

GWJ Resolutions Committee
GWJ VP Advocacy and Education
GWJ 2020

Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children



2019 Policy Resolution 5

- ✓ GWI Policy Position 2019
- ✓ Policy Resolution 2019

GWJ Strategic Advocacy Plan 2020

Resources and prior resolutions

Associated UN documents

GWJ Strategic Advocacy Toolkit 2020



POLICY POSITION RESOLUTION 5, 2019

HUMAN RIGHTS FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

GWI Resolutions Committee

The Issue

The world is now facing the largest displacement of people since World War II¹. The number of refugees and people displaced by conflict and disaster worldwide reached a record high in 2017 of 68.5 million while another 10 million are classified as "stateless" people.

Forcibly displaced women face barriers to securing economic livelihoods, discrimination in many forms, sexual violence, limited access to service and negative consequences from some cultural practices. Refugee and migrant women and children are at particular risk for human trafficking and other abuses as a result of their vulnerable status as they are often pawns in larger political games of intractable conflict. Children alone make up half of the "people of concern" according to the UNHRC, as they are often separated from parents or traditional caregivers and even recruited to be child soldiers - both boys and girls. Obtaining any education becomes impossible.

Across the globe, nearly 50 million children have been uprooted. Among them are 28 million fleeing brutal wars in Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan. There are 6.3 million migrant and refugee children in Latin America and the Caribbean fleeing violence and seeking to reunite with family members. In addition, there are another 258 million migrants, of which 120 million are women and girls, living outside of their country of birth.

Barriers

85% of the world's refugees are hosted in low and middle-income countries (*UNHCR*), the developed countries set up barriers to entry for resettlement and/or asylum.

Despite UN Compacts the burden of providing for this massive movement of people from their home countries has become unfair.

Media portrayal and definitions of the groups leads to mistrust within the settled countries.

¹ United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHRC)



GWI Strategic Advocacy Campaign 2020

*Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children
(Policy Resolution 2019,5)*

GWI's Position

GWI (IFUW) first addressed support for refugees in a resolution in 1939 (#4), and subsequently added refugee and/or human rights resolutions in 1968 (#2, human rights for all), 1992 (#20, refugee women), 1995 (#14, refugee women and girls), and 2001 (#8, refugee women and human rights). This resolution builds on our ongoing commitment to address current challenges.

GWI will utilize its consultative role with UN Women, UN Refugee Agency, UN Human Rights Council, and other international bodies to assist in the implementation of this resolution.



GWI Strategic Advocacy Campaign 2020

*Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children
(Policy Resolution 2019,5)*

POLICY RESOLUTION 5 – HUMAN RIGHTS FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Proposed by: Women Graduates-USA Bangladesh Federation of University Women
Federación Mexicana de Mujeres Universitarias

Seconded by: The Canadian Federation of University Women

The 33rd GWI General Assembly resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) advocate for the implementation of the UN Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration passed by the UN General Assembly in December 2018 especially as it relates to women and children in their respective countries;
2. NFAs advocate for the implementation of the UN Global Compact on Refugees also passed by the UN General Assembly in December 2018 and designed to address the "challenges that face both refugees and their hosts" especially as the situations relate to women and children in their respective countries;
3. NFAs advocate for the ratification and implementation of the International Convention on The Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families; and
4. NFAs will urge their countries where they have not agreed to the two non-binding Compacts and the CEDAW Convention to join the rest of the world in addressing the human rights violations entailed in the movement of people throughout the world.

Suggested Plan of Action:

1. GWI will utilize its consultative role with UN Women, UN Refugee Agency, UN Human Rights Council, and other international bodies to assist in the implementation of this resolution.
2. NFAs should encourage the education of their members about the UN Compact for Migration and the Compact on Refugees and address the implementation in their countries and local communities, especially as it relates to gender issues as reflected by the UN Women Expert Working Group addressing key principles of non-discrimination and gender responsiveness.
3. NFAs should recognize and advocate that Recommendation #26 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) includes the protection of women migrant workers.
4. NFAs should work with their respective government representatives to urge their governments to implement or agree to these Compacts within their own countries.
5. NFAs should coordinate with human rights and migration/refugee organizations and other NGOs to raise awareness of the issues in their locales.
6. NFAs will encourage local branches to develop outreach programs to women and children refugees and migrants especially as it relates to access to education, health care, abuse and employment, and encourage connections among those agencies providing wrap-around services to these new people in their communities.
7. NFAs should encourage academic research that includes the mapping of populations at risk to examine the causes and the consequences of migration and refugees.



