



## GWI UPDATE – 12 May 2021



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### — In this Issue —

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- **\$25 Billion Redirected from Education: Help is Needed**
- **Amplify your voice: Commission on the Status of Women's (CSW) civil society survey**
- **Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA) International Women's Day celebrations**
- **Register today for University Women Europe (UWE) online Meet and Greet, 15 May**
- **Save the Date: GWI Young Member Network (YMN) Connecting Across Generations webinar series**
- **Graduate Women International (GWI) marks Menstrual Hygiene Day, 28 May 2021**
- **Global Partnership for Education (GPE) event on better education financing**
- **Meeting of the Working Group (WG) on Human Rights Education and Learning (HREL)**

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### — Graduate Women International News —

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#### **\$25 Billion Redirected from Education: Help is Needed**

The World Bank in April 2021, reports that 265 million people are going hungry and 140 million are in extreme poverty as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose unprecedented challenges to the global community. GWI continues working actively to coordinate and manage advocacy projects and initiatives on local, national and international levels that focus on building education back better.

The need for funding for education is critical. The International Development Association (World Bank) estimates that countries diverted \$25 billion in resources that were planned for infrastructure, schools and education to COVID 19 response for health care, health systems. Now, more than ever, donations are needed to revitalise education funds like the [GWI Girls Education for Brighter Futures programme](#). GWI is humbled by the support received since the launch of the Girls Education for Brighter Futures Programme in December 2020. Around the world and despite the current challenges, the GWI continues to positively impact the lives of thousands of women and girls. These locally developed and operated projects address

essential needs and build on the knowledge, skills and transformative power of GWI members in their local communities.

Together, we can make a difference – click [HERE](#) to give the gift of education to women and girls around the world by contributing to the [Girls' Education for Brighter Futures Post-COVID-19 Programme](#).

### **Amplify your voice: CSW civil society survey**

The opportunity to register your opinion about the CSW and its effectiveness in empowering civil society to influence governments is now. The survey also aims to improve the inclusiveness of the CSW process and the value of its working methods. GWI encourages the wide sharing of and participation in the survey. Your responses and feedback will provide essential data - every opinion matters! **The deadline to complete the survey is Tuesday, 18 May at 12:00 EDT.** Respond to the survey [HERE](#).

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **IFUWA International Women's Day celebrations**



*On 8 March, Chidambaram Chapter introduced the scholarship holder research scholar Kavitha*

On 8 March 2021, IFUWA members marked International Women's Day with an extensive range of events held by each of its chapters. Crucial topics such as the challenges domestic workers are living, the specificities of kidney diseases, and the environmental impacts of menstrual protections, plus more, were expertly addressed. These events highlighted, once again, the importance to hear about women workers' experiences and discuss the challenges women and girls still face today, in all spheres of society. GWI encourages you to read the full account of these events [HERE](#).

### **Register today for UWE online Meet and Greet, 15 May**

GWI regional group, UWE, is pleased to announce its next online Meet and Greet "Celebrating European Women", hosted by the Irish Federation of University Women (IrFUW) on Saturday, 15 May 2021, 10:30 am - 1.00 pm British Summer Time (BST). After an introduction to Women in European Film, a virtual tour to the Oratory of the Sacred Heart as well as the sharing of traditional recipes and music are planned. GWI invites you to read the speaker bios [HERE](#). This event is open to all members of the UWE and their friends, so do not forget to register [HERE](#) if you wish to participate.

### **Save the Date: GWI Young Member Network "Connecting Across Generations" webinar**

The second webinar in the series will be held 12 June 2021, 4-5:30pm CEST. The effects of NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) in today's changing world will be examined from an intergenerational perspective. More details and information about guest experts will be published soon.

