



GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL TOOLKIT

International Day of the Girl

11 OCTOBER 2021



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.

Graduate Women International

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11 OCTOBER 2021

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL



TAKE ACTION! SPEAK UP FOR GIRLS!

On International Day of the Girl (IDOG) 2021, Graduate Women International (GWI) engages with the global community to amplify their voices for girls' rights. **Join us today and take action!** This ready-to-use toolkit was designed by GWI to help you achieve positive outcomes that promote girls' empowerment. This toolkit contains:

- IMPACTFUL FACTS AND INFORMATION:** *Data is essential* to understand the state of girls' status and rights around the world and act accordingly. GWI has collected a variety of facts and figures to facilitate awareness-raising and advocacy action for girls' rights, equality of opportunities, and safe access to education at the highest level.
- ADVOCACY IDEAS:** This toolkit also includes a wide range of concrete and adaptable ideas to influence decisions and make a change in girls' lives at the local and national level. *Gather with your fellow advocates, join efforts and spread these ideas widely.*
- IDOG PROUD GWI MEMBER BANNER:** GWI is the leading international organisation advocating for women's empowerment through education at the highest level. *The more we are, the stronger our collective voice and actions are.* **Share the banner on social media, with your network** or print it out to display at your window and distribute widely within your community!
- SOCIAL MEDIA PACKAGE:** GWI has designed a series of social media graphics with impactful facts and advocacy ideas. Social media are a good means to *reach a wide and diverse audience and promote our work and values globally.*



THEIR VOICES, THEIR FUTURE: UPLIFTING GIRLS' RIGHTS GLOBALLY

IDOG, also known as International Day of the Girl Child or Day of Girls, was adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 2011. Since then, each year on 11 October, the focus is put on **girls' rights and potential, but also on** the obstacles, inequalities and pervasive gendered barriers and challenges they continue to face globally. COVID-19 is raising much concern about continuing education. GWI is intensely focused on the COVID-19 crisis and on working for all girls to continue their schooling safely, in the classroom and online.

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 highlights the need to include girls in all decision-making processes as critical stakeholders with the power to design a better world. The **more than 1.1 billion girls in the world** (3) must be listened to and given the opportunity to build their own futures.

"As the world continues to battle the pandemic, education – as a fundamental right and a global public good – must be protected to avert a generational catastrophe."

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General ⁽¹⁾





Girls' status in the world has improved since the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action. Yet, now is not the time to abandon our collective efforts. Today more than ever, **GWI emphasises the need to build on progress made in advancing girls' rights and fully invest in girls' and young women's potential.**



Only **49 per cent of countries have achieved gender parity in primary education.** At the secondary level, the gap widens: 42 per cent of countries have achieved gender parity in lower secondary education, and 24 per cent in upper secondary education.
(UNICEF 2021)

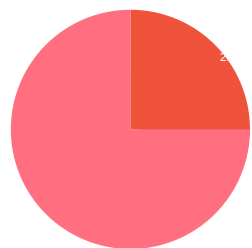
During the COVID-19 recovery period, it is essential to ensure girls return to school in order to protect gains in education, made over the past two decades, where **the number of girls out of school has decreased by 81 million.**
(UNESCO 2021)



Two-thirds of children of primary school age who may never set foot in school are girls.
(UNESCO 2021)



Around the world, **743 million** girls were pushed out of school as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
(Plan International 2021)



Almost **one in four adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 (24 per cent)** have experienced physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner or husband.
(UN Women 2021)

Despite Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) being internationally recognized as a human rights violation, in 2021, there are **4.16 million girls** around the world who are at risk of undergoing FMG.
(UN 2021)





THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF GIRLS' EDUCATION

Girls today are more likely to be out of school than boys due to pervasive and far reaching gender-based barriers such as poverty, child marriage, GBV and families favouring boys when it comes to education. (4) Yet, educated girls make fairer societies and participate in their development.

Here are some relevant and usable facts about why all societies and governments should focus on girls' education:



Girls' education strengthens economies and creates jobs.

