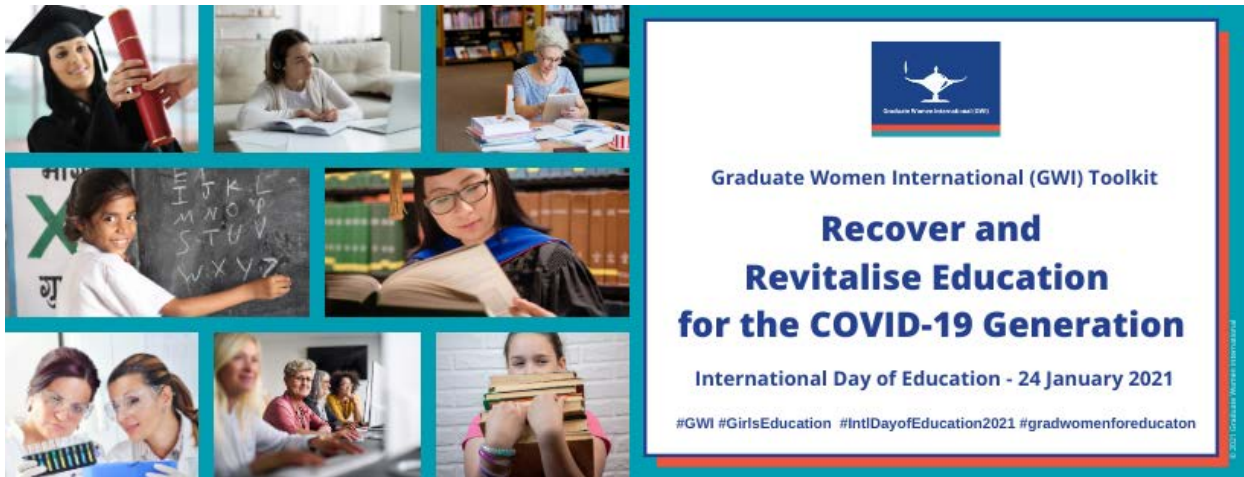




## GW I UPDATE – 20 January 2021



Graduate Women International (GWI) marks International Day of Education 2021 with an advocacy and social media campaign toolkit, chalk full of impactful and ready-to-use resources to be shared widely on all platforms.

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### — Graduate Women International News —

#### **GW I President, Terry Oudraad, 2020 year-end letter**

On 23 December 2020, GW I President Terry Oudraad addressed a year-end letter to the Graduate Women International (GWI) membership, highlighting the successes and challenges that marked 2020. Amongst those successes are GW I’s quick adaptation to the virtual world with the creation of several GW I webinar series, the creation of the GW I virtual Membership Marketplace and the introduction of the new GW I fundraising project,

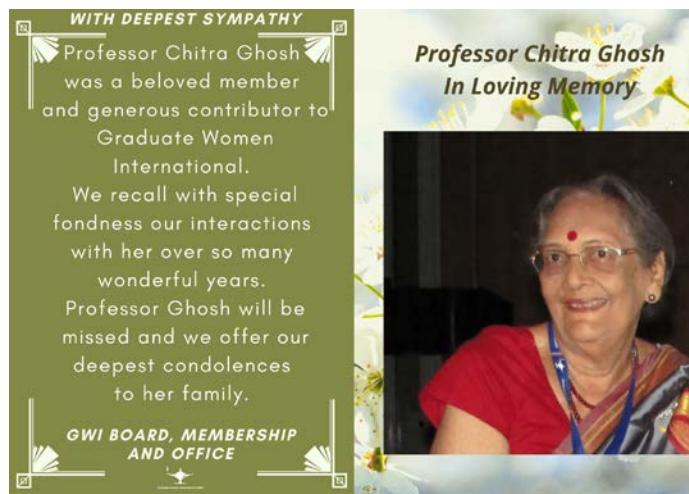
“GWI Girls Education for Brighter Futures”. Click [HERE](#) to access the full 2020 year-end letter from the GWI President.

