



Graduate Women International

Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

## GWI UPDATE – Special Edition

11 July 2023

Graduate Women International celebrates 104 years.



*7th International Federation of University Women (IFUW) Conference - Crakow, Poland, 1936*

---

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

---

#### **International Federation of Women, now Graduate Women International, celebrates 104 years.**

In 1919, Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, Professor Rose Sidgwick and Caroline Spurgeon came together in London with university women from Great Britain, Canada, and the United States of America to establish the International Federation of University Women (IFUW, now Graduate Women International (GWI)). They were convinced that by fostering friendship and understanding, women graduates could help prevent another catastrophe such as the World War that had just ended. It was a historic moment that marked the beginning of a movement to empower women in higher education.

Today, we celebrate the 104th anniversary of GWI and honor the visionaries who founded this organization. Their legacy lives on, inspiring generations of women to pursue their dreams and achieve their goals. More than a century later, and under the new name of Graduate Women International (GWI), thousands of women graduates throughout the world share the same principles and vision that inspired those early leaders. GWI continues to advocate in favour of secondary, higher, and continuing education for women all over the world.

Dr. Elizabeth M.E. Poskitt, a former president of GWI, has preserved the history of this remarkable organization in her archives, which can be accessed through the [link provided HERE](#). Let us continue to build on the foundation laid by these trailblazers and work towards a future where every woman has the opportunity to excel in higher education.

### 500+Challenge: The Power of Many Empowering Education fundraiser



Join the Graduate Women International (GWI) 500+Challenge fundraiser and be one of 500 monthly contributors to the Girls Education for Brighter Futures programme.

Education is the key to unlocking a brighter future for girls, women, communities, and nations. That's why GWI invites you to join its 500+Challenge: The Power of Many Empowering Education fundraiser. The fundraiser strives to rally the support of 500 compassionate individuals to make small, recurring donations to the GWI Girls Education for Brighter Futures Post-COVID-19 programme. For more than 100

years GWI and international network of graduate women have advocated for education rights and for the elimination of barriers to education for girls and lifelong learning for all women. Every contribution has the power to change lives. Whether it's \$5, \$10, \$20 per month your donation will directly support the GWI's Girls Education for Brighter Futures Post-COVID-19 programme. GWI invites you to visit the programme website [HERE](#) to learn more about the programme attributes and join the 500+Challenge. Together, let's empower girls, transform lives, and build a better world through education.

---

## — Dates and events worth noting —

---

10-19 July	High-Level Political Forum, United Nations, New York
15 July	World Youth Skills Day, Global
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

---

## Follow us on social media!



2023 Copyright. All Rights Reserved.

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

7-9, Chemin de Balxert, CH-1291, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland  
E-mail: [gwi@graduatewomen.org](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org) Website: [www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)

