



GWI UPDATE – 21 June 2023



Excerpt from GWI World Refugee Day infographic released on 20 June.

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI launches Summer Social Media Series to highlight National Federations and Associations (NFAs) triennial projects

Do you remember the successful Summer Social Media Series on Women Pioneers in 2021? This summer from 1 July to 31 August GWI is presenting a new Summer Social Media Series entitled, “Discover Exceptional GWI NFA Triennial Projects Amidst COVID-19”. Based on the outstanding 2020-2022 triennial reports submitted by NFAs, GWI wants to highlight the great and concrete work done locally during the pandemic. The series will consist of two to three posts per week on all GWI social media networks covering, twelve different themes such as education and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), women’s rights issues and women’s empowerment, climate change, community outreach, and education and prison. To stay up-to-date, be sure to follow us on the various social networks and check out the details triennial reports by clicking [HERE](#). Social media channel links are easily accessed at the bottom of the Update. GWI wishes you a fantastic summer, hopes you will enjoy this Summer Social Media Series as much as enjoyed producing it. We look forward to hearing your feedback! **GWI thanks interns, Paloma Martial and Lexi Chelle, for coordinating and producing the project.**

GWI raises awareness on World Refugee Day with revealing infographic

On World Refugee Day held annually on 20 June, it’s important to remember the challenges that refugees face every day. For 2023 World Refugee Day GWI produced an informative infographic to raise awareness about the plight of refugees and the many challenges they face. The infographic contains the latest statistics on refugees, the risks and particularities of refugee women and children and concrete advocacy ideas on how to help them on your scale. Additionally, the infographic contains a section aiming to break down the taboos and stigmas that are still far too present both in the public and private spaces and that hinder the access to services and fair treatment of refugees. GWI has advocated for refugees for many years. In the infographic are references to the many GWI Policy Resolutions on the subject, indeed, a population that is close to GWI’s heart and for whom GWI

created the Hegg Hoffet programme in 1936. **Everyone can act. GWI invites you to read and share the infographic by clicking [HERE](#).**

— GWI Member News —

The Association of University Women of Panama (AMUP) holds “Building Bridges for Equality” conference



Jazmeira Cabrera, AMUP President (left) and Juana Herrera Araúz, Panama Minister of Women

GWI congratulates AMUP for organizing the “Building Bridges for Equality” conference held on 4 May at the University of Panama campus with the participation by Dr. Juana Herrera Araúz, first Minister of Women. Within the framework of International Women’s Day and in fulfilment of a promise of Panama’s Action Plan led by the National Government, the President of the Republic, Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, sanctioned on 8 March 2023, the Law that creates the Ministry of the Woman. The objective of the AMUP event was to learn about the proposals and challenges of the Ministry for Women, which promotes gender equality and equity in Panama.

Dr. Herrera has professional training in medicine and Doctorate in Clinical Sciences, explained that the purpose of the Ministry for Women is to design and implement public policies that guarantee the full exercise of women's human rights that contributes to eliminating gender gaps in our society. “It is not about creating a Ministry for Women, but about creating a Ministry with Women”, she affirmed. She also stressed that the Ministry works in coordination with other state institutions, such as the Ministry of Education, with the goal to prevent and address cases of violence against girls and women, which has increased dramatically during the pandemic. “We cannot tolerate our girls and women to be victims of abuse, mistreatment, or femicide. We need to educate and promote respect, equality, and non-violence from the early stages of our children's development”, she adds. **GWI congratulates AMUP organising this exceptional event is support of the new Ministry of Women.**

Re-launch of GWI South Asian Association for Regional Coordination (SAARCGWI) chapter



On 25 May 2023, GWI Indian Federation of University Women’s Associations (IFUWA) re-launched the South Asian Association for Regional Coordination (SAARCGWI) chapter. GWI’s President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole, Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, and members from the GWI Board, Meera Bondre, Vice President Membership, Mildred Asmah, Vice President Projects, Nneka Chiedozie-Udeh, Vice President Fundraising, and Sudha Srivastava, Treasurer, were present during this meeting in support of the relaunch. Additionally, SAARCGWI NFAs Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan along with guests from the SAARC countries of Sri Lanka and Afghanistan also attended. The inaugural speech was delivered by IFUWA President, Dr Ranjana Banerjee, who commented, “I am happy to bring back to life the forgotten chapter of SAARCFUW now SAARCGWI, with the help and support of Dr Meera Bondre, Purobi Ghosh Mohan, and my sisters from the SAARC countries”.

SAARCFUW was created in July 1995 in Sri Lanka under the leadership of Professor Chitra Gosh, when the affiliated NFAs of International Federation of University Women, not GWI, decided to come together to deal with the major concerns of women in the South Asian Region. Unfortunately, few years later the association became defunct. This forgotten chapter has been revived with a restructured Charter and a newly designed logo, leading to the creation of SAARCGWI. There are now

four Vice Presidents who represent affiliated NFAs, a Coordinator of International Relation (CIR) and committee members from the NFAs, representing SAARCGWI. Dr Bondre, who conducted the program, said that “Today I am happy that all our efforts have borne fruit and the dream has come true”.

