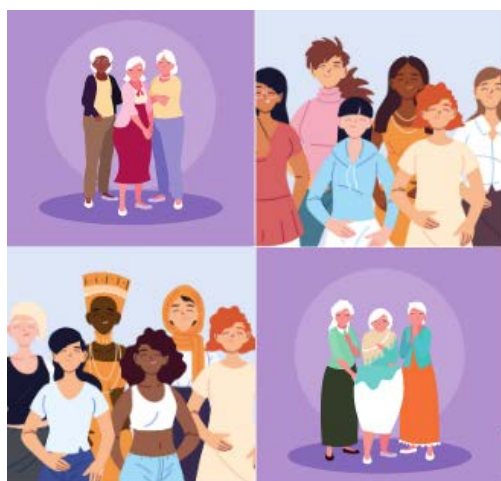




## GW I UPDATE – 17 February 2021



GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL (GWI)  
Connecting Across Generations Webinar Series Kick Off

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, 6 March 2021**  
**4-5pm CET (GWI Members Only)**

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING  
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND CREATE MEANINGFUL  
INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

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- Consultancy on digitalization of education for the Special Rapporteur on Education
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### — Graduate Women International News —

#### **Save the Date: Join the Young Members Network in celebrating International Women's Day**

On 8 March 2021, Graduate Women International (GWI) will join the international community in celebrating International Women's Day (IWD), a day for world citizens to shine a spotlight on gender equity issues. This year's theme "Women in leadership: achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world" marks the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To celebrate women and the limitless potential of young women, the GWI Young Member Network (YMN) will kick off a webinar series, "Connecting Across Generations" on 6 March 2021, 4-5pm CET. The purpose of these webinars is for GWI multigenerational members get to know each other better and to learn from each other's life experiences and knowledge. "Join us on the first event with the celebrations of International Women's Day. Let's unite to have a great 'Intergenerational Connection' and start celebrating the achievements of our Global GWI Network", said Sudha Srivastava, GWI YMN President. We invite GWI members to [register HERE by 5 March](#).

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## — CSW65 —

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

CSW65 will take place from 15 to 26 March 2021. Given the virtual nature of the CSW65, the typical maximum number of 20 participants from an ECOSOC Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) has been waived by UN Women this year. GWI registration is strictly limited to National Federation and Association (NFA) and Independent members. You must first create an [Indico account](#), then register for CSW65. GWI will thereafter review and approve your registration. **Registration is free. Interested GWI members must register by 18 February, Late registrations cannot accepted.** Approved registrants will receive direct email communications about CSW-related activities, events, and updates leading up to and during the session.



Alongside the UN Women CSW65 is the NGO Committee on the Status of Women New York (NGO CSW NY) Forum. The Forum functions as the civil society side of CSW65 and holds parallel events. The Forum runs at the same dates as CSW65. This provides civil society, [called Advocates](#), the opportunity to engage in the processes and events of CSW. The Forum and associated parallel events will be held 100% virtual this year.

**Registration for the Forum is open and is free.** Click [HERE](#) to register for the Forum. Click [HERE](#) for a how to register tutorial.

### **CSW65 Civil Society Briefings – Input Needed**

NGO CSW/NY, in partnership with UN Women, is organizing four Civil Society Briefings throughout the two weeks of the NGO CSW65 Virtual Forum. To ensure that these briefings are productive and helpful, they are asking for our input! Please fill out the survey to provide input on the Civil Society Briefing topics you believe will be most beneficial to your CSW65 experience and advocacy. The deadline to provide your input is this Monday, 22 February. Feel free to share the survey with your networks as well. Register your opinion [HERE](#).

### **GWI Parallel Events**

**Mock Trial – Women and Girl’s Empowerment through Responsive Quality Education.** 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. **The parallel event will be held 16 March 2021, 3:30-5:00pm Central European Time.**

Please go to the [Member Corner CSW65 Documents](#) for more CSW65 information.

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **WG-USA CSW65 Parallel Events**

#### **Empowering Women of the Congo DRC through Education and Training for Equality**

After decades of instability, a new movement to provide education and training for women and girls of the Congo DRC shows great promise. The event will be held 18 March 2021, 4:30-6:00pm Eastern Standard Time [Click HERE to register](#)

#### **A Seat at The Table: Addressing Violence in Sex Trafficking and Prostitution**

Survivor leaders and allies will discuss the 2020 Trafficking In Persons Report (TIP) and its recommendations to countries with an emphasis on justice, equality and inclusiveness. This event will be held 19 March 2021, 4:00-5:30pm Eastern Standard Time. [Click HERE to register](#)

### **Reclaiming Our Humanity: Urgent Need for Women’s Leadership in Migration Issues**

The three North American NFAs - Mexico, USA, Canada (CAMEUS) - are working together by addressing the movement of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants seeking to escape poverty, violence and conflict in their countries. Experts will discuss a framework of women’s leadership to replace the current devastating policies of the political economy, racism and isolation. This event will be held 23 March 2021, 3:00-5:30pm Eastern Standard Time. [Click HERE to register](#)

### **FEMU holds conference reflecting on 1916 First Mexican Feminist Congress**

In January 2021, the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) held a conference titled, “The first feminist congress in Mexico: year 1916”. The online event, led by Dr Rosa Maria Valley Ruis and moderated by Guadalupe Valdes, provided a new insight into the significance of the congress for women’s rights in Mexico and at the global level. In January 1916, under the governance of Salvador Alvarado, the [Primer Congreso Feminista](#) was held in Méridia, Yucatán, Mexico. This assembly of feminists was the first of its kind in Mexico and the second such meeting ever held in Latin America. (The first congress was held in Argentina in 1910.) The congress attracted 620 delegates to Mérida, Yucatán. With both men and women in attendance, the legislators attempted to address issues of women’s rights. Learn more about FEMU’s activities [HERE](#).

