

## GWU UPDATE – 25 May 2022



*Graduate Women International and the Indian Federation of University Women's Association  
to host Menstrual Hygiene Day webinar on 28 May.*

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### — Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

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#### **Don't miss the Menstrual Hygiene Day 2022 celebration on 28 May!**

On Menstrual Hygiene Day, 28 May 2022 at 6pm (IST)/ 2:30pm (CEST), GWI and the Indian Federation of University Women's Association (IFUWA) will co-host an important webinar event with Vatsalya Foundation on "Changing scene of Menstrual Hygiene Management in developing countries: Efforts and Experiences". The webinar will feature subject matter experts and showcase lived experiences and life changing stories that improved the health, independence, and emotional strength of women. **No registration is required. Simply click [HERE](#) to join this enlightening event. Please see invitation flyer at the end of the Update.**

#### **"Transformation of higher education post COVID-19"**

The Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) is an open partnership between several United Nations (UN) entities and the higher education community that aims to knowledgeably highlight the critical role of higher education in achieving sustainable development. Each year, HESI organizes a global forum as a special event to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) which is UN's main platform for reviewing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2022 HESI Global Forum, to be held virtually 6 July 2022, will examine how to deepening the understanding of the challenges and opportunities the higher education community can apply to build back better in a post-COVID-19 world while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with the theme of HLPF in 2022. **Click [HERE](#) to learn more about webinar one in the series and to read the full report submitted by Louise McLeod, GWI Vice President Advocacy and Education.**

#### **YMN President Letter**

GWI YMN President, Sudha Strivastava has submitted her monthly letter with updates on the important work that the YMN has been doing. "I am deeply grateful for your touching feedbacks on these monthly letters and I feel blessed leading this wonderful network of amazing young women!", says Sudha. **Click [HERE](#) to read the full letter by Sudha and to learn more about upcoming events, awards, vacancies, contests and more!**

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### — GWI Member News —

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**Ghana Association of University Women (GAUW) to host an exciting new webinar**

On 1 June 2022, GAUW will host an exceptional webinar event on “Women’s empowerment through transformational leadership”. The webinar will feature professional guest speakers who will share their knowledge on how leading innovation and change can be used as a tool for women’s empowerment as well as team building and emotional intelligence. **Click [HERE](#) to register in advance for this noteworthy event. The webinar flyer is also at the end of the Update.**

### **University Women’s Association (UWA) Pune and Indian Federation of University Women’s Association (IFUWA) Celebrate Earth Day**

UWA Pune and IFUWA celebrated the 52<sup>nd</sup> Earth Day, by hosting a webinar on 22 April to elaborate on this year’s Theme, “**Invest in Our Planet**”. Dr. Meera Bondre, IFUWA member, Hydrobiologist and Ecologist, and Master of Ceremony, Managing Trustee UWA Pune, Vice President UWAsia, Founder Trustee, Arbutus set the programme stage by explaining the necessary bond between Ecology and Economy in all the developmental projects which are taken up anywhere in the world. The webinar featured guest speaker Dr. Gurudas Nulkar, Professor & Head, Symbiosis Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability, who spoke about the physical and biological diversity, natural ecosystems, and their relation to human health. “Connecting with nature is important and stressed that the younger generation should become aware of the current environmental issues”, said Dr Ranjana Banerjee, IFUWA/UWAsia President. Click [HERE](#) to read the full event summary written by Dr. Bondre. **GWl congratulates UWA Pune and IFUWA on this successful event!**

### **The Spanish Speaking Cultural Bridge held its seventh webinar event!**

As part of the GWl Membership Marketplace, on 10 May 2022, the Spanish-Speaking Cultural Bridge held its inspirational seventh event titled “The War in Ukraine and the Women: Participation, Impact and Consequences”. This enriching discussion brought up concrete proposals that the member federations of the Cultural Bridge will implement to help support women both during the war and in the post-conflict period. Some of which include: working to enable migrant girls to continue their education in their host countries, promoting a continuous dialogue for peace and for the fulfilment of international commitments guaranteeing the protection of women and girls. **GWl congratulates the Spanish Speaking Cultural Bridge on its relevant webinar!**

### **UWAsia Regional Event webinar recording is now available on Vimeo**

On 13 May 2022, GWl regional group, University Women Asia (UWAsia), held an informative webinar event exploring “Education, Gender and Inclusive Society: Issues and Perspective After COVID-19”. Chizuko Suzuki, Coordinator of International Relations for the Japan Association of University Women (JAUW) presented, “Varied [JAUW] projects to implement “No one left behind”: Use of ICT, Provision of Sanitary Goods, and Support of Immigrants Language Learning. Sex Education under the Pandemic: Insights and Barriers from the experience in Hong Kong was presented by Winky Cheng Member, Hong Kong Association of University Women (HKAUW) and MPhil student; Candice Chui, HKAUW Exco Member presented, Going Beyond the boundary: Supporting female students in impoverished regions followed by Irene Boey, Project Chairperson, Graduate Women Association, Singapore (GWAS) and Data Scientist, Singapore Focal Point for ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs Network, presented GWAS SEP for Children: A smart collaborative approach for STEM-related subjects using personalised learning by augmenting between artificial intelligence and human mentors. **GWl congratulates UWAsia, the JAUW, HKAUW and GWAS for this exceptional event and offers warm thanks to moderator Janice Pan, Chair International Relations, HKAUW.** Please watch this informative webinar, click [HERE](#).