Millions of educated girls, means more working women with the potential to **add up to \$12 trillion USD to global growth.** (Malala Fund 2021)

Pre-COVID-19, every additional year of primary school **increases girls' eventual wages by 10-20 percent.** It also encourages them to marry later and have fewer children, and leaves them less vulnerable to violence. (UN Women 2012)



When a country gives all its children secondary education, they **cut their risk of war by half.** (Malala Fund 2021)

Gender-equitable education systems can contribute to **reductions in school- related gender-based violence and harmful practices**, including child marriage and female genital mutilation. (UNICEF 2020)



For every extra year a girl stays in school, her **income can increase by 11%**

(World Bank 2018)

WHEN WE KEEP GIRLS IN SCHOOL, IN CLASSROOM OR E-LEARNING:

- Average lifetime earnings of girls dramatically increase
- National growth rates rise
- Child marriage rates decline
- Child mortality rates fall
- Maternal mortality rates fall
- Child stunting rates drop

(UNICEF 2021)





GET INVOLVED WITH GWI

On IDOG 2021, you can make a difference in girls' lives and contribute to the promotion of their rights at the local, national and international level by joining the efforts of GWI and our NFAs:

- Advocate for girls' rights by joining forces with a GWI affiliate in your area.

[Click HERE to learn more about our membership and join us:](#)



- Subscribe to the GWI Update newsletter.

[Click HERE to subscribe to the Update newsletter:](#)



- Follow, Like, and Share GWI on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and LinkedIn. We post daily and run comprehensive gender campaigns.

[Click on the logos to find our social media pages:](#)



SO MUCH MORE CAN BE DONE. ARE YOU READY TO TAKE ACTION FOR GIRLS EVERYWHERE?

- Do not let COVID-19 keep you from participating! Many events on International Day of the Girl are likely to be held online. Since this year's theme focuses on the digital age, **take this opportunity to participate in any online training or information sessions** that might be of interest to you, inform yourself, and spread the word around you!
- Share stories of inspiring adolescent girls or girl-led organisations who are developing innovative solutions or leading efforts towards positive social change in their communities and nations. **Let's amplify their leadership, actions and impact to inspire others!**



TIME FOR ACTION! GWI PROUD MEMBER BANNER

Even with the many recent achievements towards girls' empowerment, much more remains to be accomplished at the local, national, regional and international level. GWI therefore encourages all members, partners and friends to celebrate IDOG on 11 October 2021.

Beginning 10 October, plan to **FOLLOW, PARTICIPATE and SHARE the GWI social media campaign** that will offer three daily posts for Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn each aimed to educate, galvanise support and celebrate the potential of girls worldwide.

As a means to these goals, GWI offers this comprehensive and impactful campaign material. Take Action for Girls!



**IDOG PROUD
MEMBER
BANNER 2021**



International Day of the Girl 2021

"Digital Generation. Our Generation"

Educated girls drive positive change in their families, their communities, and the world over.

Join GWI in advocating for girls' safe access to quality education and uplifting their voices and rights globally



The 2021 IDOG Proud Member Banner is a versatile and impactful resource that can be used digitally or printed to showcase your commitment to girls' rights and promote GWI membership within your community. Click on the link below to view, download and share the banner!

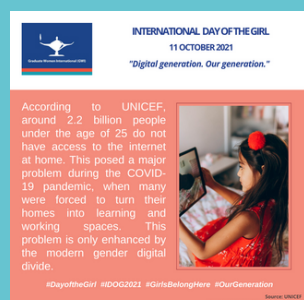
[Click HERE to download the GWI IDOG Proud Member Banner](#)





Ready-to-use social media graphics

To download posts individually, click on the post of your choice



Click HERE to
download the full
GW I DOG
comprehensive 2021
Social Media Pack



GO DIGITAL! ADVOCACY MATERIALS

GWI encourages the download and global sharing, on all platforms, of these ready-to-use social media graphics. A text version of each post is also available below: **simply copy and paste to all social media platforms and join GWI in standing up with girls for their rights!**

Did You Know? Around 129 million girls worldwide are out of school, including millions of girls at each level of education. For girls living in areas of conflict, the risk of not receiving an education is doubled. (UNICEF 2021)

