



Graduate Women International

Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

GWI UPDATE – 2 August 2023



GWI's mission is to create collective impact by harnessing the power of 500 individual donors to amplify the impact of individual contributions on girls' education. **Join the challenge today!**

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

Save the Date: GWI Town Hall 13 September (Two Sessions)

All GWI members are encouraged to attend this engaging Town Hall with the GWI Board of Officers on 13 September. The theme of the event, “Transforming GWI’s Future through Member Conversation”, aims to foster a dynamic dialogue with GWI’s Board of Officers and GWI members. To accommodate as many members as possible two interactive sessions will be held. Please plan to attend the Town Hall to share your insights, voice your opinions and contribute to the collective vision of GWI. Click [HERE](#) to register for Session 1 that will be held at 6-7:00 a.m. CEST. Click [HERE](#) to register for Session 2 that will be held at 6-7:00 p.m. CEST. **Pre-questions are encouraged via the registration process.** The PDF flyer can be downloaded [HERE](#). The flyer can be seen at the bottom of the Update.

GWI marks Pan African Women’s Day by releasing a Press Release

Pan African Women's Day, celebrated on 31 July, pays tribute to the remarkable achievements of African women and the enduring legacy of the Foremothers of Africa. The Day was established by the Pan-African Women's Organization in Tanzania in 1962, highlighting their dedication to Africa's liberation and development. To mark the Day, GWI released a press release, urging action to support African women by promoting gender equality through access to education. GWI encourages reading the press release by clicking [HERE](#) for the English version or [HERE](#) for the French version.

— GWI Member News —

BFWG Greater London Association attends sculptor Sir Anthony Carlo’s exhibition in London



BFWG attends sculptor Sir Anthony Carlo's exhibition in Ealing, London

On 15 July the BFWG Greater London Association had the pleasure of attending sculptor Sir Anthony Carlo's exhibition in Ealing, London. Following the event, we were invited to enjoy a lovely tea at the home of Gail Sagar, former BFWG VP and current London LA/Local Association program organizer. Our time there was spent discussing upcoming events, which was both productive and informative. In the photo below, you can see Dr. Natalie Wright, Gail Sagar, GWI President Patrice Wellesley-Cole, and Yasmin Shariff from left to right.

Canadian Federation of University Women holds its Annual General meeting

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 7-9 July 2023. This AGM was a great success, thanks to the National Office team for their hard work and excellent contributions to run this event. Additionally, the Board had the opportunity to meet in person after the AGM. Joy Hurts, CFUW National President highlights in CFUW's newsletter that they "had a very productive retreat and made good headway in planning for the second year in the current biennium". GWI congratulates CFUW for holding this effective meeting.

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI participates in the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People

The 16th Session of the Expert Mechanisms on the Rights of Indigenous People (EMRIP) took place in-person on 17-21 July 2023 in Palais des Nations, Geneva. EMRIP was created in 2007 to provide the Human Rights Council with expertise and advice on the rights of Indigenous Peoples supporting the UN Declaration's goals. Additionally, the mechanism conducts studies to clarify key principles like self-determination and free, prior and informed consent. By examining, good practices and challenges, it suggests measures for States and others to adopt in laws, policies, and programs promoting Indigenous People's rights worldwide. GWI participated in a side event focused on the "Monitoring the Implementation of United Nations Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous People in Canada". During this event, the Panellists assessed the current status of Indigenous Rights in Canada. While they expressed considerable optimism about the advancements made, they also acknowledged the existence of significant challenges that demand efforts to be made. Of particular concern was the situation regarding the education of women and girls, and the situation of the province of Quebec was highlighted during the event. In fact, there is a dearth of concrete mechanisms such as programmes and fundraising initiatives aimed at facilitating higher-level educational opportunities for Indigenous women and girls.

GWI United Nations Representative appointed to NGO Committee for Social Development

On 19 May GWI United Nations Representative, New York, Maryella Hannum, was officially appointed to serve on NGO Committee for Social Development 2024 Civil Society Forum Subcommittee. The NGO Committee on Social Development was founded in 1998, soon after the Copenhagen United Nations World Summit for Social Development (March 1995). The Committee hosts the Civil Society Forum which creates a special space for civil society to interact with states members of United Nations Commission on Social Development and other multi-stakeholder. "We truly think that your [Maryella's] knowledge and expertise will contribute and elevate our committee's advocacy at the United Nations for the 62nd Commission for Social Development", wrote Jean Quinn, DW, Chair, NGO Committee for Social Development. **"I offer my congratulations to Maryella on her appointment to the NGO Committee for Social Development Committee. Her dedication and talent combined with her integrity have paved the way for this noteworthy appointment", said Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director. "She will represent GWI and our members well and make a positive impact on the committee", she added.**

— Give the gift of Education —

Give the gift of education to women and girls worldwide by contributing to the Girls' Education for Brighter Futures Post- COVID-19 programme, which directly supports GWI's international advocacy work and projects held throughout the world to remove socio-cultural, gender-related and economic barriers girls face towards education endeavours. GWI's goal is for 500 supporters to commit to a

moderate monthly donation. To learn more about the Girls Education for Brighter Futures project, click [HERE](#). Join the 500+Challenge today by clicking [HERE](#).

— Did you know? —

The logo of GWI was designed by the members of the Norwegian Federation for the Third Conference in Oslo in 1924. The delegates of the Norwegian Association presented themselves with a small, enamelled pin showing the lamp of learning in gold on a blue ground. This was adopted as the badge of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) (now Graduate Women International). The original badge showed an antique lamp that represents the lights of learning, and around the central disc, there was an interlinked chain symbolising the bonds of friendship linking IFUW members all around the world. Later, the logo was modernised, and the chain was dropped, to become the logo lamp known today.

— Dates and events —

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| 9 August | International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, Global |
| 11 Sept – 13 Oct | 54 th Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva |
| 18-19 September | SDG Summit, New York |
| 21 September | International Day of Peace |
| 5 October | World's Teachers Day |
| 11 October | International Day of the Girl |

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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

7-9, Chemin de Balexert, CH-1291, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

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





Graduate Women International (GWI)

Save the Date

(Open to all GWI Members)

GWV Virtual Town Hall 13 September 2023

 Session 1
6-7:00 a.m. CEST

 Session 2
6-7:00 p.m. CEST

 Registration links
below flyer.

Transforming GWI's Future Through Member Conversation



Patrice Wellesley-Cole, President



Nneka Chiedozi-Udeh, VP Fundraising



Ujwala Shinde, VP Governance



Mildred Asmah, VP Projects



Shirley Gillett, VP Education



Shruti Sonthalia, VP Marketing



Meera Bondre, VP Membership



Shaila Rao Mistry, VP Advocacy



Sudha Srivastava, Treasurer

Registration links found separately above or below, and in the Update write up, and also in the PDF flyer.

1. Click [HERE](#) to register for Session 1 to be held 6-7:00 a.m. CEST.
2. Click [HERE](#) to register for Session 2 to be held 6-7:00 p.m. CEST.