



GWI UPDATE – 19 January 2022



Graduate Women International to celebrate International Day of Education by hosting future of education focus groups

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Register Today! GWI to hold Future of Education focus groups on International Day of Education

As a result of COVID-19, it is estimated that 743 million girls around the world were forced out of school. Solutions are needed. On International Day of Education, 24 January 2022, GWI will host three focus groups inspired by UNESCO's Futures of Education Focus Group guidelines. The focus groups will contribute to a global dialogue and help to raise awareness and find solutions to the current problems facing girls' education some of which include poverty, early marriage pregnancy, gender-based violence, the digital gender divide, and gender norms. Data gathered from the focus groups will be summarised and disseminated to UNESCO and other United Nations agencies as a means to build capacity for their programmes as mandated by the GWI ongoing Organisational Development

programme. The sessions will run for the duration of one hour. Participants will receive key materials in advance and should be prepared to contribute actively in the discussions. Participation in this focus group is limited to a maximum of 20 participants. The selection process will be based on a first come first served basis. The first 20 registered in each group will be notified on 22 January. [Please register on the GWI website by clicking HERE.](#)

— GWI Member News —

Register Now! CFUW and GWI to host "Empowerment: Education of Girls and Women Going Forward", marking International Day of Education

On 21 January at 10am ET / 4pm CET, GWI and CFUW (St. Catharines and West Vancouver clubs) invite GWI members from around the world to a conversation about the impact of the pandemic on the education of girls and women. The discussions will explore current problems facing girls' education and help to identify possible solutions. This conversation is intended to begin a dialogue that will continue during the three focus groups hosted by GWI on 24 January.

On 21 January at 10am ET / 4pm CET take part in this inspiring conversation by clicking on the Zoom link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85732242464?pwd=TUtYajhsNnRib1FpVUpKV2FXNVd6QT09>,

Meeting ID: 857 3224 2464 / Passcode: 655619

GWI holds impactful women in information technology webinar

Hosted by the Pakistan Federation of University Women (PFUW) the GWI regional group, University Women Asia (UWAsia) held on 18 December 2021 a webinar titled, "Research and use of advanced information technology can bring sustained improvement in the socio – economic status of global women" and "Traumatic impacts of long years of war on Afghan Women".

Program started with welcome addresses from Stacy Dry Lara, Executive Director GWI followed by welcome address by Akram khatoon, President of PFUW then Terry Oudraad, GWI President who in her opening words explained the role and significance of communications and dialogues taking place across regions. Dr Ranjana Banerjee, President of UWAsia brought to light the role of the Asian regions with regard to issues concerning women and children of the same. Dr. Rashida Zohra, Dean Jinnah University for Women, was the first guest speaker who went back into history of evolution of various scientific inventions by women. She stressed on the fact that women with STEM education proved their credibility by coming up with inventions like torpedoes and improved technologies in the Second World War. She stressed that women have made their names in Pakistan by making use of advanced information technology in the area of software development and they have sizeable share in IT related products exports of the country.

Second speaker Dr. Narmeen Bawany, Dean Faculty of Information Technology, Jinnah University of Women, discussed the scenario of COVID-19 lock downs and how IT helped educational institutions at all levels to continue functioning online. Waniya Wajeel listed the reasons for lack of entrepreneurship among women and later on described how use of information technology and imparting of vocational and entrepreneurial skills helped women mainstreaming economic activity then Dr. Asma Zahoor, Professor of English at Islamabad University, described the plight of Afghan women and children due to continuous war onslaught by superpowers like Russia and US revenging the very fabric of country. **GWI congratulates UWAsia, PFUW and its guest speakers for this successful, informative session!** To read the full webinar summary submitted by PFUW click [HERE](#).

— International Advocacy and GWI at the United Nations —

UNESCO to Increase investment in education in the aftermath of COVID-19

At the height of the pandemic, 1.6 billion children and adolescents were deprived of instruction in the classroom. Among them, 500 million students, mainly in the Global South, had no access to distance learning. (UNESCO) quickly rallied by bringing together States, international organizations and businesses within a Global Coalition for Education, which made it possible to ensure educational continuity in 112 countries. Despite this unprecedented mobilization, the situation remains worrying. According to UNESCO's latest count, schools are still totally or partially closed in 65 countries, affecting 750 million students. In those countries where schools are reopening, there is concern that some children are not finding their way back to the classroom. This is particularly the case for girls, whose schooling was already precarious in a number of low-income countries. UNESCO estimates that 11 million girls worldwide are at risk of staying out of school after the pandemic. These risks are observed against a global backdrop of under-investment in education. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, recently reported, "It is imperative that we prioritize education as the most powerful investment for our common future. If we do not invest in education now, the cost will be much higher for generations to come." [Please invest in girls' education by donating to GWI HERE.](#) Read the full UNESCO article [HERE](#).



— Give the gift of education —

Girls Education for Brighter Futures Post COVID-19 programme

Give the gift of education to women and girls around the world by contributing to our new [Girls' Education for Brighter Futures Post- COVID-19](#) programme, which directly supports GWI's advocacy work and projects held throughout the world to remove socio-cultural, gender-related and economic barriers girls face towards education endeavours. GWI recently published a programme update report on GlobalGiving titled "Education is a Powerful Path to Gender Equality". [To read the full programme update report click HERE.](#) 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](#).

— Did you know? —



Sonia Gómez Soria

GWI welcomes new intern, Sonia Gómez Soria

"My name is Sonia Gómez Soria and I have a degree in Social Work with a special mention in attention to people at risk of social exclusion at the UNED in Spain and the University of Riga, expert in gender violence at University of Nebrija and a senior technician in Administration and Finance. I am currently studying a master's in gender, justice and society at Umea University in Sweden. I am from Spain but I lived in England since 2011 and I recently moved to Geneva to continue my professional development. From the early stages of my career, I have shown interest in working on education projects. Therefore, I am delighted to take part in GWI as an intern to advocate for the rights of women and girls to also exercise their right to an education". "We are excited to welcome Sonia to our office

team and look forward contributing to her professional growth”, said Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director.

— Dates and events worth noting —

24 January	International Day of Education
24 Jan-4 Feb	Universal Periodic Review
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day
28 Feb-1 April	UN Human Rights Council
28 Feb-4 March	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
8 March	International Women’s Day
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
22 March	World Water Day

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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.

Graduate Women International

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