



## GWI Special Edition Update – 16 June 2021



*Graduate Women International Policy Resolutions 2019-2022*

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### – GWI Policy Resolutions 2019-2022 –

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New Policy Resolutions are adopted by the Graduate Women International (GWI) General Assembly every three years. Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly remain in effect during the triennium for which they were adopted, currently 2019 to 2022. These Policy Resolutions steer GWI policy and provide unified guidance to National Federations and Associations (NFAs), GWI United Nations Representatives, GWI leadership, and office for global, national and local advocacy work aimed to protect and enhance the lives of women and girls.

GWI held its 33<sup>rd</sup> triennial in 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The General Assembly adopted eight Policy Resolutions that are guiding GWI advocacy work for the 2019-2022 triennial.

This Special Edition Update newsletter examines systematically the eight GWI Policy Resolutions. These in-depth analyses describe the issue of concern, barriers impeding progress to improve the issue, GWI's position, and recommendations for change. **Importantly, accompanying each Policy Resolution, is a comprehensive Strategic Advocacy Plan that provides pragmatic actions that GWI members, supporters, and like-minded organisations can put into action globally, nationally, and locally as a means to advocate for the issue of interest.** *The Strategic Advocacy Plans are useful to advocates on all levels offering potential allies, message development, and much more.* Whether an experienced advocate or an advocate just getting started, each plan offers impactful tools. GWI invites readers to explore fully the Policy Resolutions introduced in this Special Edition Update.



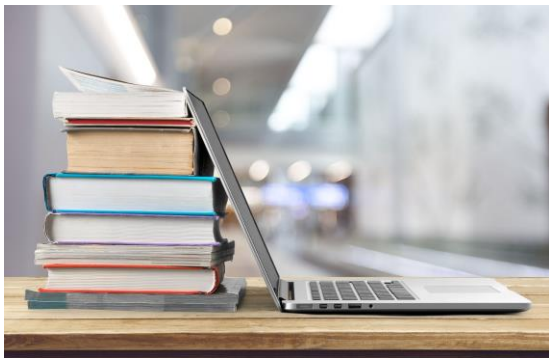
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## – Policy Resolution 1 – Diversity in Teacher Education as a Positive Contribution to an Equitable Education

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GWI previously advocated for cultural diversity with education, but this resolution specifically targets the need for diversity in the demography of teacher selection and teacher education and deconstructing the underpinnings of current biases in this. Research shows that having diverse voices in the classroom improves the education of all children; not only is this of benefit to the individual, but also to community relationships. According to the 2020 UNESCO GEM report, the COVID 19 pandemic has further exposed and deepened inequalities in education and the fragility of our societies.

In this resolution, GWI encourages education systems and government departments to increase the numbers of teachers of varying ethnicities and backgrounds; advocates strongly for having teachers



Source : Adobe.

of the mix of different ethnicities and identities reflective of the student/children demography they are teaching to enable greater empathy and shared spaces for learning. GWI also urges governments to increase funding and support for underrepresented minorities.

GWI encourages putting into action the Strategic Advocacy Plan for Policy Resolution 1 on teacher diversity found [HERE](#).

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## – Policy Resolution 2 – Building Peace through Women’s Education

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Building peace through education will help girls and women teach and raise the future generation in a better environment without suffering violence. Peace allows families to raise children as nonviolent citizens and maintain society free from war and conflict.

GWI encourages the promotion of specific peacebuilding education in their communities and society, especially for those girls and women not in the



Source : Adobe.



scholastic system; promoting the education of families about the consequences of not having girls and women in the educational system.

GWI encourages putting into action the Strategic Advocacy Plan for Policy Resolution 2 on building peace through education found [HERE](#).

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## – Policy Resolution 3 – Sexual & Reproductive Health Education as a Human Right for All

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A long tradition of patriarchy resulted in male entitlement and a subsequent lack of any education for girls. Violence against women has cultural biases that must be counteracted with a comprehensive sexual and human rights education aimed at breaking the current cultural patterns. To cope with this worldwide issue, GWI is collaborating with women's rights organisations and NGOs to raise awareness about the relationship between violence against women and lack of sexual and human rights education.

In Policy Resolution 3, GWI recommends urging governments to incorporate /review current sexual and human rights education in the curricula of all levels of education and monitor their compliance as a tool to curb violence against women.

