



GW I UPDATE – 27 October 2021



To celebrate Black History Month, Transport for London and the Black Cultural Archives created a new London tube map that honours 272 Black trailblazers, including the late father of Patrice Wellesley-Cole, a previous president of the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG).

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The Membership Marketplace Spanish Speaking Cultural Bridge project produces Manifesto for a Future of Equality and Without Gender-Based Violence

As part of the GWI Membership Marketplace programme, the Spanish Speaking Cultural Bridge of GWI created and published a Manifesto for a Future of Equality and Without Gender-Based Violence Beyond Beijing + 26. The Spanish Cultural Bridge includes the Bolivian Federation of University Professional Women, the Spanish Federation of University Women, the Mexican Federation of University Women, the Association of University Women of Panama and Graduate Women Paraguay. Together, these GWI National Federations and Associations are working towards increased gender equality not only in their own countries but globally. In a Manifesto, the Spanish Cultural Bridge recognised that much more can be done to improve gender equality as well as female empowerment. For starters, changes must be made to both power and social structures in order to further empower women as well as to break down all gender-based barriers that may stand in the way of their access to education, political engagement, or careers. To achieve this, the Spanish Cultural Bridge project aims to use this Manifesto to call upon local, regional, national and international institutions to create more laws to contribute to the goal of gender parity, to work harder to combat violence against women, and to be the change that is needed in order to create a society based on gender equality rather than gender stereotypes and roles. For this change to become reality, resources must be allocated to support women's rights and organisations must remain committed to this path towards equality. To read and share the full Manifesto released by the Spanish Speaking Cultural Bridge, click [HERE](#). All Spanish speaking members of GWI are invited to participate in this project by emailing Eloísa Sánchez-Amillategui at secretaria@amum.es. **GWI wholeheartedly congratulates each of the project participants for an exceptional step for gender parity.**



**Puente
Cultural
de
Habra
Hispana**

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



**31
OCTOBER
SUNDAY**

**7PM
Central
European
Time
(CET)**

REGISTER

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/>

On Sunday, 31 October 2021 from 7-9PM CET GWI regional groups University Women Europe (UWE) and the Federation of University Women Africa (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, with 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, followed by Priko Mahlamäki who will speak about connectivity and empowerment. GWI members are invited to register for the event [HERE](#).

The GWI 2022 Winifred Cullis Fellowship Fundraiser is underway!

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, and provide important network facilities and research opportunities. The GWI 2022 Winifred 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, both past and present, and individuals to donate generously to this fellowship to help achieve this 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 that are 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!

The fellowship began on 16 October and will continue until 31 October. GWI is pleased to report that 1'100 CHF has been raised towards the 10'000 CHF goal! Thank you for your continued support in making a difference in empowering women now and in future generations. Please click [HERE](#) to read GWI's latest press release on the Winifred Cullis Fellowship Fundraiser and learn more about this important cause.

UN Day honours the 76th anniversary of the UN

UN Day is celebrated every year on 24 October in honour of the day the UN charter went into effect in 1945. This year, under the theme, "Building Back Together for Peace and Prosperity," marks the UN's 76th anniversary. The theme reflects the hardships the world has faced in the last year and the work that will need to be done in order to create a better future. What makes the UN such a unique institution is that, since its founding, it has remained the only place that affords states an arena for discussion, deliberation, and cooperation on a global scale. The 193 member states that make up the UN are represented at the General Assembly. With such representation and influence, the UN plays a large role

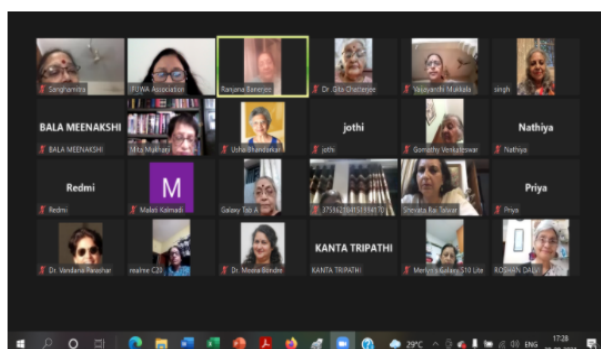
in international affairs, and therefore, on days such as UN Day, it is important to both remember its history as well as recommit to its goals for the future.

