



GW I UPDATE – 1 February 2023



Join Graduate Women International (GWI) and the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) GWI Clubs in celebrating the 2023 International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

We invite you to click [HERE](#) to pre-register.

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GW I and CFUW GWI Clubs to mark International Day of Women and Girls in Science

To celebrate the 2023 International Day of Women and Girls in Science GWI and CFUW GWI Clubs will hold a webinar on 11 February to examine the question, “What can GWI and CFUW do to promote women and girls in science?” The webinar will showcase the importance of women and girls participation in science and provide participants with information to strengthen their international advocacy work. The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is held annually on 11 February to recognize the critical role women and girls play in science and technology and to promote full and equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.

The 11 February webinar will feature opening remarks from GWI President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole, on the importance of women and girls in science. Shaila Rao Mistry, GWI VP Advocacy, will offer remarks about the international Day. Barbara DuMoulin, CFUW VP International Relations, will provide an update on what CFUW is doing to promote women in science with highlights of CFUW scientists and the latest national statistics on the topic. Following, Mildred Asmah, GWI VP Projects, will showcase the GWI Ghana Girls Science Lab as part of the Bina Roy Partners in Development programme. We invite GWI and CFUW GWI Club members to join this event that will conclude with open discussion with participants about their successes and challenges in the professional science field, moderated by Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director. **The webinar will be held Saturday, 11 February 2023 from 5-6 p.m. Central European Time (CET). Please pre-register [HERE](#).**

Highlighting the work of the GWI Membership Committee

The GWI Membership Committee (MemCom) promotes GWI membership growth and establishes new national federations and associations (NFAs) for GWI. MemCom is responsible for reviewing

applications for new GWI NFAs and it takes an advisory role with the Board of Officers to create membership policy. The Committee develops new membership communication channels with members to better understand the critical areas they face in their countries. Additionally, MemCom advises NFAs on best practice and organisational structures, and it is involved in the selection process of new national affiliates as well as the establishment of operations for GWI affiliates.

— GWI Member News —

Indian Federation of University Women's Clubs Association (IFUWA) hosts violence against women webinar

On 25 November 2022, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Madras, Thiruvananthapuram and Vadodara University Women's Association (UWA) chapters of GWI's Indian Federation of University Women's Clubs Association (IFUWA) organized programmes as an awareness raising event to commemorate the Day. Ms. Swati Bedekar, Secretary at Vatsalya Foundation and IFUWA member, presented her views and experiences on working around women's empowerment



and combating violence against women and girls through menstrual dignity. The talk was held on the platform of Global South Coalition for Dignified Menstruation. **GWI congratulates the IFUWA on these impactful events.** Please click [HERE](#) for the recording.

UWA Trivandrum observed the Day with a poster campaign with a picture of Goddess Durga in abstract art. She has her arms raised, fighting against injustice and evil, one who combines strength with compassion and not tolerate unjust violence directed to women. The slogan on the poster reads "UP IN ARMS OVER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN".

UWA Madras organized a workshop for college students to mark the Day. They also conducted competitions such as poster designing, face painting, and slogan writing along with a street play performed by the students to create an awareness about the abuses against women. (Pictured at the right is a character from the street play.)



CFUW GWI Belleville and Ottawa Clubs host Education, Work, Freedom: What Can We Do for Women and Girls in Afghanistan?

On 25 January the CFUW GWI Belleville and Ottawa Clubs held the next webinar in their Outreach Conversation Series. The webinar, attracting almost 300 participants from around the world, examined the topic, "Education, Work, Freedom: What Can We Do for Women and Girls in Afghanistan?" Ms. Fawzia Koofi, courageous and long-time Afghan women's rights activist, former member of the Afghan parliament and its first female Deputy Speaker was the guest speaker. Fawzia's talk focused 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 from education but the denial of their right to work and the freedom even to leave their homes. Breakout groups examined this question, "How can we work in our own communities, with our own government, and with each other nationally and internationally to make a difference?" The Summary report of the breakout group discussions will be available later in February. **GWI congratulates the CFUW GWI Belleville and Ottawa Clubs on this successful event.** We invite you to view the full webinar recording [HERE](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

NGO Committee on the Status of Women Forum

Alongside the 67th session of the UN Women Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) is the NGO Committee on the Status of Women New York Forum. The Forum runs on the same dates as CSW67, this year 6-17 March. The Forum functions as the civil society side of CSW sessions and in 2023 offers almost 800 events that inform, engage, and inspire grassroots efforts and advocacy needed to empower women and girls. The Forum provides civil society with the opportunity to engage with each other and in CSW67 events in a welcoming environment outside of the United Nations. The Forum and associated parallel events will be held virtually as well as in person in 2023. Registration for the Forum is open and is free. Click [HERE](#) to register and more information.

GWI will host two parallel events as part of the Forum. A parallel event titled, “Innovative Ideas in Education and Advocacy Advancing Women and Girls”, 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 Sustainable Development Goal 4 will be explored.

Another parallel event titled, “The Gender Equality in Digital Education: Young Women and Financial Challenges” will be held. 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.

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

United Nations Call for Input for establishing monitoring mechanisms

The United Nations has issued a Call for Inputs: Report on “Establishing monitoring mechanisms at the national and regional level for implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”. The deadline to respond is 17 March 2023. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 33/25, during its fifteenth session in 2022, the Expert Mechanism confirmed its decision to prepare a report on Establishing monitoring mechanisms at the national and regional level for implementation of the UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Inputs may be sent by e-mail. They must be received by 17 March 2023 18:00 CEST to ohchr-expertmechanism@un.org with email subject line: Call for inputs on establishing effective mechanisms at the national and regional levels for implementation of United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. To find out more, please click [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 the Hegg-Hoffet Fund has been instrumental in providing help to refugee and displaced graduate women for over 87 years? The Hegg Hoffet Fund was established in 1936 as the International Federation of University Women (now Graduate Women International) Emergency Fund to help women at the graduate level and above who had been deprived of the right to work, and in many cases, the right to live in their native countries. Arriving in a new country, most face complex challenges to integration, among them language difficulties, unemployment, rejection of foreign qualifications and the need for retraining. Later called the Relief Fund, it took the name of Madame Blanche Hegg Hoffet (1894-1978) in 1968, to honour her many years of service during and after the Second World War. Mme Hegg Hoffet, from Switzerland, was particularly responsible for raising money and distributing assistance in that difficult period and accomplished her mission with great passion and commitment, travelling regularly to Germany to meet with refugees as soon as the war ended.

— Dates and events worth noting —

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

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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

