

**Graduate Women International** 

## **GWI Triennial 2019-2022**

**Summary Report NFA Projects** 

"From Growth to Sustainability"





### NFA Projects 2019-2022 "AT-A-GLANCE"

Prepared by Louise McLeod, VP Advocacy and Education

This is what GWI is all about, this is what we do, this is your GWI! At a period of time when most of the world went into lockdown during the first pandemic in 100 years, the following activities are proof that when the 'going gets tough, the tough get going'. Well, GWI members are tough and they certainly 'got going'. In spite of lockdowns and necessary sanitary precautions against COVID-19, you organized projects dealing with education at all levels during school lockdowns, held workshops on climate change, supported your communities through outreach projects including awareness on gender-based violence, discrimination and human rights issues, provided food and clothing to disadvantaged women when needed, did an amazing amount of fundraising for fellowships, bursaries and programs providing support (how much do you think was raised and funded over all?), raised the issues of the impact of COVID-19 on women's mental health, took on the challenge of pay equity, ran workshops and seminars that tried to improve the lives of woman and girls through activities to improve self-esteem and women's rights awareness.

#### **Education and Vocational Training**

- Workshop: Scientific Women: Life Stories, in March 2022 to encourage young ladies to evaluate careers within the science field. (STEM) **(Panama)**
- White Helmet Women Project with the Izmir Chamber of Civil Engineers: awareness and gender equality project that aims to support in many ways with educational scholarship, mentoring, technical and social engineering education. (STEM) (Turkey)
- Workshop at the Cape Coast Technical University for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) female students of the Asuansi Technical Institute in the Central Region of Ghana.
   These girls were offered programs in male dominated disciplines such as masonry, electrical and auto-mechanic. (STEM)(Ghana)
- Project with the Prisoner Education Trust (PET) (UK)
- Lectures and educational sessions organized by LUMA together with Lithuanian the Kaunas branch of the union of political prisoners and exiles. (Lithuania)
- Virtual educational lessons classes. Fractal and fractalography method educational activities aimed at developing the positive effects of art on human health. Remotely the lessons and activities that were held made it easier to overcome the emotional state during the quarantine, helped express your feelings by creating fractals. (Mental Health, effect of COVID-19) (Lithuania)
- Non formal education, skill training and group formation in Thaiba, Chapagaon VDC (Nepal)
- Maintained nursery schools (Nigeria)
- We hired Decktop, a private software company, and had them teach students new presentation techniques. Financial awards were given to 5 winners of the accompanying competition. Internships were promised to 2 students studying in Computer Engineering every year. (Turkey)
- "Strong Women Happy Women" project to train our adult women, organize income generating courses, organize bazaars and sell their products. (**Turkey**)
- "Youth Project, Hand in Hand", trainings to university students to gain experience, to persuade others, to discover the secrets of communication, brain and behaviors, our dreams, and goals, and to use time effectively and efficiently. (Turkey)
- English language courses in different levels (Turkey)
- **GOGETTER Movement**: launch of a mentorship program for students by female 'captains of industry' (Zimbabwe)

#### **Bina Roy Projects:**

- Reusable Sanitary Towel Project (Uganda)
- Nonformal Education at Bagdol (Nepal)
- Adana Branch has concluded the "Processing and marketing of citrus products". (Turkey)



- **Antalya** Branch: "I'm Strong with My Family" The project was planned and implemented as a family-based rehabilitation program for families selected from a district (Zeytinköy) where the rate of girls' school attendance is very low, to change the attitudes and behaviors towards girls' schooling and to create family units that will serve as role models in the society. **(Turkey)** 

#### **Climate Change**

- Climate change workshop: Empowerment and Sensitisation of young girls on the impact of
  climate change and environmental pollution. One of the major issues that came out was the fact
  that, the battle against climate change and environmental pollution is not a masculine centred
  endeavour. As a result, women can and should play key roles in the fight and should encourage
  themselves to occupy positions that allow them to contribute to the global discussion on climate
  change. (Ghana)
- workshop on waste management was organized for twenty girls each from six selected basic schools. The objectives of the workshop were to educate the girls about the benefits of recycling and to gain understanding about the negative impacts of plastic and glass pollution. **(Ghana)**

