Graduate Women International (GWI)
2020 YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

GWI on the frontline of COVID-19 resilience building

Since the beginning of the crisis, GWI expressed concerns about the pervasive gendered impacts of the pandemic through the rise of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and its impact on women’s and girls’ education opportunities.

- On 25 March 2020, GWI published 52 outreach statements tailored to each National Federation and Association (NFAs) warning of the shadow pandemic of GBV during COVID-19.
- The GWI United Nations (UN) Representatives in New-York (NY) authored a substantial report on Education and COVID-19 was accepted by UNESCO.
- Globally, GWI NFAs have been at the frontline of COVID-19 response in their communities and have moved online to adapt to the situation and continue their advocacy work.

GWI Webinar Series

Adapting to the virtual world, GWI organized two webinar series, amounting to 17 webinars.

Thanks go to the GWI Board, Committees, NFA and Independent members as well as the Office who made these webinars a success.

- More than 1000 GWI members participated in the 17 webinars.
- 97% of participants rated the webinars as excellent.
- 95% of participants reported that they will recommend a GWI webinar.
- Hosted webinars on membership, digital learning challenges and GBV.

Communication

Through a comprehensive communication plan of daily social media, the Update Newsletter and press releases, GWI advanced its mission locally, nationally and internationally.

- More than 2150 posts on major social media platforms.
- Registered a 52% increase in posts engagement and 25% increase in followers over 2019.
- Published 24 Update Newsletters, totaling 247 write-ups.
- Issued 11 press releases, infographics and NFA press release templates.
- Produced a member video for International Day of Education.

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GWI Projects and Programmes

- Awarded 3-year funding from the City of Geneva to continue the Teachers for Rural Futures programme.
- More than 1200 girls and women benefitted from the 2020 Bina Roy Partners in Development projects held in Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Ghana, India, Mexico and Turkey.
- Opened the GWI Girls Education for Brighter Futures GlobalGiving fundraising programme to develop, coordinate and manage advocacy projects and initiatives focusing on promoting the rights of girls and women.
- The first five young women supported by GWI through the Teachers for Rural Futures programme successfully graduated. GWI is currently planning to onboard four new young women.
- Received 26 Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women applications and is currently reviewing new applicants from Sudan, Afghanistan and Eritrea.

GWI Membership

- Served some 15'000 members from around the world. Our members work nationally and internationally to promote safe access to quality, lifelong education for women and girls everywhere.
- Two young members received the international Women have Wings recognition award.
- Successfully launched the Membership Marketplace Peer-to-Peer and NFA-to-NFA programmes.
- GWI supported 52 affiliates.
- NFAs in India and Norway celebrated 100 years.
- The GWI Office referred 127 applications to local NFAs.
- GWI comprised 36 Independent Members from 23 countries.

GWI Advocacy

GWI created four impactful advocacy campaign toolkits offering gripping information, advocacy ideas and comprehensive social media campaigns. Published by WUNRN:

- International Menstrual Hygiene Day Toolkit
- International Day of the Girl Toolkit
- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Toolkit
- World Youth Skills Day Toolkit
- World Teachers’ Day Toolkit

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GWI at the United Nations

Despite 2020 circumstances forcing all UN mechanisms and sessions to be postponed and/or move online, GWI participated throughout the year in the Human Rights Council, High Level Political Forum, Commission on Social Development, UN General Assembly, Geneva Peace Week and Commission on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), and more.

- Submitted five written statements and one oral statement; co-sponsored nine others.
- GWI UN representatives in New York, Geneva, Paris and Vienna submitted 17 UN reports.

Collaboration in Geneva

GWI is an active participant and leadership role holder in the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva, Vienna and New-York, strategic bodies for women’s rights advocacy.

- Active participation with the NGO Committee on Human Rights, NGO Committee on Ageing and gender networks to promote the protection of education and women’s rights.

GWI Leadership and Staff

**Seven Board Members:** Terry Oudraad, President, Veena Bathé, VP Legal and Governance, Eileen Focke-Bakker, VP Membership, Glenda Hecksher, VP Marketing, Louise McLeod, VP Education & Advocacy, Basak Ovacik, VP Fundraising, Katharina Strub, Treasurer.

**Two Staff Members:** Stacy Dry Lara (Executive Director) and Clémence Mathiaud (Programme Officer).

**Five interns** from France, Switzerland and the United States.

Awarded Top-Ranked and Effective badges from GlobalGiving.

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