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— GWl at the United Nations —

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The UN has urgently called for help to renew the acceleration of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a post-COVID world and to build capacities. In response, GWI National Federations and Associations worldwide researched the SDG progress their respective countries with a focus on SDG 4. The research identified six categories of action needed to implement the SDGs, irrespective of the country's demographics and economic level. Applying research findings, GWI will contribute to the implementation of SDG 4 by adding capacity to the UN agencies. This goal is based on GWI's wisdom that graduate women have the competencies to respond to capacity needs identified by the UN and that the organisation can share responsibility in this effort. In a written statement to the UN HLPF, to be held 5-15 July under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, GWI describes these six action areas as Building Awareness about the SDGs; Outreach to Communities and Vulnerable Populations; Conducting Community Dialogues; Providing Training and Support Based on Existing Programmes; Policy Review and Development; and Data Collection. Read the full statement [HERE](#).

### **GWI to participate in the 50<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council (HRC50)**

Recognizing the impact of COVID-19 on the right to education, the UN HRC adopted resolution [A/HRC/RES/44/3](#) in July 2022 to extend, for another three years, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur (SR) on the right to education. The mandate of the SR examines the right of all persons to access quality education without discrimination, and provides recommendations to governments and other stakeholders. The SR will be appointed during the HRC50 to be held 13 June to 8 July 2022. The mandate extension reaffirms the human rights of everyone to education, which is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and UN resolution, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". HRC50 will also hold its Annual Discussion on Women's Rights and panel on Menstrual Hygiene Management.

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## **— Give the gift of education —**

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

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## **— Did you know? GWI has a new Programme and Projects Officer!—**

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*Alexa Grace,  
GWI Programme and Projects Officer*

Alexa Grace, who previously interned with GWI from September 2021 to February 2022 has joined GWI as a staff member at the Geneva office. Alexa who is originally from Vancouver, Canada, moved to Europe in 2018. In March 2020, she moved from France to Switzerland where she currently resides. Alexa has a Master of Social Work in International and Community Development from the University of Calgary. Her years of experience in non-profit organisations, teaching, social work with women and leadership will be an asset to GWI. Alexa's passion and life mission is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. **"Gender equality and education go hand-in-hand. I am grateful to work for an organisation that aligns with my personal mission", says Alexa.**

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## —Dates and events worth noting—

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28 May	GWl YMN SDG Ambassador Series, Zoom
27 May	Environmental Discrimination - a Global Problem, Global GWl members
28 May	Menstrual Hygiene Day
12 June	World Day against Child Labour, Global
13 June- 8 July	50 <sup>th</sup> Session Human Rights Council, Geneva
19 June	Intl Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Global
20 June	World Refugee Day, Global
23 June	International Widows Day, Global
15 July	Youth Skills Day, Global
30 July	International Day for the Elimination of Trafficking in Persons, Global
31 July	Pan-African Women's Day, Global
9 August	Indigenous Peoples' Day, Global
20-23 August	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Jubilee- Graduate Women's Association Austria, GWl members

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## Follow us on social media!



Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. GWl, 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**

7-9, Chemin de Balexert, CH-1291, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland  
E-mail: [gwi@graduatewomen.org](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org) Website: [www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)



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**Please see the official event flyers in the next three pages below.**





**28th May,  
World Menstrual Hygiene Day  
Celebration**

**Webinar on  
Changing scene of MHM in developing countries  
Efforts and Experiences**



**Marie Clair Nabila Kuja**



**Amy Peak**

**Stories that changed lives for some, bringing back the dignity and health to women. Making women healthy, financially independent and emotionally strong.**



**Urmila Chanam**



**Swati Bedekar**

**Moderated by : Dr. Vidhi Parikh**

**28th May 6 pm IST**

**link : [meet.google.com/zvi-pbam-pxm](https://meet.google.com/zvi-pbam-pxm)**

**Powered by**



*Sakhi*  
A Project By  
*Vatsalya Foundation*



**[Click HERE](https://meet.google.com/zvi-pbam-pxm) to join this event!**



28th May,

## World Menstrual Hygiene Day Celebration Changing scene of menstrual hygiene management in developing countries

This webinar is powered by,

Vatsalya foundation - an NGO in Vadodara, Gujarat m. . With the flagship project is “ Sakhi”- Menstrual Hygiene management for women. The program includes a total health solution during menstruation. The theme of this work revolves around Awareness, Access and Affordability of hygienic products to all.

And coorganised by,

Indian Federation of University Women's Association is the national body whose motto is to 'Serve Humanity' and thrives to provide better education and help women across the nation to build their own future.

Graduate Women International (GWI) advocates for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality secondary and tertiary education, and training up to the highest levels. Our vision is 100% of girls and women in the world achieving education beyond primary school.

28th May 6 pm IST

link : [meet.google.com/zvi-pbam-pxm](https://meet.google.com/zvi-pbam-pxm)

Powered by



[Click HERE](https://meet.google.com/zvi-pbam-pxm) to join this event!





# Ghana Association of University Women (GAUW)

WEBINAR

Date : 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022  
(Wednesday)  
Time: 10.00 – 11.30 GMT

*Theme:*

**Women Empowerment through  
Transformational Leadership**

## Speakers



**Host:**  
Mrs. Mildred Asmah  
Interim President,  
GAUW



**Prof. K. T. Oduro**  
University of Cape Coast



**Dr. Ernestina Novieto**  
University of Ghana



**Moderator:**  
Dr. Renee A. S. Morhe  
Kwame Nkrumah  
University of Science and  
Technology

Zoom link:  
<https://wacren.zoom.us/j/63165677376>  
Meeting ID: 631 6567 7376

Register in advance for this meeting:  
<https://wacren.zoom.us/join/63165677376>  
<https://wacren.zoom.us/join/63165677376>

**Leading Innovation and  
Change, a Tool for  
Women Empowerment**

**Team building  
and  
Emotional Intelligence**

[Click HERE](#) to register for this event!