



GWI UPDATE – 16 September 2020



GWI Membership Marketplace

A GWI programme for peer-to-peer knowledge sharing and connection.



Graduate Women International (GWI) is excited to launch the Membership Marketplace is an innovative peer-to-peer and NFA-to-NFA programme for members across to world to foster friendship, share skills set and expertise.

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GWI Membership Marketplace Launch Webinar

On Saturday, 12 September 2020, GWI officially launched the GWI Membership Marketplace through a webinar drawing 173 registrations from GWI members in 36 countries. The GWI Membership Marketplace comprises two streams, an innovative peer-to-peer stream and an NFA-to-NFA (National Federation and Association) stream. The Membership Marketplace is a place where GWI members across to world to foster friendship, share skills set and expertise. The peer-to-peer idea is simple: members will offer free online activities 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 are available on the GWI Website. The NFA-to-NFA stream offers GWI the opportunity to join together for a project beneficial to both NFAs and that can be replicated for other NFAs. Click [HERE](#) and join the [GWI Membership Marketplace programme!](#)

Change in your NFA Leadership? Let us know!

Keeping NFA details up to date is important for our communications and the continued collaboration and support between GWI and our international membership. If you are a President or Coordinator of International Relations of a GWI NFA, we please kindly ask that you fill in the GWI NFA contact details collection form on the GWI website to let us know of any recent change of leadership in your NFA. Click [HERE](#) to access the form.

— GWI Member News —

University Women's Association Singapore (UWAS) holds 2020 Virtual Annual General Meeting

As all GWI NFAs, the activities of UWAS have been curtailed due to the current Covid-19 pandemic. Where possible, members and volunteers have adapted to carrying out as many of UWAS's activities as possible using various online platforms. Accordingly, and admirably, on 25 July 2020, UWAS held its first ever virtual AGM. The 2019 UWAS Board turned up in person, fully masked, to coordinate the virtual AGM from the headquarters of the Singapore Council of Women's Organisations (SCWO). The event was live streamed to UWAS members who had earlier signed up to attend the online AGM via email. Nominations for the new 2020-2022 Executive Committee had been submitted earlier via email and this facilitated the smooth progress of the election of the new office bearers. President, Irene Boey, welcomed and congratulated incoming President, Christina Tian, as well as the incoming Executive Committee members. GWI applauds UWAS for adapting their Annual General Meeting to these challenging times. Also, GWI commends their remarkable work and supports their progressive resumption of activities and appreciates former UWAS Board members for their work and commitment towards the empowerment of women and girls through education. Congratulations to new Executive Committee. We wish you a very successful mandate and look forward to continued collaboration with our members in Singapore. Click [HERE](#) to learn more and [read the full report of the UWAS 2020 AGM](#).

Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA) Centenary

IFUWA was officially founded on 24 July 1920 and as such has been contributing for more than a century to the promotion of safe and equal access to life long education for all women and girls in India. IFUWA celebrated its centenary on 23 August 2020. Due to the current pandemic, the celebrations were organised digitally for the first time in the history of IFUWA, thanks to the efforts of the IFUWA Vadodara team. More than 100 members attended the celebration and others joined in on Facebook where the event was broadcast live. To mark this milestone, IFUWA started a Centenary Scholarship and a centenary project grant and released an exclusive kathak dance performance by Nikita Bedekar, in the honour of all the achievements of IFUWA members past, present and future. The lyrics were written by Phoola Kaul and



IFUWA Centenary Participants

Dr. Kalyani Bondre composed and performed this exclusive tribute song. Click [HERE](#) to view and share the video. GWI Past President, Geeta Desai, and GWI Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, contributed to the celebrations by sending congratulatory video messages. GWI applauds IFUWA for producing their successful centenary in the midst of the current COVID-19 challenges. To learn more about IFAW's recent projects and achievement, we invite you to take a look at some notable national level projects implemented by IFUWA associations in the last triennium, including a menstrual hygiene for girls and livelihood for rural women programme, manufacturing biodegradable sanitary napkins, www.sakhi-vatsalya.org; a "Maths, Yes we can programme", encouraging girls to learn maths, www.mathsyeswecan.com; a programme for the elimination of sexual harassment in the workplace, started by UWA Pune, www.uwapune.com; and a "Coronaquilt Project", promoting self-care through crafts activities for members during lockdown, www.coronaquiltproject.com.

Panamanian Association of University Women to hold webinar on Panamanian advances for women since the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995

On 20 September the Panamanian Association of University Women (AMUP), in conjunction with the GWI Regional Group, [Latin American Association of University Women \(FLAMU\)](#), will hold a webinar on Panamanian advances towards the rights of women since the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995. Dilsia Ayllene, former past President AMUS will deliver the keynote addresses with the current President, Jazmeira Cabrera, serving as host. For more information and to participate, please contact Noemi Castillo, noemilcastillo@gmail.com.