Supporting Statement:

GWI (IFUW) first addressed support for refugees in a resolution in 1939 (#4), and subsequently added refugee and/or human rights resolutions in 1968 (#2, human rights for all), 1992 (#20, refugee women), 1995 (#14, refugee women and girls), and 2001 (#8, refugee women and human rights).

The world is now facing the largest displacement of people since World War II. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHRC), the number of refugees and people displaced by conflict and disaster worldwide reached a record high in 2017 of 68.5 million while another 10 million are classified as "stateless" people. Across the globe, nearly 50 million children have been uprooted. Among them are 28 million fleeing brutal wars in Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan. There are 6.3 million migrant and refugee children in Latin America and the Caribbean fleeing violence and seeking to reunite with family members. In addition, there are another 258 million migrants, of which 120 million are women and girls, living outside of their country of birth. All these numbers continue to grow.

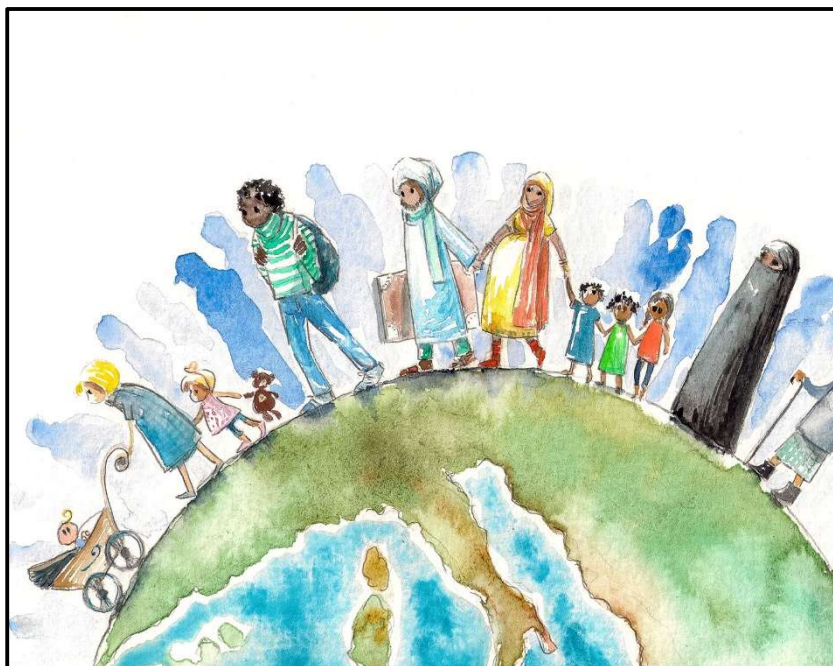
Refugee and migrant women and children are at particular risk for human trafficking and other abuses as a result of their vulnerable status as they are often pawns in larger political games of intractable conflict. Children alone make up half of the "people of concern" according to the UNHRC, as they are often separated from parents or traditional caregivers and even recruited to be child soldiers - both boys and girls. Obtaining an education becomes impossible. Forcibly displaced women face barriers to securing economic livelihoods, discrimination in many forms, sexual violence, limited access to service and negative consequences from some cultural practices. The human rights of women migrant workers

According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), 85% of the world's refugees are hosted in low and middle-income countries while increasingly, the developed countries set up barriers to entry for resettlement and/or asylum. The burden of providing for this massive movement of people from their home countries has become unfair. Thus, in 2016 the UN General Assembly declared "We commit to a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees" as they agreed to the two Compacts which " seek to strengthen the international response to large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations, and to better define cooperation to share responsibilities." The Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Turk stated, "We want to go beyond what already exists [in international law] and address a very specific gap which is to better define international cooperation to share responsibilities."