During the webinar, it was highlighted that the main objectives of SAARCGWI as per the 2023 Charter as restored from the 1995 Charter are, to bring together the graduate women of the region for the promotion of understanding, friendship, and co-operation among them, irrespective of race, nationality, religion or political opinion. As well as encouraging graduate women to take their rightful share of responsibility in society, in the social and economic upliftment of the region and in the protection of the environment.

To conclude this webinar, IFUWA / SAARCGWI’s President Dr Banerjee gave final remarks saying, “I am hopeful that hand in hand working together, SAARCGWI will be a vibrant body sincerely working towards the cause of women and girls of this region and be able to evolve action plan and strategies to secure for them a dignified existence”. **GWI warmly welcomes SAARCGWI back to the GWI family and congratulates Dr. Banerjee, Dr Bondre, and others who worked tirelessly to put the group together once again. GWI invites you to click [HERE](#) to view the entire inaugural SAARCGWI celebration.**

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Nepean Club holds “Choose to Refuse Single-Use Plastics” webinar

On 16 June 2023, GWI and CFUW Nepean Club hosted a webinar entitled, “Choose to Refuse Single-Use Plastics”. This webinar followed the GWI Single Use Plastics and Plastic Packaging policy resolution adopted by the GWI 2022 General Assembly that originated from the CFUW Nepean Club. During this thought-provoking discussion, subjects such as the negative effects on humans, wildlife and the environment resulting from the use of plastic, or various solutions that can be implemented to change our use of plastics, were addressed. The interactiveness of this webinar enabled participants to hear different views on what can be changed on a daily life basis to make a positive impact on the environment. GWI congratulates the CFUW Nepean Club on this impactful event and invites you to watch the recording if you could not be present during the webinar. **GWI invites you to click [HERE](#) to view and share the recording of the webinar.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI submits a statement for High-level Political Forum Segment (HLS)

The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is to be held from 10-19 July 2023 under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This includes the three-day ministerial segment of the forum from 17-19 July as part of the Council's High-Level Segment (HLS). It is worth noting that GWI submitted a written statement to address the 2023 theme, “Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”. The written statement strongly urges Member States to apply a systems lens to priorities and policies to push progress and achieve the 2030 Agenda. The statement strongly urges Member States to prioritize and implement policies that align with the 2030 Agenda, using a systems approach. The HLS will include the three-day ministerial segment of the HLPF. During the HLPF, participants will discuss practical and inclusive recovery measures to address the impacts of COVID-19 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and explore actionable policy guidance for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at all levels. The HLS will provide a unique opportunity for productive discussions and innovative solutions to accelerate the recovery from COVID-19 and achieve sustainable development, making it an event worth anticipating for

readers and women's activists. **GWI thanks Maureen Byrne and Maryella Hannum, GWI United Nations Representatives, New York, for their contributions to this statement. GWI encourages readers download and widely distribute this statement with urgent calls to action for United Nations Member States via the following link [HERE](#).**

GWI to participate to the Human Rights Council 53rd session (HRC53)

The 53rd session of the Human Rights Council is taking place from 19 June to 14 July 2023 at the United Nations of Geneva. On this occasion, GWI will participate in many critical sessions such as an interactive dialogue with the working group on discrimination against women and girls, or an interactive discussion with the special rapporteur on education.

Under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) during the HRC53, UN Member States will declare actions to improve the human rights situations in their countries through the UPR process. The Council will consider final UPR outcomes of GWI NFAs Argentina, Ghana, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Pakistan, Zambia, Japan, and other UN Member States, Benin Czechia, Gabon, Guatemala, Peru, Sri Lanka.

GWI reminds that a written statement was submitted for this session that highlights the critical role of education in women's entrepreneurship and firmly demands immediate action to increase their opportunities in this field. **GWI thanks Paloma Martial, GWI Intern, for her contributions to this statement, and encourages readers download and share this statement [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. If you want to learn more about this project, you can read GWI's latest Global Giving report on this program by clicking [HERE](#). GWI appreciates your donation [HERE](#).

— Did you know? —



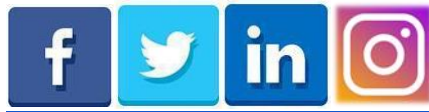
Paloma Martial and Lexi Chelle, GWI Interns, April 2023

After five months of a rich and informative internship, intern Paloma MARTIAL is getting ready to leave GWI headquarters in Geneva. "I am grateful to have been able to do my final internship with GWI. My experience has been more than positive: in addition to having learned enormously about the concrete functioning of an NGO on an international scale and participating in numerous UN mechanisms, I have been able to work on various projects related to my curriculum and now has an excellent start of professional portfolio. I want to thank everyone I've been able to work with over the last few months, especially Stacy, who was my mentor and taught me so much, and Lexi, another intern, who was present during most of my internship and is now finishing her studies in Colorado, USA. I intend to continue my engagement with GWI, as an Independent Member or within the Young Member Network".

— Dates and events worth noting —

6-9 July	High-Level Political Forum, United Nations, New York
15 July	World Youth Skills Day
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons, Global
31 July	Pan African Women's Day, Global
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Global
18-19 September	SDG Summit, New York

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GWII, 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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