Did You Know? About 1 in 4 girls ages 15-19 lack jobs, training, or education compared to 1 in 10 of their male counterparts. As a result of such disparity, the COVID-19 pandemic hit women and girls especially hard, with 47 million being pushed into poverty. (United Nations 2021)

Advocacy Idea: You could help amplify the voices of women in technology by interacting with their content. Read blogs, stories, and watch videos on their work, then share that content for others to see. While it may seem small, the simple act of sharing content can help these women gain exposure and continue to pave the way forward in the digital age. (UNICEF 2021)

Advocacy Idea: You could help more women and girls gain access to education by volunteering to translate educational texts into different languages so that a wider audience can understand them. This especially applies to languages that might be needed to reach refugees.

Information: According to UNICEF, around 2.2 billion people under the age of 25 do not have access to the internet at home. This posed a major problem during the COVID-19 pandemic when many were forced to turn their homes into learning and working spaces. This problem is only enhanced by the modern gender digital divide. (UNICEF 2021)

Information: In more than two-thirds of countries around the world, less than 15% of all Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) graduates are women. In middle to higher-income countries, of the top-performing female STEM students, only 14% expected to work in science or engineering compared to 26% of their male counterparts. (UNICEF 2021)



GIRLS AND THE SDGS IN FOCUS



Globally, 1 in 5 girls globally are living in extreme poverty with less than US\$1.90 a day, a sum that leaves them without enough food, housing, health care or education. (6) **Education leading to good employment can break the cycle of poverty** for families, and for the next generations. According to research by the World Bank, for every extra year of primary education, a girl's individual wage rate increases by an average of 10–20%, and by 25% more with an extra year of secondary school. (7)

60% of chronically hungry people worldwide are women and girls. UN Women has found that when crises hit or food prices rise, girls and women often become household 'shock absorbers', spending more time finding food while consuming less food (and less nutritious food) than others. (8) Empowering girls, who are more likely to be affected by hunger, means that progress must be made on ensuring that girls are not suffering from deprivation.



There are 380,000 new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women every year: (9) **Early pregnancy and childbirth also cause the death of 70,000 girls from developing countries each year.** (10) Investment in adolescent girls' health increases their chances of finishing secondary school and of finding productive work. According to a study by UNESCO, **if all girls had primary education, there would be 15% fewer child deaths. If all girls had a secondary education, child deaths would be cut in half, saving almost 3 million lives across the globe.** (11).

Despite progress, as many as 48.1 per cent of girls remain out of school in some regions and **15 million girls are not in primary school right now, compared to 10 million boys.** (12) Yet each year of secondary education reduces the likelihood of marrying as a child by five percentage points or more, and a child whose mother can read is 50% more likely to live past the age of five. (13) GWI highlights that a gender-equitable education has crucial benefits for girls, by reducing the risk of gender-based violence, of harmful practices such as female genital mutilation. (14)



Worldwide, gender inequality remains an issue in dire need of being addressed as it deprives girls of their basic rights and opportunities. For example, in more than five of six countries with available data, **girls aged 10–14 years are more likely than boys of the same age to spend 21 or more hours on household chores per week.** The amount of time spent on chores curtails girls' opportunities to enjoy the pleasures of childhood, including time to play, build social networks and focus on their education. (15) GWI is committed to the realisation of SGD5 as a primordial issue.

In 80% of water-deprived households, **women and girls carry the burden of water collection.** Around 2.4 billion people use unimproved sanitation facilities that can pollute water and spread disease (16). Based on data across 24 Sub-Saharan countries from 2005 to 2012, an estimated 13.5 million women made round trips of more than an hour each day to collect water. Girls collecting water each day were also more vulnerable to pregnancy, exploitative labour and school dropout. (17) **GWI also reminds that poor access to sanitation causes girls to miss or drop out of school during menstruation.**





Girls tend to be more impacted by the **lack of access to affordable, reliable and safe sources of energy**. In spending more time around the home, women and girls accounted for 6 out of 10 of the 4.3 million premature deaths caused in 2012 by indoor air pollution. In households that cook with solid fuels, **girls spend 18 hours a week, on average, gathering fuel** (18), consequently reducing their opportunity to attend school and advance their education.