GWI Strategic Advocacy Campaign 2020

*Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children
(Policy Resolution 2019,5)*



GWI Strategic Advocacy Campaign

GWI VP Advocacy and Education

Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children

Based on

GWI Policy Resolution 2019, 5

GWI Advocacy-G | NFA Advocacy-N

Human Rights | Global Issue

Cross-linked to SDG 10.7, 16.3
Migration and Human Rights

GOAL

Urge governments to agree to and implement UN Global compacts passed by the UN General Assembly 2018 on safe, orderly and regular migrations.

THE ISSUE

The world is now facing the largest displacement of people since World War II. (United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHRC)), the number of refugees and people displaced by conflict and disaster worldwide reached a record high in 2017 of 68.5 million while another 10 million are classified as "stateless" people.

Forcibly displaced women face barriers to securing economic livelihoods, discrimination in many forms, sexual violence, limited access to service and negative consequences from some cultural practices. Refugee and migrant women and children are at particular risk for human trafficking and other abuses as a result of their vulnerable status as they are often pawns in larger political games of intractable conflict. Children alone make up half of the "people of concern" according to the UNHRC, as they are often separated from parents or traditional caregivers and even recruited to be child soldiers - both boys and girls. Obtaining any education becomes impossible.

Across the globe, nearly 50 million children have been uprooted. Among them are 28 million fleeing brutal wars in Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan. There are 6.3 million migrant and refugee children in Latin America and the Caribbean fleeing violence and seeking to reunite with family members. In addition, there are another 258 million migrants, of which 120 million are women and girls, living outside of their country of birth.



UNHCR: The Global Compact on Refugees²

In December of 2018, after two years of extensive consultations led by UNHCR with Member States, international organizations, refugees, civil society, the private sector and other experts, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees³.

The Compact has 4 key objectives:

1. Ease the pressure on host countries;
2. Enhance refugee self reliance;
3. Expand access to third-country solutions;
4. Support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

In regards to the Global Compact on Migration during COVID-19, commitments made at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum supports refugees and other peoples of concern along with their host communities.⁴

REVIEW OF LAW

NFAs to research current national / regional laws.

POLICY REVIEW

NFAs to research national, regional, local, community, institutional policies.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC, POLITICAL IMPACTS ON ISSUE

The world is now facing the largest displacement of people since World War II. According to the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the number of refugees and people displaced by conflict and disaster worldwide reached a record high in 2017 of 68.5 million while another 10 million are classified as "stateless" people. Across the globe, nearly 50 million children have been uprooted. Among them are 28 million fleeing brutal wars in Yemen, Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan. There are 6.3 million migrant and refugee children in Latin America and the Caribbean fleeing violence and seeking to reunite with family members. In addition, there are another 258 million migrants, of which 120 million are women and girls, living outside of their country of birth. All these numbers continue to grow.

² <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/the-global-compact-on-refugees.html>

³ Download the booklet: <https://www.unhcr.org/5c658aed4>

⁴ <https://globalcompactrefugees.org/article/role-global-compact-refugees-international-response-covid-19-pandemic>



Refugee and migrant women and children are at particular risk for human trafficking and other abuses as a result of their vulnerable status as they are often pawns in larger political games of intractable conflict. Children alone make up half of the "people of concern" according to the UNHRC, as they are often separated from parents or traditional caregivers and even recruited to be child soldiers - both boys and girls. Obtaining an education becomes impossible. Forcibly displaced women face barriers to securing economic livelihoods, discrimination in many forms, sexual violence, limited access to service and negative consequences from some cultural practices. The human rights of women migrant workers

According to the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), 85% of the world's refugees are hosted in low and middle-income countries while increasingly, the developed countries set up barriers to entry for resettlement and/or asylum. The burden of providing for this massive movement of people from their home countries has become unfair. Thus, in 2016 the UN General Assembly declared "We commit to a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees" as they agreed to the two Compacts which "seek to strengthen the international response to large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations, and to better define cooperation to share responsibilities." The Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Volker Turk stated, "We want to go beyond what already exists [in international law] and address a very specific gap which is to better define international cooperation to share responsibilities."

