



Graduate Women International

Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

## GW I UPDATE – 14 September 2022



International Literacy Day is observed on 8 September each year. [Click HERE](#) for the 2022 infographic!

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

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#### **GW I aligns with UNESCO to mark International Literacy Day with infographic**

In 1966, UNESCO declared 8 September, International Literacy Day (ILD) as an annual, global celebration to remind the public of the importance of literacy for a sustainable society. Despite progress made, literacy challenges persist with some 796 million illiterate people around the world, two-thirds being women, who still lack basic reading and writing skills. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 24 million people will likely never return to formal education, 11 million of those people being girls and young women. ILD is an opportunity to rethink the fundamental importance of literacy learning spaces to build resilience and ensure quality, equitable, and inclusive education for all. On 8 September, GWI aligned with UNESCO to mark ILD day with an emphasis on the 2022 theme, "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces". **Click HERE to read and widely share the ILD infographic!**

#### **Young Member Network (YMN) President, Sudha Srivastava, monthly letter**

In her August 2022 monthly letter, Srivastava, welcomes three new members to the YMN: Katherine Barnett Rivas from Paraguay, Irina Prokhorova and Ekaterina Marnitcyna from Graduate Women Russia and more new members are in process of joining. In the letter, she provides updates on the YMN monthly Conversation Series, the GWI Triennial General Assembly and Conference, and more. Notably, Srivastava introduces her September motto, "Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces - Leverage, Adapt and Transform! (Sustainable Development Goal 4 defines literacy as an integral part of education and lifelong learning premised on humanism)". GWI invites you to read the full letter [HERE](#). To find out more about joining the GWI YMN, please click [HERE](#).



Sudha Srivastava,  
YMN President

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **GWI YMN organises International Day of Peace Open Mic**

GWI YMN is organising an intergenerational interaction (virtual on Zoom) on the occasion of International Day of Peace on 21 September 2022. The theme for this year is “End Racism, Build Peace”. YMN is delighted to invite NFA Presidents or Coordinators of International Relations to share message on behalf of their respective NFAs. We would also like to encourage that NFA leaders bring one young member to speak from their NFA. We will have an interesting programme of event where generations will come together to share their valuable piece of work or insights in line with this years’ theme. Each speaker will be allocated two minutes for speaking. We encourage all GWI NFAs to participate in this unique event bringing whole GWI at one platform for PEACE, SOLIDARITY and FRIENDSHIP!

If you would like to participate with your message, please email your Name and NFA to [Sudha.bfwg@gmail.com](mailto:Sudha.bfwg@gmail.com) latest by 19th September. Please see the flyer for further details. If you are unable to attend, you are most welcome to send your message in advance which will be read during the event. All GWI members are welcome to attend. There will be opportunity during open floor sharing from audience. The detailed programme will be shared soon. To register for the event, [click HERE](#). Please see the official event flyer at the bottom of this update.

### **Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) holds Night of the Museum**

Noche de Museos (Night of the Museum) is an initiative of the Secretariat of Culture of Mexico City in which all the museums of the capital participate in different ways. With the aim of disseminating heritage, on the last Wednesday of each month, the participating museums open their doors at night to transform their exhibition halls into artistic settings.

On 27 July, the Women's Museum of Mexico, administered by FEMU, presented a concert on "Strings and composers: new avant-garde voices", by the Nahui Quartet, made up of university musicians: Emma Gabriela Pérez Ramírez (violist), Pedro Isaías Monroy Aguilar (violin), Karla Magali Luna Cano (violin) and Marielena Danahe Flores Ramirez (cello). They performed pieces by Guadalupe Olmedo (1853-1889) and Consuelo Velazquez (1916-2005), Mexican composers and pianists, and others. **GWI warmly congratulates FEMU for this outstanding event and we invite you to watch the concert [HERE](#).** Additionally, FEMU issues a Call for Participation and invites GWI members to participate in the International Seminar “State, Society and Caretaking”, to take place December 1 and 2, 2022, in hybrid mode by Zoom and at the Museum of Women, Mexico City. Specialized papers on the subject should refer to an integrated analysis of the National and International Environment, to understand the challenges faced by women, from their feminist perspectives. For more participation guidelines, please click [HERE](#). **Proposals need to be submitted to [femumexico@gmail.com](mailto:femumexico@gmail.com) no later than 3 October 2022.** Please see event flyer on the last page of the Update.

