

29 April 2022

Dear NFA Presidents and CIRs,

We hope that you and your members are well and that you are coping with the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has brought a new urgency to our work. In view of the losses in education rights experienced by women and girls in every country in the world, we believe that it is incumbent of us to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 – Inclusive, equal, and quality education for all.

As you know, to this end, the GWI Board and the GWI Organisational Development Steering Committee (ODSC), comprised of NFA representatives selected to serve on the Committee by NFA Leadership, have undertaken an Organisational Development (OD) process, facilitated by our Immediate Past President, Geeta Desai. The purpose of this process is to understand how GWI and its NFAs can develop working relationships with United Nations (UN) agencies, Government Focal Points, Global Decision-Makers, and Global Funders to accelerate the implementation of SDGs in our NFA countries.

We began our work in October 2021 and have now completed Phase I (Research of SDG 4 implementation in NFA countries) and Phase II (In- depth discussions on organisational readiness to work with and become accountable to external stakeholders).

These discussions have concluded that before we approach external stakeholders, NFAs and GWI Headquarters should work together to renew and rebuild the organisation (weakened by the pandemic) and to strengthen the GWI - NFA relationship.

Additionally, affirmed by ODSC discussions, the Board believes that for the renewal, rebuilding and strengthening activities to be effective and sustainable, we need to build an enabling structure into the GWI Constitution.

Collectively, we know that the urgency of this matter cannot be overstated as the education rights of women and girls set back by twenty years by the pandemic, become more eroded every day.

The Board for its part has acknowledged that organisation – strengthening activities are critically important at this time and is committed to doing the work. However, we realize that we cannot do this on our own. We need a reciprocal commitment from our NFAs to work with us.

Since time is of the essence, we are asking for an urgent electronic vote that will clear the way for us to work together on building organisation-wide strength and progressing towards the building of working relationships with external stakeholders in the expansion of SDG 4 programs in our NFA countries.

The voting period will be 08:00 AM CEST 1 June 2022 through 23:59 (11:59 PM) CEST 3 June 2022.

With this letter, we are sending to you the following:

1. GWI Board of Officers Resolutions for Urgent General Assembly Voting
2. Annex 1: Supporting documentation for the General Assembly vote on Internal Resolution 1 (Background material describing the ODSC work so far and conclusions at the end of Phases I and II of the OD process) for you to discuss with your membership before the vote.
3. Annex 2: Internal Resolutions and Proposed Constitutional Amendments

To answer any questions that you may have about the background materials, Internal Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments, we have scheduled two information sessions to be held on the same day at two different time zones for your convenience. We hope that you will attend the meeting at the time that suits you the best.

The information sessions will be held on 11 May 2022 at 06:00 AM CEST and 18:00 (6:00 PM) CEST (Zurich time). The information sessions will be identical and are offered at two different times on the same day for your convenience.

Zoom links to these meetings are below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the Zoom link to session.

11 May 2022, 06:00 AM CEST

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUuf--vrDkpHtZ46FgA_TIDwjiZBqUVaOpA3

11 May 2022, 18:00h (6:00 PM) CEST

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvfu6gpj8sGtOG-w-SlQrZzQFeMbmBviD>

Voting instructions and NFA voting entitlement will be distributed in the coming weeks prior to the opening of the electronic voting period.

Last but certainly not the least, our deepest gratitude goes to the ODSC members – representatives chosen by you – who have worked hard on behalf of the GWI Board and the NFAs to bring their best thinking to complex organisational issues and whose sheer goodwill and patience have driven the success of this process thus far.

We thank you in advance for your interest and participation in this urgent electronic vote.

Sincerely,

Graduate Women International (GWI)
Board of Officers and Executive Director