CURRENT STATUS

Effects of Covid-19

According to the UN Secretary General Policy Brief "People on the Move" ⁵, while COVID-19 has left few lives and places untouched, the impact is especially harsh for groups already in crisis particularly those on the move: migrants, workers in the informal economy, human trafficking victims, people in conflict areas fleeing their homes, and victims of climate change and environmental disasters.

This has resulted in the creation or further exacerbation of three interlocking crises:

1. Health Care: people exposed to the virus with limited resources for protection, already experiencing compromising health care situations such as living / working in crowded unsafe environments, lack of access to basic services such as water and sanitation, food security and nutrition, pre-existing barriers (legal, language, cultural) and risk of deportation due to lack of proper documentation.
2. Socio-economic: people working in the informal economy with limited access to social protection systems; increase unsafe environments facing women and girls who are already susceptible to gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation, loss of employment and wages.
3. Protection: border closures due to prevention measures to restrict movement and the spread of COVID-19 has left many people trapped in extremely dangerous situations and unable to cross borders to seek protection and escape persecution in their own countries. In addition, fear of

⁵ https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/sg_policy_brief_on_people_on_the_move.pdf June 2020



GWl Strategic Advocacy Campaign 2020

*Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children
(Policy Resolution 2019,5)*

COVID-19 has seen an increase in xenophobia, racism and stigmatization and derailment of human rights.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)⁶, the first year of the pandemic saw more than 111,000 travel restrictions and border closures around the world at their peak in December. These measures “have thwarted many people’s ability to pursue migration as a tool to escape conflict, economic collapse, environmental disaster and other crises”, IOM maintained.

Inequality in Restrictions:

1. Border closures impacted displaced people from seeking refuge but not business travellers.
2. Migrant workers and refugees who need to move out of necessity bear the brunt of expenses for quarantine and self-isolation.
3. The inequality will increase with requirements for proof of vaccination or negative COVID-19 testing especially amongst migrants who have no access to services or health records.

The Policy Brief outlines *Four Basic Tenets to Advancing Safe and Inclusive Mobility*:

1. Exclusion is costly in the long run whereas inclusion pays off for everyone.
2. The response to COVID-19 and protecting the human rights of people on the move are not mutually exclusive.
3. No one is safe until everyone is safe.
4. People on the move are part of the solution.

According to the Policy Brief, there is much concern about the future of human mobility as a result of COVID-19. *“As mobility in many parts of the world has ground to a halt, there are concerns that in the mid- to long-term some of the current movement restrictions could outlast the immediate crisis. This could erode legal obligations related to access to protection under international human rights and refugee law, as well as established practices and norms around mobility. It also risks reducing the beneficial impact of migration to countries of destination and origin.”*

POTENTIAL ALLIES

- Human Rights and migration/refugee organizations
- NGOs
- Local community outreach programs
- Health care officials and institutions
- Religious leaders and institutions

⁶ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/04/1089302>



GWI Strategic Advocacy Campaign 2020

*Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children
(Policy Resolution 2019,5)*

- Local education leaders and institutions
- Social welfare organizations and professionals
- Community and family members
- The media

RECOMMENDATIONS

(Based on socio-economic and political findings)

Urge respective Governments to agree to and implement the UN Global Compacts: On Refugees and for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, passed by the UN general assembly in December 2018 especially as they relate to women and children. [N]

Advocate for the ratification and implementation of the International Convention on The Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. [G][N]

Educate members about the UN Compact for Migration and the Compact on Refugees and recognize and advocate that Recommendation #26 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) includes the protection of women migrant workers. [G]

Coordinate with human rights and migration/refugee organizations and other NGOs to raise awareness of the issues in their locales. [G]