— GWI Member News —

IIE-SRF and WG-USA announce partnership to support threatened and displaced women scholars to forge new professional pathways

IIE-SRF and WG-USA have officially come together to support threatened and displaced women scholars worldwide. This partnership will allow IIE-SRF women fellows to become WG-USA members, opening them up to a number of new opportunities and connections. The first fellow to come from this partnership will be Dr. Nada Abdulwali, a Yemeni scholar of physical chemistry based at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. To read the full article, click [HERE](#). **GWl applauds this partnership and the work it will do to empower female scholars around the globe and also wishes Dr. Abdulwali the best in her future endeavours as an IIE-SRF/WG-USA fellow.**

IFUWA hosts Justice Roshan Dalvi



IFUWA zoom session

IFUWA had an informative and captivating session with Justice (Retd) Roshan Dalvi on 29 September over Zoom. She spoke on the theme 'Gender Perspectives: Egalitarianism or Discrimination.'

Justice Dalvi eloquently explained that the status of women and their position is defined by society as it is perceived from domestic, professional, corporate, financial, and emotional perspectives. She stressed, however, that as much as society may have progressed in

the 21st Century, the basic mindset towards women in any sector remains much unchanged, underrepresented, and unnoticed. Roshan deliberated on the idea that in actual cases of war, conflict, and violence, it is women and children, mainly young girls, who suffer the most, but it is men who remain the most appreciated in victory. Social and domestic applause for women is a rare incidence compared to men who attain such praise as a result of their privilege. What is worse is that Rohan's research on Gender Perspectives revealed that globally, far fewer girls received an education compared to boys despite the fact that education is a right and a basic requirement for sustainable living. She led attendees on a world tour to make visible the real perception of women in urban, rural, organised, and unorganised sectors irrespective of whether the nation is underdeveloped or developing; that



Justice Roshan Dalvi

women's contribution to any aspect of society remains unrecognised and underrated in the eyes of others is a perceptible, factual global phenomenon.

GWI and CFUW co-hosted a webinar for International Day of Older Persons on 1 October!

This year, on International Day of Older Persons, GWI and CFUW invited GWI members from around the world to a webinar conversation about the elder care issues that have arisen as a result of the pandemic. The chat titled, "What Works/What Should Change in Services and Supports for Elder Persons", had many members participating from India, Egypt, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, Canada, and the USA. Members showed immense concern about the care that older people are receiving in their countries. Various areas of concern include understaffing issues in senior care homes resulting in inadequate care, neglect, and isolation of older people; insufficient pay for staff working in senior care; inconsistent standards in senior care homes and no accountability. The importance of addressing social, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs as well physical needs of older people was emphasised among participants. "Standards need to be there and those standards need to focus on not just physical care but they need to consider physical activity, mental activity, spiritual activity... we need to think about the whole person", said Pat Reavy (CFUW member). Participants plan to work together to continue to advocate for older people across the globe by reviewing and identifying best practices, continuing to build awareness, and encouraging people in their communities to support seniors in a number of ways such as volunteering. Please click [HERE](#) for a full summary of the session. **GWI congratulates CFUW Montreal South Shore and Moncton clubs for hosting this exceptional session.**

Re-Imagined London tube map for Black History Month honours the late father of Patrice Wellesley-Cole

To honour Black History Month, Transport for London and Black Cultural Archives have created a new London tube map. The stops have been re-named after 272 Black trailblazers, leaders, and creators that have helped make London the city it is today. The tube lines are organised according to the area in which each Black icon excelled. The aim of this re-imagination is to show how Black History is embedded in the streets and neighborhoods of London and should continue to be celebrated and honoured. Special thank you to Patrice Wellesley-Cole, a previous president of the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG), for sharing her personal story with GWI and for sharing the significance this has to her family. Her late father, R. B. A. Wellesley-Cole was the first Black man to become a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and is featured on the map at the intersection of the red central and green district line. To read more about the new map, click [HERE](#).

— International Advocacy and GWI at the United Nations —

GWI attends the Geneva Peace Talks 2021

On 21 September of this year, the world celebrated International Day of Peace. This day is of great importance, and on top of hosting the 18 September webinar, "International Day of Peace: Celebrations Across Generations," GWI also attended the Geneva Peace Talks at the UN. The event hosted twelve speakers from around the globe, each of whom presented, through various methods, on what peace meant to them and how the global community could create a more peaceful future. Some took a more political route, such as Zarifa Ghafari, the youngest female mayor in Afghan history, who stated that in order for Afghanistan to have a brighter, more peaceful future, the Taliban and the state's political

leaders needed to make peace with their female citizens. Others, such as Baaba Maal and Diwele Molale Lubi, used music to relay their messages of peace, showing how music is able to promote social cohesion and bring people together. Though International Day of Peace has passed, it is important to remember these messages and keep in mind the ways in which peace can always be promoted. To read the full report on the Peace Talks, click [HERE](#).

