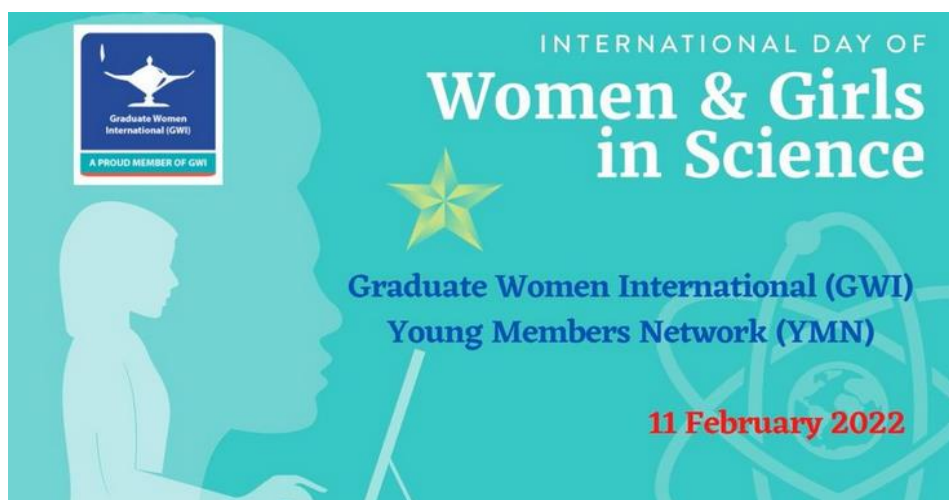




**Graduate Women International**

*Empowering women & girls through lifelong education*

## GWI UPDATE – 16 February 2022



*Graduate Women International Young Members Network reflects on careers in science to mark International Day of Women and Girls in Science. Access video below.*

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### — Graduate Women International News —

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#### **GWI posts days of observance social media campaigns**

In the past week, the world saw two important days of observance take place, International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) on 6 February, and International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 February. While the days have passed, it is important to continue to raise awareness about the critical barriers to girls' education throughout the year. It should be remembered, for example, that more than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM. Furthermore, there are an estimated 3 three million girls at risk of undergoing FGM every year. After FGM, girls are absent from school to heal and many suffer infections, trauma, and lifelong health consequences such as depression, complications in childbirth and increased risk of new-born deaths,

a violation of their human and education rights. The world must remain committed to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 4 & 5 and continue to raise awareness about the barriers to education.

Likewise, societies must remember the struggles of women and girls in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) sector that extend beyond International Day of Women and Girls in Science. This includes underrepresentation of women and girls in STEM at only 33%. On top of these numbers, currently only 12% of members of National Science Academies are women. 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 significant days of the year, they are factual issues that real women and girls 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](#). Do not forget to follow GWI on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram for more posts on the days of observance.

Specially to mark International Day of Women and Girls in Science, GWI draws your attention to its Young Members Network video commemorating the day and celebrating GWI YMN contribution to science. GWI congratulates these young, intelligent, and remarkable young members. GWI invites you to access the video [HERE](#).

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## — CSW66 —

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### **66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66)**

The United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women is the principle global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. CSW66 will take place 100% online from 14 to 25 March 2022 under the priority theme, “achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes”.

Given the virtual nature of the CSW66, GWI members who would like to take part in the CSW66 are required to create an Indico account [HERE](#), then register for the CSW66 session. GWI will approve members only; **non-members will not be admitted to the GWI registry**. Proof of membership will be required before approval is granted. **GWI members can register for the CSW66 sessions until 28 February 2022**. Approved registrants will receive direct email communications about CSW-related activities, events, and updates leading up to and during the session.

The [NGO CSW Forum](#) is the civil society side of the CSW66. The Forum is free and runs parallel to the official UN CSW66 session. The Forum will be held 100% virtual this year. **Registration for the Forum is now open and is free**. [Click HERE](#) to register for the Forum and its hundreds of parallel events hosted by leading women and girls’ experts and those who are on the grassroots level around the world. After registering, GWI invites you to watch this [participant's video](#).