Encourage local outreach programs to women and children refugees and migrants especially as it relates to access to education, health care, abuse and employment, and encourage connections among those agencies providing wrap-around services to these new people in their communities. [N]

Encourage academic research that includes the mapping of populations at risk to examine the causes and the consequences of migration and refugees. [G][N]

DEVELOP A MESSAGE

GWI Position

GWI (IFUW) first addressed support for refugees in a resolution in 1939 (#4), and subsequently added refugee and/or human rights resolutions in 1968 (#2, human rights for all), 1992 (#20, refugee women), 1995 (#14, refugee women and girls), and 2001 (#8, refugee women and human rights). This resolution builds on our ongoing commitment to address current challenges.

GWI will utilize its consultative role with UN Women, UN Refugee Agency, UN Human Rights Council, and other international bodies to assist in the implementation of this resolution.



The Sustainable Development Goals

SDG 10.7.2:

Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people.⁷

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes targets related directly to international migrations and migrants, particularly SDG 10.7.2 which call on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Other migration-oriented SDGs and targets include:

- SDG 4.b (providing scholarships for study abroad)
- SDG 8.8 (respecting labor rights of migrant workers)
- SDG 10 c (reducing the costs of transferring remittances)
- SDG 5.2, 8.7, 16.2 (ending human trafficking)
- SDG 17.18 (disaggregating data by various characteristics including migratory status)

Barriers⁸

85% of the world's refugees are hosted in low and middle-income countries (*UNHCR*), the developed countries set up barriers to entry for resettlement and/or asylum.

Despite UN Compacts the burden of providing for this massive movement of people from their home countries has become unfair.

Media portrayal and definitions of the groups leads to mistrust within the settled countries.

SUGGESTED FOCAL POINTS AND INFLUENCERS

- UN Agencies - United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR)
- Governments and legislators (national, regional, local)
- Media, journalists
- Humanitarian aid workers, social workers
- Health care workers
- Institutes of education
- Religious and Community leaders and activists

⁷ [SDG indicator 10.7.2: Data Booklet \(un.org\)](#)

⁸ Pre-COVID-19



GWI Strategic Advocacy Campaign 2020

*Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children
(Policy Resolution 2019,5)*

ADVOCACY TOOLS

- Social media
- Blogs
- Community Action Calls
- Face-to-face meetings
- Phone calls
- Email
- Letter-writing
- Letters to the Editor, news articles
- TV and radio outreach
- White papers, research and data
- Community Action Toolkits

GWI Advocacy Tools

Toolkits: <https://graduatewomen.org/media-publications/toolkit/>

Press Releases: <https://graduatewomen.org/media-publications/press-releases/>

- 18 December 2019: [On International Migrants Day, GWI issues an infographic report that calls for international cooperation to tackle human rights violations of women migrants around the world](#)

Strategic Advocacy Tools

- GWI Strategic Advocacy Template
- GWI Strategic Advocacy Checklist
- GWI Strategic Advocacy Toolkit

GWI Resolutions

GWI (IFUW) first addressed support for refugees in a resolution in 1939 (#4), and subsequently added refugee and/or human rights resolutions in 1968 (#2, human rights for all), 1992 (#20, refugee women), 1995 (#14, refugee women and girls), and 2001 (#8, refugee women and human rights). This resolution builds on our ongoing commitment to address current challenges.

GWI will utilize its consultative role with UN Women, UN Refugee Agency, UN Human Rights Council, and other international bodies to assist in the implementation of this resolution.

Reference Documents



GWI Strategic Advocacy Campaign 2020

*Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children
(Policy Resolution 2019,5)*

1951 Refugee Convention

<https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/1951-refugee-convention.html>

The Global Compact on Refugees

<https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/the-global-compact-on-refugees.html>

Advocacy Timing

UN International Days

[World Refugee Day](#) – June 20

[International Migrants Day](#) – December 18

UN Human Rights Council (quarterly)

UN Commission on the Status of Women (annually in March)

UN High Level Political Forum (annually July)

Other UN events and meetings where GWI can deliver written and oral statements as thematically appropriate



Putting it all together

Strategic Advocacy

"Strategic Advocacy is a planned process, not an event"



Advocacy is a process involving a series of inter-related steps that take you from the identification of an issue, to the satisfactory resolution of that issue.