### **GWI Dr. Meera Bondre participates in 63rd Adult Education Research Conference**

Dr. Meera Bondre, Convenor of the GWI Membership Committee and member of the Indian Federation of University Women's Association, alongside her daughter, Dr Kalyani Bondre, participated in the 13th Asia Pre-Conference was Adult Education in Changing Global Context: Innovative Theory and Practices Impacting Asians and Beyond which was a part of the 63rd Adult Education Research Conference (AERC) organized by the University of Oklahoma, from 9-11 June 2022. The theme for this year's Asian Pre-Conference was Adult Education in



Changing Global Context: Innovative Theory and Practices Impacting Asians and Beyond. This conference is organised every year and its purpose is to provide an opportunity for scholars from both Asian ancestries (East) and the rest of the world to enhance mutual learning through active exchanges, to discuss diverse academic perspectives, and to have a dialogue to share knowledge.

In the global context, knowledge production is an active process that involves interconnectedness. Dr. Bondre Meera presented a paper titled “Non-Formal Continuing Education for Women's Empowerment: Creating Sustainable Societies”. This paper was very well received as it was based on her grassroots level work for the past 35 years, and some case studies were also included. Dr. Kalyani Bondre made a video presentation titled, “Indian Music Training for Children and Adults: An Innovative Approach”. At the request of Conference Chair, Dr. Bo Chang, the video has been uploaded to YouTube to serve as a model for video showcase presenters in future conferences. GWI congratulates Drs. Meera and Kalyani Bondre for their outstanding presentations, and we encourage you to watch the full video [HERE](#).

### **Nigerian Association of University Women (NAUW) holds Women Empowerment and Sustainable Development webinar**

On 4 July 2022 NAUW executives under the leadership of Professor Comfort Adenike Onifade, NAUW President organized a webinar on “Women Empowerment and Sustainable Development”. [Click HERE](#) to read the comprehensive webinar recap with recommendations for action and solutions to end discrimination against women and girls. **GWI applauds NAUW for taking action for gender equality!**

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## — GWI 34<sup>th</sup> triennial General Assembly and Conference —

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Graduate Women International

*From Growth to  
Sustainability*

**34th Triennial  
General Assembly and Conference**

(to be held virtually)

**11 November - 13 November 2022**

### **Save the Date! GWI conference workshops and seminars**

On 13 November at the GWI public conference, interactive workshops and seminars will be presented by GWI members from Canada, El Salvador, India, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Paraguay, Sierra Leone, Spain, Turkey, the U.S.A., and the YMN. The workshops and seminars will focus on the five subthemes with the goal to springboard GWI towards a sharper focus on SDG 4, build working relationships with external stakeholders, and engage members in practical SDG 4 projects. The 34<sup>th</sup> triennial General Assembly and Conference draft agenda can be found [HERE](#).

The full lineup with times will be published soon. Until then, a few workshop/seminar titles include:

- Assessing the Gender Gap in Academia and the Effects of COVID-19
- Citizens from the cradle: Sowing the seeds of Peace

- SDG 101, Introduction to SDGs
- Tackling Growing Inequalities in Education in New Zealand
- Intergenerational leadership steering education through climate change
- Gender and Women: Promoting peace through arts
- Localising the SDGs: GWI Young Members Network
- Caring for our Educators: Building Resilience, Wellbeing and Future Readiness
- Graduate Women and the Localisation of the SDGs to the grassroots in Nigeria
- Educating the new generations for a more equal, peaceful, and sustainable world
- Learning for Life: Enhancing social citizenship
- Social behaviour while facing COVID 19
- Hope for the Future

