



GWI UPDATE – 9 June 2021

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](#)

As part of the "Connecting Across Generations" webinar series, GWI Young Member Network will hold on Saturday, 12 June 2021, 4-5:30pm CEST, a webinar on "NEET" Effect in Changing Times".

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— Graduate Women International News —

Register Today! GWI YMN “NEET Effects in Changing Times” webinar

To emphasise limitless potential of young women and to mark international Day against Child Labour, the Graduate Women International (GWI) Young Member Network (YMN), will hold the next webinar in the “Connecting Across Generations” series on 12 June 2021, 4-5:30pm CEST under the title, *NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) Effects in Changing Times*. GWI welcomes two International Labour Organisation (ILO) leaders in the fields of youth and gender, Mr. Shane Niall O’Higgins, and Ms. Adrienne Cruz. O’Higgins and Cruz will highlight the link between NEET and gender in today’s setting. To gather impactful data, attendees will have the opportunity to participate in breakout sessions relevant to the guest speaker’s presentations. For more information, please click [HERE](#). **GWI members are invited to register today by clicking [HERE](#), and to read the distinguished speaker bios [HERE](#).**

GWI marks International Day against Child Labour held annually 12 June

GWI has issued a [press release](#) to mark International Day against Child Labour. The year 2021 is designated, by a United Nations General Assembly [resolution](#), as International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour. The resolution urges governments to do what is necessary to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 8. [Target 8.7](#) asks Member States to take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour among other targets. Today, [152 million children are still in child labour](#) according to the ILO. Child labour is a cruel atrocity robbing children of their childhoods and the world of its future. Child labour prevents girls from accessing education. GWI calls on states, organisations, and individuals to value education, both formal and informal, as a means to eliminate child labour. **GWI encourages the wide sharing of its comprehensive social media campaign on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) aimed to raise awareness about this harmful practice.**

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

By Marianne Singh-Waraich, Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)

“GWI has created a place for NFA-to-NFA projects in the Membership Marketplace. The Marketplace is an innovative way of bringing awareness and stimulating advocacy! Try it! The CFUW decided to explore this option by twinning with the Dutch NFA for a six months project on raising awareness about the plight of women in Afghanistan, specifically the Afghan peace negotiations and their perilous significance for the women of Afghanistan. We held a series of ZOOM meetings and attended webinars to educate ourselves on the topic. Hally Siddons, CFUW Ottawa and Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI-NL led their respective teams.” (Marianne Singh-Waraich) On 24 April was the *Afghan Peace Negotiations: Their Perilous Significance for Women in Afghanistan* webinar which included three extraordinary women’s rights activists from Afghanistan. From these extraordinary women, participants learned about the crucial issues facing them and how we as informed women can strengthen their voices at this critical time for them and for their country. If you missed the webinar or would like to read the highlights, please click [HERE](#) to read Ms. Singh-Wariach summary.

— GWI Member News —

GWI highlights TCAUW latest activities: conference and written statement

GWI is heartened that, despite global challenges, NFAs continue to develop impactful activities. In this regard, TCAUW recently held a Zoom conference on “Women and Laws”. Presented by three activists and lawyers from Cyprus and Turkey, this event gathered around 60 women from Cyprus and other countries. Moreover, on 3 May 2021, they submitted a written statement jointly with 23 associations and organisations in the Parliament. This statement, which addresses Domestic Violence Law in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), called the 50 members of the Parliament to “pass the Domestic Violence Law in line with international and the EU laws in order to prevent violence against women and children in our country” and pointed out that “necessary legal arrangements should be made in cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGO’s) for a more effective operation of the Women’s Unit”. GWI congratulates TCAUW for their extraordinary work.



Association’s representatives in front of the Parliament Building on 3 May 2021

The AGFDU offers free psychological counselling for women and students

The current health situation, due to the coronavirus pandemic, with its share of consequences (bereavement, confinement, concerns, isolation, loss of employment, uncertainty, teleworking, job insecurity, financial insecurity) has largely favoured the emergence of vulnerability factors within the entire population. The presence of these factors of personal and interpersonal vulnerabilities offers a favourable ground for the accentuation and/or the occurrence of psychological difficulties. We observed that women were particularly affected and made vulnerable. In view of this worrying observation for mental health, social, family, professional and academic balance, we have a thought for all women, all mothers, all girls, who are confronted on a daily basis with their own psychological difficulties, to those of the couple, to the difficulties related to the education of the children, to the

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&
AGFDU Centre de Liaison des Associations Féminines Genevoises

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difficulties that students and girls go through during their studies, etc.

