









GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL TOOLKIT

International Day of the Girl

11 OCTOBER 2020







TAKE ACTION! SPEAK UP FOR GIRLS!

On International Day of the Girl (IDOG) 2020, Graduate Women International (GWI) engages with the global community to amplify their voices for girl's rights. **Join us today and take action!** This ready-to-use toolkit was designed by GWI to help you achieve positive outcomes that promote girls' empowerment. This toolkit contains:

- IMPACTFUL FACTS AND INFORMATION: Data is essential to understand the state of girls' status and rights around the world and act accordingly. GWI has collected a variety of facts and figures to facilitate awareness-raising and advocacy action for girls' rights, equality of opportunities and safe access to education at the highest level.
- **ADVOCACY IDEAS**: this toolkit also includes a wide range of concrete and adaptable ideas to influence decisions and make a change in girls' lives at the local and national level. *Gather with your fellow advocates, join efforts and spread these ideas widely*.
- IDOG PROUD GWI MEMBER BANNER: GWI is the leading international organisation advocating for women's empowerment through education at the highest level. The more we are, the stronger our collective voice and actions are. Share the banner on social media, with your network or print it out to display at your window and distribute widely within your community!
- SOCIAL MEDIA PACKAGE: GWI has designed a series of social media graphics with impactful facts and advocacy ideas. Social media are a good means to reach a wide and diverse audience and promote our work and values globally.



THEIR VOICES, THEIR FUTURE: UPLIFTING GIRLS' RIGHTS GLOBALLY

IDOG, also known as International Day of the Girl Child or Day of Girls, was adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2011. Since then, each year on 11 October, the focus is put on girls' rights and potential, but also on the obstacles, inequalities and pervasive gendered barriers and challenges they continue face globally. COVID-19 is raising much concern about continuing education. GWI is intensely focused on the COVID-19 crisis and on working for all girls to continue their schooling safely, in the classroom and online.

This year, GWI aligns with the UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to celebrate girls' abilities to act for their own fate with the theme "My voice, our equal future".(2)

GWI highlights the need to include girls in all decision-making processes as critical stakeholders with the power to design a better world. The **more than 1.1 billion girls in the world** (3) must be listened to and given the opportunity to build their own futures.





Girls' status in the world has improved since the <u>Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action</u>. Yet, now is not the time to abandon our collective efforts. Today more than ever, **GWI emphasises the need to build on progress made in advancing girls' rights**

and fully invest in girls' and young women's potential.



Girls born today can expect to live **nearly eight more years**, on average, than girls born in 1995.

(UNICEF 2020)

When it comes to education today, fewer girls are out of school. Nearly **two in three girls** are enrolled in secondary school compared to one in two in 1998.



(UNICEF 2020)

Worldwide, four out of five girls complete primary school but **only two out of five** complete upper secondary school.





(UNICEF 2020)



Nearly **one in four** adolescent girls aged 15–19 years globally are neither in education, employment nor training compared to 1 in 10 boys of the same age.

(UNICEF 2020)



(UNESCO 2020)

Despite Female Genital Mutilations (FGM) being internationally recognized as a human rights violation, **one in three** adolescent girls aged 15–19 years are still cut today in 31 practising countries with national data on prevalence (UNICEE 2020)





THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF GIRLS' EDUCATION

Girls today are more likely to be out of school than boys due to pervasive and far reaching gender-based barriers such as poverty, child marriage, GBV and families favouring boys when it comes to education. (4) Yet, educated girls make fairer societies and participate in their development.

Here are some relevant and usable facts about why all societies and governments should focus on girls' education:



Girls' education strengthens economies and creates jobs.

Millions of educated girls, means more working women with the potential to add up to \$12 trillion USD to global growth.

(Malala Fund 2020)

Pre-COVID-19, every additional year of primary school increases girls' eventual wages by 10-20 percent. It also encourages them to marry later and have fewer children, and leaves them less vulnerable to violence. (UN Women 2012)





When a country gives all its children secondary education, they **cut their risk of war by**half

(Malala Fund 2020)

Gender-equitable education systems can contribute to reductions in school-related gender-based violence and harmful practices, including child marriage and female genital mutilation. (UNICEF 2020)





Communities are more stable — and can recover faster after conflict — when girls are educated.