Special report on the UN HRC 48th session

GWJ participated in the 48th session of the HRC at the United Nations of Geneva 13 September to 8 October 2021. In a joint written statement GWJ, the Canadian Federation of University Women, the Federación Mexicana de Universitarias, and Women Graduates – USA together urged Member States and global decision-makers to recognise that education, and funding it, are the most valuable weapons to tackle the climate crisis. The joint statement can be downloaded and widely shared from the GWJ website [HERE](#).

Under agenda item three, on the **Promotion and Protection of All Human Rights, Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the Right to Development**, the Council reported deep concern that the COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated pre-existing forms of systemic gender-based discrimination faced by women and girls. The HRC stressed the importance of equal opportunities and access for girls to quality education. They emphasised the importance of eliminating discriminatory laws and practices that prevent girls from having access to, completing and continuing their education. This includes early and forced marriage, which is a major obstacle to educational opportunities and disproportionately affects girls and young women who have received little or no formal education. The Council called upon states to promote and protect the right of all women and girls to equal access to education through mitigating the impact of school closures in times of crisis. This includes enabling access to the Internet and bridging the digital divides, both between and within countries, and the gender digital divide.

Resolution ([A/HRC/48/L.7/Rev.1](#)), on **child, early, and forced marriage in times of crisis, including the COVID-19 pandemic**, requested the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) to organise a two-full-day workshop focusing on the adverse impact of forced marriage on the full and effective enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls, and submit a report on it to the 52nd HRC session. Further under agenda item three, resolution ([A/HRC/48/L.26/Rev.1](#)) on **human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people**, recognised the serious and continuing threat posed by the pandemic and its effect on fundamental freedoms by young people, in particular young women and girls, including the right to work and education, stressing the importance of 12 years of quality education and vocational training. The resolution requested the OHCHR to conduct a detailed study on ways to mitigate the impact of the global pandemic on human rights regarding young people, to be submitted to the Council for consideration at its 51st session. Emphasising the rights of older persons, the Council passed resolution ([A/HRC/48/3](#)) on the **human rights of older people**. The resolution recognises the challenges relating to the enjoyment of rights by older persons and requests the OHCHR, in relevant consultation, prepare a report on obligations under international law in relation to the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons, and to submit the report to the HRC at its 49th session.

The HRC concluded its 48th regular session after adopting 25 resolutions and acted on 14 Universal Periodic Reviews including GWJ affiliates [Singapore](#) and [Paraguay](#). Ambassador

Nazhat Shameem Khan, President of the HRC, expressed her gratitude to the members of the 2021 Bureau for their leadership throughout the year. The 49th regular session of the HRC is tentatively scheduled to be held from 28 February to 25 March 2022.

For further detailed information on the 48th session of the HRC click [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of education —

Give the gift of education:

“GWI Fellowships enable female doctoral students to reach their full potential and really make a difference. You too can make a difference by contributing and pushing both the glass ceiling higher and opening the door wider”. - Cynthia Burek, Convenor, GWI Fellowship Committee.

To learn more about GWI’s Winifred Cullis Fellowship Fundraiser to support women’s doctoral education click [HERE](#) for the latest press release.

— Did you know? GWI has a new intern!—

“My name is Talysha Rustam, and I am an undergraduate student at Boston University in the United States, studying International Relations. I am in my fourth year at my university, and I am extremely grateful to be on a study abroad programme in Geneva, a place that is home to many international organisations. Studying abroad on this programme has given me endless opportunities to explore my interests as an international relations major, all while having the chance to see the world through traveling and experiencing new cultures. I have always been passionate about human rights and making the world a better place, so I am grateful to be interning at Graduate Women International, where their focus is on advocating for girls and women and their right to receive quality education. I will be a part of the GWI team until 10 December 2021, and I can’t wait to learn and grow as an individual during this time. I am very excited for this opportunity and I look forward to contributing to the mission of Graduate Women International”.



— Dates and events worth noting —

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
18 December	Migrants Day, Global
20 December	Human Solidarity Day, Global

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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E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org

