



## GW I UPDATE – 29 April 2020



**Graduate Women International (GWI)**  
**Resolutions 1995-2020**  
**Linked to the Beijing Platform for Action**  
**12 Critical Areas of Concern &**  
**Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

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*GWI shares an impactful infographic highlighting the link between the GWI Resolutions, the Beijing Platform for Action (BfPA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

### — Graduate Women International News —

#### **Impactful Infographic links GWI Resolutions to BfPA 12 Areas of Concern and SDGs**

Since 1919, GWI has been adopting resolutions to orient its action and advocacy strategy towards key areas and challenges linked to GWI’s mission to advance the status of women through education at the highest level. The GWI Resolutions align with the international platforms and goals drafted by the United Nations (UN), its bodies and mechanisms. Earlier this year and in preparation of the historic milestone that is the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action (BfPA) adopted in 1995, GWI released an impactful infographic presenting the intrinsic link between the GWI Resolutions adopted in the past 25 years, the BfPA 12 areas of concern and the SDGs. Click [HERE](#) to view and share this [infographic](#).

### — GWI Member News —

#### **Iceland: FIH member and first democratically elected female president in the world turns 90**

GWI joins the Icelandic Federation of University Women (Felag Islenskra Haskolavenna (FIH)) in wishing Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, honorary member of FIH and the first woman in the world to be elected Head of State in a nationwide election a happy 90th birthday! Finnbogadóttir served as the fourth President of Iceland from 1 August 1980 to 1 August 1996. A single mother and the world's first democratically directly elected female president, she also remains the longest-serving elected female head of state of any country to date, with a presidency of exactly 16 years. Following her birthday on 15 April 2020, Finnbogadóttir has been honoured throughout Iceland and



*Vigdís Finnbogadóttir,  
Source: council of women  
world leaders*

the world in multiple ways, including an inspirational video that can be viewed [HERE](#). GWI is happy to join FIH in honouring such an inspirational woman and leader and thanks Vigdís Finnbogadóttir for her positive influence on Iceland and on the world.

### **University Women Association of Panama (AMUP) President Message on Girls in ICT**

International Girls in ICT Day marks the global community's commitment to encourage all girls to pursue their dreams of education and career. Along GWI and many GWI National Federations and Associations (NFAs) worldwide, AMUP is joining the global celebration of the International Days of Girls in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Day on 23 April, with a message from the AMUP President and Board of Directors: "AMUP echoes the trends that the world is facing in relation with the growing impact of new digital technologies on current industries and services. Therefore, women must be prepared to face these challenges through equal and safe access to education in communication technologies for all girls and young women".

### **TAUW celebrates 100 years of National sovereignty of Turkey and Children's Day**

Annually, on 23 April the Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) celebrates 100 years of National Sovereignty in Turkey and honours children for Children's Day. On Children's Day, children in Turkey take seats in the Turkish Parliament and symbolically govern the country for one day. From 1923-1934, Turkey officially celebrated Grand National Assembly Day on 23 April and held a children's week starting on that day. The Turkish government then combined the two events into National Sovereignty and Children's Day in 1935. The Turkish Radio and Television Corporation has been organizing international children's festivals, held during the week leading up to 23 April, since 1979. "Unfortunately, we cannot go out to celebrate this year due to COVID-19 but we will stand on our balconies and together sang the national anthem at 9 p.m.", said Basak Ovacik, GWI Vice President, Fundraising.

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## —GWI Twinning Webinar—

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GWI members are invited to join the **GWI Twinning Webinar on either 6 May 2020 10-11am CEST or 7 May 2020 5-6pm CEST**. Participants will learn 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. The webinar will provide a comprehensive overview of the GWI Twinning Programme, present the purpose and benefits of

Twining as well as provide participants with suggestions, ideas and best practices to make the most of the Programme. **To register, please submit the [webinar registration form](#) duly completed, to [membership@graduatewomen.org](mailto:membership@graduatewomen.org) by 4 May 2020 at the latest. Click [HERE](#) to access the registration form online.** The webinar will take place online using Zoom, a secured online meeting platform. **A link to the webinar and instruction for Zoom will be distributed by email, to those who register, on 5 May 2020.** [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY.](#)

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## — Advocacy —

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### GWI International Girls in ICT Day Infographic and Advocacy



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. This year, GWI promotes opportunities for girls in the tech sector with an exclusive infographic that can be viewed and downloaded [HERE](#) or by clicking on [the infographic preview below](#). Additionally, GWI participated on 23 April 2020 in an online dialogue on “Girls in ICT: Inspiring the Next Generation” hosted by the ITU. 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. A full report of the event can be found [HERE](#).

## 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

*Click on this preview of the GWI 2020 International Girls in ICT Day to access and share the full infographic!*

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **CEDAW Committee Documents on COVID-19, Women & Girls**

GWI is cautiously encouraged by Governments' phase-in measures to reopen schools and economies around the world. Yet, we remain focused on raising the voices of graduate women against the proclivity of gender-based violence (GBV) against women and girls worldwide as a by-product of COVID-19. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, GWI has expressed concerns about the probable and pervasive gendered impacts of the pandemic, like other international organisations such as the UN Committee on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEDAW), which issued a statement, as well as a guidance note, both calling for a global approach, new vision and joint action to counter the multifaceted human, social and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on everyone and especially women and girls. Click [here](#) to read the full CEDAW [joint statement](#) and [here](#) for the CEDAW [guidance note](#).

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## — Give the gift of education —

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*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](#).

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## — Did you know? —

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Did you know that GWI is represented at four key United Nations centres in Geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna? Our [UN Representatives](#) champion the GWI mission by participating at UN meetings and reporting back on various on-mission topics being discussed by international policy makers. Our UN Representatives are very active and attend multiple sessions per year. Even in these extraordinary times, the GWI UN Reps are keeping active and are continuing to represent GWI in the remote meetings and events organized by the UN. For instance, on 9 April, GWI UN Representative in New-York Maryella Hannum attended the UNDESA Webinar on the economic and social impact of COVID-19. Click [HERE](#) to access all the GWI UN Reps reports.

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## – Other information and events –

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6 and 7 May	GWI Twinning Webinar, Global
19 May	5 <sup>th</sup> 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 <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
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
14 Sep-2 Oct	Human Rights Council, 45 <sup>th</sup> session, United Nations Office, Geneva
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.

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