GWI UPDATE – 8 July 2020

SAVE THE DATE

GWI Presidents and CIRs are invited to an informal discussion with GWI President, Terry Oudraad

When: Saturday, 11 July 2020, 4-5pm CEST
Where: Zoom Webinar

GWI Presidents and CIRs are cordially invited to click HERE to register.

GWI invites all Presidents and Coordinator of International Relations (CIRs) to an informal discussion with GWI President, Terry Oudraad on Saturday, 11 July 2020, 4-5pm Central European Summer Time (CEST)

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GWI Presidents and CIRs Informal Discussion with GWI President, Terry Oudraad

In the past months, Graduate Women International (GWI) bolstered its international network through the spring 2020 webinar series, Connecting Across Borders for Growth of Knowledge and Friendship. On the heels of this successful webinar series, that engaged nearly 2000 GWI members, and to celebrate the strength that bonds its members, GWI invites all National Federation and Association (NFA) Presidents and Coordinators of International Relations (CIRs) to a virtual informal discussion with GWI President, Terry Oudraad, on Saturday 11 June at 4pm CEST. Click HERE to register! (We kindly extend this invitation exclusively to NFA Presidents and CIRs.)

— GWI Member News —
In memory of Mrs. Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey
GWI extends its deepest condolences to the Ghana Association of University Women (GAUW) and Mrs. Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey’s family after her recent passing. A founding member of GAUW, Joyce became the NFA’s first CIR and was instrumental in the establishment of the GWI Girls Choices Projects. A firm believer in the transformative power of education for all women and girls, Joyce also believed that peace could and must be achieved through safe and equal access to education for all: this motivated her joint research on “Achieving Peace Through Democratic Citizenship Education: Narratives from Winneba, Ghana”, which she presented last year on the occasion of the GWI Peace Through Education Conference in Geneva, Switzerland. The GWI Board, office and membership keep a fond memory of her presentation and participation in this unique event. To read Joyce’s full eulogy, kindly provided by GAUW, please click HERE.

FEMU organises a cycle of online webinars on the impact of COVID-19 on women
The Federación Mexicana de Universitarias (FEMU) and Museo de la Mujer México (MMM) organised a cycle of Virtual Seminars to examine COVID-19 effects on society, specifically on girls and women. These seminars, in which five specialists from FEMU participated, were held from 18 to 22 May 2020. Each virtual session gathered about 100 participants on Zoom and 200 on Facebook. These events addressed the issue of the pandemic crisis with a gender perspective. All seminars are recorded and can be accessed freely HERE. During the month of May, other virtual activities were carried out through MMM’s social networks: eight courses and workshops, 16 seminars, and one piano concert were conducted. GWI commends FEMU for their continuous work.

University Women’s Club Vancouver (UWCV) highlights of the year
Like so many GWI NFAs, UWCV, an active branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), has successfully continued its activities remotely during the pandemic and presents its highlights of the year through their June newsletter. These highlights include a Women in Leadership Series, an Education Forum on “Violence in Schools” and an International Women’s Day celebration on “Women as Instruments of Peace”. GWI commends UCWV for their remarkable work during this year and strongly encourages them in the progressive resumption of their activities.

— Advocacy —

GWI World Youth Skills Day 2020 Infographic and Advocacy
With the aim to raise awareness of the importance of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) to reduce youth employment, the United Nations General Assembly adopted at the end of the year 2014 a resolution declaring 15 July as World Youth Skills Day (WYSD). The observance day insists on the role of Member States and civil society in meeting the needs and aspirations of youth, particularly in developing countries, where many young women and girls are left behind and drop out of school. This year again, GWI joins the global community in celebrating WYSD with the release of an impactful
infographic, in line with its longstanding commitment to the promotion of women’s and girls’ access to education and vocational training up to highest levels. This exclusive infographic can be viewed and downloaded HERE or by clicking on the infographic preview below. In times of pandemic, investing in youth skills, and particularly women’s and girls’ skills, will have to be a high-priority concern to build resilient countries. Discover and share the full social media campaign on the GWI LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

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44th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC44)

The 44th session of the Human Rights Council commenced on 30 June 2020 and is currently being held at the Palais des Nations (Palais), Geneva, Switzerland until 17 July 2020. Due to the current COVID-19 measures in place, access to the Palais is limited and remote following of HRC44 meetings possible online through the United Nations (UN) WebTV. During her opening statement, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, provided a global update on human rights and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In her statement, Bachelet noted that COVID-19 aggravates the exclusion and discrimination suffered by women and girls: their lack of social protection, stemming from their concentration in informal, low status and low-paid jobs; their burden of care for children and the elderly; and the continued exclusion of women from decision-making. Pervasive gender-based violence has also
grown in the last few months, with increased number of users of 24/7 hotlines for domestic violence. This situation risks rolling back hard-fought gains for women’s health, economic participation and equal rights. A full written and video version of the statement can be found HERE. GW’s written statement submitted to the HRC44 can be read and shared HERE.

