

## GW I UPDATE – 15 March 2023



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

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#### **It's tomorrow! GWI Young Member Network (YMN) to host Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) Parallel Event**

GWI is pleased to remind that the GWI CSW67 parallel event entitled, Gender Equality in Digital Education: Young Women and Financial Challenges, will take place tomorrow, **16 March 2023 at 4 p.m. Central European Time (CET)**. This parallel event is developed by GWI Treasurer and YMN President, Sudha Srivastava, and GWI Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, with the contributions from GWI YMN. As the world is moving exponentially to 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.

Speakers Srivastava, and GWI Young Members, Tzazil Valencia (Mexico), Radwa Mohamed (Egypt), and Agnes Adom-Konadu (Ghana) will present financial challenges for young women in today's digital world in their countries. Breakout session leaders Eveline van Eerd (Netherlands), Ogechi Adiuku (Nigeria), Perine Wagdi (Egypt), and Cynthia Adinortey (Ghana) will present recommendations and a range of innovative solutions arising from the four breakout sessions. Additional opportunities for audience interaction will be offered during the round of QA. **We invite you to register [HERE](#). Please see the flyer at the bottom of the Update.**

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### — GWI Member News —

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#### **The Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) and the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Nepean Club to host webinar on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

TAUW and the Nepean Club of CFUW invite GWI members from around the world to take part in a Peer-to-Peer conversation about the United Nations (UN) SDGs. Regularly referred to by Member States and civil society, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan that was adopted by all UN member states in 2015. The 2030 Agenda was an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing – to join a global partnership to improve the living conditions of everyone on earth with a view to sustainable development. Among these goals, for example, is SDG 4 ensuring equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all. **Want to learn more**

**about the SDGs? Save the date of 24 March 2023, at 6:00 p.m. CET/ 12:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (ET).** During the webinar, Dr Basak Ovacik, Lecturer in Gender Studies at the Bahçeşehir University (Istanbul, Türkiye) will present about the SDGs, their impact, and effect. **To participate in this meeting, GWI members please register in advance [HERE](#). Please see flyer at the bottom of the Update.**

**Don't forget today's CSW67: Digital Education: Lessons Learned and Innovations Introduced** CAMEUS, a GWI Regional Group composed of Canada, Mexico, and the United States, is organizing the CSW67 parallel event with speakers from each country in the North American region. This event will take place on 15 March 2023 at 3 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, 8 p.m. Central European Time. Hear how a high school teacher, an administrator, and a visual artist, all educators, problem-solved to engage and empower learners in meeting challenges presented by the pandemic. **We invite you to register [HERE](#). Please see flyer at the bottom of the Update.**

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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On the occasion of the 52nd Human Rights Council (HRC52) taking place at the United Nations of Geneva between 27 February and 31 March 2023, GWI is regularly present at the sessions and closely follows the discussions on women and girls' issues, gender equality and access to education. A summary of three such sessions is found below:

### **Spain to firmly defend gender equality**

As pointed out by Ms Angeles Moreno Bau, Secretary of State for Foreign and Global Affairs of Spain, progress on women's rights is fragile and should not be taken for granted. As reference is the situation in Afghanistan where women lost their fundamental right to study in 2022, when the enrolment at all levels of education in the country had increased tenfold between 2001 and 2018. Moreno stressed that is important to ensure that the newly acquired rights are maintained and not reversed. Spain will chair the European Union Council in the second half of 2023 and intends to "propose varied and concrete solutions to firmly defend gender equality". Spain is a pioneering Member State in gender equality issues as one of the first and only countries to set up specialized courts on gender-based violence (GBV) issues since 2004. In 2007, Spain adopted a Constitutional Act on Effective Equality between Women and Men, which claims to cover all aspects of society with a view to achieving real equality between women and men. Most recently Spain announced the increase of paternity leave to encourage parental co-responsibility during pregnancy, that still greatly limits the effective participation of women in political and entrepreneurial life. GWI welcomes and supports Spain's willingness to extend its innovative and successful policies.

### **"It's time for women to take their rightful place in society"**

Gender inequalities are still numerous, and worsen when other factors of discrimination accumulate, especially for women with disabilities, migrants, the elderly, living in rural areas or with limited incomes. The consequences are just as numerous: GBV, machismo in everyday life, low participation in public life, unequal access to education, and work. At a recent HRC52 session the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Commissioner, Julissa Mantilla Falcón, said, "It's time for women to take their rightful place in society". Indeed, women have specific needs as women that are still insufficiently addressed. Sixty-two years after the creation of this international commission with innovative jurisprudence, it is time to guarantee women equal rights to those of men in a representative democracy, to restructure gender roles and promote the eradication of discrimination. In Latin America, as highlighted by the International Labor Organization (ILO) in a study released on 3 March 2022, women were more affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, occupying more informal jobs,

and earning an average hourly wage 17 percent lower than men. In terms of women's participation in politics, women currently hold 27.3 percent of local political office as council members, an increase of 6.5 percent over the past 10 years, according to UN Women statistics. It is still insufficient, and the road to equality is still fraught with obstacles, but hope is allowed: throughout the world, women like Falcón can rise to the top of major bodies such as the IACHR and lead inclusive policies that promote gender equality.

