



GWI UPDATE – 7 June 2023



Join GWI in participating in the International Labour Organisation's "Week of Action against Child Labour" to mark World Day against Child Labour (12 June)

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

World Day against Child Labour: “Week of Action against Child Labour”

GWI joins the global community in observing World Day against Child Labour on 12 June and will issue a press release with an urgent call to end child labor. The 2023 theme is “Week of Action against Child Labour” which represents a week-long International Labour Organisation (ILO) campaign committed to educating people about the injustice of child labour and inspiring them to act against the crime of it. GWI President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole, highlights GWI’s allegiance to the eradication of child labour saying, “GWI speaks against the alarming prevalence of child labour in the world, which necessitates continued effort beyond this week. Support for all children demands establishing and enforcing national child labour laws. GWI is working towards the 2030 Agenda as it incorporates Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 and 5 into its 2023-2025 triennial planning. The future of humanity is at stake if children who should be in education are labourers”, she says. To read and redistribute the press release click [HERE](#).

GWI co-sponsors Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) side event

The 32nd session of the CCPCJ was successfully convened at the United Nations (UN) in Vienna from May 22 to 26. GWI co-sponsored a side event titled "Ending Harmful Practices: Preventing Violence and Ensuring Access to Justice - Good Practices", which presented a distinguished panel of experts. Among them was Elisabeth Francis, GWI UN Representative, Vienna, who added valuable insights to the discussions.

Ute Scholz, President of Zonta International, commenced the side event by presenting the UNICEF-UN Populations Fund Global Programme to End Child Marriage. She expressed the importance of collaboration between civil society, families, educational institutions, and communities in ending child marriage. Next, Uyama El Jeledé, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Expert at the Women's Health Care Center in Austria, emphasized the importance of training doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers, and families to offer culturally sensitive services, quality-of-life, and support programmes for those who have undergone FGM.

In closing, GWI’s Francis concluded the side event by highlighting GWI's international advocacy to eliminate FGM, child marriage, and other harmful practices that hinder education opportunities and

threaten health. Francis stressed that education is the driving force of change and improvement in societies where harmful practices are prevalent. She expressively highlighted GWI's advocacy work, including collaborating with different UN mechanisms and GWI's international advocacy strategy that includes issuing written statements to all UN mechanisms, producing policy papers, press releases, infographics, toolkits, running comprehensive social media campaigns, and implementing local projects. **GWI thanks the co-sponsors and speakers of this CCPCJ side event and offers special gratitude to Elisabeth Francis for her work on organising this side event and other CCPCJ activities.**

Did you miss the GWI Menstrual Hygiene Day infographic on 28 May?

Menstrual Hygiene Day is celebrated annually on 28 May. For 2023 to spread awareness and promote menstrual hygiene management support, GWI created an infographic with facts, advocacy tips, SDGs links, and brief videos featuring GWI members sharing their projects. It's never too late to make a difference, download and share the infographic [HERE](#).

— GWI Member News —

Register Today! Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) Nepean Club to hold Plastics-Free July conversation, 16 June

"Every year, over 400 million tons of plastic is produced worldwide, one third of which is used just once. Every day, the equivalent of over 2,000 garbage trucks full of plastic is dumped into our oceans, rivers, and lakes", said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

CFUW's Nepean Club is pleased to host GWI members and guests on 16 June for a thought-provoking discussion on the importance of rejecting single-use plastics entitled, "Choose to Refuse Single-Use Plastics". Worth noting is that the CFUW Nepean Club was the originator of the GWI Single Use Plastics and Plastic Packaging policy resolution adopted by the GWI 2022 General Assembly. This conversation will be interactive, as participants will have breakout room in-depth discussions about the plastics challenge and to engage in polls. **Please register [HERE](#) and see the event flyer at the bottom of the Update.**

CFUW report on the Commission on the Status of Women 67th session (CSW67)

Delegates from CFUW had the honour of represented CFUW at the CSW67 in March 2023 and they have compiled their findings of the two-week session. The CSW67 2023 priority theme was



CFUW VP International Relations, Barb DuMoulin, (left) with CFUW President, Joy Hurst, (right).

"Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls". Throughout the course of the delegation's attendance, they actively participated in 170 CSW67 sessions. This report consists of a variety of valuable contributions, including parallel and side event summaries, actionable advocacy ideas, surveys, statements, and graphics. The report is divided into two volumes, with the first volume providing useful background

information, a diary of CFUW delegate's stay in New York, and an explanation of the agreed conclusions and how the process works. The second volume is equally as valuable, as it contains valuable insights from CFUW delegates. **GWI congratulates CFUW delegates for their commitment to the CSW67, and invites readers to read the CFUW reports: [HERE](#) for report 1 background and diary; [HERE](#) for report 2, insights.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI submits written statement for the Human Rights Council 53rd session (HRC53)

As a non-governmental organisation in Special Consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), GWI submitted a written statement to the HRC53, set to take place from 19 June to 14 July 2023 at the UN in Geneva. The statement emphasizes the critical role of education in women's entrepreneurship and firmly demands immediate action to increase their opportunities in this field. GWI highlights women's various obstacles when starting a business, including financial, social, institutional, cliches, and patriarchal systems. These barriers not only harm women but also have a negative impact on society and the economies of states. To overcome these challenges, GWI proposes several assertive response elements and solutions to improve women's access to entrepreneurship. The statement concludes with a resolute call to the Member States to take action towards implementing the recommendations provided at the end of the statement. **GWI thanks Paloma Martial, GWI Intern, for her research and writing contributions to this statement, and encourages readers download and share this statement [HERE](#).**

GWI UN Representatives make recommendations to UNICEF Committee and Board

GWI UN Representative, New York, Maureen Byrne regularly participates and reports on the UNICEF member and Executive Board meetings. As per request by UNICEF at its 16 May 2023 member meeting linked in this write up are three recommendations regarding education, climate crisis, and technology submitted by Byrne with contributions from Maryella Hannum, also GWI UN Representatives, New York. A summary of the recommendations is below and access full report can be found [HERE](#).

Education: Multiple policy decisions are needed to increase investment in public education regarding infrastructure, help students make up learning losses post-pandemic, enhance teacher well-being through adequate remuneration and working conditions, provide ongoing teacher professional development, ensure inclusive opportunities from early childhood through tertiary education, and address systemic and structural barriers that exclude those most marginalized and at-risk.

Climate Crisis: The climate crisis is a child rights crisis. We must reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build infrastructure to withstand learning disruptions, prepare students for the green economy, train teachers, invest in adaptive social services, coordinate locally appropriate solutions, integrate a gender perspective into climate change, develop a financing mechanism to aid LDCs, and establish an agreed-upon regulatory framework.

Technology, especially A.I.: Tech and A.I. can enhance or disrupt the lives of children globally. Currently students in low-income countries, especially girls, are excluded from STEM. As a result, they lack the skills required by employers, can't take advantage of e-learning or hybrid instruction, and face discrimination and violence online. A standardized, international regulatory framework based on human rights must be adopted.

— Give the gift of education —

Join the GWI 500+Challenge and become a valued contributor to the Girls Education for Brighter Futures post-COVID-19 programme. Your donation of \$20 per month will support GWI's international advocacy work to increase education opportunities for girls and training up to the highest levels for all women. **To make donation we invite you click [HERE](#).**

— Did you know? —

Did you know that GWI had a new intern? Meet Salomé Delsaux!

Hi! I am from Lille, France. I have just graduated from a master's degree in international and European Law at the Catholic University of Lille. I started my internship at the end of May, and I could not be more grateful to have the opportunity to work for GWI. Since the beginning of my law studies, I have always wanted to take part in an organisation that is advocating for a meaningful cause. Educational rights are fundamental to be able to obtain gender equality, and to remove barriers that are still standing. That is why, I am genuinely excited to be able to take part in the work of GWI. This internship will allow me to discover the tasks of an international NGO, to acquire new skills, but also to be able to talk and work with brilliant women. Thank you so much for welcoming me into the GWI family!



Salomé Delsaux, Intern

— Dates and events worth noting —

12 June	World Day Against Child Labour, Global
18 June	International Day for Countering Hate Speech, Global
19 June – 14 July	53 rd Human Rights Council Session at the United Nations
20 June	World Refugee Day, Global
6-19 July	High-Level Political Forum, United Nations, New York
15 July	World Youth Skills 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

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E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org



Choose to Refuse Single-Use Plastics

Sharing ideas from around the world about reducing our use of plastics.



Join us for a Graduate Women International (GWI) Outreach Conversation hosted by the Nepean Club of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), originators of the GWI Single Use Plastics and Plastic Packaging policy resolution that CFUW brought to the 2022 GWI Triennial.

Friday, 16 June 2023
6:00-7:30 p.m. CEST (12:00 p.m. ET)
Register below to join this conversation

[Click HERE to register for this event.](#)

WHAT CAN WE DO TO REDUCE OUR PLASTIC CONSUMPTION?

Seventy-nine percent of all plastic waste that has ever been produced is sent to landfills or the ocean, while only 9% is recycled and 12% is incinerated. Share ideas from your household, community, and country. Join over 140 million others around the globe as they "choose to refuse" single use plastics for a Plastic Free July.



Stomach contents of a baby shearwater that never left the nest.

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