



GWI UPDATE – 18 January 2023



Join Graduate Women International (GWI) on International Day of Education in celebrating over 100 years of advocating for women and girls equal access to quality education around the world.

Click [HERE](#) to download the infographic.

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

International Day of Education: “To Invest in People, Prioritize Education” infographic

The fifth International Day of Education will be celebrated on 24 January 2023 under the theme “To Invest in People, Prioritize Education”. Building on the global momentum generated by the United Nations (UN) Transforming Education Summit in September 2022, this year’s Day calls for maintaining strong political mobilization around education and convert government commitments and global initiatives into accountable action for education. Education must be prioritized to accelerate progress towards all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) against the backdrop of the global recession, growing inequalities and continued education challenges around the world.

To mark the Day, GWI produced an infographic to celebrate education and echo the 2023 theme. We urge you to widely share this infographic and our social media campaign as a guide to promote education and to raise awareness about the need to invest in education. On 24 January, plan to FOLLOW, LIKE, and SHARE the GWI social media campaign on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#). You will find the infographic [HERE](#).

GWI to host two parallel events at the Commission on the Status of Women 67th session

GWI will host two parallel events as part of the upcoming Commission on the Status of Women 67th (CSW67) session to be held 6-17 March in a hybrid landscape. A parallel event titled, Innovative Ideas in Education and Advocacy Advancing Women and Girls, and will be developed by GWI Vice President Education, Shirley Gillett, GWI Vice President, Advocacy, Shaila Rao Mistry, GWI Education Convenor, Lucia Guzman, and the GWI Education and Membership Committees. The parallel event will consider new and innovative ways of approaching both education and advocacy work for women and girls. Technology, social media, and the virtual world are leading the way in communication in the contemporary world. The question, how should we incorporate these and other innovations to help women in girls to attain better education fulfilling SDG 4 will be explored. Looking at research from the developments during COVID, for example home learning using computer programmes, we present the impact of these including on women in rural areas. Several real-life examples are shared in this workshop and audience participation is valued on the topic.

Another parallel event will be developed by GWI Treasurer and Young Member Network President, Sudha Srivastava, and the GWI Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, with the support from GWI young members. The parallel event is titled, The Gender Equality in Digital Education: Young Women and Financial Challenges. As the world is moving exponentially into the digital age of education transformation, financial barriers persist to digital access for women and girls. This interactive event will explore gender disparities, due to financial factors, in accessing technological advances in education with examples from rural and urban areas. An expert panel of young women will present a comparative analysis based on strong database and research. A range of innovative solutions from various collaborations will be presented including public-private partnerships, development finance, government education budgets and international funding. There will be opportunities for audience interaction via opinion polls and a Q&A session.

A third parallel event on Women and Corruption will be co-hosted with the Women's United Nations Report Network.

The date and time of the parallel events will be announced shortly, and registration links shared. Please check back with us.

— GWI Member News —



On 25 January 2023 at 8:00pm Central European Time the Canadian Federation of University Women Belleville and Ottawa Clubs will host the next webinar in their GWI Outreach Conversation Series. The webinar, **Education, Work, Freedom: What Can We Do for Women and Girls in Afghanistan**, will feature guest speaker Fawzia Koofi, courageous and long-time Afghan women's rights activist, former Member of the Afghan Parliament and its first female Deputy Speaker. She was one of four women on the 42-member Afghan and Taliban peace negotiating team. With the fall of Kabul in 2020 she found herself under house arrest and her safety in jeopardy. A single mother of two, she was most concerned about her daughters and felt she had no alternative but to leave her country with the belief she would return within a few months. Sadly, she has not been able to do so, but remains



Fawzia Koofi, Europa Press via Getty Images

Fawzia Koofi (Europe Press via Getty Images) deeply in touch and is fully involved in trying to help her fellow citizens from outside. To learn more about Fawzia we invite you to follow this link: <http://fawziakoofi.org/>

Fawzia's talk to us will focus on the increasingly challenging situation for women and girls in Afghanistan with the ongoing draconian Taliban decrees, not only the withdrawal of girls and women's education but the denial of their right to work and the freedom even to leave their homes. This webinar will consider the questions: How can we work in our own communities, with our own government, and with each other nationally and internationally to make a difference? Join us to hear an Afghan voice and to share in a breakout session your ideas for action.

We invite you to pre-register for this impactful conversation here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83261723828?pwd=TU5XQIVONetvOFFpTzc5MkhZenNTdz09>

Irene Gashu, GWI Japan Association of University Women (JAUW) member, addresses United Nations General Assembly Third Committee

In October 2022 at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), speakers emphasize that global crisis and conflicts hampering women's human rights, empowerment, as Third Committee discussed the advancement of women. GWI JAUW member, Irene Gashu, took the floor for an oral intervention.



Irene Gashu, GWI JAUW member

In her own words, Gashu shares her experience, "On recommendation of the civil society group, The National Women's Committee of the United Nations NGOs last year I was able to travel abroad... but not as a tourist. I spent five weeks in New York to attend the meetings of the Third Committee of the UNGA as a Special Advisor to Japan. The Third Committee deals with social, humanitarian, and cultural affairs, including human rights issues. At the meetings of the UN Third Committee, I gave statements and participated in interactive dialogues on social development, advancement of women, rights of indigenous peoples and other human rights issues. For me, it was a great opportunity to learn how the UNGA works and to meet interesting people from all over the world". **GWJ congratulates Gashu for her courage and contributions.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

Informal Briefing to NGOs by the Chair of the CSW67

On Monday, 12 December 2022, the Chair of the CSW67, H.E. Ms. Mathu Joyini, from South Africa, presented ECOSOC-accredited NGO representatives with updates on the UN CSW67 session including the program of work, civil society engagement, and the Agreed Conclusions negotiations process. The official UN CSW67 session will take place in-person from 6-17 March 2023. H.E. Joyini indicated that the Bureau is driven by its commitment to having as full and substantive a session as possible. Further, the CSW67 Bureau expects to adopt a succinct Agreed Conclusions document on the priority theme negotiated by all Member States. The process will be facilitated by the Argentinian ambassador, H.E. Ms. Maria del Carmen Squeff. The first draft of the Agreed Conclusions (known as the Zero Draft) will be disseminated to Member States at the end of January and finalized by the end of the last day, 17 March. The CSW Bureau and UN Women's goal is for the UN CSW67 session to be as participatory as possible, while prioritizing those who are working on critical human rights and gender equality on all

levels, as well as the centrality of youth movements. **The full summary of the briefing can be accessed [HERE](#).**

— Give the gift of education —

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 held throughout the world to remove socio-cultural, gender-related and economic barriers girls face towards education endeavours.

— Did you know? —

Did you know that GWI recently at its 2022 triennial Assembly Adopted 10 new policy resolutions on topics such as securing increased domestic funding for education, to promoting and defending human rights of women in universities and other post-secondary forms of education, workplace harassment, the under representation of women in media, environmental issues, the SDGs and more. Click [HERE](#) to access the full summary of the newly adopted GWI policy resolutions.

— Dates and events worth noting —

24 January	International Day of Education, Global
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance of FGM, Global
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Global
27 Feb-31 March	Human Rights Council 52 nd session, Geneva
6-17 March	Commission on the Status of Women 67 th session, New York
8 March	International Women's Day
22 March	International Water Day

Follow us on social media!



2023 Copyright. All Rights Reserved.

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 Website: www.graduatewomen.org