### **Children's Internet Use: A Hopeful Educational Tool with Increased Risks**

The Internet is a special tool. Access to it offers unlimited possibilities, regarding learning methods and speed, emancipating from all borders, but also carries significant risks such as online surveillance theft of personal data, cyberbullying and harmful scams – one in three users are under 18 years according to UNICEF. These risks increase considerably when the Internet is used by a more vulnerable audience such as girls. Use of the Internet has increased significantly since the COVID-19 pandemic, when e-learning expanded in much of the world. Being, moreover, sometimes the only tool to access information, the Internet quickly became even more indispensable than it was already. But children are much less protected than adults on the Internet, and do not always have the necessary guidance to properly use these tools and assess the risks.

According to the report examined during an HRC52 Interactive Dialogue (ID), "Why children are unsafe in the cyberspace", 72 percent of children with Internet access have already been at risk online. For example, 36 percent of children were exposed to inappropriate content, 30% to online harassment, 17 percent to sexual solicitations and 17 percent to phishing. The ID included various NGOs and young people themselves. The observations are that young people want to continue to use the limitless possibilities of the Internet which are particularly useful in the context of their access to education and information, but also want to make it a healthy and safe space. Several proposals were made by both civil society and Member States, including prevention, adaptation, affordable access to quality online resources, and promotion of digital skills for informed usage. GWI also reiterates its support for the implementation of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that all children in the world must be protected from online violence and abuse and must be able to benefit from the same education whether they are rich or poor to have the same opportunities in life.

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## — Give the gift of education —

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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.

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## — Did you know? —

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As early as 1909, International Women's Day (IWD) has been a Day of Observance. For decades celebrated on 8 March, IWD is as a focal point in the women's movement, bringing attention to issues such as gender equality, GBV, education and work-related rights and the celebration of women. Spurred on by the universal female suffrage movement, IWD originated from labor movements in North America and Europe during the early 20th century. Annually, there is a theme, with 2023 being DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality.

– Dates and events worth noting –

27 Feb-31 March	Human Rights Council 52 <sup>nd</sup> session, Geneva
8 March	International Women’s Day, Global
6-17 March	Commission on the Status of Women 67 <sup>th</sup> session, New York
22 March	International Water Day, Global
25 March	Orange Day (monthly end violence against women), Global
27 April	International Girls in ICT Day, Global

**COMMISSION on the STATUS OF WOMEN**

**Gender Equality in Digital Education: Young Women and Financial Challenges**

As the world is moving exponentially into the digital age of education transformation, the financial barriers still remain to access these 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. 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 breakout session, opinion polls and Q&A session.

**16 March 2023**  
4:00 PM to 5:30PM  
Central European Time (CET)

**MODERATOR**  
Stacy Dry Lara  
Geneva

**BREAKOUT SESSION LEADERS**

- Eveline van Eerd  
Netherlands
- Ogechi Adiuku  
Nigeria
- Perine Wagdi  
Egypt
- Cynthia Adinortey  
Ghana

**REGISTRATION LINK**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/joining/register/tZysfuusrjMuHNNVFOmmyxUBjUWCILWYRer?registration>

**SPEAKERS**

- Sudha Srivastava  
United Kingdom
- Tzazil Valencia  
Mexico
- Radwa Mohamed Abdel Fattah  
Egypt
- Agnes Adom-Konadu  
Ghana

Graduate Women International  
Young Members Network Parallel Event - CSW67



Graduate Women International (GWI)



## Introduction to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): A Blueprint to Achieve a Better and More Sustainable Future for All.



**24 March 2023, 6:00 p.m. CET (12:00 p.m. ET)**

Please register in advance by clicking [HERE](#).

The Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) and the Nepean Club of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) invite Graduate Women International (GWI) members from around the world to take part in a Peer-to-Peer Conversation about the United Nations SDGs.



### Presentation by: Dr. Basak Ovacik

Born in 1973 in Antalya Turkey, Başak graduated from the department of "International Relations" Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, and obtained a master's degree on "European Studies" from the London School of Economics. She concluded her PhD thesis under the title "Women's NGO's role in decision making" and currently she is lecturing at Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul, Turkey. She is giving "Gender Studies" and "Sustainability and Social Inclusion" courses both in English and Turkish.

A UNC5W67 NGOC SW/NY PARALLEL VIRTUAL EVENT

# DIGITAL EDUCATION: LESSONS LEARNT AND INNOVATIONS INTRODUCED



From Canada, USA and Mexico, hear how a high school teacher, an administrator, and a visual artist, all educators, problem-solved to engage and empower learners in meeting challenges presented by the pandemic.

15 MARCH 2023

3:00-5:00PM ET

[REGISTER HERE  
ON ZOOM](#)

## SPEAKERS



### GLEND A HECKSHER

A Mexican artist who deploys a wide range of techniques and who believes that art is not a get-away from life, but a threshold.



### DR. MARGIE MORTIARTY

Award winning alternative high school administrator with 29 years' experience working with at-promise students in the USA.



### ALISON EDWARDS

High School English teacher, Mt. Pearl, Canada, who believes strongly that all students should have their voices empowered and should see themselves reflected in their curriculum.

## PRESENTED BY

CAMEUS, AN ALLIANCE OF CFUW, FEMU AND WG-USA



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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**

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