(Malala Fund 2020)

WHEN WE KEEP GIRLS IN SCHOOL, IN CLASSROOM OR E-LEARNING:

- Average lifetime earnings of girls dramatically increase
- National growth rates rise
- Child marriage rates decline
- Child mortality rates fall
- Maternal mortality rates fall
- Child stunting rates drop
 (UNICEF 2020)







GET INVOLVED WITH GWI

On IDOG 2020, you can make a difference in girls' lives and contribute to the promotion of their rights at the local, national and international level by joining the efforts of GWI and our NFAs:

• Advocate for girls' rights by joining forces with a GWI affiliate in your area.

Click HERE to learn more about our membership and join us:



• Subscribe to the GWI Update newsletter.

<u>Click HERE to subscribe to the Update</u> newsletter:



 Follow, Like and Share GWI on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and LinkedIn. We post daily and run comprehensive gender campaigns.

Click on the logos to find our social media pages:









SO MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE. ARE YOU READY TO TAKE ACTION **FOR GIRLS EVERYWHERE?**

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many events on International Day of the Girl are likely to be held online. Take this opportunity to participate in any online training or information session that might be of interest to you, inform yourself, and spread the word around you!
- As this year's theme aims to give a voice to girls themselves, find out about youth-led events on IDOG and listen directly to girls' vision for their future.
- Share stories of inspiring adolescent girls or girl-led organisations who are developing innovative solutions or leading efforts towards positive social change in their communities and nations. Let's amplify their leadership, actions and impact to inspire others.





TIME FOR ACTION! GWI PROUD MEMBER BANNER

Even with the many recent achievements towards girls' empowerment, much more remains to be accomplished at the local, national, regional and international level. GWI therefore encourages all members, partners and friends to celebrate IDOG on 11 October 2020.

Beginning 9 October, plan to **FOLLOW**, **PARTICIPATE and SHARE the GWI social media campaign** that will offer three daily posts for Facebook. Twitter and LinkedIn each aimed to educate, galvanise support and celebrate the potential of girls worldwide.

As a means to these goals, GWI offers this comprehensive and impactful campaign materials. Take Action for Girls!



IDOG PROUD MEMBER BANNER 2020



International Day of the Girl 2020 MY VOICE, OUR EQUAL FUTURE

Educated girls drive positive change in their families, their communities, and the world over.

Join GWI in advocating for girls' safe access to quality education and uplifiting their voices and rights globally.



The 2020 IDOG Proud Member Banner is a versatile and impactful resource that can be used digitally or printed to showcase your commitment to girls' rights and promote GWI memberhsip within your community. Click on the link below to view, download and share the banner!

Click HERE to download the GWI IDOG Proud Member Banner





Ready-to-use social media graphics

























Did you know?







Click HERE to download the full **GWI IDOG** comprehensive 2020 **Social Media Pack**



GO DIGITAL! ADVOCACY MATERIALS

GWI encourages the download and global sharing, on all platforms, of these ready-to-use social media graphics. A text version of each post is also available below: simply copy and paste to all social media platforms and join GWI in standing up with girls for their rights!

Did You Know? Worldwide, girls aged 5-9 and 10-14 spend 30 per cent and 50 per cent more of their time, respectively, on household chores than boys of the same age. This curtails girls' opportunities to enjoy the pleasures of childhood, including time to play, build networks social and focus on their education. (UNICEF 2020)

Did You Know? Around the world, 132 million girls are out of school. Nearly one in four adolescent girls aged 15-19 years globally are neither in education, employment nor training 10 bovs compared to 1 in of the same age. (UNICEF 2020)

Did You Know? Girls' education strengthens economies and creates jobs. Millions of educated girls, means more working women with the potential to add up to \$12 trillion USD to global growth. (Malala Fund 2020)

Advocacy Idea: Digital tools are source of empowerment for girls, as they provide easy access to information social media and networking, communication and expression. If you or someone in your community has specific digital skills, organise a special training for the girls in your community to learn how to use these tools at their advantage. Enquire about the possibility for girls to have access to a computer or a smartphone with the internet.

