



Graduate Women International
Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

GW I UPDATE – 1 September 2021



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, 18 September 2021
CEST 4:00PM – 5:30PM

Young Members Network
Connecting Across Generations
Fourth Webinar



International Day of Peace: Celebrations Across Generations

All Members of GWI are welcome.

Join us for an interactive session creating meaningful intergenerational connections.

Register Here: <https://graduatewomen.org/register-for-webinar/>

As part of the “Connecting Across Generations” webinar series, Graduate Women International (GWI) Young Member Network (YMN) will hold on Saturday, 18 September 2021, 4-5:30pm Central European Summer Time (CEST), a webinar on “International Day of Peace: Celebrations Across Generations”.

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— Graduate Women International News —

Afghan women and girls: emergency call

As the world is witnessing an increasingly horrifying change in Afghanistan, GWI would like to express its grave concern for Afghan women and girls, their rights to education, work, and justice. We encourage the wide share of GWI's latest call for global support [HERE](#).

Save the date! YMN webinar "International Day of Peace: Celebrations Across Generations"

To mark International Day of Peace and to conclude its "Connecting Across Generations" webinar series, GWI YMN will hold on Saturday, 18 September 2021, 4-5:30pm CEST, a webinar "International Day of Peace: Celebrations Across Generations". All GWI Members are invited to register today by clicking [HERE](#).

— GWI Member News —

WG-USA will host a Panel Discussion shedding a spotlight on healthcare access, diplomacy and equity, and research strategies for prevention

On Wednesday, 15 September, at 8pm ET (Eastern Time)/ 5pm PT (Pacific Time), WG-USA will be hosting a Zoom Panel Discussion on Zoom where young healthcare professionals will share their perspectives and updates in healthcare and relate these issues to the intersectionality of advocacy, health, governance, policy, and equity. Please click [HERE](#) to read panelists' bios and topics of presentation, and don't forget to register [HERE](#) if you want to be part of the panel or the audience.

The BFWG is recognised as an inclusive organisation of women with degrees or equivalent qualifications

BFWG's vision is to build a better life for women in and through education. It is now over a century since BFWG (formerly known as BFUW (The British Federation of University Women)) first offered scholarships to support women in higher education in the UK. Today, together with FfWG (Funds for Women Graduates,) BFWG is now considered to be one of the major British donors in this sector. GWI would like to congratulate BFWG for its tireless work in favour of women's education, and invite you to visit their website [HERE](#) for more information.

— International Advocacy and GWI at the United Nations —

Paraguay, Singapore and Sierra Leone's final outcomes at the 38th session UPR

The HRC's UPR is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 United Nations Member States. The UPR, based on equal treatment for all countries, provides an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. From 3 to 14 May 2021, UPR held its 38th session, where three GWI National Federations and Associations (NFA) countries were under review: Paraguay, Sierra Leone and Singapore. Their final outcomes are as follows:

[Paraguay](#) was recommended, inter alia, to accelerate its efforts in the inclusion of indigenous, Afro-Paraguayan populations and children with disabilities in schools, but also to “Revoke Ministry of Education and Science resolution No. 29664, which prohibits public education materials on gender equality, reproductive rights, sexuality and non-discrimination, and establish gender-responsive comprehensive sexuality education in schools nationwide” as well as take further steps to protect women and girls from gender-based violence (GBV). [Sierra Leone](#) is encouraged to pursue its efforts to improve access to education for all girls, especially by ensuring the inclusion of pregnant girls. Moreover, it is recommended to pursue its effort in eliminating female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages. [Singapore](#), for its part, was notably urged to include in its Constitution a definition of discrimination against women, and to pursue its efforts to combat GBV. In the field of education, it was recommended to continue strengthening access to quality and inclusive education. GWI invites you to click on each country name to access their latest UPR outcomes.