### **GWI International Day of Education Advocacy and Social Media Toolkit**

International Day of Education was introduced in 2018 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to celebrate the role of education. The 2021 theme "Recover and Revitalise Education for the COVID-19 Generation" highlights the extraordinary and unprecedented education crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. To mark the day, GWI has issued a press release, [GWI celebrates education - echoes digital divide concerns](#). To further complement the [International Day of Education 2021 Press Release](#), GWI is releasing an [advocacy and social media toolkit](#) including impactful and easy-to-use resources. The toolkit raises awareness about the disturbing inequalities in education exacerbated globally by the COVID-19 pandemic. The toolkit guides in the creation of a strategic advocacy plan to promote education as a fundamental right and includes a comprehensive social media campaign for download. We [urge you to widely share this toolkit as a guide to promote education](#) and to raise awareness about the digital divide challenges. Beginning 22 January, plan to FOLLOW, LIKE, PARTICIPATE, and SHARE the GWI social media campaign that will offer three daily posts for [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

### **Outpouring of affection for IFUW Past President, Chitra Ghosh**

Professor Chitra Ghosh, Past President, IFUW beloved GWI and IFUWA member passed away 7 January 2021. Since sharing the news of her passing there has been an outpouring of affection for Professor Ghosh on the GWI networks. Members have recalled fond memories and acknowledged the vast contributions she made to education, IFUW and GWI. A leader in her own way, Professor Ghosh is remembered as an elegant, dignified woman and for her tireless work towards education and the empowerment of women. Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, expressed grief over Ghosh’s death Tweeting, “Professor Chitra Ghosh made pioneering contributions to academics and community service. I recall my interaction with her, when we discussed many subjects including declassification of files relating to Netaji Bose. Saddened by her demise. Condolences to her family. Om Shanti”.



### **Membership Marketplace – Sign Up Today!**



The GWI Membership Marketplace (MM) is a knowledge sharing platform for GWI members across the world to foster friendship, share skills set and expertise. The GWI MM comprises two streams, an innovative Peer-to-Peer stream and an NFA-to-NFA stream. The Peer-to-Peer concept is simple: members are offering free online activities relating to their area of expertise.

The opportunities for learning our boundless! These activities are currently being offered:

**Information Literacy Skills.** Information Literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information. Four classes, one per week, beginning February 2021 (dates to be set by participants.) Maximum 15 participants. Activity Leader: Wadzanai Chihombori Ndlovu, Zimbabwe Association of University Women. **Please register by 5 February 2021.**

**Early Career Skills: Early Career Skills.** This activity will prepare women for acquiring a job. The sessions will cover writing CV, cover letter and motivational letter; how to go through an interview, how to look for a job and basic English terms. Ten classes, twice per month beginning February 2021 (dates to be set by participants.) Maximum 15 participants. Activity Leader: Radwa Mohamed Abdel Fattah, Egyptian Association of Graduate Women. **Please register by 5 February 2021.**

**Back by popular demand! Spanish language lessons.** Learn basic Spanish through stories, vocabulary, songs, etc. Two hours per week, every Friday at 10am Bolivia time for two months beginning spring 2021. Activity Leader: Lenny Roxana Cáceres Frías, Federación Boliviana de Mujeres Profesionales Universitarias. **Please register by 28 February 2021.**

**Information and Communication Technology Literacy (ICT).** Information and Communication Technology Literacy (ICT). ICT literacy for beginners that includes definition, tools, and skills needed to build ICT proficiency. The sessions will also demonstrate how to empower women and girls through communication, education and advocacy. The sessions will begin February 2021. (dates will be set by participants.) Activity Leader: Sahar Gamal, GWI Independent Member, Egypt. **Please register by 5 February 2021.**

**Discussions on the role and challenges of female scientists in academia.** Discussions on the role and challenges of female scientists in academia. There will be five monthly sessions. Activity Leader: Veridiana Corderio, GWI Independent Member, Brazil. **Please register by 25 January 2021.** The first session will be held Saturday, 31 January 2021, 16h-17h (European Eastern Time) and will focus on women Visibility and Leadership in science today: discussing some statistical data. Based on statistical information, a discussion on women's presence in different areas of knowledge and the different regions of the globe. **Four other interesting sessions can be seen [HERE](#).**

**Positive Discipline Parenting.** A 6-week Positive Discipline Parenting course to be held Monday's from 25 January – 1 March 2021, 6-8pm Central European Time. Participants will learn tools and skills necessary to create a home environment built on encouragement, cooperation and mutual respect. Activity Leader: Malvina Segovia, Paraguay Federation of University Women. **Please register by 24 January 2021.**



Mondays from Jan 25 through Mar 1, 6-8 pm CET

**Equal Enjoyment of Older People: A Reading Club for the Elderly.** Based on a successful reading to the elderly programme run by Ms. Koninck, participants will learn how to duplicate the programme in their local area. There will be two sessions: 4-11 February 2021. The time will be set by participants. Activity Leader: Godelieve de Koninck, Canadian Federation of University Women. **Please register by 31 January 2021.**