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## — GWI Membership Marketplace —

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### **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. **These excellent Peer-to-Peer activities are currently being offered:**

**Information Literacy Skills, Early Career Skills: Early Career Skills, Information and Communication Technology Literacy (ICT), Spanish language lessons, Discussions on the role and challenges of female scientists in academia.**

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. Currently, projects are being run by the Indian Federation of Women’s Associations (IFUWA) with the Egypt Association of Graduate Women with focus on types of harassment and its harmful effects. The other project is being held between the Canadian Federation of University Women and Graduate Women Netherlands with the focus on Afghan peace negotiations.

[Click HERE to explore more about the GWI Membership Marketplace.](#)

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## — Advocacy —

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## **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD)**

IDERD is observed annually on 21 March, the day the police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against apartheid "pass laws" in 1960. Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the United Nations (UN) UN General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. GWI's core values of empowerment through education and the fostering of international friendship between graduate women of all origins aligns with the IDERD's message: only with the fostering of global tolerance, equality and the elimination of all forms of discrimination, can there be a just, equal and more peaceful future for all. Ahead of IDERD, GWI is releasing an infographic highlighting global resources to better understand the issues at stake and their consequence. [Click HERE to access and download the infographic.](#)

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **Two calls for inputs by the United Nations Independent Expert on the rights of older persons**

Below are details for two Calls for inputs by the United Nations Independent Expert on the rights of older persons:

#### **[Calls for inputs by the Independent Expert on the human rights of older persons, Ms. Claudia Mahler, to contribute to her 2021 thematic reports to the Human Rights Council and General Assembly:](#)**

Report on the causes, manifestations and prevalence of ageism and age discrimination that will build on her [2020 report on COVID-19](#):

**[Report on the intersection between ageing and gender and the specific human rights concerns and challenges faced by older women.](#)** For more information click [HERE](#).

Please send your submissions in English, French or Spanish in attachment by email to [olderpersons@ohchr.org](mailto:olderpersons@ohchr.org), indicating in the heading "Submission to the call for contributions on older women – 2021". Please also kindly indicate whether you have any objection for the responses provided to be made available on the OHCHR webpage of the Independent Expert.

Both calls are open until 22 March 2021 and contributions are welcome in English, Spanish and French. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### **Consultancy on digitalization of education for the Special Rapporteur on Education**

The Senior Researcher at the Children's rights division of the Human Rights Watch communicated an interesting opportunity to raise awareness and bring forward on the scene the issues GWI has been handling. As GWI provides a global voice for women graduates, working for the adoption and implementation of international agreements that will protect and benefit all girls and women. This is a special advocacy occasion. Any GWI Member can apply to the vacancy for a consultancy on digitalization of education for the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Rapporteur on Education. Interested GWI Members should contact Mylène Bidault, Human Rights Officer at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, [mbidault@ohchr.org](mailto:mbidault@ohchr.org), by 1 March 2021. Timeframes in the announcement can be further discussed with the Special Rapporteur's team.

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## — Call for applications —

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EIGE is looking for a contractor to carry out an update of the Gender Equality in Academia and Research (GEAR) tool. The work involves an identification of policy and legal developments since 2015 related to gender mainstreaming in the area of research, so that it aligns with Horizon Europe's provisions. Apply [here](#) before **26 March 2021**, 12:00 EET.

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## — Give the gift of education—

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**Give the gift of education** to women and girls around the world by contributing to our new [Girls' Education for Brighter Futures Post-COVID-19 Programme](#), which directly supports GWI's advocacy work and micro-projects held throughout the world to remove socio-cultural, gender-related and economic barriers girls face towards education endeavours. To contribute to GWI'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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Did you know that GWI maintains special relations with UNESCO? Since its founding, UNESCO has sought to collaborate with NGOs, which are fundamental civil society partners for the implementation of the Organization's activities and programmes. Over the years, UNESCO has built up a valuable network of cooperation with NGOs having an expertise in its fields of competence, i.e. education, science, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information. Currently, UNESCO is enjoying official partnerships with 401 NGOs and 33 foundations and similar institutions. GWI is one such official partner.

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## — Dates and events worth noting —

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10-19 February	Commission for Social Development, 58th session, New York/Hybrid
10-28 February	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 75th session, United Nations, Geneva/Hybrid
22 Feb-23 March	Human Rights Council, 46th session, United Nations, Geneva
6 March	Young Member Network International Women's Day Webinar
8 March	International Women's Day, Global
9-20 March	CSW65 United Nations, Virtual
16 March	GWI Parallel Event – Mock Trial – Women's empowerment through responsive quality education, Global
18 March	WG-USA Parallel Event - Empowering Women of the Congo DRC through Education and Training for Equality, Global
19 March	WG-USA Parallel Event - A Seat at The Table: Addressing Violence in Sex Trafficking and Prostitution, Global
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Global
22 March	World Water Day, Global
23 March	WG-USA Parallel Event - Reclaiming Our Humanity: Urgent Need for Women's Leadership in Migration Issues, Global
23-27 March	Little by Little Matching Campaign (Global Giving)
29-31 March	Generation Equality Forum Mexico, Global/Hybrid
23 April	World Book & Copyright Day, Global
23 April	International Girls in ICT Day, Global
28 May	Menstrual Hygiene Day, Global

12 June	World Day against Child Labour, Global
19 June	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Global
20 June	World Refugee Day, Global
23 June	International Widows Day, Global

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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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