



GWI UPDATE – 26 April 2023



— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI Girls in ICT Day press release echoes 2023 theme, “Digital Skills for Life”

On 27 April 2023, GWI will celebrate International Girls in ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) Day. International Girls in ICT Day is an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) backed initiative, celebrated annually on the fourth Thursday in April that aims to create a global environment that encourages girls and young women to consider careers in the growing ICT professional sector. GWI celebrates this year’s theme, “Digital Skills for Life”, by reiterating its commitment to advancing the status of women and girls through quality education and lifelong learning up to the highest levels. GWI stresses to educational systems and bodies of power that they need to ensure that girls and women have equal access to digital learning skills, enabling industries and girls to mutually reap the benefits of greater workforce equality. The press release details the thoughts of Patrice Wellesley-Cole, GWI President, on employment opportunities for girls and women in the ICT sector and discusses the global digital gender divide – and what can be done to close this gap in knowledge. **To read the press release, we invite you to click [HERE](#).**

GWI marks World Book and Copyright Day

On 23 April 2023, GWI celebrated World Book and Copyright Day, through a comprehensive social media campaign and press release expressing GWI’s commitment to UNESCO’s 2023 theme, Indigenous Languages! Read more about the intersection between literacy, education and indigenous languages, GWI President Patrice Wellesley-Cole’s stance on this Day of Observance, and how we can better protect and preserve indigenous languages in all aspects of life moving forward in the GWI press release [HERE](#).

GWI Young Member Network (YMN) President participates in CSW67

In her latest monthly letter GWI YMN President, Sudha Srivastava, shares highlights from her participation in the Commission on the Status of Women 67th (CSW67) session held in New York in March. “For me, it was my first in-person CSW and experience was memorable. Also, it was lovely meeting some of young members in New York”, she says. The YMN hosted a virtual parallel event during CSW67 titled, Gender Equality in Digital Education: Young Women and Financial Challenges. The event focused on financial barriers to access technological advances in education especially for women and girls. If you missed joining GWI for the webinar, we invite you to visit the GWI Vimeo channel [HERE](#). “I would like to take this opportunity to thank moderator, speakers, and breakout

session leaders for their excellent teamwork in making the event successful. Together, we can do so much”, says Srivastava. In March, the YMN also warmly welcomed two new members in the Network in March: Alba Benítez Boldo from Spanish Federation and Nakamyap Asalia from Uganda. **GWI NFA members (in their 40s and under) are welcome to join YMN for free. If you know any friend/young member in your NFA who is interested, please share this online sign-up link [HERE](#).**

— GWI Member News —

University Women’s Association (UWA) Pune holds a webinar about cyber-harassment

UWA Pune, an affiliate of Indian Federation of University Women’s Association (IFUWA), organized on 18 April 2023 a webinar about how to reduce cyber-harassment. Dr Meera Bondre, GWI Vice President Membership and Vice President UWA, introduced the event by presenting the GWI Membership Marketplace (MM), a platform for knowledge sharing, international networking, and fostering GWI friendship connections. As part of the MM, the NFA-to-NFA program is a virtual space for GWI National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to collaborate on common challenges. One of the successful collaborations is the Sexual Harassment at Work project developed between the IFUWA and the Egyptian Association of Graduate Women. The project has produced many informative webinars on the subject. Ranjana Banerjee, IFUWA President, presented the topic at the recent webinar, highlighting the many common points between Egypt and India. Eloisa Sánchez-Amillategui Secretary Asociacion de Mujeres Universitarias de Marbella (AMUM), went on to mention the desire to build more joint partnerships within the framework of GWI.

Guest speaker, Yogesh Thanage, Founder Shellstrong Technologies, data security, cyber crime, and related issues expert, gave a presentation about the stakes of cyber-harassment, which disproportionately affects women. It can take many forms: online threats, stalking, defamation, fake profiles and it is favored by several factors like anonymity, increase of online traffic and lack of awareness amongst the technology users. Fifty-eight percent of girls have experienced online harassment worldwide, which is even more frequent than street harassment. Thanage then presented in more detail some forms of cyber-harassment, as well as legal aspects in India, before giving participants some “Social Media Cyber safety tips” such as never accept requests from unknown people, even if the user has several contacts in common, never send confidential information online and always use different passwords. **GWI thanks Thanage, IFUWA, UWA Pune and all the organisers and participants to this webinar, and invites you to view and share the recording [HERE](#).**

