. GWI provides a global voice for women graduates through a bold, multichannel and innovative advocacy strategy. GWI works at the international level with the United Nations and its different mechanisms, other international agencies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to eliminate the barriers women and girls face when trying to gain an education. This third webinar of the 2020 GWI Webinar Cycle "Connecting across Borders Growth of Knowledge and Friendship" will provide participants with an in-depth overview of the GWI advocacy strategy. GWI members will also learn how to utilize GWI advocacy channels to strengthen their own NFA voices. Click here to register today!

— Call for Applications —

2020 UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education – Extended Deadline

As COVID-19 related school closures widen gender disparities, organizations championing girls’ and women’s education need our support more than ever. Accordingly, UNESCO reminds its partners and followers around the world that the call for nominations for the 2020 edition of the UNESCO Prize for Girls’ and Women’s Education is open until 26 May 2020 (12am Central European Summer Time). Funded by the People’s Republic of China, the Prize honours outstanding and innovative practices advancing girls’
OWSD PhD Fellowships – Extended Deadline
The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World is offering a fellowship to women scientists from Science and Technology Lagging Countries with funds provided by the Swedish International Development Agency. The fellowship aims to contribute to a new generation of emerging women leaders in science and technology and promote effective participation in science and technological developments in their countries. Fellowships are available as two study themes 1) full-time (maximum 4-years) research conducted in another developing country or 2) the ‘sandwich’ theme which allows PhD students to conduct studies in another country while simultaneously completing their degree at home. Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the deadline for applications is extended to 31 May 2020. For a full list of eligibility requirements and information about the fellowship, please click HERE.

— Give the gift of membership —

Graduation season is upon us: with the turn of a tassel, a new generation of female leaders and changemakers emerges, carrying with them an incomparable sense of pride, accomplishment and hope for what’s yet to come. Celebrate the accomplishments and limitless potential of the graduate women in your life, give the gift of membership! GWI membership allows graduate women to join the leading women’s international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training. Give the gift of membership to provide new graduate women with the opportunity to raise their voice at the global level by becoming a part of a community of some 16’000 members in 56 countries, either as a GWI independent member or national member of one of our NFAs.

— Did you know? —

Did you know that the GWI Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme supports projects that empower girls and women through education and leadership development. BRPID grants are awarded to GWI national federations and associations from developing countries on a competitive basis. The Bina Roy projects are supported by donations from impact investors, personal contributions and our own member affiliates around the world. BRPID began in 1978 and was later renamed in honour of Dr. Bina Roy, educator and former GWI President from India. For the 2019-2020 round of funding, the selected projects are located in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), El Salvador, Ghana, India, Mexico and Turkey. Click here to learn more about the BRPID programme and the current and previous GWI BRPID projects.

— Other information and events —

28 May  
Menstrual Hygiene Day, Global
12 June  
World Day Against Child Labour, Global
15 June-3 July 2020  
Human Rights Council, 44th 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  
31 July  Pan-African Women’s Day, 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

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.

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