Advocacy Idea: Girls know more than anyone about the issues they face. Provide them with the opportunity to organise girls-led events as a means for them to take conscience of their capacities to take responsibilities and grow leadership abilities.

Advocacy Idea: Schools are a critical place for girls' empowerment. Yet, they are also sometimes places where gender-based violence (GBV) and discrimination occurs. Enquire about organisations providing prevention workshops on GBV and gender equality in schools and suggest the idea to your local schools leaders.





COMMIT TO GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

Since 1919, GWI acts for all girls' empowerment through education up to the highest levels. In **1978** GWI launched a programme first called the Counterpart Aid Programme and later renamed the **Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme,** in memory of Doctor Bina Roy. She was the first Asian President of the International Federation of University Women. She believed that friendly and supportive links should be forged among GWI affiliates to provide strong international solidarity, while encouraging and aiding the creation and implementation of projects.

This programme supports locally-developed and operated projects initiated by GWI NFA and that will galvanise and empower women and girls through education and leadership development. BRPID grants are awarded on a competitive basis to NFAs in countries with a Gross National Income of less than US\$12,616 per annum and who are fully paid members of GWI. All projects are in line with GWI's mission towards lifelong education, advancement and participation in leaderships and decision-making for women and girls.

BRPID projects are supported by donations from impact investors, personal contributions and our own member affiliates around the world. To date, nearly 60% of GWI's national federations and associations have participated in the programme, either as project sponsors or donor partners.

In the 2019-2020 round of funding, six projects were selected, among which no less than **four projects** specifically focused on girls' empowerment:

JOIN OUR EFFORTS TO UPHOLD GIRLS' RIGHT TO EDUCATION GLOBALLY

The Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID) is a grants mechanism of GWI that needs your financial support!

The Bina Roy projects are supported by donations from impact investors, personal contributions and our own member affiliates around the world.

Click HERE to DONATE to BRPID











NOW IS TIME TO LISTEN TO AND AMPLIFY GIRLS' VOICES

There have been improvements in girls' lives since the adoption of the Beijing Platform for Action. More and more are in school and literate, and fewer are getting married or becoming mothers early. However, figures show that even when girls are in school, many do not receive the necessary quality education allowing them to compete in the labour market. (5)

This is why GWI and its NFAs advocate not only for girls' access to education, but also insist on the importance of lifelong education and training. By sharing our togetherness in the fight for quality education, we demonstrate the dedication of our members and the efforts we put in for our cause. GWI considers that collective work will have a stronger impact in our communities. This year, girls' education has been challenged by the COVID-19 crisis, putting girls at higher risk of dropping out of school. This situation must urgently be addressed with serious investments from governments around the world.

Only **66 per cent** of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education. At the secondary level, the gap widens: **45 per cent** of countries have achieved gender parity in lower secondary education, and **25 per cent** in upper secondary education.

(UNESCO 2020)

The crisis has increased the risk of gender-based violence (GBV), FGM and child marriage. But it is time to consider that educated girls make more sustainable and resilient communities and families and improve the general economy and health.

The changing world, with the expansion of digital tools, provides new opportunities for girls to access information, communication but also expression. We must make room for girls' voices, ensuring that they equally benefit from all tools available to empower them. The global community must convey its efforts to the implementation of solutions with girls' voices at their centre.



GWI CALLS ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC)

GWI has maintained special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947 and works closely with the United Nations. GWI is an active participant every HRC held in Geneva.