**Activities begin SOON. Sign up today [HERE](#).**

The NFA-to-NFA stream, formerly called Twinning, is a virtual platform that offers GWI NFAs the opportunity to join together for a project beneficial to both NFAs and that can be replicated by other NFAs. This mutually agreed, two-way collaboration can be in the form of information exchange, training, or a joint project in different areas of research, advocacy campaign, or a legal policy issue. The NFA-to-NFA projects deepen the understanding of the mutually chosen subject and is beneficial to both the partners. Also, our strength and impact increases, and the outreach extended. Currently, projects are being run by IFUWA with EAGW. The project's basis is to conduct workshop webinars on the composition of an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) to investigate sexual harassment cases at the workplace and to raise awareness about types of harassment and its harmful effects. The other project is being held between the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and Graduate Women Netherlands

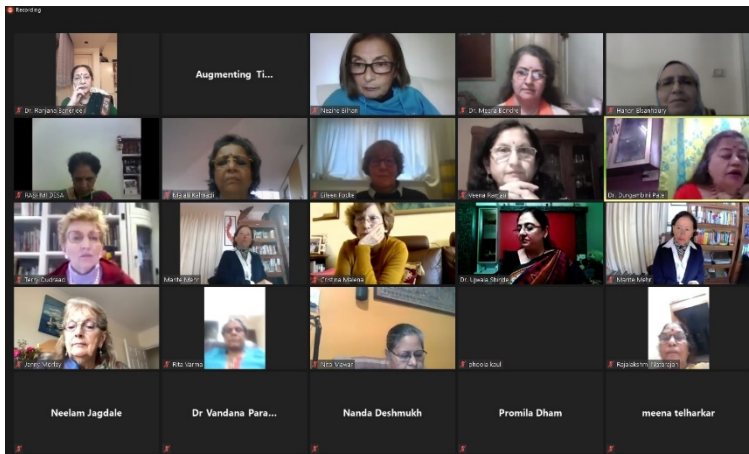
(GWI-NL) with the focus on Afghan peace negotiations: their perilous significance for women in Afghanistan. The project aims to raise awareness about the Afghanistan peace negotiations currently in progress and their significance for Afghan women and indeed their country.

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## — GWI Member News —

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### IFUWA and EAGW hold successful NFA-to-NFA project webinar on Sexual Harassment



As part of the Membership Marketplace NFA-to-NFA programme, IFUWA along with EAGW successfully conducted an exclusive webinar on ‘Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace ... Prohibition, Prevention, and Redressal’. The webinar, announced in the 11 November GWI Update, was held on 21 November 2020, thus aligning with the GWI 2020 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (16 Days of Activism), held annually from 25 November to 10 December. This online event opened a unique and international safe working place that will build on the knowledge, expertise and experience of both

EAGW and IFUWA members and help to promote innovative methods and best practices to prevent sexual harassment of women in the workplace. Many GWI members from all around the world join the event and concluding remarks were by GWI President, Terry Oudraad, and GWI Vice President Membership, Eileen Focke-Bakker. **GWI commends IFUWA and EAGW on the success of this inspiring event that kicks off a promising and impactful NFA to NFA programme.** Click [HERE](#) to read a full report of the event, courtesy of Meera Bondre, IFUWA Coordinator of International Relations (CIR).

### On the heels of the 16 Days of Activism, IFUWA holds online event on Women’s Human Rights

On 21 December 2020, IFUWA members gathered for a webinar on the protection of Women’s Human Rights. This online event built on the success of the IFUWA and EAGW webinar and provided an opportunity for members to celebrate Human Rights Day and reflect on the achievements of 2020 16 of Activism. Dr. Ranjana Banerjee, IFUWA President, opened the webinar with an address highlighting that women’s rights are human rights. Dr Banerjee stressed the urgent need for action to safeguard women’s fundamental human rights if we, as a global society, are to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’s vision of a more just, resilient and sustainable world. The guest speaker for the event was Ms. Jyothika Kalra, member of IFUWA, advocate at the Supreme court of New Delhi and member of the Indian National Human Rights’ Commission in New Delhi. Click [HERE](#) to read a full report of the event, courtesy of Meera Bondre, IFUWA CIR.