GWI encourages putting into action the Strategic Advocacy Plan for Policy Resolution 3 on health education found [HERE](#).



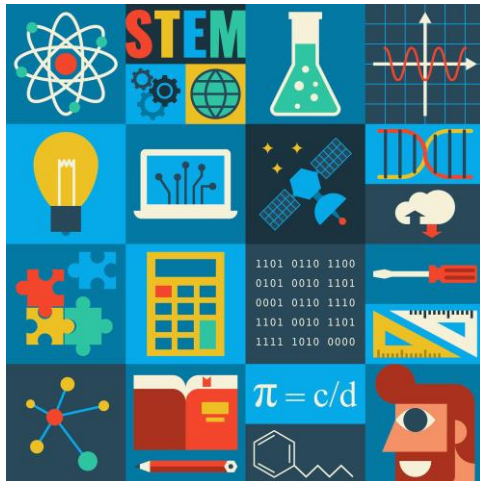
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## – Policy Resolution 4 – Women and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

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Although research has made clear that girls are no less talented than boys in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), girls and women are still underrepresented in STEM fields in higher education and in the labour market. This is a loss for girls and women as well as society GWI



Source : Adobe.

will use their position to highlight the ongoing issues in this area. GWI recognises that this is not merely an educational issue but one of support and retention.

GWI recommends urging governments to encourage the promotion of STEM, particularly among girls and women. As part of its Strategic Advocacy Plan, GWI offers to assist in establishing STEM training workshops and courses.

GWI encourages putting into action the Strategic Advocacy Plan for Policy Resolution 4 on women in science found [HERE](#).

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## – Policy Resolution 5 – Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children

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The world is facing the largest displacement of people since World War II. 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. This resolution builds on our ongoing commitment to support refugees.

As part of Policy Resolution 5, GWI urges governments to agree to and implement the United Nations Global Compact passed by the United Nations General Assembly 2018 on safe, orderly, and regular migrations. The United Nations Global Compact aims to ease the pressure on host countries, enhance refugee self reliance. For its implementation, GWI recommends working closely with human rights and education organisations.



Source : Freepik.

GWI encourages putting into action the Strategic Advocacy Plan for Policy Resolution 5 on human rights for refugees and migrants found [HERE](#).



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## – Policy Resolution 6 – Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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Source : Adobe.

GWI affirms that developed countries have a legal and moral obligation to do more to solve the global refugee crisis. Governments must continue to show leadership and spark international solidarity towards refugees by increasing refugee intake and allocating adequate resources to ensure successful refugee resettlement and integration.

GWI recommends urging governments to provide and expand the resources, training counselling, and infrastructure to the appropriate entities to ensure an efficient and effective refugee claims system. GWI suggests seeking support to local NGOs working on refugee and asylum seekers rights.

GWI encourages putting into action the Strategic Advocacy Plan for Policy Resolution 6 on non-discriminant for asylum seekers found [HERE](#).

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## – Policy Resolution 7 – Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

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Although many countries have legislation in place to prevent sexual harassment the number of prosecutions is often low.

GWI works to end all forms of discrimination and to promote a fair and safe working environment and will use their influence to work towards ending sexual harassment in the workplace and creating a safe environment for women by urging governments to implement national laws effectively and spreading awareness. GWI will encourage the dialogue process and make efforts to reach out to women and men starting from the grassroots level through educative seminars, workshops, and other forms of mass communication, including social media.

GWI encourages putting into action the Strategic Advocacy Plan for Policy Resolution 7 on sexual harassment in the workplace found [HERE](#).



Source : Adobe.

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## – Policy Resolution 8 – Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Global Goals

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GWI NFAs urge their respective governments to uphold their commitments to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as Global Goals, both with their countries and internationally, to ensure that the established targets of these goals are accelerated and achieved before 2030.

This resolution inspires NFAs to partner with other NGOs, human rights and education organisations to support and facilitate advocacy campaigns to support the achievement of SDGs. Members should encourage academic research and write backgrounders on their local governments' successes or failures in adopting SDGs.

GWI encourages putting into action the Strategic Advocacy Plan for Policy Resolution 8 on the SDGs found [HERE](#).



Source: United Nations

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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.

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