



Geneva, Switzerland September 14, 2021

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Ms. Sima Sami Bahous
Incoming Executive Director
UN Women
405 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017-3599

Dear Executive Director Bahous:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Graduate Women International (GWI), we extend congratulations to you on your recent appointment as Executive Director of UN Women.

Your past 35 years of work at the grassroots, national, regional, and international levels speak to your capabilities as a leader, and we are looking forward to working with you to continue to advocate for the rights of women and girls in this new position.

Unsurprisingly, education has suffered immeasurably with the greatest setbacks in women's and girls' education. Equally unsurprising is the fact that most country governments, as they regrouped economically, did not prioritize education for billions of poor women and girls – effectively sealing their fates with illiteracy and poverty.

Now more than ever before we must converge all of our capacities on making the greatest impact possible, by working together to build back education and development agencies capacities. As the largest network of graduate women worldwide, we are prepared and willing to add to your success in any way possible. We wish you every success in your new and challenging role.

Sincerely,

Terry Oudraad, GWI President, the GWI Board of Officers, and Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara.

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.