## ASFDU joins 2020 16 Days of Activism movement

In December 2020, Senegalese Association of University Women (ASFDU) members gathered forces with local Senegalese NGOs and marked the 16 Days of Activism global movement with a four-day programme of events raising awareness of the destructive impact of Gender-Based Violence on women's lives and fundamental rights. Amongst other speakers who participated in the four conferences and get together, the Dean and President of the University Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba (UCAB) joined the audience to highlight the importance of gender equality in education and all areas of public and private life. GWI is inspired by the ASFDU's vital contribution to the elimination of GBV in Senegal and their capacity to mobilise support and raise public awareness.



## Cynthia Burek, British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG), joins UNESCO IGP Science Board

GWI Congratulates Cynthia Burek, British Federation of University Women for her appointment to UNESCO International Geoscience Programme (IGP) Science Board, which serves as a knowledge hub within UNESCO to facilitate international scientific cooperation in geosciences. The IGCP mission includes promoting sustainable use of natural resources and advancing new initiatives related to geodiversity, geoheritage and geohazards mitigation. An Emeritus Professor of Geoconservation at the University of Chester and longtime member of BFWG, Cynthia was appointed for her expertise on Geoheritage and Geoconservation. Her remit is to assess projects which have been submitted to UNESCO for funding and to ensure that they fulfil the newly enhanced remit of UNESCO towards equality in gender, age and location as all projects will be expected to include a gender balance, younger scientists (under 35 years) and to include developing countries within their remit. Congratulations Cynthia!

## GWI members invited to participate in the Federación Boliviana de Mujeres Profesionales Universitarias International Forum



The forum will examine the effects of COVID 19 and professional women challenges on 24 January, 5PM (Bolivia Time) via Zoom. See flyer below for Zoom details. GWI Members Only please.

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## — Advocacy —

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### 65<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65)

CSW65 organised by UN Women will take place from 15 to 26 March 2021 under the priority theme “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”. Typically, CSW sessions and side events are held inside the UN headquarters in New York. However, due to Covid-19, there will be no opportunities for in-person attendance in NYC and no grounds passes will be issued. CSW65 is scheduled to take place virtually/online.

Given the virtual nature of the CSW65, the typical maximum number of 20 participants from an ECOSOC NGO (GWI) has been waived by UN Women this year. GWI members who are in good standing within their respective National Federation and Associations (NFAs) and Independent Members who are interested in participating can register through the Indico platform. Registration is strictly limited to GWI NFA and Independent members only. You must first create an [Indico account](#), then officially register for CSW65. GWI will thereafter review and approve your registration. **Registration is free. Interested GWI members must register by 18 February, giving GWI time to review and approve your registration before the UN Women deadline. Late registrations will not be accepted.**

The main benefit of registration is information sharing, as approved registrants will receive direct email communications about CSW-related activities and updates leading up to and during the session, information and invitations to specific events, including side events, social media packages, as well as possible opportunities available to engage more closely with other ECOSOC accredited NGOs, Member States and UN Entities.



Alongside the UN Women CSW65 will be held the NGO Committee on the Status of Women New York (NGO CSW NY) Forum. **What is this forum?** NGO CSW NY organizes the civil society side of the UN CSW and all parallel events. The Forum runs at the same dates as CSW65, within the UN Headquarters. This provides civil society, **called Advocates this year**, the opportunity to engage in the processes and events of CSW without ECOSOC-accreditation. The Forum and associated parallel events will be held 100% virtual this year on the Pathable Platform. **Registration for the Forum is open and is free.** Click [HERE](#) to register for the Forum. Click [HERE](#) for a how to register tutorial.

*GWI registrants for the UN Women CSW65 as well as the NGO CSW NY Forum are expected to adhere to the following guidelines: Any initiative taken by a GWI CSW Representative must be in the name of GWI and must further the mission of GWI, not personal interests or agendas; preparation materials for CSW will be provided by GWI prior to attendance to CSW which will also be accompanied by an advocacy strategy for the time period; it is expected that officially registered GWI representatives will submit a report on sessions attended and attend scheduled GWI briefings.*

## **GWI participation**

GWI submitted a written statement to CSW65, highlighting the detrimental impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the advancement of the status of women. Along with its cosponsors, GWI appeals to Member States to increase investment in women's education to support decision-making power indirectly. Click [HERE](#) to read the full GWI CSW65 written statement. GWI has co-sponsored multiple other written statements. Please go to the [Member Corner CSW65 Documents](#) for more information.