HLPF side-event on the need to make SDG data more accessible for youth

The meeting of the HLPF was held from Tuesday, 6 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021. One of the side events on 9 July 2021 was presented by the Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, Jayathma Wickramanayake, with the aim to highlight the importance of making access to all SDG inclusive for youth. Interestingly, the Youth SDG Dashboard was introduced during this event, which is a platform designed for youth that will enable them to go further into all 17 SDGs and their indicators. GWI shares the outcomes of this meeting and further emphasises that without young people’s inclusion in the 2030 Agenda, we won’t build a sustainable and equitable world for our future generations. If you want to read more about this event, please click [HERE](#).

WHD celebration at the UN Geneva

Outside the renowned Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room of the UN buildings, GWI, represented by its intern Nell Yacef, gathered with about 100 people this year to celebrate WHD. In 2009, this day was proclaimed as such in memory of the 19 August 2003 bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killing 22 people. “During the ceremony, Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, Director-General, UN Office at Geneva, and Ms. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the other speakers, recalled this painful day but also both the necessary and harsh reality of humanitarian work today”, notes Nell. While we are witnessing an increasing need for humanitarian aid, this year’s theme focuses on the immediate consequences of the climate emergency for the world’s most vulnerable people. Therefore, GWI joins the #HumanRace and calls for world leaders to take meaningful climate action for the world’s most affected people, including women and girls.



Wreath laying and candle lighting ceremony for the WHD. Photo credit: Nell YACEF, GWI Intern

Get out your cameras! The Working Group on Girls is organising a contest for the IDG

In view of the 11 October - IDG, The Working Group on Girls is looking for videos where you share your stories, poetry, art, songs, or declarations, under the theme 'Closing the Digital Divide to Accelerate Change.' A range of works will be selected, and every girl who submits their work will get a special shout-out on the [Day of the Girl Summit](#) website or be featured on 11 October. We encourage you members to participate if you are interested and therefore to read the call for submissions (available in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Arabic](#) and [Portuguese](#)) for more information on the theme and how to submit your work. The deadline for submissions is 6 September 2021. Ready, steady, action! Get out your cameras!

GWJ HRC 48th session written statement: education is the most valuable weapon to tackle the climate crisis

The 48th regular session of the HRC is going to be held from 13 September to 8 October. While we are witnessing the burning of many parts of our planet, GWJ has chosen to put a special focus on women's and girls' education as the most valuable weapon to tackle the climate crisis for its written statement, that we encourage you all to read and share [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of education —

Give the gift of education to women and girls around the world by contributing to our new [Girls' Education for Brighter Futures Post-COVID-19 Programme](#), which directly supports GWJ'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 GWJ's work towards safe access to quality education and to raise awareness about the gender barriers in education please click [HERE](#).

— Did you know? —

The [GWJ Membership Marketplace \(MM\)](#) is a knowledge sharing platform for GWJ members across the world to foster friendship, share skills set and expertise. The GWJ MM comprises two streams, an innovative Peer-to-Peer stream and an NFA-to-NFA stream.

The NFA-to-NFA stream, formerly called Twinning, is a virtual platform that offers GWJ NFAs the opportunity to join together for a project beneficial to both NFAs and that can be replicated by other NFAs. Currently, projects are being run by the IFUWA with the Egypt Association of Graduate Women (EAGW) with focus on types of harassment and its harmful effects. The other project is being held between the Canadian Federation of University Women and Graduate Women Netherlands with the focus on Afghan peace negotiations.

Click [HERE](#) to explore the opportunities available through the GWJ Membership Marketplace.

— Dates and events worth noting —

8 September	International Literacy Day, Global
13 Sept-8 Oct	Human Rights Council, 48th session, United Nations Office, Geneva
21 September	International Day of Peace, Global
5 October	World Teachers' Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl Child, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
17 October	World Day for Eradication of Poverty, Global
24 October	United Nations Day, Global
17 November	Student's Day, Global
19 November	World Toilet Day, Global

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.

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