



## GWI UPDATE – 3 March 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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### — Graduate Women International News —

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#### **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. GWI is pleased to welcome guest speaker, Silvia Perel-Levin, Representative of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) and The International Longevity Centre Global Alliance (ILC GA). "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. Alongside the 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. The Forum 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.

### GWJ 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 (CET).**

**Women and Corruption.** In today’s complex and volatile world, corruption is everywhere. Existing social, economic, political, legal, and gender inequalities make women especially vulnerable to the consequences of corruption. Women best be aware of ways to prevent victimization by corruption and understand corruption interventions. This Panel will consider tools and good practices for women to be alert to corruption and deal with corruption, individually and collectively, on personal, family, and community levels. **The parallel event will be held 19 March 2021, 4:30pm-6:00pm CET and is co-sponsored by the [Women’s UN Report Network \(WUNRN\)](#) and [Transparency International](#).**



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

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— GWJ 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 CSW65 Parallel Event**

#### **The Pandemic's Effects on Women's lives**

The COVID 19 pandemic shadow pandemic of domestic violence will be examined by expert panelists. This event will be held on **Monday 15 March 2021, 11:30 am – 1:30pm Central Standard Time**

### **BFWG Past President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole, to speak at celebration of female education event**

On 9 March 2021, Community Empowerment Support Organisation (CESO), a British education charity started up by British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) member Rita Edmond, will hold an online fundraising event to celebrate women's day and the empowerment of girls in rural Sierra Leone. The fund raised through the event will be directed toward the completion and the furnishing of the Ivor Leigh Memorial School Nursery and Vocational Centre for young women in Kaningo, a city on the outskirts of Freetown, Sierra Leone. On this occasion, BFWG Immediate Past President Patrice Wellesley-Cole, will speak on the importance of female education in disadvantaged communities. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the event and register.

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **United Nations (UN) 59<sup>th</sup> Commission for Social Development (CSocD59)**

CSocD59 took place from 1 to 17 February 2021 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, under the priority theme "socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being for all". The Commission is the advisory body responsible for the social development pillar of global development. This session brought special focus on the emerging issue of "social policy to promote a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery: building back better post-COVID-19 for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development". GWI submitted a written statement to CSocD59, calling attention to digital technologies as a strategic and challenging turn towards the social development, wellbeing, and inclusive access to education for women and girls. The statement calls on member states to urgently dedicate funding to ensure decent learning conditions for all students displaced from their education, especially to women and girls. Click [HERE](#) to read the full statement and HERE to learn more about CSocD59.

### **UN Secretary-General's message to the opening of the 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council**

The 46<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (HRC46) opened in Geneva, Switzerland and online on 22 February 2021 and will conclude on 23 March 2021. Each year, the March session of the HRC provides extra benefit because of its week-long high-level segment attended by numerous State dignitaries and diplomats from around the world, including no less than the Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Antonio

Guterres. During his opening message on 22 February, Secretary-General Guterres called for a global reset, to “recover better, guided by human rights”. Click [HERE](#) to read his full opening address.

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## — Call for applications —

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### **Zonta International Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship**

Zonta International Jane M. Klausman (JMK) Women in Business Scholarship program helps women pursue undergraduate and master's degrees in business management and overcome gender barriers from the classroom to the boardroom. Women of any age, pursuing a business program at an accredited institution and who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible. Online students are also eligible to apply if enrolled at an accredited institution. Applications must be received by a local Zonta club. Click [HERE](#) to locate a club near you. **Contact your local club for the deadline.** Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

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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 21 March is 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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## — Dates and events worth noting —

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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.

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