— Advocacy —

GWI reminds States of their commitment to women as means to building sustainable peace

On 21 September, GWI joins the international community in observing the International Day of Peace. The COVID-19 crisis has ravaged the entire world. Peace processes are upended in every geographical region. On International Day of Peace, established in 1981 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly as a global day of non-violence and ceasefire, GWI seizes the opportunity to remind Member States of their commitment to the 2000 landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325 that specifies the vital role of women in peacebuilding and stresses the importance of their equal participation in all peacebuilding efforts. Aligning with this year's UN theme "Shaping peace together", GWI underscores that peace cannot be achieved without women's participation. Women represent a minimal share of the people involved in peace processes: they made up only 3% of mediators, 4% of signatories, and 13% of negotiators of peace processes between 1992 and 2018, according to UN Women.

On the occasion of International Day of Peace celebrated annually on 21 September, GWI is releasing a press release urging Member States, institutions and peacebuilding organisations to include women as actors of peace on local, national, and international levels. Alongside the press release GWI will run an awareness raising [social media campaign](#). Click [HERE](#) to read, download and share the GWI 2020 International Day of Peace press release. We also invite you to share GWI's social media campaign running from 19 to 21 September on the GWI [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI at the 45th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC45)

HRC45 is currently being held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. The session opened on 14 September and will close on 6 October 2020. GWI's [written statement](#) addressing HRC45 on Distance learning and digital technologies as a strategic and challenging turn towards inclusive access to education for women and girls has been accepted by the United Nations (UN) Geneva and is now available on the [GWI website](#). The statement is co-signed by Canadian Federation of University Women, Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO), Latter-day Saint Charities, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Women-Graduates USA, and Zonta International and stresses the need for governments to ensure that e-learning will not broaden existing digital inequalities. GWI acknowledges the promising possibilities of distance learning as a means towards equal, safe and inclusive access to education for all and especially critical for women and girls. At the same time, however, GWI warns that implementing distance learning necessitates overcoming crucial challenges. The statement makes strong recommendations about dedicating resources to ensure decent learning conditions for all students displaced from their education, especially to women and girls. We invite you to read and share the statement [HERE](#).

— Call for applications —

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. Contributing is free, easy and can be uploaded in any language. This site is open for submission and the final book will be presented 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](#).

Mariam K. Chamberlain Fellowship

The Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR), located in Washington, D.C, conducts and communicates research to inspire public dialogue, shape policy, and improve the lives and opportunities of women of diverse backgrounds, circumstances, and experiences. In honor of pioneering feminist economist Mariam K. Chamberlain (MKC), IWPR offers a fellowship in public policy to a promising scholar each year. The Mariam K. Chamberlain Fellow contributes to a variety of research projects to inform policies affecting women. Applicants should have at least a bachelor's degree, preferably in a social science discipline (such as sociology, psychology, education, or public policy), statistics, economics, mathematics or women's studies. Graduate work is not required. Compensation for the fellowship is \$33,300 before taxes and deductions over the 9-month period. Application timeline to be announced [HERE](#). Applicants selected for interviews will be contacted by mid-April or earlier. More information about application requirements is available [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of education —

Only two days left to join GWI's fundraising effort for women's and girls' education by participating in the [GlobalGiving Little by Little Matching Campaign](#)! GlobalGiving is the fundraising platform, which [GWI uses for its fundraising effort](#). At some various times of the year, GlobalGiving launches special fundraising campaigns to match the donations. And guess what? The next [Little by Little Matching Campaign](#) is about to start! From 14 to 18 September included, GlobalGiving will match 50% of any donations made in this five-day period at a value of \$50 or less. GWI will participate in this campaign to fundraise for '[Train 50 women teachers in Uganda to educate 1000s](#)'. Take this opportunity to join the fundraising effort, click [HERE](#) to donate from 14 September.



14-18 SEPTEMBER
2020



— Did you know? —

Did you know that the GWI bi-monthly Update Newsletter provides outstanding information about GWI advocacy work and news about its members to a readership of nearly 5000 subscribers across the globe? GWI encourages and thanks you for sharing the subscribe link below with colleagues, friends and family who would be interested in following the exclusive biweekly updates on GWI advocacy work with the UN and its agencies, social media campaigns, member activities and NFA news. Please share this link today to encourage participation in GWI's international network of gender equality champions and supporters of advancing the rights of women and girls through education! [Sign Up Now Here](#)

— Other information and events —

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 Students' 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
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, Global
9 December	Anti-Corruption Day, Global

10 December Human Rights Day, Global
18 December International Migrants Day, Global
20 December International Human Solidarity Day, 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

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

E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org

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