### **GWI CSW66 Parallel Events**

#### **Resilient, Full Access to Women’s Healthcare: Redressing Gender Inequities of Climate Change**

Women’s Global Health Working Group call to action exposes the socioeconomic determinants of health and challenge barriers to access to health by mandating advanced capacity building, high leadership diversity inclusion and development of professionals in all aspects. The parallel event will be held 15 March 2022, 9-10:30 am Eastern Daylight-Saving Time. Register in advance for this meeting: <https://ngocsw66forum.us2.pathable.com/meetings/jMHczovXDf6RRqSGz>

#### **Gendered Dimensions of Corruption and Its Impact in Gender Inequality**

[illegible]

The panellists address humanitarian and gender-specific concerns faced by the climate migrants and aim to arrive at potential remedies under refugee law and humanitarian practices on the care and well-being of refugees on their journey to safety and resettlement. **The parallel event will be held 22 March 2022, 11-12:30am Eastern Daylight-Saving Time. Register in advance for this meeting:**

To describe the global climate situation as it relates to education, GWI representatives from five diverse regions will share their future perspectives as GWI young women concerned about eco-anxiety among young people. GWI experts on the role of education in the current teaching on climate crises and environmental migration regarding women and girls will be presented. **The parallel event will be held 22 March 2022, 4-5:30pm Eastern Daylight-Saving Time. Register in advance for this meeting:**

The panellists will describe structural inequities created by public school funding that left so many students unable to connect to their classes in context to communities facing extreme weather due to climate change, poor working conditions, lack of broadband, and low academic performance. **The parallel event will be held 23 March 2022, 7-8:30am Eastern Daylight-Saving Time. Register in advance for this meeting:**

GWY YMN will present a panel of experts to share their views based on research on the role of young women in contributing towards climate action as well as on how education plays a vital role in raising a climate conscious generation. Experts will also provide highlights of actions already taken and recommendations for the future. **The parallel event will be held 24 March 2022, 8-9:30am Eastern Daylight-Saving Time. Register in advance for this meeting:**

— GWI Member News —

IFUWA organised a webinar on 29 January 2022 titled, "Food Adulteration Testing and its Redressal Mechanisms", a relevant topic for today's world. It is important for people to be knowledgeable about

the quality of the food they consume. Professor Amrita Bagga, a senior member of the IFUWA Pune hosted of the event.

The meeting started with a prayer by Dr. Kalyani Bondre, IFUWA Pune member, wishing for the well-being of humanity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The prayer was followed with a word of welcome by Dr. Ranjana Banerjee, President of IFUWA. Dr. Sitaram Dixit, a member of the Governing Body of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), including Foods & Drugs Divisional Council of India and the Chairman of Consumer Guidance Society of India (CGSI) took the floor as an eminent person in the field of Consumer's Guidance including food adulteration, which has continued to increase throughout the years.

Dr. Dixit's lecture gave new insights into the highly increased levels of food adulteration in India and around the world. It was an eye-opening event to learn about the extent to which artificial colouring of vegetables, use of poisonous chemicals for making fruits and vegetables ripen and the extensive use of unhygienic water in milk are taking place in the open markets and agricultural farms in India. The consequence of this is the rise of human physical deformity and diseases.

The floor was then opened for questions and was concluded with a formal thank you from IFUWA Vice President Gomathy Venkateshwar. [Click HERE](#) to access the manual prepared by Dr. Dixit to learn more about the varied materials used for adulteration and procedures of identification. To watch the recorded event [click HERE](#).

### **Women Graduates - USA (WG-USA) webinar marks Human Trafficking Awareness Month: The Truth about Trafficking- Inside Information from a Victim's Perspective**

*A Report submitted by Carrie Gallagher WG-USA BOD, Convener of Communications Committee*

Within its Programmes and Projects, WG-USA focuses on ending gender-based violence. In order to do this, WG-USA promotes advocacy in action with resources on its website and external resources from other organizations with shared goals. The recent webinar on 25 January, "The Truth about Trafficking - Inside Information from a Victim's Perspective" was thoughtfully presented by Sandy Storm, author, and subject matter expert, with connections to DeliverFund.org. Her presentation was one of hope with a message of abolition of human trafficking. The focus of DeliverFund is identifying and prosecuting those who traffic humans. It is estimated that between 15,000 to 50,000 women and children are forced into sexual slavery in the United States every year. In the USA, human trafficking is an issue addressed by the State Department, however awareness, education, laws, and enforcement is a state-by-state challenge.

