



## **GWI UPDATE – 13 October 2021**



*International Day of the Girl (IDOG) 2021 was 11 October. Graduate Women International (GWI) invites readers to use the impactful social media ideas and information offered in the toolkit.  
It's never too late to raise awareness for girls.*

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### **GWI releases 2021 IDOG: “Digital generation. Our generation.” Toolkit**

In 2011, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly passed a resolution adopting 11 October as the IDOG. This day, synonymously known as International Day of the Girl Child, Day of Girls, and International Day of Girls, is celebrated annually and serves to promote the recognition of girls’ rights. It is a reminder to the international community of the unique challenges girls face around the world and particularly highlights issues concerning gender inequality. This year, GWI aligns with the UN International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to celebrate girls’ abilities to act for their own fate with the theme “Digital generation. Our generation”. GWI marks this day with the release of a ready-to-use advocacy toolkit to help achieve positive outcomes for girls’ empowerment. This toolkit contains impactful facts and information, advocacy ideas, an exclusive GWI IDOG proud member banner, and a comprehensive social media package to reach a wide and diverse audience and promote GWI’s work and values. To download the complete toolkit, please click [HERE](#). GWI would also like to thank Women’s United Nations Report Network (WUNRN) for their support in distributing this toolkit. To subscribe to WUNRN, click [HERE](#).

### **GWI celebrates the vitality of rural women and girls on International Day of Rural Women: Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All**

Observed annually on 15 October, the International Day of Rural Women celebrates the limitless potential, resilience and critical role of rural women and girls around the world. Honouring the 2021 theme, Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All, GWI crafted an international advocacy toolkit to raise awareness about the contributions rural women make to reducing food insecurity. The toolkit features facts concerning the situation of rural women, linking them to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Rural women already faced specific, previous struggles in their daily lives. Now, since COVID-19 and, because of their unique, remote situation, they are struggling even more to access remote and digital education due to limited access to critical technologies resulting from COVID-19 education changes. GWI encourages you to download the toolkit [HERE](#).

### **The GWI 2022 Winifred Clara Cullis Fellowship supports women to gain a doctorate degree**

A doctorate degree signifies the highest level of academic achievement and the title is powerful in today’s world where education funding and progress, especially for women, have been severely set back by the COVID-19 pandemic. A doctorate degree can facilitate funding, provide research opportunities and important network facilities. The GWI 2022 Winifred Clara Cullis Fellowship will change a woman’s life and open doors that were previously closed to her. GWI needs your help to raise 5’000 Swiss francs towards this life-changing opportunity. GWI and its Fellowship Committee are appealing to members, past and present, and individuals to donate generously to this fellowship to help achieve the goal.



Winifred Clara Cullis, first International President of International Federation of University Women, now GWI, Fellowship is open to established Ph.D. and postdoctoral students in any country engaged in research relevant to the mission of GWI. Please click [HERE](#) for eligibility requirements and fellowship guidelines. This fellowship has the potential to empower a woman to reach her full potential and contribute to society and future generations. Your donation of any amount will contribute to positive change for women. Please donate [HERE](#) to support women's higher education!

### Save the date! GWI Global North-South Dialog #2: "Connectivity and Partnerships to Empower Women as Agents of Change"



**Save the date**

**GWI GLOBAL NORTH-SOUTH DIALOG #2**

UNIVERSITY WOMEN EUROPE (UWE) AND FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN AFRICA (FUWA)

*Connectivity and Partnerships to Empower Women as Agents of Change*

#UWE #FUWA

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

REGISTER

On Sunday, 31 October 2021 from 7-9PM CEST GWI regional groups UWE and FUWA will host the second GWI Global North-South Dialog. This second session titled, *Connectivity and Partnerships to Empower Women as Agents of Change*, aims to establish a partnership between the two GWI regional groups through joint projects of common

interests. Longer-term partnership goals include working together on a case study that addresses the priority theme for the 67th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2023, *Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls*.

