



GW I UPDATE – 24 November 2021

GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL TOOLKIT

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Take Action to End Violence Against Women

25 November - 10 December 2021



Graduate Women International (GWI) to mark the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) on 25 November by releasing a 2021 toolkit.

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— Graduate Women International News —

GWI releases 16 Days of Activism Against GBV toolkit

In honor of the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV commencing tomorrow, 25 November, GWI crafted and released a 2021 toolkit to help inspire and promote activism around the globe. GWI strongly encourages its members to read the toolkit to not only learn more about the serious problem that is GBV, but also to share the advocacy tools within including GWI’s

impactful social media posts and infographic to help to raise awareness of the 16 Days. On top of social media, the toolkit recommends other ways in which individuals can stay active during the next two weeks, including reading relevant literature, watching thought-provoking media, and perhaps designing a strategic advocacy plan that is all your own. Advocacy comes in many different forms, and the GWI toolkit exists to help individuals find a method that works best for them. To read the toolkit, click [HERE](#).

GWI posts Days of Observances social media campaigns

In the past week, the world saw three important days of observance take place, International Students' Day on 17 November, World Toilet Day on 19 November, and World Children's Day on 20 November. While the days have passed, it is important to remember the significance of each topic and continue to think of them throughout the year. It should be remembered, for example, that roughly 258 million children are out of school worldwide. Despite International Students' Day having passed for the year, these children will continue to lack the education they deserve. The world must remain committed to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 and continue to help these children gain access to quality education, even when the spotlight seems to be off of them. Likewise, we must remember the struggles of the world's youth that extend beyond World Children's Day, such as the ongoing poverty crisis that has left about 1.2 billion children living in poverty. On top of these numbers, there are currently 4.2 billion people living without access to proper sanitation. So, as time moves on and the recent days of observance grow more distant, it is important to remember that these issues are more than just titles for random days of the year, they are real issues that real people are facing around the globe. It is never too late to be an advocate. To find the GWI social media posts for these recent Days of Observance, click [HERE](#).

— GWI Member News —

Register today! CFUW to host GWI Young Member Network Meet-n-Greet

On Saturday, 27 November CFUW will host a Meet-n-Greet with the GWI YMN. CFUW invites members to meet the YMN and learn about its structure, activities, and goals. The Meet-n-Greet will be held from 4-5:30PM Central European Time (CET)/10-11:30AM Eastern Standard Time (EST). To share this enthusiasm, register [HERE](#) by 6:00PM CET/12:00PM EST on Friday, 26 November 2021. For more information, please click [HERE](#). For more information about the GWI YMN, please see the Did You Know section below.

FEMU to host “Human Trafficking during the Pandemic. Migration South-North” seminar

On 29-30 November the FEMU and the Women's Museum in Mexico City will host an international seminar “La trata en tiempos de pandemia. Migración Sur-Norte” (“Human Trafficking during the Pandemic. Migration South-North”). This international seminar will cover topics such as human trafficking of indigenous women, human trafficking in Bolivia during the pandemic, migration of indigenous towns in Guatemala, and human trafficking in corporations in Mexico and Columbia. The seminar will be held in Spanish. To register, please send an email to recepcionmuseomujer@gmail.com with your name, telephone number and event title. To see the list of professional speakers and the full programme, please click [HERE](#).

Save the Date! UWAsia to host tech for women's social and economic advancement

GWI regional group UWAsia will host on Saturday, 18 December at 10:30AM CET a discussion titled, “Research and use of advanced information technology can bring sustained improvement in social and economic status of women all over the globe”. Alongside this discussion, the “traumatic impacts of long years of wars on Afghan women” will be examined. Expert panelists will address topics such as women’s empowerment through research, innovation, and entrepreneurship; how IT transformed the educational landscape during COVID-19; how technology has facilitated women’s participation in economic activities; and the traumatic impact on women of years of war in Afghanistan. To register click [HERE](#). To see the list of speakers and the full programme, click [HERE](#).

