



**Economic and Social  
Council**

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Agenda item 5

**ECOSOC High-level Segment**

**Statement submitted by Graduate Women International  
(GWI) in consultative status with the Economic and Social  
Council \***

The Secretary-General has received the following statements, which are being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* The present statements are issued without formal editing.

## Statement

### Interconnection of poverty, corruption and education

The evidence is clear, poverty reduces a girl's opportunity to attend school. The World Bank estimated that in 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic-induced global new poor would be between 119 and 124 million. In 2021, the estimated COVID-19-induced poor is set to rise to between 143 and 163 million.

The number of children living in extreme poverty decreased by 29 million between 2013 and 2017. However, UNICEF and the World Bank Group also warn that any progress made in recent years is concerningly slow-paced, unequally distributed, and at risk due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Considering this evidence, 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 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1, No Poverty, SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities and SDG 16, Peaceful and Inclusive societies, while acknowledging the interrelatedness of all 17 SDGs.

One of the most significant barriers to improving education is the sector-wide occurrence of corruption. With government spending on education comprising approximately 20 to 30 percent of many national budgets, education systems are highly susceptible to corruption. Corruption in education emerges in many forms and affects all areas of education, including: school financing and infrastructure; recruitment, retainment and training of teachers and educators; distribution of resources and equipment, administration and admission to universities.

When corruption is tolerated in education systems, quality students are overlooked. Impoverished girls are hazardously marginalized. Corruption prevents them exponentially from obtaining the same educational benefits as their peers, perpetuating globalizing of poverty.  
GWI Position and Recommendations:

With its 101-year history in the promotion and advocacy of girls' education, GWI uses this voice to speak out about the interconnection of poverty, corruption and education. GWI makes these recommendations as steps for all women and girls:

Guarantee availability of quality secondary and tertiary education to all girls and women; enforce mandatory primary.

Ensure safe access to quality education through enforcement of laws that protect against varying forms of gender-based violence.

Include educational approach in all aspects of poverty eradication.

Identify/prosecute instances of corruption in the educational system.



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Actively engage/support NGOs within the educational sector as partners.

Broaden accountability; institute sanctions for bribery.

Establish legal frameworks to recruit and advance careers based on merit.

Examine and strengthen policies of recruiting, hiring, retaining, and promoting female educators to provide young girls with role models.

GWJ invites States and organizations worldwide to engage with GWJ as a means to eradicate poverty worldwide.

**Word count :**