There is an urgent need to address economic and social inequalities in order to ensure girls a better future. Advancing women's equality to **close existing economic and social gender gaps could boost global GDP by \$12 trillion (or 11%) by 2025** if every country matched the progress of the fastest-improving country in their region (19). Moreover, Gender equality in employment gives women more decision-making power and enhances family well-being as they will typically invest more of their income than men in the health, nutrition, and education of their children. (20)



Research and innovation drive the knowledge economy and are the backbone of future jobs, yet women alarmingly hold less than a third of research positions. **Only one in five countries has reached gender parity in research**. (21) GWI calls on stakeholders to encourage girls to undertake Scientific Technologic Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) studies, in order to reduce gender gaps. **Access to digital tools and the internet is also indispensable**.

While growing income inequality can destabilise societies and harm entire nations, its most acute impact falls on those who are already disadvantaged, including girls and women. In 2016, UN Women reported that **household inequality between women and men may account for up to 30% of all income inequality**. (22) If girls are to have access to equal futures, GWI notes that all kinds of inequalities between men and women, boys and girls, must be urgently targeted and eliminated.



By 2030, 60% of people worldwide will likely live in cities (23). But cities can be an opportunity as well as a challenging space for girls. For women and girls, **cities can open doors to improved services, better work, and increased independence. Yet urban spaces can also pose unique threats to their safety and health**. (24) The development of sustainable cities must come with the implementation of security for women and girls, sufficient and decent housing, and access to improved sanitation.

Responsible consumption and production depend in part on reducing overconsumption. In the world, **1.3 billion tonnes of food is wasted every year, while almost 2 billion people go hungry or undernourished**. (25) Among the most affected are girls. Inclusiveness must be at the core of the implementation of solutions to overconsumption, as it will provide a more equitable distribution of resources.



Climate change is one of the main challenges faced in today's world. Women and girls are even more vulnerable to climate change because they are more likely to be poor. They are more likely to die in a climate-fuelled disaster than men, and more likely to be displaced. (26) Women and children are 14 times more likely than men to die during a disaster. (27) Yet, **only 0.01% of climate finance projects tackle both climate change and gender inequalities**. (28) GWI calls for global recognition of the role of girls as crucial agents of change in climate action.



