



GW I UPDATE – 23 June 2021



The Generation Equality Forum will be held hybridly from 30 June to 2 July. Don't forget to register by 27 June midnight CEST

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— Graduate Women International News —

Register for GEF, France

The Generation Equality Forum (GEF), which will be held hybridly in Paris from 30 June to 2 July, is a global gathering for gender equality, convened by United Nations Women (UN Women) and co-chaired by the governments of France and Mexico, with and the close partnership of civil society. For this first online edition, attendees will gain access to the Forum's digital platform, offering the opportunity to attend nearly 90 events featuring 500 panelists and interact with tens of thousands of participants from around the world. Because it is a multi-actor and intergenerational gathering, it encourages participation

from all. Its registration is now open until Sunday, 27 June at midnight Paris time (CEST) - do not forget to register [HERE](#).

Next GWI Fellowship programme will open soon!

GWI offers every three years, on the occasion of its triennium, fellowships that make it possible for women graduates to complete exciting research in many important fields which are directly related to GWI priority and interest. Their studies will have far-reaching benefits, for their own careers, and for the communities and countries from which they come. The next round of GWI fellowship applications will open 1 October 2021. The deadline to apply is 15 December 2021 at 11:59 PM Central European Time. The guidelines and the application are available [HERE](#).

— GWI Member News —

In a few hours! GWI Town Hall

The GWI Board of Officers is pleased to invite GWI members to participate in a virtual Membership Town Hall, tonight, at 8-9:30 CEST. The GWI Board will deliver a brief presentation about GWI and then open the floor for questions, answers and discussion. Please click [HERE](#) to register for the Town Hall.

GWNZ Otago is celebrating 100 years!

By Louise Croot, Past President, International Federation of University Women (IFUW) and member GWNZ.

“The 14th of May 1921 was the first meeting of women graduates in Otago.

One Hundred years later almost to the day, a short business meeting was held with about 70 members and friends present. Fifteen Past Branch Presidents, two Past st National Presidents and 1 former International President were in attendance.

The evening proceeded with a celebration of 100 years through eight short presentations about the ten decades. The history was gleaned from archives deposited over the years in the Hocken Collections in Dunedin. Memories too played a part.

The social context of changing priorities was illustrated as the federation grew over time to work together in a focused way. By late 1960's more advocacy and submissions on concerns such as women's health, environmental and educational matters as well as equal pay and women at home surveys.

Graduations were supported from 1935 by regalia hire and receptions for new women graduates. Scholarships and grants were managed by the National body and local branches. International Conferences were attended, reports shared and themes adopted from international dialogue. One example was “Civic Responsibility”.

The Otago branch has a good number of young members who are actively involved in branch activities. Mentoring and shared activities including regalia hire for graduations will continue. We look forward to our future as it unfolds.”



Lorraine Isaacs and Martine Cashel-Smith

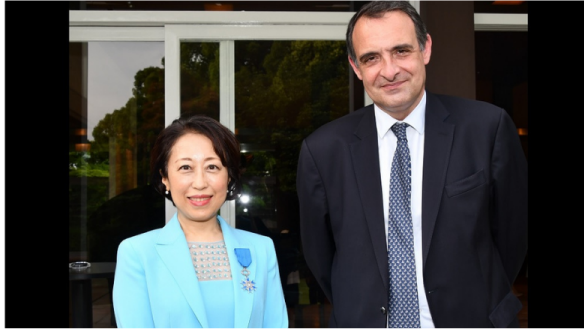


Dame Elizabeth Hanan, Sue Cathro, Marie Aubin sign in.

JAUW's member Prof. Dr. Mari Miura Awarded Ordre national du Merite Chevalier from France

By Chizuko Suzuki, JAUW Coordinator of International Relation (CIR)

"It is JAUW's honor and pleasure to inform that a JAUW member Ms. Mari Miura, PhD, Prof. of Sophia University, Tokyo was awarded Ordre national du Merite Chevalier from France for spreading the idea of Parity throughout Japan, on June 11, 2021. Owing greatly to her persevering efforts to implement the gender equality in politics, the equality candidates' law between women and men was passed at the House of Representatives of National Diet on June 10. It must be one sound step forward on "the long way to go" in the women history especially in Japan, which was ranked 120th among 156 countries in the latest Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI). What is the most remarkable among her recent great contributions is her initiatives as moderator in conducting the side event at the CSW65 "We Need Women Leaders in Politics: Better Society, Strong Democracy", organized by three Japanese women NGOs jointly with Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations. That scored a huge success. Ms. Yumiko Makishima, JAUW's former vice-president and the present chair of the International Networking Committee of JAUW can hardly hide her exquisite pleasure because she has worked hard together with Prof. M. Miura in advocating the quota system into Japan for a long time."