The AGFDU and the CLAFG (Connection Center of Geneva Feminine Associations) who collaborate together for well-being, integration, academic and professional success, development of women and girls, has found appropriate to provide their support in the accompaniment of women and girls who are going through psychological difficulties. This is why we provide a framework for listening, support and psychological guidance. Starting on the occasion of March 8, celebrating International Women's Rights Day, free psychological assistance will be offered to provide women and students with psychological support. This psychological assistance will take place at the CLAFG location, by an experienced psychologist in supporting women, member of the Geneva section.

To make an appointment, call +41 78 207 97 57 or write to contact@clafg.ch

— Advocacy —

World Refugee Day “Together we heal, learn and shine”

By Louise McLeod, GWI VP Advocacy and Education (to access the full write up, please click [HERE](#))

Refugees are among the most vulnerable people in the world. In fact, according to the United Nations, every minute that passes sees 20 people forced to leave everything behind to escape war, persecution or terror.

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 United Nations Human Right Council (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.

GWI has created [Advocacy Campaigns](#), containing recent facts and statistics on the impact of COVID-19, to help GWI NFAs and their members urge their respective governments to take positive actions around these issues. In addition, GWI uses its consultative role with UN Women, UN Refugee Agency, UN Human Rights Council, and other international bodies to assist in their implementation.

Plan International webinar “Time to Act – Let’s Go Digital! Using digital technology to end child, early and forced marriage and reduce adolescent pregnancy in Asia-Pacific”

Asia is once again under a new or modified lockdown, and its impact on economic and social realities has widened the scourge of child and early forced marriages (CEFM). With the digital revolution we have been experiencing for years now, we must remind us that technology is a tool that one must use effectively, while being a true asset for the world we want to have for our girls. Plan International reaffirmed that joint efforts are necessary to ending child marriage by 2030 during their webinar that took place on 25 May, on the occasion of the global launch of their 2021 CEFM Flagship report, “Time to Act – Let’s Go Digital”. GWI participated in this action-oriented dialogue alongside almost three hundred participants from different sectors and organizations from all over the world and top level global thematic leaders and speakers. GWI's summary for this event is accessible [HERE](#), and Plan International's

final report can be downloaded from the following link [HERE](#). We encourage you to disseminate it further amongst your internal and external channels and networks.

— GWI at the United Nations —

Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice by Elisabeth Francis, GWI UN Rep, Vienna

The 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (postponed from 2020) took place in Kyoto 7-12 March 2021. The Congress, which has taken place every five years since 1955, represents the world's largest gathering of governments, international and regional organisations, civil society and academic experts focusing on crime prevention and criminal justice. It is a unique forum to exchange experience in research, law and policy development among countries, organisations and experts. Its conclusions - as per the Kyoto Declaration, adopted at the Congress by all member states - guide UN crime-related policies and actions for the next five-year period.

The Kyoto Congress was in hybrid format, with a limited in-person component and the majority of participants joining virtually. Of 5,600 participants, 4,200 were registered for online participation. This included representatives from 152 UN Member States, 37 intergovernmental organisations, 114 non-governmental organisations, 600 individual experts and a number of UN entities and institutes. Elisabeth Francis, GWI UN Rep Vienna represented GWI virtually. We encourage reading her outstanding report [HERE](#).

COVID 19 and Education report by GWI UN Reps, New York

Even in these unique times, GWI UN Reps are keeping active and are continuing to represent GWI in the virtual sessions and events organized by the UN. We encourage you to read and share one of the latest and educational [reports](#) developed by GWI UN Representatives, Maureen Byrne, PhD, Dr. Sophie Turner Zaretsky, and Maryella Hannum, which addresses concisely the issues that need to be tackled in relation to the current pandemic's effects on education.

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

— Meet GWI 2021 Summer Intern —

“My name is Julie Odon. I am a Masters student in Contemporary International Relations in Lyon, France. As long as I can remember, I have always been involved in women's rights. This interest combined with many other commitments led me to want to join GWI's team for an internship. It is a great pleasure for me to be able to work with Stacy and Nell this summer. I am delighted to be able to develop new skills and discover a dynamic environment within their team.”



— Dates and events worth noting —

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
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 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)

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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