From Stone's presentation, online seminar participants took away three strong messages: educating elected officials at the local, regional, and national levels may motivate legislation, laws, and policies to effectively remove traffickers from communities. Training law enforcement at these levels will assure that traffickers are found and arrested. Partnerships with social service providers will address the life challenges faced by those who were trafficked. [Click HERE](#) to learn more about human trafficking and ways to be involved in its eradication.

### **Peer-to-Peer Conversation organised by CFUW Nepean and CFUW Ottawa**

In Commemoration of International Women's Day, two Canadian Clubs, CFUW Nepean and CFUW Ottawa, invite: Graduate Women International (GWI) members from across the globe to participate in a Peer-to-Peer Conversation on the nature of celebrations across cultures. **The event will be held by Zoom on Friday, 11 March 2022 from 10-11:30am Central Europe Time. The Zoom link is forthcoming and will be published soon.**

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **UNODC Executive Director launches Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2022-2025**

Ms. Ghada Waly, Executive Director of UNODC launched the Strategic Vision for Latin America and the Caribbean for 2022-25 in Bogota, on the 7 February. The core focus of the strategic vision for the UNODC's partnership with Member States is to eliminate and tackle organised crime, drugs, and corruption in the region. As an extension, it empowers women and girls and enables the youth to access resources and to achieve their fullest potential by enjoying human rights and being in a society free of corruption, violence, and injustice. The strategy addresses gender-based violence which is a recurring threat to peace and justice. UNODC will actively promote actions to improve female representation in law enforcement and criminal justice agencies. Additionally, it would promote gender parity among senior personnel serving in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. GWI applauds this advancement towards equality for women!

### **Committee on the Rights of the Child: Reports on the Netherlands**

The UN Child Rights Committee held its 89th session from 31 January to the 11 February, during which it reviewed the reports of the Republic of Madagascar and Kingdom of the Netherlands. The statement from the Netherlands highlighted that the latest report published by UNICEF on the level of well-being of children displays those children across the country are the happiest in the world. However, it agrees that some children in the Netherlands are still in vulnerable situations related to their physical and mental health, especially due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. To tackle the circumstance, the Dutch government has made available a budget of € 8.5 billion. In terms of children's engagement in national policy-development, the government of the Netherlands increased its interaction with the Youth Think Tank Corona of the National Social and Economic Council during multiple-events.

Additionally, in the other respective countries of the Kingdom of Netherlands: Aruba, Curaçao and St. Maarten, new recommendations from UNICEF were considered and introduced through interdepartmental collaborations to tackle the hindrances against the rights of children in the Caribbean part of the Netherlands.

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## — Give the gift of education —

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### **Teachers for Rural Futures Programme Update Report**

Give the gift of education to young women by contributing to our Teachers for Rural Futures Programme, which directly supports young women from rural Uganda to obtain their teaching degree. This GWI programme aims, no matter the challenges, to increase the number of female teachers in rural Uganda. These new teachers will be mentors and positive influencers for school-aged girls to remain in school. GWI recently published a programme update report on GlobalGiving titled "Teachers for Rural Futures Accepts New Students". To read the full 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 post COVID-19 please [click HERE](#).



The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated female teacher challenges in rural Uganda where a significant number of girls remain out of school. There are

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## — Did you know?—

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Did you know that GWI maintains special relations with UNESCO? Since its founding, UNESCO has sought to collaborate with NGOs, which are fundamental civil society partners for the implementation of the Organization's activities and programmes. Over the years, UNESCO has built up a valuable network of cooperation with NGOs having an expertise in its fields of competence, i.e., education, science, social and human sciences, culture, communication and information. Currently, UNESCO is enjoying official partnerships with 401 NGOs and 33 foundations and similar institutions. GWI is one of UNESCO's official partners.

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## — Dates and events worth noting —

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28 Feb- 4 March	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
28 Feb- 1 April	49th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day
8 March	International Women's Day
14-25 March	Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66)
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
22 March	World Water Day

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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, 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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