

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Graduate Women International joins together with International Labour Organisation experts for the “NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) Effects in Changing Times” webinar

Geneva, Switzerland, 7 June 2021 – 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, Senior Economist in the ILO’s Employment Analysis Unit and Professor of Economics at the University of Salerno (Italy), and Ms. Adrienne Cruz, ILO Gender Specialist and co-author of the publication *Gender-Based Violence in the World of Work*. O’Higgins and Cruz will highlight the link between NEET and gender in today’s setting. GWI members are invited to register today by clicking [HERE](#).

The purpose of the GWI YMN “*Connecting Across Generations*” webinar series is for GWI multigenerational members to learn from each other’s life experiences and gain knowledge. “The GWI Young Member Network is a dynamic part of GWI that unites our intergenerational members worldwide. They represent a contemporary future for GWI as we move to 103 years,” said Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI Vice President Membership.

In 2019, forty-eight GWI young members from around the world came together at the GWI Centenary in Geneva, Switzerland, to form a proactive group with the aim to “inspire, empower and mentor women through education”. The YMN unites under the mission statement, “GWI Young Members Network stands for passionate proactive female change makers who inspire, empower and mentor women through education to embrace diversity, inclusiveness, friendship, freedom and peace, which leads to strategic actions and positive solutions”.

GWI also marks International Day against Child Labour held annually 12 June. 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 invest in 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.

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 60 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls’ and women’s global network of graduate women advocating for women’s rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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Contributing to this press release is GWI interns Nell Yasef, University Grenoble-Alps and Julie Oddon, Science Po, Lyon.