Dr. Mari Miura with Ambassador of France, Mr. Philippe Setton
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Prof. Dr. Mari Miura delivering a speech at the awarding ceremony
© Ambassade de France au Japon

— Advocacy —

International Day For the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

Saturday, 19 June 2020 marked the annual International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. This United Nations (UN) observance day raises awareness of the urgent need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, a brutal crime mainly perpetrated against women and girls. Sexual violence represents a significant threat to international peace and security and a blatant and cruel violation of women's and girls' rights. In areas of conflict, survivors confront greater challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, lacking the necessary resources to report sexual violence and facing closed shelters and clinics. GWI joins UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in calling for a global ceasefire and urging governments and local authorities to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable to prevent and end these crimes. GWI ran a social media campaign from 18 to 19 June providing substantial information and advocacy ideas for organisations to address the issue and help combat conflict-related sexual violence. Campaign materials can be viewed on the GWI social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

World Refugee Day

Nowadays, out of 70.8 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, 25.6 million fall under refugee status, among which 50 percent are women and girls, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Every year on 20 June, GWI joins the international community in observing World Refugee Day as a means of raising awareness of the ongoing issue of refugees around the world through the different elements related to the importance of education in the lives of women and girls. The COVID19 crisis has affected refugee populations markedly and, this year, GWI calls for coordinated global actions for the protection of refugee women's and girls' fundamental rights, including their right to education. We invite you to read the statement of Louise McLeold, GWI Vice President (VP) Advocacy

and Education, on the topic, [HERE](#). The GWI 2021 World Refugee Day social media campaign, held from 20 to 22 June, can be viewed and shared on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

Communications Procedure of the CSW

The Communications Procedure of the CSW is a unique tool for individuals and organisations to use in order to raise awareness about injustice and discriminatory practices against women in any country in the world. Claims to the Commission on the Status of Women for consideration at its next session (14 to 25 March 2022) must be submitted by 1 August 2021. To learn more, we invite you to click [HERE](#).

ECOSOC Youth Forum 10th Anniversary

By Sudha Srivastava, BFWG CIR Assistant & President of the Young Member Network

“The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Youth Forum’s 10th Anniversary took place on 7-8 April 2021, virtually from New York with the theme - “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: Building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. Young people can contribute to policy discussions at the United Nations through their ideas, priorities, solutions and innovations. The Forum has given a unique opportunity for youth to jointly address common challenges as well as advance their contributions to achieve the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Participants were Member States, including Ministers and other high-level representatives, young people and official youth delegates, as well as representatives of regional and multilateral organizations.”. GWI thanks Ms. Srivastava for her participation. We encourage you to click [HERE](#) to read her excellent summary of the Youth Forum.

GWI UN Reps participated in the North America and Europe Caucus meeting

On 28 May 2021, GWI UN Reps, Maureen Byrne, Ph.D., Sophie Turner Zaretsky, Ph.D., and Maryella Hannum participated in the North America and Europe Caucus meeting. The Generation Forum for Action was discussed, it is the collaboration of governments, civil society and the private sector to accelerate gender equality. However, it has been mentioned that it is difficult for civil society to get involved in the process. It has been concluded that North America, Europe and UN Women need to work closely and formalise a scheme to be heard. We invite you to read the full report of Maureen Byrne [HERE](#).

Virtual Town Hall with the UN Secretary General António Guterres

As part of the CSW65, GWI UN Rep New York participated in the Town Hall of the UN SG, António Guterres. The meeting was an opportunity for women and youth civil society organisations to engage with the UN SG. During the meeting, the SG acknowledged the severe impact of COVID-19 on women. It was decided that five “transformative actions” were necessary to build women’s representation, participation and leadership. For instance, we need to “Realize women’s equal rights by repealing all discriminatory laws and enacting positive measures.” Please click [HERE](#) to read a full account of the Town Hall, written by Maryella Hannum.

— Give the gift of empowerment —

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, a diverse and dynamic community of graduate women dedicated to making the world more just and sustainable for all.

— Upcoming: GWI's Women Pioneers Summer —

Do you know Marie Curie? Linda Souter? Genevieve Adukpo? They are eminent members of GWI, pioneers in their field and known for their contribution to society. GWI is pleased to showcase them this summer (1 July - 31 August) on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Stay tuned for posts at 7PM CEST.

— Dates and events worth noting —

21 June-9 July	Human Rights Council, 47th session, United Nations Office, Geneva
23 June	International Widows Day, Global
30 June-2 July	Generation Equality Forum, Paris
6-15 July	High-Level Political Forum, New-York
15 July	World Youth Skills Day, Global
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons, Global
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)
21 September	International Day of Peace, Global
5 October	World Teacher's Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global

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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