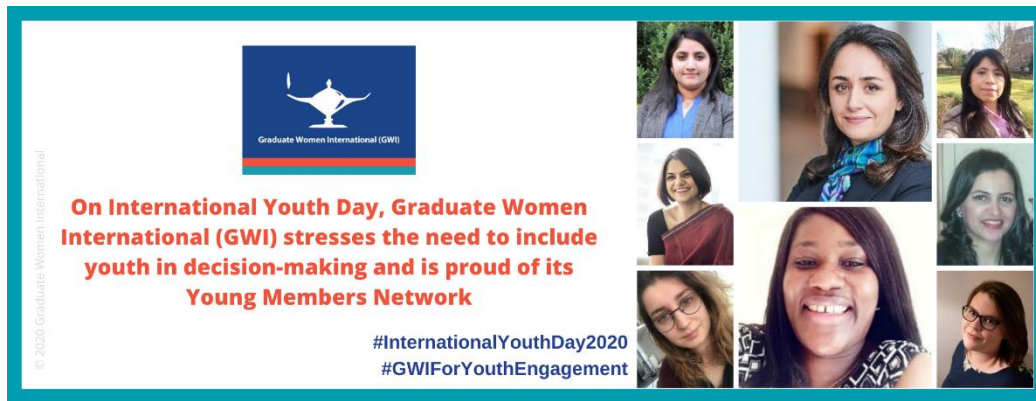




GW I UPDATE – 5 August 2020



On International Youth Day, Graduate Women International (GWI) aligns with the United Nations (UN) to celebrate “Youth engagement for Global Action” and acknowledges youth’s crucial role in building a better future by showcasing its Young Members Network (YMN).

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— Graduate Women International News —

International Youth Day: GWI showcases its YMN

Young people aged 15 to 24 represent more than 1.2 billion people in the world, namely about 1/6 of the world’s population (UN World Youth Report 2020). The COVID-19 crisis and the equivalent of 155 million full-time jobs lost in the first four months of 2020 (International Labour Organisation) create a challenging job market for this section of society. International Youth Day (IYD) was designated in 1999 by the UN to address such challenges of young people and to celebrate the power of youth. Today, GWI aligns with the UN to celebrate “Youth engagement for Global Action” and acknowledges youth’s crucial role in building a better future by showcasing its YMN in a newsworthy [press release](#). “GWI’s international advocacy has broadened, placing our young members at the forefront of our actions”, says GWI President, Terry Oudraad. “If we are to hope for a better world after the current crisis, we must ensure that youth participation, and especially women’s and girls’, is the norm for all future decisions at all levels”, she continues. Click [HERE](#) to read to the [full GWI International Youth Day Press release](#). We invite you to also participate in the GWI social media campaign on the GWI [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

— GWI Member News —

BFWG Hold Successful, Virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM)



Like many GWI National Federations and Associations (NFA), the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) is successfully continuing its activities remotely during the pandemic. On 19 July, the final session of a successful 'virtual' AGM took place via Zoom attended by 27 BFWG members. The AGM kicked off via email in the weeks prior to this final Zoom meeting. On this occasion, Patrice Wellesley-Cole, BFWG President (top row two in from the right) welcomed incoming President Jasmit Kaur Phull

(Middle column second row up) and announced Sudha Srivastava (Top row, second from the left) as the newly co-opted Alternate Convener of International Relations (CIR). During the AGM, BFWG adopted a system of 'One woman, One vote' starting in 2021. GWI commends BFWG for their remarkable work and supports their progressive resumption of activities. We are also extending our deepest gratitude to the many BFWG members who are donating their returned AGM registration fees towards the [GWI Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates](#). With your generous support, the GWI Hegg Hoffet Fund provides assistance to graduate women who have been displaced as a result of war, political upheaval or other serious emergencies. Thank you!

Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (UWA) Pune's Working Women's Hostel

The Working Women's Hostel was the most prestigious project taken up in UWA Pune's Silver Jubilee Year in 1975. It was a Herculean task to raise funds required to procure the land and then for building the structure, but the dedicated and driven members made it happen through their collective efforts. The first batch of working women came in on 7th February 1979 at the inauguration, at the hands of the wife of the then Governor of Maharashtra. Since then, our hostel, which is one of the first of its kind in the city, has been providing a 'home away from home' to the working women who come from different cities, and take up jobs in Pune, but cannot afford the upscale accommodation.



UWA Pune' Working Women's Hostel

The Hostel is located in a quiet and serene atmosphere near a small hill, has clean airy rooms, and is equipped with all modern facilities. It also has 24 hours security and accommodates up to 80 women at a time, with single, double, or triple rooms and dormitories. The hostel also has a computer lab, a library, and a recreation room.

The residents are encouraged to relocate after 3 / 4 years, because by then they are familiar with the city, have made friends, and so can find new accommodation for themselves, thus creating space for the other young girls coming from outside.

“The working women who move out of our hostel and settle down in life, invariably have fond memories of their stay in our hostel and become our public relations persons in flesh and blood. In addition, this project generates funds which we utilize to carry out our varied other social projects, as well”, says Dr Meera Bondre, Managing Trustee UWA Pune, an affiliate of Indian Federation of University Women’s Associations (IFUWA) Convener GWI Membership Committee.

