



## GW I UPDATE – 31 March 2021



*Women rally in Ankara, Turkey against Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention.*

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### — Graduate Women International News —

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#### **Statement by GWI on Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention**

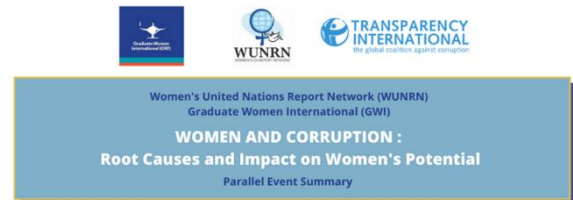
GWI's international network of graduate women, jointly express concern for all Turkish women, and stand in special solidarity with our Turkish sisters of Türk Universiteli Kadınlar Derneği, (Turkish Association of University Women). GWI and all her members urge the Government of the Republic of Turkey to reconsider its withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, which builds on the standards enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as its general recommendations. We urge the continued protection of human right of all women and girls to live free from violence. **WE ENCOURAGE THE WIDE DISTRIBUTION OF THIS STATEMENT.** Get it [HERE](#).

#### **CSW65 Women and Corruption GWI Parallel Event Summary Publication**

On 19 March 2021, GWI and the Women's United Nations Report Network (WUNRN) and co-sponsored by Transparency International held a parallel event on Women and Corruption: Root Causes and Impact on Women's Potential as part of the NGO CSW CSW65 Virtual Forum. Expert panellists were Jennifer

Sarvary Bradford, United Nations (UN) Office of Drugs and Crime, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer; Lena Wängnerud, Gothenburg University (Sweden), Professor in Political Science; Dr. Monica Kirya, Think Tank U4, Senior Adviser at the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, UN Representative, UNODC; Lucia Bird, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime, Senior Analyst; Emilia Berazategui, Transparency International, Interim Head of Policy and Advocacy Secretariat.

Speakers shared stimulating information and encouraged organisations to action, to create support networks for those affected by corruption, to offer methods to dismantle gendered corruption, and propose actions to address the multifaceted effects corruption has on women, families and communities. On the heels of this exceptional event and encourage



action and exchange to tackle corruption locally and globally, GWI is releasing a comprehensive Women and Corruption: Root Causes and Impact on Women's Potential Parallel Event Summary highlighting the discussion. **The summary document of the outstanding panel event will be published 14 April.**

### **CSW65 Special Edition to be released in April**

GWI delegates and colleagues are busy attending hundreds of parallel and side events, Consultation Days, the closing rally and more. **GWI has successfully held a Mock Trial about Women and Girl's Empowerment through Responsive Quality Education; an exceptional parallel event on Women and Corruption; co-sponsored NGO CSW Geneva Global Consultation Day. GWI members have hosted a variety of spectacular parallel events and side events.** A summary of all activities will be published in April so please stay tuned.

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **IFUWA holds event on the gender implications of the 2020 Indian National Education Policy**

by Shevata Rai Talwar, University Women's Association Dehradun, IFUWA

"The objective of the session was to bring to light the different aspects of the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 framed by the Government of India with a focus on the status of women and girl's education in every stratum of society. Dr. Ranjana Banerjee, IFUWA President, highlighted in her address that girls' education is of prime necessity and must be made accessible to all women to build up an empowered society. Dr. Vibhuti Patel, an authority on Gender Studies in conversation with Dr Muckta Karmarkar, an educationist, deliberated on the different aspects of NEP and explained, with statistical data, the disparity between the education of girls and boys and deprivation from higher education of girls owing to patriarchal impositions. Ms. Shevata Talwar called on all GWI advocates to help recover and revitalise education for the COVID 19 generation as the digital divide increased during this period. Distance-learning was a major solution towards equal and inclusive access to education. The NEP 2020 believes in the realization of the self, development of values and creative potential of each individual, emphasising on traditional practices but with the scientific temper".

### **FLAMU holds regional conference**

GWI's regional groups offer members opportunities to exchange ideas and work together with members from nearby countries, experiencing the international aspect of GWI membership, while drawing on similar geographical, cultural, and historical backgrounds. The regional groups organise conferences, seminars, friendship visits, and joint projects on issues of common concern. They also represent members at meetings of regional organisations, such as the Council of Europe. On 21 March 2021, GWI members

from across Latin America gathered for a virtual FLAMU conference co-organised by GWI Independent Member, Thais Córdoba. The event focused on two priority themes 1) Costa Rica Report: Compliance with the Beijing Agreements under the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the World Women’s Conference; 2) COVID 19 Crisis and the effect on women’s lives, a case study of Costa Rica.



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## — Advocacy —

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### **A year after the start of the pandemic, GWI continues to stand in solidarity with its members**

A full year has now passed since the start of the COVID 19 pandemic. As we all continue to watch our world face this unprecedented public health challenge in the fight against COVID 19, GWI continues to stand in solidarity with all of you and particularly those who are most vulnerable during uncertain circumstances like this. Through this unprecedented period, GWI continues doing what it knows best: raising the voice of graduate women around the world and working for the preservation and improvement of women’s and girls’ fundamental right to education.

### **International Girls in ICT Day**

On 23 April, GWI will mark International Girls ICT Day with a special social media advocacy campaign. This International Telecommunications Union (ITU) backed initiative takes place in over 170 countries worldwide and creates a global environment that encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing field of ICT. GWI marks this day with our commitment to encouraging all girls to pursue their education and career dreams. Follow our campaign with impactful facts and ready-to-use advocacy ideas on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **2020 Social Forum tackles poverty and inequalities**

The Social Forum is an annual meeting convened by the Human Rights Council. It provides a unique space for open and interactive dialogue among all stakeholders on a specific theme chosen each year. In October 2020 as part of the 45<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council, the Social Forum took place in Room XX at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, with a focus on “Good Practices, Success Stories, Lessons Learned and Current Challenges in Combating Poverty and Inequalities”. The forum conclusions highlight that COVID 19 has exacerbated poverty and inequalities, disproportionately affecting the poor, women, girls, children, youth, older persons, person with disabilities, indigenous people, migrants and refugees. Factors

that perpetuated poverty and inequalities included structural and systemic discrimination against the poor and marginalized. Inadequate access to food, education, health services and digital technologies for children and youth perpetuated intergenerational poverty. Unpaid or undervalued care work and disproportionately high numbers of women in the informal sector increased the feminization of poverty. Click [HERE](#) to read the full 2020 Social Forum report.

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## — Give the gift of education: Donate Today —

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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 microprojects 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 members have free and exclusive access to all GWI webinars? The GWI webinars provide invaluable resources and skills training on a wide range of topics, from membership building to awareness raising and new advocacy methods and strategies. Passed webinars can still be viewed for free on the GWI member corner. Valued GWI members can contact [info@graduatewomen.org](mailto:info@graduatewomen.org) to obtain the necessary password to view those previous webinars again. Please visit the [GWI Member Corner](#) for more information on the previous and upcoming GWI webinars.

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## — Dates and events worth noting —

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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
15 July	Youth Skills Day, Global
30 July	International Day for the Elimination of Trafficking in Persons, Global
31 July	Pan-African Women's Day, Global
9 August	Indigenous Peoples' Day, Global

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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**

48, Chemin du Grand-Montfleury, CH-1290, Versoix, Geneva, Switzerland

E-mail: [gwi@graduatewomen.org](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org) Website: [www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)

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