



## GW I UPDATE - 28 April 2021



### Afghan Peace Negotiations: Their Perilous Significance for the Women in Afghanistan

A Graduate Women International (GWI) Membership Marketplace NFA-to-NFA Partnership Project  
Organised by the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)  
and GWI-Netherlands (GWI-NL)



**Saturday, 24 April 2021**

8:00-9:30 am PDT      5:00-6:30 pm CEST  
11:00-12:30 am EDT      7:30-9:00 pm AFT

On 24 April 2021, Graduate Women International (GWI) hosted a Membership Marketplace NFA-to-NFA webinar “Afghan Negotiations: Their Perilous Significance for the Women in Afghanistan”, organised by the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and GWI Netherlands (GWI-NL). The recording is forthcoming.

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### — Graduate Women International News —

#### **GW I CSW65 Special Edition Update**

On 20 April 2021, GWI released a Special Edition of the Update Newsletter, focusing on the highlights and key take outs of GWI’s participation in the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65). This special edition includes the [GW I Vice-President Advocacy and Education CSW65 Summary Report](#), GWI’s CSW65 written statement, GWI’s 2021 CSW65 Advocacy Handbook, parallel event recordings and much more! A central event in the GWI Advocacy Calendar, CSW is a time for like-minded women to gather, discuss, learn from each other, advocate and coalesce around the rights of women and

girls. The intense excitement surrounding CSW65 may be over but GWI's work continues on behalf of all women and girls. If you missed the CSW65 Special Edition on 20 April, click [HERE](#) to view and download the full issue, and make sure to [subscribe](#) to the GWI Update Newsletter.

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **GWI honours the memory of Ms. Michiko Nakamura, JAUW Past-President**

Respectfully, GWI writes of the passing of Ms. Michiko Nakamura on February 16, 2021. Born on 14 January 1919, Ms. Michiko Nakamura had reached the venerable age of 102. A distinguished GWI member, who served on the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) Membership Committee from 1983 to 1989, Ms. Nakamura was the 14th president of the Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW) and 4th Chair of the Japanese Women's Committee of the United Nations (UN) Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). "She also played an active part when JAUW hosted the 18th IFUW General Assembly in Tokyo & Kyoto in 1974, and the 25th IFUW General Assembly in Yokohama in 1995", remembers Chizuko Suzuki, JAUW's Convenor of International Relations (CIR). "GWI extends its sympathies to our JAUW sisters and to the family of Ms. Nakamura. She will be remembered as a valuable contributor to GWI (then IFUW) and a respected member of the Membership Committee", says Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director.

### **GWI stands in solidarity with our IFUWA sister and their families**

While the COVID 19 pandemic continues to intensify globally, India is currently being hit particularly hard by an unprecedented and worrying surge of cases that has overwhelmed hospitals. "[The situation in India is beyond heartbreaking](#)", World Health Organisation (WHO) Chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said on Monday 26 April 2021. GWI voices its intense concern for our IFUWA sisters and their families. Our global sisterhood of graduate women stands by you and calls on the international community to show their solidarity and provide rapid medical support to help India weather the crisis. We hope for a rapid improvement to the serious situation.

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

On Friday 26 March 2021 UAUW members marked International Women's Day with a celebration and awareness event held at St Mary's High School in the city of Katala, on the outskirts of Kampala, Uganda's capital city. Held in accordance with COVID-19 restriction and protection measures, the event provided a timely avenue for awareness-raising and discussion between local high school students, UAUW members, teachers and student leaders from Makerere University in Kampala. Crucial topics such as gender equality, women's rights and empowerment, health, hygiene, sexual and reproductive rights and the importance of fostering interest in science learning and teaching were addressed during the session. A full account of the event is available [HERE](#).

### **GWI Membership Marketplace NFA-to-NFA Afghan Peace Negotiations: Their Perilous Significance for Women in Afghanistan webinar**

On 24 April 2021, GWI hosted a new Membership Marketplace NFA-to-NFA webinar "Afghan Peace Negotiations: Their Perilous Significance for the Women in Afghanistan", organised by CFUW and GWI GWI-NL. We invite you to click [HERE](#) to read bios of the distinguished speakers. "As was the aim of the Membership Marketplace NFA2NFA project, awareness for the Women in Afghanistan is raised, and advocacy for their perilous situation is now ongoing on a global scale", says Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI Vice-President Membership. "GWI will continue to support and stand with them", she continues. The event recording is forthcoming. A link to the full recording will be sent to all registrants, including GWI members, non-members and those who were not planning to participate but registered, the link to the

recording as soon as possible. Thereafter, the link will be accessible via the GWI website. GWI joins CFUW and GWI-NL in thanking all the hardworking GWI members who made this NFA-to-NFA project and webinar possible.

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## — Advocacy —

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

On 22 April, GWI marked International Girls ICT Day with an impactful social media advocacy campaign. This International Telecommunications Union (ITU)-backed initiative takes place every year 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 marked this day with our commitment to encouraging all girls to pursue their education and career dreams. The GWI 2021 International Girls in ICT Day social media campaign is still available for viewing on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

### **World Book and Copyright Day**

On 23 April, GWI joined the global community in celebrating World Book and Copyright Day: a day created by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to celebrate reading, publishing and copyright. Now more than ever, at an unprecedented time when globally most schools are closed and children are having to limit time spent out of their homes, the power of books can be leveraged to combat isolation, to reinforce ties between people, and to expand our horizons, while stimulating our minds and creativity. GWI marked this day with our commitment to promote the achievements of literary women and over the world as well as our commitment to promote increased literacy and equal access to education for all women and girls. Our social media campaign is still available for viewing on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **GWI HLPF written statement: interconnection of poverty, corruption and education**

The HLPF is a central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This Forum provides for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies. The meeting of the HLPF in 2021 will be held from Tuesday, 6 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). In line with the 2021 theme, , GWI submitted a written statement highlighting the interconnection of poverty, corruption and education. Through this statement, Graduate Women International (GWI) declares that the mere access to education is insufficient to the eradication of poverty and reaffirms its previous statements that the quality of the education is the key contributor to the realization of SDG 1, No Poverty, SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities and SDG 16, Peaceful and Inclusive societies, while acknowledging the interrelatedness of all 17 SDGs. The full written statement is accessible [HERE](#).

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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 microprojects held throughout the world to remove socio-cultural, gender-related and economic

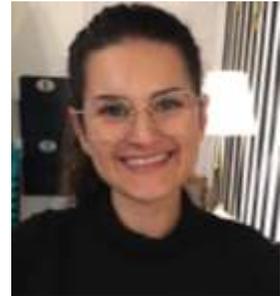
barriers girls face towards education endeavours. To contribute to GWI's work towards safe access to quality education and to raise awareness about the gender barriers in education please click [HERE](#).

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## — Meet our 2021 Spring Intern —

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“My name is Nell Yacef. I am a Swiss, French and Algerian student currently enrolled in a Masters degree in *International Cooperation and Multilingual Communication* in Grenoble, France. The multidisciplinary nature of my studies, as well as my associative commitments and personal experiences but also my ambition and passion contributed to my desire to integrate an organisation working on the defense of women's rights. Convinced that education is a key factor for the achievement of gender equality at the global level, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the GWI mission. I am certain that this internship will be a positive step in both my personal and professional life.”



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## — Dates and events worth noting —

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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
12 August	International Youth Day, Global
8 September	International Literacy 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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