



GW I UPDATE - Special Edition - 7 December 2022



Patrice Wellesley-Cole
President, Graduate Women International
2022-2025

— GW I President's Letter —

Dear GW I Family,

Thank you for the overwhelming show of trust by electing me as Graduate Women International (GWI) President at the 34th triennial General Assembly. I am honoured by the confidence reposed in me.

The new Board and I owe a debt of gratitude to Immediate Past President Terry Oudraad, Vice Presidents (VPs), Louise McLeod, Veena Bathé, Glenda Hecksher, and Basak Ovacik, Treasurer, Katharina Strub, and most importantly, Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara. The Organisation Development (OD) steering committee established by former GWI President Geeta Desai has given us a new value proposition, Renew and Rebuild, signed up to by most NFAs in June 2022. Going forward, this is central to our triennial programme, as is Train-the-Trainer programme. We appreciate Geeta's commitment to this process.

Leadership matters as does diversity, inclusion and representation - all reflected in our brilliant Board. Our common humanity, compassion, and solidarity will help us stay strong.

As I take up this office, I am conscious of the challenges ahead. As you know, I am a British born, lawyer of parents from Sierra Leone, a second-generation immigrant, woman of colour,

and first GWI President of African heritage. My father was a trailblazer and a renaissance man. My parents instilled in me the importance of hard work and service. I have the lived experience of both the global South and global North.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in the years ahead, virtually and in person, in this post- pandemic world. Please feel free to contact me or the new 2022-2025 VPs with any suggestions you consider might be helpful in capacity building, recruitment, retention, and fundraising. These are areas where GWI has transformed lives with its advocacy, projects, and fellowships - opening educational borders and fighting for gender equality. It will be the new Board's privileged duty to continue along this path and we will keep the house 'in order'.

Our work has started in earnest at the dawn of a new triennium as we continue to empower women and girls around the world through education.

Let us not forget that our tomorrow is assured with GWI.

Here's wishing everyone a happy and blessed Christmas and New year. All the best for 2023. "Tis the season of goodwill and to be jolly". Please consider giving to GWI via [this link](#) to our Girls Education for Brighter Futures programme. Every gift will be acknowledged.

Season's Greetings and thank you for your attention,

Floreat GWI,
Patrice Wellesley-Cole
GWI President, 2022-2025

— Get to Know GWI President Patrice Wellesley-Cole —

As we welcome President Patrice Wellesley-Cole to her new position, please take a moment to watch this illuminating video about her life and her dedication to women and girls. Graduate Women International is motivated to Renew and Rebuild under the leadership of Patrice and her new Board of Officers. [We invite you to get to know Patrice in the video that can be found here.](#)

—Dates and events worth noting—

25 Nov.-10 Dec.	16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day
10 December	Human Rights Day
18 December	International Migrants Day
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day
23 Dec-9 Jan	GWI Office Closed for Holiday Break

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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