GWI's HRC45 written statement, cosponsored by the Canadian Federation of University Women, Women Graduates - USA, FAWCO, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Latter-day Saint Charities, Inc, and Zonta International addresses **Distance learning and digital technologies as a strategical and challenging turn towards inclusive access to education for women and girls** stresses the need for governments to ensure that e-learning will not broaden existing digital inequalities. GWI acknowledges some promising possibilities of distance learning but, at the same time, GWI is concerned about e-learning challenges. Without access to the right technology, millions of learners worldwide, especially women and girls, will be unjustly prevented from the education opportunities offered by distant learning.

Our statement cosponsors:













Click HERE to read our full statement







GIRLS AND THE SDGS IN FOCUS



Globally, 1 in 5 girls globally are living in extreme poverty with less than US\$1.90 a day, a sum that leaves them without enough food, housing, health care or education. (6). **Education leading to good employment can break the cycle of poverty** for families, and for the next generations. According to research by the World Bank, for every extra year of primary education, a girl's individual wage rate increases by an average of 10–20%, and by 25% more with an extra year of secondary school. (7).

In the world, 60% of chronically hungry people worldwide are women and girls. UN Women has found that **when crises hit or food prices rise, girls and women often become household 'shock absorbers'**, spending more time finding food while consuming less food (and less nutritious food) than others. (8) Empowering girls, who are more likely to be affected by hunger, means that progress must be made on ensuring that girls are not suffering from deprivation.





There are 380,000 new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women every year: (9) Early pregnancy and childbirth also cause the death of 70,000 girls from developing countries each year. (10) **Investment in adolescent girls' health increases their chances of finishing secondary school and of finding productive work.** According to a study by UNESCO, if all girls had primary education, there would be 15% fewer child deaths. If all girls had a secondary education, child deaths would be cut in half, saving almost 3 million lives across the globe. (11)

Despite progress, as many as 48.1 per cent of girls remain out of school in some regions and 15 million girls are not in primary school right now, compared to 10 million boys. (12) Yet each year of secondary education reduces the likelihood of marrying as a child by five percentage points or more, and a child whose mother can read is 50% more likely to live past the age of five. (13) GWI highlights that a gender equitable education has crucial benefits for girls, by reducing the risk of gender-based violence, of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation. (14)





Worldwide, gender inequality remains an issue in dire need of being addressed as it deprives girls of their basic rights and opportunities. For example, in more than five of six countries with available data, girls aged 10–14 years are more likely than boys of the same age to spend 21 or more hours on household chores per week. The amount of time spent on chores curtails girls' opportunities to enjoy the pleasures of childhood, including time to play, build social networks and focus on their education. (15) GWI is committed to the realisation of SGD5 as a primordial issue.

In 80% of water-deprived households, women and girls carry the burden of water collection. Around 2.4 billion people use unimproved sanitation facilities that can pollute water and spread disease (16). Based on data across 24 Sub-Saharan countries from 2005 to 2012, an estimated 13.5 million women made round trips of more than an hour each day to collect water. Girls collecting water each day were also more vulnerable to pregnancy, exploitative labour and school dropout. (17) **GWI also reminds that poor access to sanitation causes girls to miss or drop out of school during menstruation.**

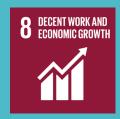






Girls tend to be more impacted by the **lack of access to affordable**, **reliable and safe sources of energy**. In spending more time around the home, women and girls accounted for 6 out of 10 of the 4.3 million premature deaths caused in 2012 by indoor air pollution. In households that cook with solid fuels, **girls spend 18 hours a week, on average, gathering fuel** (18), consequently reducing their opportunity to attend school and advance their education.

There is an urgent need to address economic and social inequalities in order to ensure girls a better future. Advancing women's equality to **close existing economic and social gender gaps could boost global GDP by \$12 trillion (or 11%) by 2025** if every country matched the progress of the fastest-improving country in their region (19). Moreover, Gender equality in employment gives women more decision-making power and enhances family well-being as they will typically invest more of their income than men in the health, nutrition and education of their children. (20)





research and innovation drive the knowledge economy, and are the backbone of future jobs, yet women alarmingly hold less than a third of research positions. **Only one in five countries** has reached gender parity in research. (21) GWI calls on stakeholders to encourage girls to undertake Scientific Technologic Engineering and Mathematic (STEM) studies, in order to reduce gender gaps. **Access to digital tools and the internet is also indispensable**: boys are 1.5 times more likely to own a phone than girls (22), at a time when phones can provide access to informational and educational materials and participate in their empowerment.

