## **Policy Paper**

# GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL (GWI) POLICY RESOLUTION 8/2019 – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

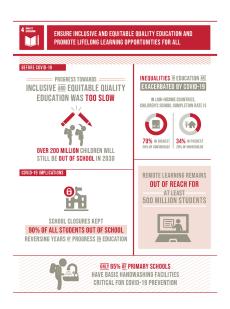
#### THE ISSUE

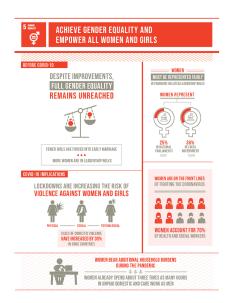
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) outline 17 goals with 169 associated targets that are the successor to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG). These goals include targets to end poverty, hunger, promote healthy lives, and empower women and girls. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development containing the SDGs was adopted on 25 September 2015 by the 193 countries of the United Nations (UN). This Agenda included the Means of Implementation, the Follow-up and the Review for 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their targets.

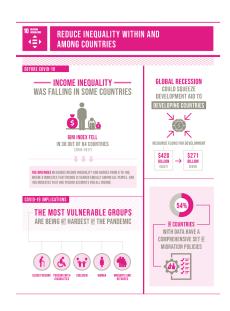
This comprehensive agenda targets all countries in the world. Sustainable development has been a major world concern since the Brundtland Commission report, Our Common Future, in 1987 first defined it as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." Financial, economic and political systems must evolve to guarantee the achievement of all 17 SDGs.

International organisations such as Graduate Women International (GWI) track the progress towards the SDGs made by all countries, especially GWI National Federation and Associations (NFAs). GWI also provides recommendation on the steps to take to further advance the situation and meet the objectives by 2030.

In 2020, the UN produced a <u>report</u> on the latest data available regarding the achievement of the goals. With the COVID-19 crisis hitting the world since March 2020, unprecedented health, economic, and social challenges have risen in a world that was not even close to meeting the SDGs by 2030. (1) With greater challenges come greater responsibilities and choices to make. Organisations such as GWI work actively to ensure that these choices will leave no one behind and target all those who need it, especially women and girls, and marginalised populations.







Infographics from the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020 (2)

(1) https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2020.pdf (2) lbid

#### **GWI'S POSITION**

GWI takes part in the global fight towards the achievement of all 17 SDGs with its advocacy and awareness-raising work at the international and national levels through its special consultative status with the UN, as well as at the grassroot level through the work of its NFAs. In support of the effort to successfully implement the SDGs, GWI's eighth resolution adopted during its 33rd Triennial General Assembly in 2019 focuses on the SDGs, also known as Global Goals. This resolution aims to recommend the action of its NFAs towards their respective governments and their commitment to the SDGs.

GWI suggested plan of action for its NFAs:

- NFAs should partner with other NGOs and human rights organisations to support and facilitate advocacy campaigns to support the achievement of SDGs.
- NFAs should write to their local government representatives and United Nations organisations about the need to uphold the SDGs.
- NFAs should encourage academic research and write backgrounders on their local governments' successes or failures in adopting SDGs.

Actions towards the implementation of all 17 SDGs must be accelerated and in all parts of its advocacy strategy. GWI connects the SDGs and its actions for the empowerment of women and girls, and shows that their access to lifelong education is at the core of the achievement of all 17 SDGs.

The SDGs are integral to GWI's work. In this sense, GWI produced an infographic showing the link between the SDGs and all resolutions taken by GWI throughout the years. This production can be viewed on the last page of this paper. Along with these resolutions, GWI's campaigns and projects are impregnated with the SDGs, as all issues covered by GWI relate to the goals. References to the SDGs can be found in each infographic, press release, toolkit or written statement to the Human Rights Council (HRC) produced by GWI.



Exerpt from GWI World Youth Skills Day 2020 Exclusive Infographic



Exerpt from GWI International Day of Rural Women 2019 Exclusive Toolkit



Exerpt from GWI International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2020 Infographic



Exerpt from GWI 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Exclusive Toolkit

"Research shows that including women in projects like solar energy, reforestation and sustainable waste management, not only results in favourable climate impact but also brings us closer to achieving gender equality called for in SDG 5.9"

Exerpt from GWI's written statement to the HRC43 in 2020

FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION:
INSTITUTES OF HIGHER EDUCATION
AS KEY DRIVERS TOWARDS THE
ACHIEVEMENT OF THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

Title of GWI's written statement to the HRC40 in 2019, specifically focusing on the SDGS

#### **GWI'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

In line with its Resolution, GWI recommends that states:

- Increase their Official Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) as adopted by a resolution of the UN General Assembly in 1970
- Ensure that any country/state receiving aid
  - Is involved in the planning and delivery of identified aid
  - Is accountable for their adherence to the implementation of the SDG's
  - Guarantees that women have leadership roles within the process;
- Implement achievable, realistic plans of action, that have been developed in conjunction with local jurisdictions, Indigenous nations and civil society, that are published and promoted; and
- Develop mechanisms to ensure accountability for money spent and progress achieved, both nationally and internationally.

GWI also recommends that states:

- Invest in data and statistics in order to maintain coverage of all population groups and produce comparable data to advance the 2030 Agenda;
- Put women and girls, as well as marginalised populations, at the centre of the decision-making process regarding development. Inclusiveness is key to sustainability.