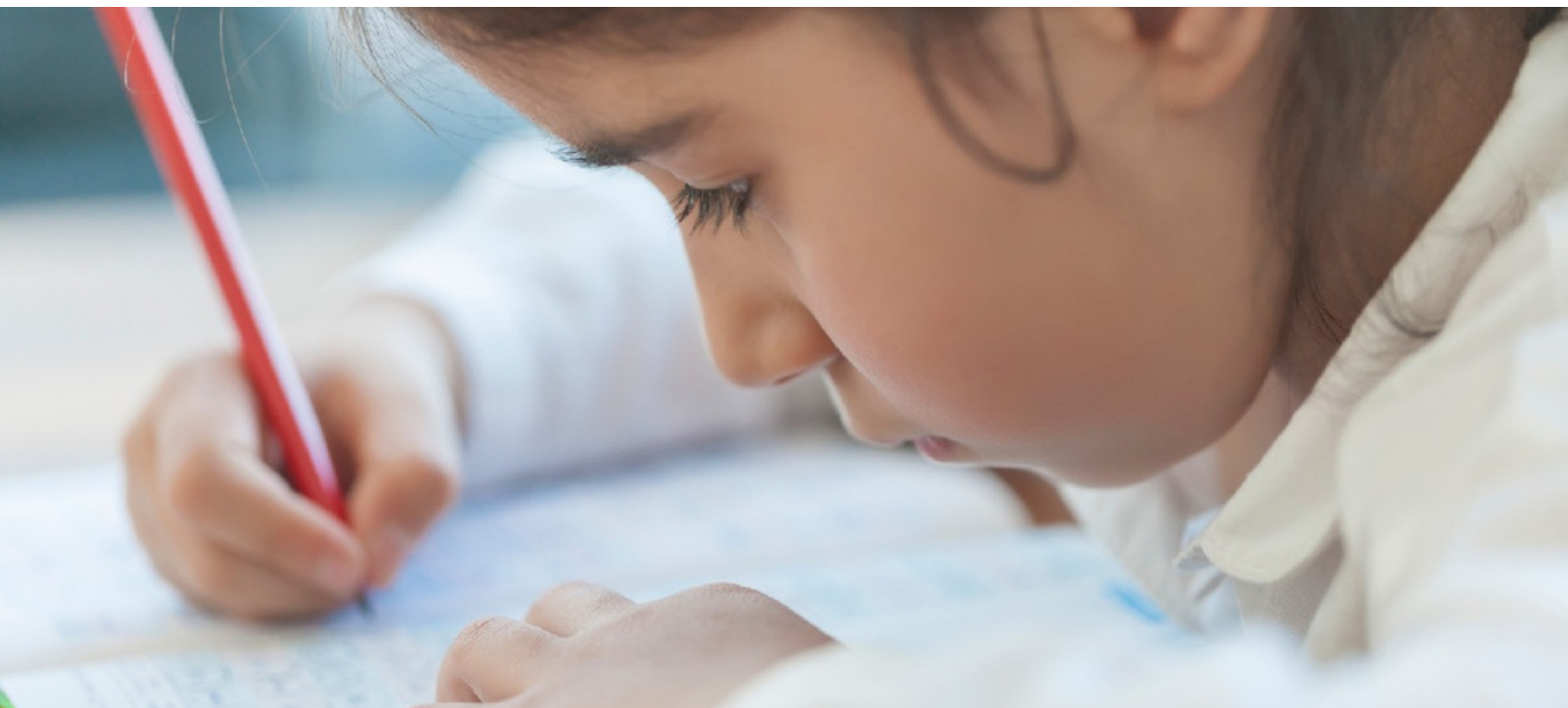
Nearly one billion people worldwide depend on oceans, seas, and marine resources to survive. **Women face the risks of ocean degradation with fewer assets and alternatives for income, and less resilience against mounting losses** (29). GWI urges collective mindfulness that conservation and sustainable development with regard to marine resources is necessary in order to preserve our oceans and the rights of girls.

Around the world, 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihoods, yet forests are being felled at an astonishing rate. **Women and girls, particularly those who are poor and living in rural areas, often depend on forests for fuel, fodder, and food.** Deforestation for some means spending many more hours each day walking long distances to secure these needs. Their limited ownership of land reduces their capacity to adapt to losses or to make decisions about how land is used. (30) GWI urges the global community to recognise girls' dependence on lands such as forests and to engage in protecting terrestrial ecosystems.



Whether in global, regional or national governance, women tend to be underrepresented in the governance of institutions. (31). Yet, women and girls face specific issues, which could be addressed more effectively by gender-equal leaderships. Globally, 35% of women experienced physical and/or sexual violence (36). Some 1 in 20 girls between the ages of 15 and 19 – around 13 million – have experienced forced sex. **In times of both peace and conflict, adolescent girls face the highest risk of gender-based violence.** (32) Peace cannot be achieved without girls being taken into account and stronger laws and institutions to protect them.

In 2015/16 around 40% of screened Official Development Assistance had some focus on gender equality, but **less than 0.5% supported women's equality organisations and institutions** (33). GWI advocates for the recognition that the SDGs will not be achieved without international solidarity and collaboration, calling on the global community to foster strategic partnerships with governments, private companies and institutions which can act as tough leaders and financiers, **helping to provide lifelong learning opportunities and a place at the decision table for girls.**





About GWI

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) located in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in some 60 countries with our National Federation and Associations (NFAs) and Independent Members. 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 maintains official relations with United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

GWI operates with a small yet dedicated staff consisting of an Executive Director, and a host of committed interns and volunteers. Additionally, our work is possible with the support of our tireless Board of Directors.



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**Graduate Women
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