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **Reducing indigenous peoples' inequalities is through State's provision of safe access to quality, cultural-based, language-appropriate education programmes**

In the written statement submitted to the 51<sup>st</sup> session of the Human Right Council being held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva 12 September to 7 October, GWI recognises the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), adopted 15 years ago by most States, as the most comprehensive international instrument on the rights of indigenous peoples. Considering the UNDRIP and that there are an estimated 476 million indigenous people spanning 90 countries and speaking an overwhelming majority of the worlds estimated 7,000 languages and representing 5,000 different cultures, GWI submits this written statement as a respectful and urgent call for States to renew and rebuild their commitment to the UNDRIP that obliges them to take effective measures and, where appropriate, special measures to ensure continuing improvement of their economic and social conditions, including education. GWI, a global network of advocates for women and girls' education rights for 103 years, is primarily aligned with the right to safe access to child-centered, holistic, culture-appropriate, digitally accessible education programmes that improve future economic and social conditions. GWI encourages readers to read and widely distribute the full statement that can be downloaded [HERE](#).

### **Volker Türk appointed new United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Human Rights**



*Volker Türk*

On 8 September 2022, UN Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Volker Türk of Austria as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, following approval by the General Assembly. "Mr. Türk has devoted his long and distinguished career to advancing universal human rights, notably the international protection of some of the world's most vulnerable people – refugees and Stateless persons", the UN chief said in a statement. The new High Commissioner is currently coordinating global policy work as an Under-

Secretary-General in the UN's Executive Office. He also ensures UN system-wide coordination in the follow-up to the Secretary-General's "Call to Action for Human Rights" and his report, Our Common Agenda, which sets out a vision to tackle the world's interconnected challenges on foundations of trust, solidarity and human rights. From 2019 to 2021, Mr. Türk served as Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination in the UN chief's Executive Office. Prior to that, he was the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection at UN refugees, UNHCR, in Geneva – from 2015 to 2019 – where he played a key role in the development of the landmark Global Compact on Refugees.



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## — Give the gift of membership —

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Give the gift of membership to the outstanding graduate women in your life! GWI membership allows graduate women to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training. Give the gift of membership to become part of a global community of some 10'000 members in 60 countries, either as a GWI independent member or as a member of one of our National Federations or Associations. **To learn how to become a member click [HERE](#).**

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## — Did you know? —

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Did you know that about 200 members from Ghana, The United States of America, The United Kingdom, India, Canada, Ethiopia, Bolivia, Thailand, Australia, Turkey, Nigeria, Malawi, El Salvador, Japan, Panama, New Zealand, South Africa, Cameroon, Egypt, Senegal, Spain, Netherlands, Congo, Mexico, Switzerland and Ireland, have already registered for the upcoming General Assembly and Conference to be held 11-13 November 2022. Register today [HERE](#).

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## — Dates and events worth noting —

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12 Sept-7 Oct	51 <sup>st</sup> session of the Human Rights Council Geneva
21 September	International Day of Peace, Global
5 October	World Teachers Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Global
24 October	United Nations Day, Global
11-13 November	GWI 34 <sup>th</sup> triennial General Assembly and Conference

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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**

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 two pages below.**

## GWY YOUNG MEMBERS NETWORK

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2022



**21st SEPTEMBER 2022**

**18:00 CEST**

**Central European Summer Time**

### "Intergenerational Solidarity for Peace"

Connecting Across National Federations/Associations (NFAs)

GWY Young Members Network cordially invites -

GWY NFA Leaders (Presidents/CIRs) along with Young Members, to share a peace message on International Day of Peace on behalf of their respective NFAs. We encourage NFA leaders to bring a young member to speak from their NFA. Each speaker will get the floor for 2 minutes.



