



## GW I UPDATE – 8 July 2020

### SAVE THE DATE



### **GW I Presidents and CIRs are invited to an informal discussion with GW I President, Terry Oudraad**

**When: Saturday, 11 July 2020, 4-5pm CEST**

**Where: Zoom Webinar**

**[GW I Presidents and CIRs are cordially invited to click HERE to register.](#)**

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

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### — GW I International Advocacy News —

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#### **GW I Presidents and CIRs Informal Discussion with GW I 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.)

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### — GW I Member News —

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### **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](#).



*Joyce Emma Atta-Quartey*

### **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.



*FEMU/MMM Virtual Seminars Flyer  
Source: MMM Facebook Page*

### **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 UWCV for their remarkable work during this year and strongly encourages them in the progressive resumption of their activities.

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## **— Advocacy —**

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### **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.




**Act for a resilient youth and celebrate young women's and girls skills with GWI on**  
**World Youth Skills Day**  
 15 July 2020

#SkillsForAResilientYouth #GWIForWomensSkills #EmpowerWomenThroughTraining



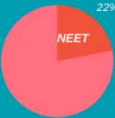
**World Youth Skills Day 2020**



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**Did You Know?**

**267 million young people** (aged 15-24) are not in employment, education or training (NEET), and many more endure substandard working conditions. (ILO 2020)



The global NEET rate for young women (31.1 %) is still more than **double** that for young men (13.9 %). (ILO 2020)

Men	
Women	

NEET

**Sustainable Development Goals**

**4 QUALITY EDUCATION**

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

**5 GENDER EQUALITY**

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**


Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

**10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**

Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Skills: A Valuable Asset For A Resilient Youth**

In times of pandemic crisis, it is urgent to acknowledge **young people's skills as central to all countries' possibility of resilience**. A specific focus must be put on young women and girls, whose immense potential remains **highly neglected**. Investing in education and especially in **technical and vocational education and training (TVET)** is critical to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular **SDG 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 targets**.



*GWI World Youth Skills Day 2020 Infographic. To view and download the full infographic, please click on the infographic preview above.*

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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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 76<sup>th</sup> 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.

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## — Call for applications —

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### **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](#).

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## — Give the gift of empowerment —

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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 NFAs 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.

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## — Meet our Summer Intern 2020 —

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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.



*Sophie Husser, GWI  
Summer Intern 2020*

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## — Other information and events —

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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, 45 <sup>th</sup> 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

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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.

**Graduate Women International**

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