## **Parallel Events**

### **Mock Trial – Women and Girl's Empowerment through Responsive Quality Education (Date/Time to be confirmed)**

This parallel event highlighting the need for Quality Responsive Education will be held in the form of a mock trial similar to a judicial system complete, with jury and participants. Statements derived from GWI experienced knowledge base about women's participation and decision-making in public life and the Beijing Platform for Action Critical Areas of Concern will be presented for debate by the jurors and invited panelists. The jury will then deliberate and decide the validity or non-validity of each statement. The goal is for attendees to thereafter engender discussion within their organisations on current critical issues especially education and migration.

### **Women and Corruption (Date/Time to be confirmed)**

The parallel event will address the GENDERED dimensions of corruption, as women experience corruption in unique and specific ways, and are targeted disproportionately as victims of corruption. Power, money and privilege are part of the male domain that enable corruption to be a definite dimension of gender inequality. The side event will examine ways women can prevent victimization by corruption and understand corruption interventions.

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## **— GWI at the United Nations —**

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### **GWI participates in the 59<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Social Development**

The 59th session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD59) will take place from 8 to 17 February 2021 at the UN headquarters in New York. The CSocD is the advisory body responsible for the social development pillar of global development. This year's priority theme is "*socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all*". Given the critical nature of the theme, GWI submitted a written statement entitled, "Digital technologies as a strategical and challenging turn towards the social development, wellbeing, and inclusive access to education for women and girls", can be read and downloaded [HERE](#). NGO participation in the session will be strictly virtual. GWI UN representative, Maryella Hannum will virtually attend the session. Please watch for her comprehensive report in February. Since the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995, the CSocD has been the key UN body in charge of the follow up and implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action. Originally known as the Social Commission but renamed in 1966, CSocD was established to advise ECOSOC on social policies of a general character and, in particular, on all matters in the social field not covered by the specialised inter-governmental agencies.

### **UN Secretary General's video message to launch the 2021 Global Humanitarian Overview**

After a year dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic that "plunged the world into suffering and grief, the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, said in his 2021 video message that he sees signs of hope, solidarity among

people, and new commitments to prevent climate catastrophe. He called on people to work together to overcome the challenges of COVID-19 and climate change. The Secretary General's message can be seen [HERE](#).

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## — Call for applications —

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### NGO CSW New York Young Feminists Award



NGO CSW NY is partnering with the Women Have Wings Foundation to raise awareness about and advance gender equality. Five awardees will receive \$5000 for their project and gender equality ideas for their local regions. The winners will be announced on 26 March 2021 during the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum. Project applications are being accepted and submissions should be sent to: [ylyps@ngocsw.org](mailto:ylyps@ngocsw.org), before **1 March 2021**, midnight EST. Please click [HERE](#) to learn more.

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## — Give the gift of education—

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GWJ Education to Brighter Futures fundraising campaign launched in December 2020. GWJ is especially honoured for the monthly contribution commitment made in memory of Ms. Dorette McLeod. Ms McLeod's 102 years will be joyfully remembered by all of her family and friends. To contribute to GWJ's work towards the safe access to quality education and to raise awareness about the gender barriers in education please click [HERE](#).

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## — Did you know? —

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The GWJ UN Representatives in New-York, Dr. Maureen Byrne, Ms. Maryella Hannum and Dr. Sophie Turner Zaretsky, produced a report highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on Education. As the UN Decade for Action begins under unforeseen circumstances, this crisis is an opportunity to build back better, putting equity and inclusion at the centre of all education policies, as well as to make learning transformative for people, planet and prosperity. The statement, released in October 2020, highlights the issues to be addressed, including digital access, financing, attendance, data and innovation and collaboration. Click [HERE](#) to read and share this full report.

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## — Dates and events worth noting —

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20-31 January	Universal Periodic Review Working Group, 35th session, United Nations, Geneva
24 January	International Day of Education, Global
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance of Female Genital Mutilation, Global
10-28 February	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 75th session, United Nations, Geneva
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Global
24 Feb-20 March	Human Rights Council, 43rd session, United Nations, Geneva
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day, Global
8 March	International Women's Day, Global
9-20 March	Commission on the Status of Women 64th session, New York



7-8 May	Generation Equality Forum Mexico
25 May-5 June	International Labour Organisation Conference, Geneva
7-10 July	Generation Equality Forum Paris
18-20 September	Centenary of the French Association of University Women (AFFDU)

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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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