



## GWI UPDATE – 12 April 2023



*Teachers for Rural Futures Students*

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

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#### **Messages from GWI Teachers for Rural Futures student teachers**

In rural Uganda, many girls are not enrolled in school or are forced to drop out, partly because of the lack of female teachers. In 2015, GWI created the Teachers for Rural Futures project, which sponsors young women in rural Uganda to attend Makerere University in Kampala to become secondary school teachers and ambassadors for girls' education. GWI is proud of the current students and is pleased to present a four-minute video with the reflections from two teachers currently supported by the Teachers for Rural Futures program. In the video, they reflect on the programme and its impact on their lives. Girls who live in rural areas face many barriers to receiving an education, such as poor transportation, social stigma, gender stereotypes, and, most of all, rurality. Inaccessibility to education is the cause of other challenges within a girl's future, such as the inability to find employment, an unawareness of rights and privileges, and it ultimately reinforces societal norms and preconceived negative notions about women. Both students briefly highlight why their experience as a student teacher has been so rewarding and valuable – as it has enabled them to connect with, empower, and inspire young girls. Education is paramount for creating an environment that allows young girls to thrive and builds a foundation that will help them to succeed. **To hear the reflections, GWI invites you to click [HERE](#).**

#### **University Women's Association (UWA) Pune to host Cyber Security Trends to Avoid Harassment webinar**

The GWI Membership Marketplace (MM) is a platform for knowledge sharing, international networking, and fostering GWI friendship connections. As part of the MM, the NFA-to-NFA programme, formerly called Twinning, is a virtual space for GWI National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to collaborate on projects relevant to mutually shared challenges, study tours and Meet and Greet cultural experiences. One such successful collaboration is the Sexual Harassment at Work project developed between the Indian Federation of University Women's Association (IFUWA) and the Egyptian Association of Graduate Women (EAUW) that has produced many informational webinars on the topic. Dr Meera Bondre, GWI Vice President Membership and Vice President UWA says, "During the past GWI triennium through the Membership Marketplace NFA-to-NFA platform many webinars were conducted by IFUWA and EAUW. This year, based on GWI Policy Resolution 3/2022, we have

decided to work in partnership again". "Happily, as part of this new triennium, many other NFAs have shown interest in joining us, as the problem is universal, and they are most welcome to join", she adds.

As part of this NFA-to-NFA partnership, the first webinar of the 2023 series, organised by UWA Pune, an affiliate of IFUWA founded in 1920, will focus on **"Cyber Security Trends and Awareness to Avoid Harassment"** and will take place on 18 April 2023 at 8:00 p.m. Indian Standard Time/4:30 p.m. Central European Summer Time. Participants will hear from guest speaker, Yogesh Thanage, Shellstrong Technologies Founder and Former Senior Project Manager of the Data Security Council of India, who will talk about solutions drawn from his experience to avoid harassment, which unfortunately does not spare the real world or the internet space. If you want more information, please consult the event flyer at the bottom of the Update. **GWI invites you to register for this rich and informative webinar by clicking [HERE](#).**

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## — GWI Member News —

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### IFUWA holds webinar on Women in Humanitarian Crises



Screenshot of the "Women in Humanitarian Crises" event, see Member News section

GWI congratulates IFUWA for organizing a webinar on the theme of Women in Humanitarian Crises that took place on 31 March 2023. During this webinar, attendees heard from Dr Purnima Kashyap, daughter of late Dr Sushil Bharadwaj, who presented her expertise on the subject. Previously, Kashyap was a global Coordinator for United Nations and part of a Nobel Peace Prize Winning Team 2020 for her

and her group's contribution towards women's role in humanitarian work. Originally from India and particularly committed to causes that are close to her heart, Kashyap started her career in the humanitarian field very early and has travelled and worked to over 80 countries experiencing difficulties.

In this webinar, she detailed her experience as World Food Program's Country Director in Yemen and in Ethiopia for several years, where people were and are still gravely distressed by the lack of food due to poverty and armed conflict. During her presentation, she first introduced the United Nations WFP, the world's largest humanitarian organization with over 21,000 staff in 123 countries which received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2020. Kashyap then talked about her rich and passionate career within this organisation, during which she committed herself to causes such as lack of food, AIDS/HIV programs, and children's health and access to school. Finally, she presented about women in humanitarian crises. On the one hand, she stressed the crucial role of women who are often forgotten in these situations of conflicts or extreme poverty, while these countries in difficulty would have everything to gain by letting women participate more in the decision-making process and invest more in the development and reconstruction of countries. On the other, she told about the personal difficulties she encountered as a woman and a member of a humanitarian staff, such as some men who did not take her seriously, prevented her from doing her job properly and thought she was unable to handle crisis situations.