CEDAW: NFA country Panama under review
The 76th session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is currently being held virtually from 29 June to 9 July. A body of independent experts monitoring the implementation of the CEDAW brings to light areas in which women are being denied equal rights and opportunities and contributes to the global advancement of all women’s and girls’ fundamental rights. GWI NFA Panama is one of the countries under review. The State party’s report is forthcoming and a full review of the report will be made in the next GWI Update newsletter. A previous list of issues can be found HERE.

Five newly elected NFA countries at the United Nations Security Council
On 17-18 June, five GWI NFA countries were elected to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the term 2021-2022: India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico and Norway. With Ireland and Norway, two female ambassadors will join the Security Council in 2021. GWI, with its deep-seated recognition of women and girls’ education as the cornerstone of peaceful, just and sustainable societies, calls on all UNSC Member States to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts, as part of the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325. Click HERE to learn more about the new members of UNSC council.

— Call for applications —

The Lew Williams Scholarship and the Leila Sulkes Scholarship
The Lew Williams Scholarship and the Leila Sulkes Scholarship from the Freehold Branch of AAUW is awarded to women of at least 25 years old, residing in one of the following communities: Colts Neck, Englishtown, Farmingdale, Freehold Borough, Freehold Township, Howell, Manalapan, Marlboro, Morganville and having a minimum 3.0 GPA. They must be enrolled in a bachelor’s degree program having completed a minimum of 60 credit - or - a master’s degree program having completed a minimum of six credits. The deadline for application is 31 July 2020. For more information, click HERE.

Helmut-Schmidt-Programme: Masters Scholarships for Public Policy and Good Governance
The German Academic Exchange Service ( DAAD) Helmut-Schmidt-Programme Masters Scholarships for Public Policy and Good Governance Programme offers very good graduates from developing countries the chance to obtain a Master’s degree in disciplines that are of special relevance for the social, political and economic development of their home country at German institutions of higher education. Applicants should meet the following requirements: language skills, political and social engagement, and a relevant study project in Germany. Application deadline is 31 July 2020. Find out more about the scholarship HERE.

— Give the gift of empowerment —

The Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID) is a grants mechanism of GWI that needs your financial support! BRPID began in 1978 and was later named in honour of Dr. Bina Roy, educator and
former GWI President from India. To date, over half of the GWI NFA’s have participated in BRPID, either as project sponsors or donor partners. For the 2020 round of funding, applications were received from Egypt, Ghana, Haiti, Nepal, Rwanda and Senegal. The BRPID programme supports projects that empower girls and women through education and leadership development. The Bina Roy projects are supported by donations from impact investors, personal contributions and our own member affiliates around the world. Please consider contributing or recommending an organization or institution that would consider funding a project.

— Meet our Summer Intern 2020 —

My name is Sophie Husser. I am currently following a Master’s degree in Gender Studies and Actions for Equality in the Society in Lyon, France. My convictions on the crucial role of education in achieving gender equality grew throughout my whole study path. I graduated last year from a Master’s degree in International Relations in Lille, France, after a human sciences Bachelor degree. The multidisciplinary nature of my studies, as well as personal projects and commitment in live arts greatly participated in my empowerment process and generated the wish to make use of my skills for the cause of women’s rights through education. I intend to undertake a career in NGOs dedicated to these issues and I am deeply thankful for the opportunity given by GWI with this internship. I am convinced it will represent a great step in my personal and professional life.

— Other information and events —

30 June-17 July 44th session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva
7-16 July High Level Political Forum, New-York
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 Persons with Disabilities, Global
12 August International Youth Day, Global
8 September International Literacy Day, Global
14 Sept-2 October Human Rights Council, 45th session, United Nations Office, Geneva
18-20 September Centenary of the French Association of University Women (AFFDU)
21 September International Day of Peace, Global
5 October World Teachers Day, Global
11 October International Day of the Girl Child, Global

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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