Dialogs will include an *Overview of Progress and Challenges in African and European GWI National Federation and Association* countries led by Linda Rebecca Williams, FUWA President, Anne Negre, UWE President, and Aisha Alshawaf, UWE Vice President, respectively; the *Use of ICT to Empower Rural Women into Leadership* led by Nneka Chiedozie, FUWA Vice President; and *ICT Literacy and Connectivity as Effective Enablers for FUWA* led by Sahar Gamal, FUWA Coordinator of International Relations. Guest speaker Dr. Flora Vincent will lead a dialog about the *danger of gender bias in artificial intelligence for equality between women and men*. GWI members are invited to register for the event [HERE](#).

### Girls Not Brides- Power to Girls Virtual Festival

Girls Not Brides hosted their Power to Girls Virtual Festival in celebration of the launch of their Power to Girls campaign. On 30 September 2021 GWI participated in the Girls Not Brides "Power to Girls: Solutions to end child marriage" webinar. A group of inspiring panelists discussed the solutions and systems needed to achieve gender equality and end child marriage. Keeping girls in school was one of the key areas of focus during the webinar, as evidence shows that staying in school decreases a girl's likelihood of being a child bride. On average, the likelihood of a girl marrying as a child is six percent less for every additional year she stays in secondary education. Another key point made was that we need to include girls in the solutions as they are key stakeholders that can help lead the way to change "Nothing about them, without them". Click [HERE](#) for more information about Girls Not Brides and their important work.

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## — GWI Member News —

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### YMN Connecting Across Generations Series Concludes

*'International Day of Peace: Celebrations Across Generations' A Summary Report by Sudha Srivastava, YMN President*



*Participants celebrate peace with a GWI lamplighting ceremony*

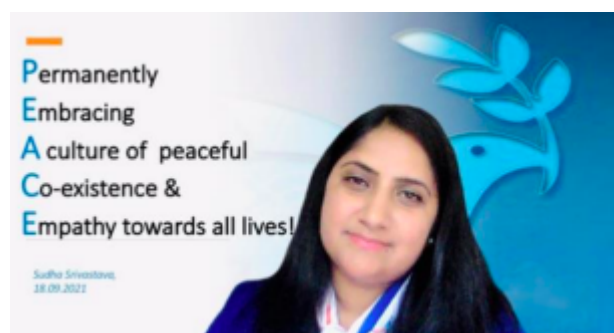
On 18 September 2021, GWI YMN concluded the 'Connecting Across Generations' webinar series with its fourth and final webinar, celebrations ahead of International Day of Peace. GWI Executive Director, Stacy DryLara, set the stage with the opening remarks on GWI perspective of 'peace' through education.

Srivastava, presented an overview summary of four webinars in the series which included previous webinars covering International

Women's Day 2021 - Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world; International Day Against Child Labour - "NEET" Effect in Changing Times!; International Youth Day - International Networking and Collaboration: A Way Forward; and finally International Day of Peace: Celebrations Across Generations

"We were honoured to welcome our guest speaker Tiffany Easthom, Executive Director at Nonviolent Peace Force. Tiffany shared her work and contributions towards achieving peace. Participants had an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the session", said Srivastava.

Following the Easthom, Pouya Saeedi, YMN team, shared the YMN' perspective on peace. Peace was further celebrated by lighting the GWI peace and friendship lamp at the Geneva office by Dry Lara who then symbolically passed the lamp to GWI President, Terry Oudraad, who shared her message. Oudraad then passed the lamp virtually to Srivastava who shared her peace message with a PEACE acrostic and poster created especially for the webinar. The YMN team shared their peace messages and opened the floor for participants to share their messages. The activity concluded with a beautiful song by a member from Egypt. The series finished with playing of the GWI song by Dry Lara. "Thank you everyone who participated. Stay safe and well until we meet again soon"! , adds Srivastava. To read the series report and peace messages shared please click [HERE](#).