Young Member Network  
Connecting Across Generations Webinar Series  
**"NEET" Effect in Changing Times!**  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
Saturday, 12 June 2021  
4-5:30pm CEST  
All members of GWI are welcome.  
JOIN US IN CREATING MEANINGFUL INTERGENERATIONAL CONNECTIONS  
[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER.](#)

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## — Advocacy —

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### **GWI to mark Menstrual Hygiene Day on 28 May 2021**

Menstrual Hygiene Day, observed annually on 28 May, is a reminder that women and girls across the world continue to face a variety of unnecessary challenges due to their menstruation. This year marks GWI's fourth observance of [MH Day](#). Initiated by the German-based [NGO WASH United](#) in 2014, this annual awareness day brings together non-profit organisations, government agencies, private sector, the media and individuals from around the world to promote Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM). GWI is pleased to announce the continuation of its alliance with [MH Day](#) in their efforts to catalyse a growing, global movement that recognizes and supports girls' and women's rights and advocate for the integration of MHM into global, national and local policies, programmes and projects. A comprehensive infographic as well as an advocacy toolkit with ready-to-use and will be released in the coming days. Look for the full campaign on the [GWI LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

### **GPE event on better education financing**

On 30 April 2021, GWI participated in an online event "Raise your hand for a more and better educated financing", jointly organized by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) and GPE. One year after the beginning of the pandemic, the findings are alarming: almost 10 million children may never return to school. In order to prevent consequences such as these from becoming irreversible, GWI joined participants in reaffirming the urgent need to finance education. GWI invites you to read the summary of this event [HERE](#) and to contribute to girls education [HERE](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **Meeting of the WG on HREL**

GWI is an active member of the NGO WR on HREL. During its 14 April meeting, the WGr reaffirmed the vital importance of Human Rights Education (HRE). More than one year after the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, human rights education remains thwarted and a global concerted effort to ensure that everyone, women and men alike, have access to HRE is vital. To this end, the WG welcomed guest speaker, former cartoonist and Chief, Public Advocacy and Campaigns Section, United Nations OCHA, Christian Clark. The two-time Emmy-award winning writer for the children's TV programme, Sesame Street, Clark presented his "Graphix History Project". He explained that the groundbreaking initiative promotes change on critical social issues by using graphic history books, comics, animation, podcasts, and online platforms for engagement and activation. As the discussion rages about the importance of HRE, the Graphix History Project and associated programs seek to address, head on, the issues concerning the current crisis of human rights. This will ideally be issued as a graphic history aimed at an academic and human rights advocacy audience; but also for a younger demographic of 13 – 23 year olds, in high schools and beyond, as part of an innovative and targeted global human rights education program. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about this inspiring and innovative project.

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## — Give the gift of empowerment —

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Graduation season is upon us: with the turn of a tassel, a new generation of female leaders and changemakers emerges, carrying with them an incomparable sense of pride, accomplishment and hope for what's yet to come.

One way of celebrate the accomplishments and limitless potential of the graduate women in your life could be to make a donation in their name(s) to our new [Girls' Education for Brighter Futures 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](#).

Alongside, why not [give the gift membership](#) to the outstanding graduate women in your life? GWI membership allows graduate women to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training. Give the gift of membership to become part of a global community, diverse and dynamic community of graduate women dedicated to making the world more just and sustainable for all.

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### — Did you know? —

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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 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 IFUWA with the Egypt Association of Graduate Women (EAGW) 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 the opportunities available through the GWI Membership Marketplace.

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### — Dates and events worth noting —

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19 May	5th Edition of the Swiss Olympes de la Parole, Switzerland
25 May-5 June	International Labour Organisation Conference, Geneva
28 May	Menstrual Hygiene Day, Global
12 June	World Day against Child Labour, Global
15 June-3 July	Human Rights Council, 47th session, United Nations Office, Geneva
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
30 June-2 July	Generation Equality Forum Paris
15 July	World Youth Skills Day, Global
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons, Global International Day of the
9 August	World's Indigenous Peoples, Global
12 August	International Youth Day, Global
8 September	International Literacy Day, Global
14 Sept-2 Oct	Human Rights Council, 48th session, United Nations Office, Geneva
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.

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