The session ended with interactive discussion with Kashyap, who answered all the questions from the participants about her valuable work experience. Dr Bondre says, "The speaker, while sharing her rich experiences, rightly stressed that the impact of all the humanitarian crises is mainly on women and

girls. I completely agree with her. In fact, my work for so many years, as an Ecologist and Hydrobiologist, in the area of Environment and Sustainable Development also emphasises that the brunt of environmental degradation and mismanagement across the world, is mainly borne by women and girls. Dr Purnima's presentation will go a long way in making the world a better place for everyone." **GWI thanks the organisers, Dr Ranjana Banerjee, IFUWA President, Purobi Ghosh Mohan, Convener Communications, speakers and participants of this event, and invites you to view and share the event recording [HERE](#).**

### **The Association de Mujeres Universitarias de Marbella (AMUM) organizes several events for the "Primavera en AMUM"**

From 15 to 29 March 2023, as part of the "Primavera en AMUM" or Spring in the AMUM, the association celebrated spring with a series of seminars, conferences, and events with varied and very interesting themes. One such event was the "Urban tribes, identity and diversity in the current world: last class of the seminar dressing and appearance in Europe" during which they studied through the teaching of Professor Francisco Hidalgo, the evolution of clothing and the importance of historical, social and economic changes, as responsible for new dress standards, especially of women. In a more artistic aspect, the Poetic Recital Women Authors in Love Poetry was held, which is part of "MARPOÉTICA", sixth poetry festival of Marbella, organised by the City Hall, and a literary meeting where they discussed Claire Keegan's book *Foster*. Finally, AMUM organised a conference titled, "Not Without My Mobile", which asked participants about the big questions about how, why and the future of an addiction that is difficult to deny and in which women participate fully. This conference, organised with journalist, Laura G. De Rivera, paves the way for the association's next seminar dedicated to new science and its impact in everyday life. **GWI welcomes the dedication of the organizers of these events that celebrated the arrival of spring and all the members of the AMUM and has already been eager to discover its future webinar on the impact of science and its daily impact on women.**



"Poetic recital Women authors in love poetry" MARPOÉTICA 2023

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **Human Rights Council in Geneva concludes extended session 4 April**

The 52nd session of the Human Rights Council (HRC52), which began on 27 February, concluded 4 April 2023. Exceptionally, the Council convened for five weeks because of the resumption at a normal pace after almost three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 47 Member States of the Council took action on 43 resolutions covering various subjects such as the protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the situation in Ukraine, and renewing the mandates of special experts in cooperation with regional human rights organizations. This longer-than-usual session ended with the appointment of 10 independent experts (IM). GWI is pleased that out of the 10 IM appointed, six are women. GWI welcomes this representation of women from all continents including Mexico, Bangladesh, India, and Nigeria. This change reflects a positive evolution in the representation of women and gender equality in institutions. GWI underscores that this parity and the careers of these women will serve as an example to the national institutions and be a source of hope for young women who want to pursue careers in international relations and human rights. **If you want to learn more about the resolutions adopted at the HRC52, GWI invites you to click [HERE](#).**

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## — Give the gift of Membership —

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[Give the gift of membership](#) to the outstanding graduate women in your life! GWI membership allows graduate women to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training. Give the gift of membership to become part of a global community of some 16'000 members in 60 countries, either as a [GWI independent member](#) or national member of one of [our NFAs](#).

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## — Did you know? —

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In 1980, IFUWA joined the Associated Country Women of the World, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women and Soroptimist International in creating Project Five-O, to cooperate in national level community development projects. The first Five-O Project began the next year in Calcutta, India at the initiative of IFUW. Project Five-O is an organization that focuses on the advancement of women, specifically through education and vocational training. Project Five-O states that their objective is "to use the skills and expertise of the members of the participating organizations to support training courses in income-generating skills, including employment and working skills, marketing and small business operations, accompanied by training in health, nutrition, hygiene, childcare and literacy,". These training courses align with the values of GWI, as they use education to provide women with the skills to overcome discouragement and societal norms and stereotypes. Graduate Women International's collaboration with Project Five-O demonstrates our dedication to supporting the educational endeavors and development of women which results in encouraging women all around the world to thrive and succeed.

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## — Dates and events worth noting —

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21 April	World Creativity and Innovation Day, Global
23 April	World Book and Copyright Day, Global
25 April	Orange Day, Global
27 April	International Girls in ICT Day, Global
1-12 May	43 <sup>rd</sup> Universal Periodic Review Session at the United Nations

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# WEBINAR ON CYBER SECURITY- TRENDS AND AWARENESS TO AVOID HARASSMENT



**YOGESH THANAGE**

Founder -  
Shellstrong Technologies Pvt. Ltd.



**Date :**  
**18th April, 2023**  
**Time :**  
**08:00 PM IST (04:30 PM CET)**

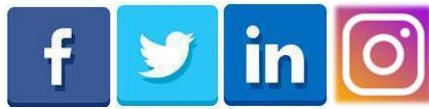
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Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace.  
GWI, formerly IFUW, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947  
and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

**Graduate Women International**

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