#### Community Outreach (COVID-19 and GBV):

- Radio talks to sensitize both men and women about how to overcome gender-based violence which featured prominently during the COVID-19 lockdown. Police on a daily basis reported men and women killing each other and children becoming victims of gender-based violence. (Uganda)
- Contacts in districts like Alebtong, Buyende, Luuka and Kampala sent out WhatsApp messages on how to help the school girls who were being sexually abused by the relatives they stayed with and got pregnant by during the lockdown. (Uganda)
- Promoting gender equality and education for all through workshops on gender, related to issues such as leadership, TVET, STEM, Climate change, Environmental pollution at the basic and secondary school levels. **(Ghana)**
- Project for the elderly: "For healthy and sustainable community", where computer literacy, art therapy and wellness classes are held. **(Lithuania)**
- Project: Awareness creation and sensitisation on prevention of COVID-19. Food items were given to people as palliative measure to the negative effect of the lockdown. (Nigeria)
- In cooperation with the Izmir Psychologists Association; Volunteer psychologists and parents were given "domestic communication" training in 20 schools in the Bayraklı region of İzmir, where violence is most intense. (Turkey)
- "I will wear it even if you don't wear it" project- Collection of second hand clothes provided approximately 6 tons of clothing support to schools and institutions across the country. (Turkey)
- Student mentoring: "Mina's Children", "Hope for the Future", "Hand in Hand with My Sisters" and "I Have a Child in Anatolia" enabling students to take an active role in this cycle, to support their younger siblings and to participate in society as sensitive citizens. (Turkey)
- Menstrual Poverty Issues sourcing and distributing sanitary pads. (Zimbabwe)

#### **Culture and Diversity**

- "The Use of IT/Digital Media for Realizing the Inclusive Society in Post-COVID-19": Research Project based on Nation-wide Surveys (Japan)
- Project "Intersections of histories and cultures; hearings about national minorities the development of cultures". The third century university of Medard Čobut participated in the ongoing project, members of the Faculty of History of Culture and Education at Kaunas TAU. (Lithuania)

#### **Food Security:**

 Project on growing vegetables in urban areas with limited space. Members have been able to supplement their diet with home grown vegetables. (Uganda)



- Online training on brickette/ charcoal making to enable women use affordable means to cook food and survive the economic hardships. (**Uganda**)
- Pickle Making Training at Chapagaon (Nepal)
- Giving students some food items before examinations (Nigeria)
- Multistakeholder Food and Nutrition Security Strategy and policy formulation with the Ministry of Education. (Zimbabwe)

#### Fellowships, Scholarships, Bursaries, Grants and Support:

- Annual fellowships to women completing higher degrees by research, relating to SDG 4 (to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all).

  Offered three scholarships each year to female PhD students worth between \$ 24,000 and \$ 30,000 each year. (Australia)
- HOPE for Refugee Women Scholarships (Ottawa, Canada)
- \$5000 scholarships for 2 Young women from the Pacific for studying in a male dominated area including engineering, aircraft maintenance, construction, mathematics, medicine and others. (New Zealand and Fiji)
- **The Women in Governance Scholarship** (\$10,000 NZ) to support a woman advance her capability and career in governance through further study with a recognised provider. This Scholarship recognises the need to support women in governance roles so they may become positive role models and contribute to raising the status of women in New Zealand. **(New Zealand.**
- HKAUW has been organising scholarships for female undergraduates and postgraduates (Hong Kong)
- Bursaries for disadvantaged students studying to be teachers and support to women who have been trafficked into the country for prostitution. (Ireland)
- scholarship fund for doctoral students (Israel)
- Four types of scholarship and one support program (to attend an international meeting) every year, targeted at the youth, who are expected to become members sometime later. (Japan)
- Bursary awards to indigent students (Nigeria)
- 2019: award a grant to 8 scholars, girls who have excellent marks and a limited financial situation. (Spain)
- 2020: 8 Scholarships in 2020 for girls entering the University for the first time. (Spain).
- 2021: 14 SCHOLARSHIPS to young university students. (Spain)
- Support for nearly 1000 female university students. In addition to providing financial support to these students, "bridges" were established between the donor and the student and mentor interaction was also ensured. (Turkey)
- Establishment of an annual Small Grants program providing \$2,000 each for five members who are conducting research or projects which relate to our issues. **(USA)**
- Establishment of a Partnership with the Institute of International Education (IIE) by contributing to the Scholar Rescue Fund wherein we select an international woman scholar to sponsor; currently we support a woman from Yemen and one from Afghanistan. (USA)