Advocacy's goal is to bring about changes in laws or regulations, public behavior and political perspectives concerning your advocacy issue.



Advocacy benefits all people: the marginalized and the mainstream.



Advocacy is about caring enough about social, economic and political issues that have the potential to either negate or affirm human rights and gender equality.

Planning is important. It helps you to:

- head in the right direction;
- break down your goals into manageable pieces or stepping stones;
- use the right tools;
- use scarce resources wisely by making strategic choices;
- make sure activities reinforce rather than undermine each other;
- get the timing right;
- start preparing early enough and become prepared to counter opposition.

Common Mistakes

- Unclear aims and objectives
- Activity planning without a strategy leading to untargeted actions, wasted effort and ultimately reduced impact
- Action plans that run to an internal timetable, rather than being determined by external events and opportunities
- Asking decision makers to do something which is not in their power
- Getting the timing wrong and trying to influence a process when key decisions have already been made
- Messages that don't get noticed and move people or fail to include a call to action
- Not having a clearly defined 'ask'
- Use the wrong tools
- Scarce resources used unwisely
- Activities that run at cross purposes
- Inability to counter opposition

Strategic Advocacy is about:

- achieving specific outcomes, not just raising awareness of problems;
- developing strategies based on research and analysis rather than guesswork;
- choosing approaches and deploying resources where they will have the most impact

The process is about:

- knowing what is wrong;
- identifying the problem you want to tackle and therefore which issue you want to work on;
- knowing what you would like to see as the solution to the problem;
- knowing what must change;
- knowing what you will ask for and the least that you will be satisfied with;
- recognizing who has the power to achieve change;
- recognizing who will help or hinder this process;
- identifying which resources will be needed;
- understanding how those with the power to make changes will be influenced.

The planning process has the following elements:

- Identify the issue
- Research the current status of the issue
- Review the law regarding the issue
- Identify the change that needs to be made
- Research socio-economic and political conditions that are causing or exacerbating the issue
- Identify allies – other organizations that are working on the same issue and have a similar goal: NGOs, community-based organizations, agencies
- Develop working partnerships with allies identified
- Develop recommendations
- Develop your message
- Identify institutions and people that you will focus your advocacy efforts towards
- Identify advocacy tools: position papers, press releases, social media
- Train members of your organization to deploy advocacy tools
- Monitor the progress of your advocacy and evaluate results to make necessary adjustments and changes





Strategic
Advocacy
Toolkit
Click Here

Graduate Women International Strategic Advocacy Plan Checklist

- ☐ Identify the issue
- ☐ Research current status of issue
- ☐ Review law in your country
- ☐ Identify needed change
- ☐ Research exacerbating issues
- ☐ Identify allies
- ☐ Develop working partnerships
- ☐ Develop recommendations
- ☐ Develop your message
- ☐ Identify targets of focus
- ☐ Identify GWI advocacy tools
- ☐ Train NFA members
- ☐ Monitor progress
- ☐ Summarize work
- ☐ Share success with GWI office



The Advocacy Cycle



GWI Toolkits

<https://graduatewomen.org/members-login/tools-resources/toolkit/>

GWI Advocacy and the Media

<https://graduatewomen.org/media-publications/press-releases/>
<https://graduatewomen.org/members-login/advocacy-media/press-release-templates/>

GWI Annual Reports

<https://graduatewomen.org/media-publications/annual-reports/>

GWI Policy Papers

<https://graduatewomen.org/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/policy-papers/>

GWI Resolutions

<https://graduatewomen.org/members-login/constitutional-material/resolutions/>

GWI Manifestos

<https://graduatewomen.org/who-we-are/gwi-manifestos/>

