



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 report 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) Ibid



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 grassroots 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 the World's Indigenous Peoples 2020 Infographic

"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



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



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

**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.

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Women & Health



1995/08 Health Education
1995/10 Foetal Alcohol Syndrome
1998/10 Human Cloning
1998/11 Research in Human Genetics
1998/12 Tobacco & Health
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
2004/01 Women in Decision-Making in World Financial Institutions
2007/01 Women in Leadership & Decision-Making Positions

The Girl Child

1995/01 Adolescents
1995/12 Child Rights
1995/13 Ritual Abuse
1998/08 Violence at School
2001/13 Conflict Resolution for Children
2001/09 Children Advocacy
2004/06 Commercial Exploitation of Children
2013/01 Child Marriage
2013/02 Child Protection from Incest
2016/01 Bullying
2016/06 FGM
2016/08 Child Marriage

Human Rights of Women



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

Women & Poverty

1995/15 Family Planning
2001/06 Education for Adolescent Mothers
2010/02 Numeracy & Women

Graduate Women International (GWI) Resolutions 1995-2020

Linked to the Beijing Platform for Action
12 Critical Areas of Concern &
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Women & Environment

1995/16 Environment Protection
1995/17 Ozone Layer
1995/20 Nuclear Testing
1998/13 Health & Environment
1998/14 Desertification & Environment
1998/15 Sustainable Forestry
2004/10 Water Protection
2007/06 Armament with Depleted Uranium
2007/09 Environmental Damage of Military Activities
2007/10 Global Warming
2010/07 Climate Change - Greenhouse Gas
2016/09 Carbon Taxes



Institutional Mechanisms

2004/02 Women & Ageing
2004/03 New Choices During Life Cycle
2004/09 Women - Essential to Peace
2007/02 UN Women's Agency
2007/04 UN MDGs
2010/08 Cluster Munitions
2010/09 Peacekeeping
2013/06 Country UNWR to UNGA
2019/08 UN SDGs



Women & Economy

1995/03 Unpaid Work
1995/05 Global Mobility & Partners
1998/05 Valuing Parenting
2001/02 Future of Women's Employment
2010/01 Work-Life Balance for Women
2013/12 Effects of Globalisation on Women & Girls in Developing Countries



Education & Training



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

Women & Armed Conflict

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