



GWI UPDATE – 29 September 2021



International Day of Elder Persons is celebrated every year to raise awareness of issues of ageism around the world. This year, the theme will focus on digital inequity.

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— Graduate Women International News —

GWI concludes its “Connecting Across Generations” series

With the “International Day of Peace: Celebrations Across Generations” webinar taking place on Saturday, 18 September, GWI has concluded its four-part “Connecting Across Generations” webinar series which was organised by GWI’s own Young Member Network. This final webinar focused on the concept of peace and the significant role education plays in peace processes, in honor of the International Day of Peace on Tuesday, 21 September. The webinar concluded with the lighting of the GWI lamp, after which attendees were given the opportunity to share a brief statement about what peace means to them. GWI would like to thank all those who contributed to this final discussion as well as all those who were in attendance. You can find the recording of the webinar [HERE](#).



Participants celebrate peace with a GWI lamp lighting ceremony.

Young Member Network President, Sudha Srivastava, is also preparing an in-depth summary of the entire 2021 series that will be published in the 13 October Update. GWI encourages readers to check back for this anticipated summary. “The GWI young member network leadership has done exceptional work producing the Connecting Across Generations webinar series. This group of intelligent and insightful women is GWI’s future as the leading young network of graduate women who aim for equal opportunity for the safe education for women and girls of all ages”, says Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director. GWI encourages members under 40 years to join the GWI young member network [HERE](#).

GWI congratulates the new Executive Director of UN Women on her appointment

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, following consultations with Member States and the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), announced the appointment of Sima Sami Bahous of Jordan as Executive Director of UN Women. GWI congratulates Ms. Bahous and wishes her the best of luck in this new endeavor. To read the full letter of congratulations click [HERE](#).

Your voice matters! Join GWI in participating in the short survey on the impact of COVID-19 on civil society participation in UN high-level meetings and events

This survey, organized by the Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) in the UN Department of Global Communications, is designed to improve engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs) in light of the pandemic. COVID-19 has greatly impacted the way people participate in meetings and events, and this survey wants to know your thoughts on the changes that have been made and the ways that participation could be improved. GWI has already taken part in the survey, and we encourage others to do so as well for

added impact on the UN. To join GWI in answering the survey, click [HERE](#). The survey closes on 11 October 2021.

— GWI Member News —

What is your NFA up to? We want to share your story

At GWI we truly believe that sharing stories between our global network of graduate women creates impact, adds value, and raises awareness about the importance of education. Therefore, if you are part of one of GWI's NFAs and you would like to share an interesting story, project, or fact about your NFA or communicate about the next event you plan to hold, please contact GWI by filling the form [HERE](#). We are always delighted to publish write-ups about the exceptional work of our NFAs towards the empowerment of all women and girls through access to education at the highest levels.

GWI to co-host with CFUW for International Day of Older Persons!

International Day of Older Persons is a UN day of observance that has existed since 14 December 1990 to promote a society designed for all, regardless of age. This year, on 1 October, International Day of Older Persons will focus on the theme of "Digital Equity for All Ages." As time passes, the presence of technology in daily life is only increasing, and it is important to make sure that no member of society is left behind.

On 1 October 2021, for International Day of Older Persons, GWI will be co-hosting with CFUW a webinar at 4pm CEST/ 10am EST titled "What Works/What Should Change in Services and Supports for Elder Persons". To join the webinar on Zoom please click [HERE](#).

— International Advocacy and GWI at the United Nations —

UN Secretary General's new landmark report, "Our Common Agenda," recommends a "Summit of the Future"

On 10, September 2021, GWI attended the report given by the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres. In the new report, the Secretary General stated that the "coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is upending our world, threatening our health, destroying economies and livelihoods and deepening poverty and inequalities". "Our Common Agenda is, above all, an agenda of action designed to accelerate the implementation of existing agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)", he added. Member States and other stakeholders are urged to consider transformative measures toward gender equality such as "greater inclusion of the voices of younger women" and an "emergency response plan to accelerate the eradication of violence against women and girls", in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5. Guterres recommended a "Summit of the Future", which would "forge a new global consensus on what our future should look like, and how we can secure it". Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.

IISD hosts UNGA 76 General Debate warm-up meeting

On Tuesday, 14 September, the IISD hosted a warm-up meeting for the 76th United Nations General Debate. The three speakers, Lynn Wagner, Senior Director of the Tracking Progress program at the IISD, Javier Surasky, Program Officer Governance and Financing for Sustainable Development at Cepei, and María Fernanda Espinosa, an accomplished politician and diplomat who served as the President of the 73rd UNGA, gave insight on what to expect from the General Debate, which started on Tuesday, 21 September. The three key topics the speakers told listeners to keep in mind were the COVID-19 Pandemic, climate change and the SDGs that go along with it, and current issues in relation to governance and multilateralism. The UNGA has been an important event in international politics since its conception in 1946, allowing world leaders to come together to discuss topics of global importance. This year, the event will host the first worldwide discussion on energy since 1981 at the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy in Nairobi. With the General Assembly concluding tomorrow, 30 October, it will be fascinating to compare the topics discussed in the warm-up meeting with the actual focal points deliberated in the assembly. To read the full summary of the meeting, click [HERE](#).

GWI at the Generation Equality Action Coalition's September town hall meeting on 16 September!

The meeting allowed for reflection on the collective gains made for gender equality across action coalitions, and dialogue on the way forward for the coming five years. The announcement was made that the global acceleration plan for gender equality was launched, delivering concrete results in six thematic areas which include, Gender-based violence; Economic justice and rights; Technology and innovation for gender equality; Feminist movement and leadership; Feminist action for climate justice; and Bodily autonomy and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Furthermore, the Generation Equality Forum in Paris's key factors of success were discussed, such as, multi-stakeholder governance structure to increase and expand diversity in participation, to ensure a shared vision to success and to elevate young feminist leadership. For more information on the Action Coalitions click [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of empowerment —

Give the gift of education: One way of celebrating the accomplishments and limitless potential of the graduate women in your life could be to make a donation in their name(s) to our new [Girls' Education for Brighter Futures Programme](#), which directly supports GWI'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 GWI's work towards the safe access to quality education and to raise awareness about the gender barriers in education please click [HERE](#).

— Did you know? —



Did you know that GWI intern, Nell Yacef, has successfully completed her six-month internship at GWI? "Nell's contributions to GWI during her internship were exceptional. She was a role model to other interns

and her sunny, determined attitude was a real asset to our team”, said GWI Executive Director, Lara. GWI wishes her the utmost success in her future endeavors.

— Dates and events worth noting —

13 Sept-8 Oct	Human Rights Council, 48th session, United Nations Office, Geneva
1 October	International Day of Older Persons
5 October	World Teachers’ Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl, 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
20 November	Universal Children’s Day, Global
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Global

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Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. GWI, formerly IFUW, maintains special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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