



GWI UPDATE – 2 February 2022



GWI to host three Commission on the Status of Women parallel events.

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— Graduate Women International News —

GWI Honours former Treasurer, Elsbeth von Navarini-Marti (1943-2022)

With the utmost respect, GWI announces the passing of Elsbeth von Navarini-Marti, former GWI Treasurer (2013-2016) and highly admired member of GWI’s Swiss Association. Elsbeth was born on 4 January 1943 and passed away four days after her birthday on 8 January 2022. She was a beloved wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, and sister.



An outpouring of affection for Elsbeth has circulated through the GWI worldwide membership who’s voices express joy that it was a privilege to have worked with Elsbeth and that she will be remembered for her professional approach, dedication, and soft-spoken demeanour. She is highly respected for her integrity and will always be admired by GWI. **GWI offers our sincere condolences to Elsbeth’s family during this time.**

*Elsbeth von Navarini-Marti
1943-2022*

— CSW66 —

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, the typically imposed maximum number of 20 delegates from ECOSOC accredited Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) has been waived again by UN Women this year. GWI members who would like to participate 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 taking place via the UN Headquarters. The Forum will be held 100% virtual this year. The Forum provides civil society the opportunity to interact with each other via social and parallel events held as part of CSW66. **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 [participants video](#).

GWI CSW66 Parallel Events

Gendered Dimensions of Corruption and Its Impact in Gender Inequality

GWI, in cooperation with Women's United Nations Report Network, will present expert panellists including the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, Transparency International, and U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, who will address the gendered dimensions of corruption and the unique ways women experience corruption. **The parallel event will be held 18 March 2022, 8-9:30am Eastern Daylight-Saving Time.**

Register in advance for this meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqdeyurz8uGNUeV9wreiVJzx7j8lg-- S](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYqdeyurz8uGNUeV9wreiVJzx7j8lg--S)

Climate Crisis and Education: A Women's Voice Included

To describe the global climate situation as it relates to education, GWI representatives from five diverse regions will tell their country's story regarding the climate crisis and related sustainability concepts. A future perspective will be presented by GWI young women as eco-anxiety is high 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 supports GWI's CSW66 written statement, the accomplishment of SDG 13 to achieve SDG 4, and UNESCO's urging that environmental education a core curriculum subject by 2025. **The parallel event will be held 22 March 2022, 4-5:30pm Eastern Daylight-Saving Time. Register in advance for this meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMscuQqpjsvHd0hv6TxFCByCGPnfEk9bMti>

Young Women and Climate Action: Educating a Climate Conscience Generation

Graduate Women International Young Member Network will present a panel of experts to share their views based on research and a strong database 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:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0pc-CtrDoiGdxSbYFZGIJwBilE-HJJsGNg>

— GWI Member News —

“Women Of Courage” webinar co-hosted with Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) North Vancouver and Abbotsford Clubs welcomes renowned speaker, Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford, M.D. Ph.D.

On 23 December 2021, CFUW North Vancouver and CFUW Abbotsford invited GWI members all around the world to gather for a webinar called “Women of Courage - A conversation with Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford”. Dr. Ashford is the Past Co-President of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), and Past President of Physicians for Global Survival (Canada). Nearly 100 GWI members from 13 National Federations and Associations around the world and 25 CFUW Clubs came together for informative and inspirational peer-to-peer discussion with Dr. Ashford, in recognition of the UN International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

This online event opened a unique and international safe place that built on the knowledge, expertise, and experience of participants “activism voice”. Major insights from the breakout sessions are that women are not alone in their quest for equality, that education is crucial, small beginning can have an enormous impact, increasing female collaboration is important; women are dutybound to encourage younger women to become advocates, shared leadership is effective, a cross-sectional focus often has a greater impact, and that women in leadership roles results in a safer, more humane world.

To watch the recording of this exciting and informative event [click HERE](#).

LUWA Celebrated 30th anniversary!

LUWA recently celebrated 30 years of advocacy for women and girls. A national non-government organisation working in the field of improving the status of women in Lithuania with a particular focus to women employment issues. The core aim of LUWA is to represent Lithuania’s women in international communities; support culture and education; collect and disseminate material about Lithuania’s prominent women; encourage women in intellectual work and professional development. LUWA successfully held an event on 7 December 2021, to mark this important accomplishment of advocating to support women’s and girl’s lifelong education for the past 30 years. **GWI congratulates LUWA for this milestone event and their commitment to women and girls.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI and 14 co-sponsors call for funding and prioritising women’s and girls’ climate education

In its statement submitted to CSW66, GWI and 14 cosponsors call on Member States to fund and prioritise women’s and girls’ education so that they are empowered to speak climate truth and justice to power.

GWl appeals to the Member States consider the gendered dimensions of climate change; support excluded populations of women and girls; replicate successful models; fund and prioritise women's and girls' access to education so they may be empowered to speak climate truth and justice to power; include women in all programs and policy development and include all women and their innate expertise, academic learning, analytical and critical skills to build much-needed capacities into the accomplishment of SDG 13 as also a means to achieve SDG 4. GWl encourages the wide sharing of the statement co-sponsored by leading women's organisations CFUW, Women, Federación Mexicana de Universitarias, Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO), International Alliance of Women, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Latter-day Saint Charities, Make Mothers Matter, National Alliance of Women's Organizations, Soroptimist International, Widows Rights International, Women Graduates-USA, Inc., Women's Federation for World Peace International, and Zonta International. Download statement [HERE](#).

GWl submits Zero Draft recommendations for the CSW66 Agreed Conclusions

In the fall of 2021, the CSW66 Bureau, UN Women, and member states advised NGOs to provide recommendations for the CSW66 Zero Draft prior to its release as a means to increase impact rather than waiting to react after. The Zero Draft is the precursor to the Agreed Conclusions produced annually the CSW. The Zero Draft gives NGOs like GWl an opportunity to express how women and girls can be defended, supported, and recognised as equal members of all societies. In December 2021, GWl submitted to the CSW66 Bureau, UN Women, UN Secretary General and numerous NGOs its recommendations for the Zero Draft. We encourage reading and widely distributing the recommendations that can be downloaded [HERE](#).

— Give the gift of education—

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 GWl's advocacy work and micro-projects held throughout the world to remove socio-cultural, gender-related and economic barriers girls face towards education endeavours. To contribute to GWl's work towards the safe access to quality education and to raise awareness about the gender barriers in education please click [HERE](#).

— Did you know? —



GWl welcomes new intern, Sanika Santhosh

"My name is Sanika Santhosh, from India. I am currently pursuing a master programme in International Affairs with specialisations in Sustainability, and Trade and Finance, at the Graduate Institute, Geneva. Since my undergraduate programme, I have been tailoring my academic curriculum to prepare myself for a career in policy and governance. Additionally, my previous professional engagements aided me in realising my passion for gender equality and education, among other disciplines such as environment and health. At this juncture, I am more than grateful to be a part of the Graduate Women International community to work towards a cause that I care about".

— Dates and events worth noting —

24 Jan-4 Feb	Universal Periodic Review
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
28 Feb-April 1	49 th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
14-25 March	Commission on the Status of Women (CSW66)
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day
8 March	International Women's Day
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
22 March	World Water Day

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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