While growing income inequality can destabilise societies and harm entire nations, its most acute impact falls on those who are already disadvantaged, including girls and women. In 2016, UN Women reported that **household inequality between women and men may account for up to 30% of all income inequality.** (23) If girls are to have acces to equal futures, GWI notes that all kinds of inequalities between men and women, boys and girls, must be urgently targetted and eliminated in all spheres of societes.





By 2030, 60% of people worldwide will likely live in cities (24). But cities can be an opportunity as well as a challenging space for girls. For women and girls, **cities can open doors to improved services**, **better work and increased independence**. **Yet urban spaces can also pose unique threats to their safety and health**. (25) The development of sustainable cities must come with implementation of security for women and girls, sufficient and decent housing and access to improved sanitation.

Responsible consumption and production depends in part on reducing overconsumption. In the world, **1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted every year, while almost 2 billion people go hungry or undernourished.** (26) Among the most affected are girls. Inclusiveness must be at the core of the implementation of solutions to overconsumption, as it will provide a more equitable disribution of resources.





Climate change is one of the main challenges faced in today's world. Women and girls are even more vulnerable to climate change because they are more likely to be poor. They are more likely to die in a climate-fuelled disaster than men, and more likely to be displaced. (27) Women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die during a disaster. (28) Yet, only 0.01% of climate finance projects tackles both climate change and gender inequalities. (29) GWI calls on global recognition of the role of girls as crucial agents of change in climate action.





Nearly one billion people worldwide depend on oceans, seas and marine resources to survive. Women face the risks of ocean degradation with fewer assets and alternatives for income, and less resilience against mounting losses (30). GWI urges collective mindfulness that conservation and sustainable development with regard to marine resources is necessary in order to preserve our oceans and the rights of girls.

Around the world, 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods, yet forests are being felled at an astonishing rate. Women and girls, particularly those who are poor and living in rural areas, often depend on forests for fuel, fodder and food. Deforestation for some means spending many more hours each day walking long distances to secure these needs. Their limited ownership of land reduces their capacity to adapt to losses or to make decisions about how land is used. (31) GWI urges the global community to recognise girls' dependence on lands such as forests and to engage in protecting terrestrial ecosystems.





Whether in global, regional or national governance, women tend to be underrepresented in the governance of institutions. (32). Yet, women and girls face specific issues, which could be addressed more effectively by gender-equal leaderships. Globally, 35% of women experienced physical and/or sexual violence (36). Some 1 in 20 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 – around 13 million – have experienced forced sex. In times of both peace and conflict, adolescent girls face the highest risk of gender-based violence. (33) Peace cannot be achieved without girls being taken into account and stronger laws and institutions to protect them.

In 2015/16 around 40% of screened Official Development Assistance had some focus on gender equality, but **less than 0.5% supported women's equality organisations and institutions**. (34) GWI advocates for the recognition that the SDGs will not be achieved without international solidarity and collaboration, calling on the global community to foster strategic partnerships with governments, private companies and institutions which can act as tough leaders and financiers, **helping to provide lifelong learning opportunities and a place at the decision table for girls.**









About GWI

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) located in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in some 60 countries with our National Federation and Associations (NFAs) and Independent Members. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and maintains official relations with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

GWI operates with a small yet dedicated staff consisting of an Executive Director, a Junior Office Administrator, and a host of committed interns and volunteers. Additionally, our work is possible with the support of our tireless Board of Directors.



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GWI takes this opportunity to appreciate the <u>Women's United Nations Report Network (WUNRN)</u> for all of their reliable and relevant resources that are used and appreciated by so many.



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Empowering women and girls through lifelong education since 1919



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