#### **Gender Equality, Discrimination and Human Rights**

- "Dissemination of CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention" Project to develop the capacity of non-governmental organizations to monitor and advocate for gender equality issues and raise awareness about safeguards to combat discrimination. (Turkey)
- "The Egalitarian Media Language" Project has conducted five online seminars to help participant media members and students of Communications Programs in Antalya transform the media language they use in an egalitarian manner by adopting the gender equality principles for journalists. (Turkey)
- Gender equality training given to 140 young people in women's prisons. They learned why they were there and their goals, coached them, and encouraged them to continue their high school and college education by taking external exams. (Turkey)



- Seminars on "the importance of enrolling female students" and "peer bullying" in high schools.
   (Turkey)
- Defenders of the Women's Rights Commission in the "Strong Child, Strong Society" project; About 1100 people were trained on issues such as harassment and violence, provided opportunities and laws to 22 school parents. (in collaboration) (Turkey)
- Samsun Branch Women's Rights Commission "Improving Legal Aid Practices for Access to Justice in Turkey Project" being carried out in 7 pilot provinces in Turkey. (**Turkey**)

#### Health (including the impact of COVID-19)

- Mental Health:
  - 'Graduate Women's Resilience to stress in the pandemic times' A questionnaire was constructed that included questions to find out how educated graduate women devised their own strategies to combat the pandemic times. The results when statistically analyzed showed that women more than young girls showed greater resilience to stress and had converted themselves to playing support generating roles to their family members. (India)
  - Mental health: Special attention is paid to the emotional and mental health of people. Art and creativity have a huge positive influence on human health. It encourages self-expression, helps understand and express feelings, identify problems and correct them. Helps to find ways to become healthy and harmonious. The creative process brings pleasure and benefit, he learned to see himself and others, the environment, situations, learn to create harmonious relationships. We see a person in a fractal character, emotional state, psychological injuries, talents, health problems. Their help all these states can be adjusted.
    Organized exhibitions at AB Birštonas "Versmės" sanatorium (presented together with folk artist Dalia Kerpauskiene's exhibition of textile tapestries "Colors of the Earth and the Universe" and singer of singing poetry Jūrate Dailydėniene).

"You (can't) can - art can" is dedicated to the positive impact of art on human health. (Lithuania)

- Health Camp with Sambhavana Nepal (Nepal)
- Blood Donation Programme with Sambhavana Nepal (Nepal)
- Providing palliative measures to indigent women during COVID-19 pandemic (Nigeria)
- Seminars for University students on mental health and tips for academic success (Nigeria)

#### Pay Equity:

Raising Awareness and Empowering Women through Pay Equity addressed Sustainable
 Development Goal (SDG) # 8 and Goal #5 (Canada)

#### **Public Speaking**

Project to boost the confidence of young girls by enabling them to speak out in public. (Ireland)

#### Support for women in Afghanistan (Canada):

- Walk to Kabul and the Stand on the Bridge to advocate for the inclusion of Afghan women in the peace process, and to support the women of Afghanistan.
- International service Fundraiser established 2022-2023 for the Darakht-e Danesh Online Library, a program of Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan.



# From Growth to Sustainability GWI 34th Triennial General Assembly and Conference

11 Housether - 13 Housether 2022 As he had streated

































GWI  $34^{th}$  Triennial 11-13 November 2022 – NFA Reports - Page 6































































#### **Graduate Women International**

Chemin de Balexert, 7-9 CH-1291 Châtelaine, Geneva Switzerland Tel: +41 22 731 2380

Email: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org

© GWI 2022