

The work of the Fund can greatly change the lives of those women graduate refugees it helps, as the following examples illustrate:

**An Ethiopian refugee now living in Australia** was unable to find employment in her field of agricultural science without upgrading her computer skills. The AFUW Queensland branch was able to help her find an appropriate course and offer her moral support, and the Fund covered her tuition fees for business computer courses.

**Five refugees from Asia, Africa and Latin America**, all now living in Switzerland, were funded for a German language course. Their professions include dentistry, chemistry, management, and accounting. They are all taking part in a program which will teach them how to set up their own businesses in Switzerland.

**A Kurdish refugee completing her Master's degree** in Political Science in eastern Canada received a small grant for books. She joined the local branch of the Canadian Federation of University Women, and found them very helpful in her transition to living in a different culture.

**An Afghani medical doctor in Canada** was not allowed to practise medicine there. Through the fund, she received a tuition grant for courses in ultrasound technology, and she hopes to continue her studies so that she qualifies as a nurse. In the meantime, she works part-time and studies, while looking after her three children. Her husband, also a doctor, is studying to pass Canadian medical examinations, so she has to help support the family.

**Another doctor, a Russian Jewish single mother**, was granted refugee status in Germany. The fund helped pay for tuition and childcare so that she could take a six-month course and prepare for examinations to qualify to practise medicine in Germany.

**A Sudanese refugee in Egypt** who has a Bachelor of Science and was earning a very low wage teaching primary students, was given a tuition grant to take some computer courses. With her upgraded skills, she hopes to get a better job and help her younger siblings who are still in southern Sudan.

## History

The Fund was established in 1936 as the GWI Emergency Fund (later called the Relief Fund) to help university women who had been deprived of the right to work, and in many cases, the right to live in their native countries.

In honour of many years of service given by long-term Convener Mme Blanche Hegg Hoffet of Switzerland, who was particularly responsible for raising money and distributing assistance during and after the Second World War, the Fund adopted her name in 1968.

### REMEMBER!

The work of the Hegg Hoffet Fund cannot be done without your generous help and support every year!



### MEMBERS OF THE HEGG HOFFET COMMITTEE

Terry Oudraad	Netherlands	Convener
Joy Dunsheath	New Zealand	
Margaret Giles	Australia	
Anne Harris Hennon	France	
Natalia Tikhonov Sigrist	Switzerland	

*Hegg Hoffet Fund*  
for Displaced Women Graduates



National Federation of University Women  
**Graduate Women International (GWI)**  
Chemin du Grand Montfleury, 48, CH-1290  
Versoix, Switzerland Tel: (+41 22) 731 23 80;  
gwi@graduatewomen.org  
Website: www.graduatewomen.org



**Graduate Women International (GWI)**



If you would like to help to support your graduate sisters worldwide, please complete this donation form.

*Your support of the Hegg Hoffet Fund would be most appreciated.*

## Purpose

**The Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates** assists graduate women (in special cases tertiary women students) who have been displaced as a result of war, political upheaval or other serious emergencies. Some are fleeing gender-related atrocities in their home countries, such as rape, honour crimes, forced marriage and female mutilation. Others fear for their lives because of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Arriving in a new country, most face complex challenges to integration, among them language difficulties, unemployment, rejection of foreign qualifications and the need for retraining.

GWI's Hegg Hoffet Fund provides short term grants for refresher courses for re-entry into the candidates' professional field (or if that is not possible, training courses leading to some other employment), and for language training and other courses to assist with integration into their new countries. In addition to financial assistance, GWI's national and local groups also provide the graduate refugees with moral support to help them to adjust to life in a different country.

In the case of serious natural disasters, GWI's national federations and associations may apply for short-term grants on behalf of university women or women students within their countries who have suffered hardship due to the disaster and who wish to continue their work or studies.

Recent Fund beneficiaries have fled turmoil in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America and received asylum in Europe, North America, Australia, and some African countries.

## How can you help?

GWI member fundraising efforts for the Hegg Hoffet Fund include shops at conference, auctions, and luncheons. However, it is imperative to receive donations all the time.

National federations and associations, local groups, and individual members or other supporters can help us continue this important work by making a one-time or annual donation.

To support the Fund now, use the donation form in this leaflet or go to the Hegg Hoffet website for online payment methods: <http://www.graduatwomen.org/what/hegg-hoffet/support/>

## Grant Applications

Requests for funding should be submitted in English on the Fund's official forms. These can be obtained by writing to the Convener:

**Terry Oudraad**

Graduate Women International,  
Chemin du Grand Montfleury, 48  
CH-1290 Versoix, Geneva, Switzerland

E-mail:  
[hegghoffet@gwi.graduatwomen.org](mailto:hegghoffet@gwi.graduatwomen.org)

Grant application forms can also be downloaded from the GWI website at: <http://www.graduatwomen.org/what/hegg-hoffet/application/>

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel/Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my contribution of \_\_\_\_\_

USD  EUR  CHF

I commit to contributing the same for the next \_\_\_\_\_ year(s).

Cheques and bank drafts payable in US dollars, Euros or Swiss francs (CHF) can be sent to:

**Graduate Women International**  
**The Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates**  
UBS  
12 place Cornavin  
CH-1201 Geneva, Switzerland

Account number: 0233-10560475.1  
IBAN: CH6000233233105604751  
BIC/SWIFT: UBSWSCHZH80A