GWI warmly thanks Dr Bondre for this contribution.

— Advocacy —

GWI: World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is an insidious crime against education

On World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (TIP), GWI voices global outrage against TIP – an insidious crime against women and girls right to education. The observance day adopted by the UN member states in 2013 aims to raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking, a crime that exploits women, children and men for numerous purposes including forced labour and sex (UN definition). GWI encourages NFAs to widely distribute the [press release](#) and [infographic](#) and to participate in sharing its social media campaign on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

GWI International Day of the World’s Indigenous peoples 2020 awareness-raising campaign

International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples is 9 August. This year’s theme, [COVID-19 and Indigenous peoples’ resilience](#) highlights how Indigenous people are seeking their own solutions to this pandemic. They are taking action and using traditional knowledge and practices such as voluntary isolation, and sealing off their territories, as well as preventive measures. As the fight against the spread of the pandemic continues, it is more important than ever to safeguard Indigenous people and their knowledge. Indigenous people are, historically, among the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of people in the world. Increasingly though, the international community is recognising the need to promote the protection of their rights and the right to maintain their distinct cultures and ways of life. This year, GWI calls on all countries to protect and support Indigenous peoples. GWI strongly believes that Indigenous knowledge, particularly the knowledge of Indigenous women, is invaluable to the protection of the earth and its natural resources and biodiversity and that if we are to create sustainable societies we must respect Indigenous cultures and the rights of all Indigenous peoples. GWI extends this year’s message with an awareness-raising social media campaign and [infographic](#). GWI encourages NFAs to participate in spreading the message by sharing the infographic and the social media campaign on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Click [HERE](#) to access the [full infographic](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

Annual Full Day Discussion on the Rights of the Child

The 44th session of the Human Rights Council conducted its annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child in July with a panel discussion entitled “A healthy environment as a child rights concern: setting the scene”. Opening the discussion, Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, noted that now was a key opportunity to discuss the rights of the child in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic as

93 percent of children currently lived in environments where air pollution exceeded World Health Organization guidelines, making them more susceptible to air-borne infections such as COVID-19. Civil society speakers noted that at the time when the world was in a deep health crisis, attention must not be diverted from the environmental emergency that undermined children's rights. For instance, girls were more likely than boys to be pulled from schools to work in households and be sold or trafficked in post-natural disaster scenarios. Speakers also noted that the COVID-19 pandemic reiterated the importance of protecting the most vulnerable, including children and girls, as well as persons with disabilities. Learn more [HERE](#).

Submit your story for the online book commemorating UN Women's 10th anniversary!

For the 10th anniversary of UN Women, civil society is dedicating a chapter of an online book, Thank you, United Nations, to share reflections on how UN Women has impacted the life of women and girls around the world, its achievements as well as hopes and dreams for UN Women's future. Contribution is free, easy and can be uploaded in any language. This site is open for submission through 30 August 2020 giving time to complete the book for presentation to the high-level members during UN General Assembly. As graduate women and members of GWI, the leading organisation working for the empowerment of all women and girls through education at the highest level, your contribution is valuable. Share your story, photos and wishes to UN Women and join the celebration today by clicking [HERE](#).

— Call for applications —

Soroptimist Live your Dream Award

Soroptimist is a global volunteer organisation that provides women and girls with access to the education and training they need to achieve economic empowerment. Every year, the organisation distributes more than \$ 2.6 million in education grants to about 1.700 women all over the world. The Live Your Dream Awards offers three levels of cash awards to cover for tuition costs, books, transportation and childcare. Eligible candidates can submit their application between **1 August – 15 November**. More information can be found [here](#).

Funds for Women Graduates (FfWG) Theodora Bosanquet Bursary (TBB)

The FfWG TBB is offered annually to women graduates whose research in History or English Literature requires a short residence in London in the summer. It provides accommodation in a hall of residence for up to four weeks between end of June and mid-September. The closing date for applications is 31 October of the preceding year. [Learn more 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 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.

— Did you know? —

Did you know? The fostering of friendship and sharing of knowledge and ideas between graduate women around the world has been one of the GWI cornerstones since its creation more than a 100 years ago. As part of its work to bring GWI into its second century and modernise actions, in September 2020 it will launch the GWI Member Marketplace, a GWI Twinning programme application for peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and connecting. Through this new initiative, GWI aims to provide an innovative avenue for members across the world to foster friendship, share skills set and expertise. The idea is simple: members will offer free online sessions relating to their area knowledge and expertise to other members, and thus contribute to building experience and fostering friendship. From language lessons, to thematic classes or crafts lessons, opportunities for learning and sharing are abound! Additional details and registration forms will be found on the GWI website in the coming weeks. In the meantime, [visit the GWI website to learn more about twinning](#).

— Other information and events —

9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Global
12 August	International Youth Day, Global
8 September	International Literacy Day, Global
14 Sept-2 October	Human Rights Council, 45 th 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 Teacher's Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Global
24 October	United Nations Day, Global
17 November	International Student's Day, Global
19 November	World Toilet Day, Global
20 November	Universal Children's Day, Global
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, 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.

Graduate Women International

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