GWI YMN President at GPW21

GPW21 was held in hybrid mode between 1-5 November 2021. This annual event was a mix of dynamic online workshops and digital series contributions and launched the reflection of an exciting week with key-note speeches from high-level speakers, discussions, video contributions, and attendee participation and engagement.

GPW21 Opening Ceremony was focused on this year's theme: From seeds to systems of peace: Weathering today’s challenges and aimed to galvanize leadership, build trust and contribute to transforming international cooperation. GWI YMN President Sudha Srivastava attended the event virtually and her video message highlighting the role of women in peace processes, was played with other selected contributions at the beginning of the Opening Ceremony. Sudha advocates for gender integration in peacebuilding and believes that education plays a key role building foundations for peace in various ways.

Link to watch the Opening Ceremony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHXBOMpBfI>

— International Advocacy and GWI at the United Nations —

United Nations Annual Social Forum

Recently, the UN in Geneva held the annual Social Forum. The Forum this year brought forth critical information about the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences it has on human rights. It highlighted the long-term social and economic inequalities within and between countries that have formed because of the pandemic, and how they have only become more of a problem over the last 18 months. In this forum, issues such as vaccine inequality, the pandemic’s impact on marginalised groups, education, and more were addressed. To read more about the outcomes and details of the 2021 Social Forum, click [HERE](#).

GWI cosponsors Gender Equality and Social Protection written statement for the 2022 Commission on Social Development

GWI cosponsored a written statement with Soroptimist International for the 2022 Commission on Social Development (CSocD). CSocD is one of the eight functional commissions established by the UN Economic and Social Council since 1946 to advise and assist it in carrying out its work. The statement emphasises that women should be full, equal, effective, and meaningful partners, leaders, and decision makers in COVID-19 responses to regain the progress made towards the 2030 Agenda. Specific and targeted gender-transformative, inclusive, and human rights-based programmes can rectify the harm caused by inequalities experienced by women and girls in all their diversity. As countries attempt to ‘build forward

better' the world has a unique opportunity to restructure to ensure COVID-19 impacts are not long-lasting. To harness this opportunity, the signatories of this statement have a number of recommendations. Click [HERE](#) to read the full statement and recommendations.

GWI at the Young Activists Summit “New Generation, New Solutions”

GWI attended the Young Activists Summit (YAS) 2021 which put a spotlight on young change-makers advancing human rights or sustainability. Through their ground-breaking initiatives, innovations, or inventions, the 2021 laureates demonstrated that young people are paving the way for a more sustainable and equal world. Six young change-makers from the Philippines, Kenya, the United States, Peru, South Sudan and French Polynesia spoke about their important innovations for a better world. Three of the young change makers highlighted were girls, Louise (Philippines), Stacy (Kenya) and Gitanjali (USA).

GWI was motivated by the innovations to progress equality specifically related to women and girls. I-Cut, an app created by Stacy (Kenya) and her friends helps girls and communities affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). The app helps connect affected girls to legal and medical assistance and girls can also alert local authorities by pressing a panic button on the app. Stacy explained that 200 million girls have been affected by FGM as a result of gender norms, patriarchy, poverty and child marriage. Although FGM is illegal in Kenya, “implementation of laws is a challenge,” she explained. Additionally, YAS brought attention to the importance of highlighting women in STEM. A UNESCO representative at the event reported that only 35% of STEM students in higher education globally are women and that technology with no input from women can end up with products that do not serve half of the population. The digital divide was also emphasized by UNESCO and the importance of addressing this disparity.

It was an inspiring event and GWI applauds the UN for helping to give young activists a platform to be recognised for their contributions towards human rights and sustainable development. To learn more about the young activists and their important work click [HERE](#).

— Did you know? —

GWI young members who would like to join the Young Member Network new communication channel, please register at this link [HERE](#). Select ‘Young Member inquiry’ from the dropdown list and fill out your information. Additionally, if you would like to join the YMN WhatsApp group, please fill your preferred contact number. Please distribute this information widely in your NFA.

— Dates and events worth noting —

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
24 January	International Day of Education

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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.

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