British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) holds Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



On 30 March 2023, as part of National Speaker Meetings, BFWG held a Workshop on UN SDGs conducted by Sudha Srivastava, BFWG member from London, GWI Treasurer and President Young Member Network GWI. The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness and bring together BFWG members for brainstorming local solutions for global problems. Most interestingly, issues that bubbled up were sustainable climate actions, recycling to up-cycling, positive aspects of local initiatives like ‘Warn Hubs’ to tackle poverty and homelessness as well as mental well-being, inclusive academic/curriculum integrating SDGs from early learning and equal access to technological advances. Further work through the special interest group and collaborating with sister organisations, are in process.

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI United Nations Representative Elisabeth Francis submits Women in Digital and Technological Change CSW67 report

On 7 March 2023, GWI United Nations Representative in Vienna, Elisabeth Francis, participated in the “Women in digital and technological change and the implications for gender equality” side event in the framework of CSW67. Starting from the principle that the field of digitalization does not escape the problems of inequalities of gender, this event aimed ensure that women and girls also benefit from these new opportunities. Seven speakers with diverse origins, including Nyamekye Wilson, CEO "Black Sisters in STEM", Maruša Gortnar from the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) and Sima Sami Bahous, UN Women Executive Director, spoke to share their expertise on the subject and proposed several recommendations that can benefit women in all countries. Speakers gave examples of effective initiatives taken at the national level, such as the Austrian foundation “Let’s Empower Austria” (LEA) which was created to integrate women’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) models into schools; and the PepperMINT project, an experimental laboratory in Liechtenstein for children and youth to “discover, invent, experience” inside and outside the school. 20,000 have participated since 2017. Francis underlined on several occasions the quality of the interventions and the diversity of the recommendations and speeches of this event. **GWI thanks Francis representing GWI at the CSW67, and invites discovering her comprehensive report and all the different measures suggested [HERE](#).**

United Nations Secretary General CSW67 summary submitted by GWI United Nations Representative Maureen Byrne

In the framework of CSW67, GWI United Nations Representatives, New York, Maureen Byrne participated in several events including the United Nations Secretary General, Antonio Guterres report. In her summary about the event, Byrne presents 25 important points drawn from the Secretary General in which inequalities and obstacles for women in the rapidly expanding technological world. She presents the links with human rights, the consequences of these inequalities and the concrete ideas for remedying them and achieving the 2030 Agenda. **GWI thanks Byrne representing GWI at the CSW67, and invites everyone to discover her conclusions and GWI Advocacy Goals by clicking [HERE](#).**

— Give the gift of Education —

Give the gift of education to young women by donating to our Teachers for Rural Futures (TFRF) program, which directly supports young women from rural Uganda to obtain their teaching degree. This GWI program is actively working to increase the number of girls that go to school in rural areas of Uganda. This project supports young women from Uganda to become qualified secondary teachers for girls' education. These women serve as teachers, role models, mentors, and a positive influence in the lives of young girls. On GWI’s Vimeo channel, two of the young women supported by the TFRF program, [recently shared their testimonies](#) expressing gratitude to GWI and sharing about the positive impact they are making as teachers in the lives of young girls. [Give the gift of education to help train fifty women to become teachers in Uganda, which will result in educating thousands.](#)

— Did you know? —

GWI recently received four new recognition badges from crowdfunding partner, GlobalGiving. These new 2023 badges acknowledge that GWI projects are the top ranked, vetted, and site visit verified. Additionally, GWI is ranked by GlobalGiving as an effective organization. These awards demonstrate GWI's legitimacy and progress towards making a great impact with our [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) project and the [Girls Education for Brighter Futures](#) project. The attainment of these GlobalGiving awards highlight GWI's diligence within our projects and ensures that GWI is performing charitable work in a transparent and accountable manner. Our engagement with the community and overall effectiveness continues to be shown through our projects to help increase educational access to young girls and women. To view these badges, please visit the bottom of the Update.

— Dates and events worth noting —

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| 27 April | International Girls in ICT Day, Global |
| 1-12 May | 43 rd Universal Periodic Review Session at the United Nations |
| 8-26 May | 85 th CEDAW Session at the United Nations |
| 28 May | Menstrual Hygiene Day, Global |

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GWI, formerly IFUW, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947
and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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