**#PeaceDay**

**2022 Theme - 'End Racism, Build Peace'**

Respond latest by **19th September**, email your Name and NFA to Sudha Srivastava (President of GWY YMN) at **[sudha.bfwg@gmail.com](mailto:sudha.bfwg@gmail.com)**. If you are not able to attend, you can send your message in advance which will be read during the event.

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



The **Mexican Federation of University Women**

INVITES YOU TO  
PARTICIPATE IN OUR

International Seminar

**STATE, SOCIETY  
AND CARETAKING**

**December 1 and 2, 2022**

Guidelines:

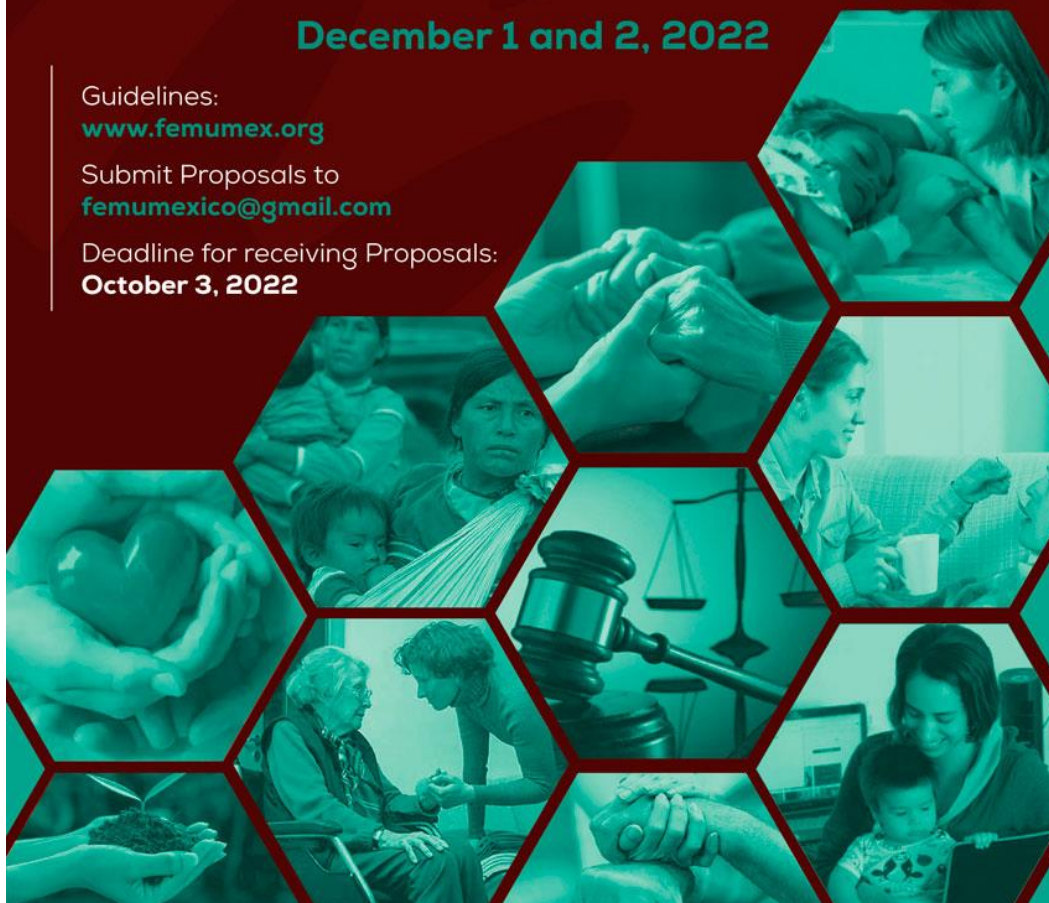
[www.femumex.org](http://www.femumex.org)

Submit Proposals to

[femumexico@gmail.com](mailto:femumexico@gmail.com)

Deadline for receiving Proposals:

**October 3, 2022**



[Click HERE](#) for the participation guidelines!