GWI advises civil society individuals and organisations to:

- Reach out to governments and advocate for the implementation of the SDGs, make recommendations and provide data to held global leaders accountable on commitments made.
- Implement development programmes oriented at the SDGs.





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 organisation 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.

#### www.graduatewomen.org

GWI operates with a small yet dedicated staff consisting of an Executive Director, a Programme Officer, and a host of committed interns. Further, our work is possible only with the support of our tireless Board of Directors.

Contact Details: Stacy Dry Lara, Executive Director, sdl@graduatewomen.org Copyright 2020. All Rights Reserved by Graduate Women International.

#### Women & Health





1998/12 Tobacco & Health

1995/08 Health Education 1995/10 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome 1998/10 Human Cloning 1998/11 Research in Human Genetics

2007/03 Religious Beliefs & Women's Health 2007/05 Women & Disease Prevention

2019/03 SRH Education



#### Violence against Women

1995/14 Refugee Women & Girls 1998/04 Violence-Free Family Life

1998/06 Trafficking & Sexual Exploitation of Women & Children

1998/07 Violence against Women

2004/12 Increased Collective Violence against Women

2010/04 Abuse of Female Migrants

2013/3/4 Reaffirm Resolutions 4 & 7, 1998 with Update

2013/05 Trafficking

2013/08 Non-State Actor Torture

2013/10 Prostitution of Women & Girls

2013/11 Protecting Women & Children in War Zones

2016/07 Trafficking





Women in Power & **Decision Making** 

1995/02 Fair Co-Management

1995/18 Women's Participation in Peacemaking Process

2001/05 Women's Leadership

1995/01 Adolescents

1995/12 Child Rights

1995/13 Ritual Abuse

1998/08 Violence at School

2001/09 Children Advocacy

2013/01 Child Marriage

2016/08 Child Marriage

**Human Rights** 

of Women

2016/01 Bullying

2016/06 FGM

2001/13 Conflict Resolution for Children

2013/02 Child Protection from Incest

2004/06 Commercial Exploitation of Children

2004/01 Women in Decision-Making in World Financial Institutions

2007/01 Women in Leadership & Decision-Making Positions

### The Girl Child



Women & Poverty

1995/15 Family Planning

2010/02 Numeracy & Women







#### 2013/12 Effects of Globalisation on Women & Girls in Developing Countries

2010/01















1995/03 Unpaid Work

1998/05 Valuing Parenting







1995/04 Career Development

1995/06 Continual Training for Women Graduates 1995/07 Gender Balance

1998/01 Right to Education 1998/02 Higher Education 1998/03 Continuing Education

2001/01 Education & Training for Women in Prison 2001/04 Women's & Gender Studies

2004/04 Cultural Diversity & Education 2004/05 Age Discrimination in Educational Funding

2010/03 Financial Literacy 2013/09 Education for Indigenous Peoples

2013/07 Right to Safe Access to Education 2016/10 Young Members

2019/01 Diversity in Teacher Education 2019/04 Women in STEM

1995/09 Mutual Respect & Understanding

1995/11 NFA Follow-Up to UN World Conferences

1998/01 Right to Education

1998/09 Abuse of Women's Human Rights

2001/03 Education for Gender Equality Society

2001/07 Ethics & Education

2001/08 Human Rights of Refugee Women

2004/07 Religion, Culture, Gender Equality & Women's Rights

2010/05 Human Trafficking

2010/06 Bioethics & Women

2016/07 Disability 2016/03 Polygamy

2016/04 Harassment

2016/05 Tolerance 2019/05 Human Rights for Refugees & Migrant Women & Children 2019/06 Fair Management of Refugees & Asylum Seekers

2019/07 Workplace Sexual Harassment

1995/18 Women & Peacemaking

1995/19 Landmines

2001/10 Children in Armed Conflict

2001/11 Child Soldiers

2001/12 Education for Peace

2001/14 Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers 2004/08 Small Arms & Light Weapons Control

2004/11 Responsibility to Protect

2007/07 Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation & Weaponisation of Space

2007/08 UN Peacekeeping

2019/02 Peace through Women's Education

Interestingly, since 1995 GWI has not adopted any resolution concerning the role of women in the media.



Women & the Media

Women &

**Armed Conflict** 



Linked to the Beijing Platform for Action 12 Critical Areas of Concern &

Desertification & Environment

**Environmental Damage of Military Activities** 

Climate Change - Greenhouse Gas

1995/16 Environment Protection

Ozone Layer

1998:13 Health & Environment

**Nuclear Testing** 

Water Protection

Global Warming

2016/09 Carbon Taxes

2007/04 UN MDGs

2019/08 UN SDGs

1995/05 Global Mobility & Partners

2007/02 UN Women's Agency

2013/06 Country UNWR to UNGA

2004/02 Women & Ageing

2010/08 Cluster Munitions

2010/09 Peacekeeping

2001/02 Future of Women's Employment

Work-Life Balance for Women

Sustainable Forestry

2004/03 New Choices During Life Cycle 2004/09 Women - Essential to Peace

2007/06 Armament with Depleted Uranium

1995/17

1995/20

1998/14

1998/15

2004/10

2007/09

2010/07

2007/10





