*Sudha's PEACE Acrostic and Poster*



### **WG-USA to hold its AGM**

WG-USA will conduct its AGM in October and members from across the globe are invited to attend a Zoom pre-AGM event on 16 October with nationally recognized guest speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Ferris. Dr. Ferris is currently a Research Professor with the Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. Dr. Ferris also has served as Senior Advisor to the UN General Assembly's Summit for Refugees and Migrants and a Senior Fellow and co-director of the Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement. She spent 20 years working in the field of humanitarian assistance, most recently in Geneva, Switzerland at the World Council of Churches. She has written extensively on humanitarian issues, including *Consequences of Chaos: Syria's Humanitarian Crisis and the Failure to Protect*, with Kemal Kirsici (Brookings Institution Press, 2016). Her latest book – *Refugees, Migration and Global Governance: Negotiating the Global Compacts* (with Katharine Donato) was published by Routledge in July 2019. For further details about the WG-USA AGM, please contact Co-CIR Kathleen Laurila at [klaurila@mac.com](mailto:klaurila@mac.com).

### **TAUW carries out projects for IDOG 2021**

Twenty-nine percent of the population of Turkey consists of girls. Many of these girls grow



*Students in Turkey working with TAUW*

up without an education, leaving them at a disadvantage compared to their male counterparts. This year, under the Friendship Bridge project, 350 female university students were given scholarships. Also, 233 students were taught by Professor Zuhail Baltas and able to use their education to build bridges of hope with 959 children in 166 different villages and towns around Turkey. To read more about the great work TAUW has done in honor of IDOG, you can click [HERE](#).

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## **— International Advocacy and GWI at the United Nations —**

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### **CEDAW Committee holds 80th session: GWI reports on Egypt, Russia Federation, and South Africa**

The Convention on Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is the most important human rights treaty (United Nations (UN) for women and comprises 189 state parties who have ratified the convention and have committed to report on the progress they have made in implementing the CEDAW within their state. During its sessions, CEDAW considers each State report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the Member States in the form of binding observations. From 18 October to 12 November, CEDAW will hold its 80th session, where four NFA countries will be under review: Egypt, the Russian Federation, and South Africa.

Egypt stated in its latest [State party's report](#) that enrolment rates for women and girls at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels of education have increased significantly. Yet, CEDAW raised a [list of issues](#) highlighting that the enrolment rates remain low, and illiteracy is high among women and girls, among others. The Russian Federation, for its part, reaffirmed in its [State party's report](#) its commitment to achieving gender equality in the field of education. However, CEDAW asked in its [list of issues](#) "how the compulsory curricula for primary and secondary education address comprehensive, gender-sensitive and age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health and rights education". South Africa, as well, states in their [State party's report](#) that they have "public education initiatives," as well as various teaching methods that they use to promote the rights of women, however, in its [list of issues](#), CEDAW requests further evidence on how the state is ensuring a safe educational environment for women as well as to what extent they are teaching students about human rights and gender equality.

#### **Maureen Byrne, Ph.D., attends UNICEF Executive Board session on behalf of GWI**

GWI, UN Representative, New York, Maureen Byrne Ph.D., recently attended UNICEF's second Executive Board session this year. This meeting largely focused on UNICEF's new Strategic Plan for 2022-2025, which Dr. Byrne describes as focusing on children and young adults with disabilities as well as girls and young women. UNICEF also acknowledged the issues brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, dubbing it the worst crisis the organization has faced since its founding. To read more about the UNICEF Executive Board session, please click [HERE](#).

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### — Give the gift of education —

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**Give the gift of education:** There is no better opportunity to give the gift of education than to donate to the Winifred Clara Cullis Fellowship Fundraiser. GWI urges its readers to consider contributing to this doctoral degree fellowship and helping qualified graduate women further their own education and studies. To support women's doctoral education please click [HERE](#). Another 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 safe access to quality education and to raise awareness about the gender barriers in education please click [HERE](#).

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### — Did you know? —

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Did you know that the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) Fellowship Fund was created at the Third IFUW - now GWI - Conference in Norway in 1924? That conference was unique for many reasons: the Fellowship Fund was launched, the Nordic states worked together to run the Conference at a time when such cooperation was rare, and GWI first adopted its trademark lamp. As GWI prepares for the 2022 Winifred Clara

Cullis (first IFUW International President) Fellowship Fundraiser, we are reminded of this historic conference as well as GWI's long and inspiring history.

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## — Dates and events worth noting —

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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	International Students' 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
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global
10 December	Human Rights Day, Global

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## Follow us on social media!



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.

### Graduate Women International

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