



GWI UPDATE – 27 September 2023



— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

Save the Date: GWI and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) “The role of community engagement in humanitarian settings” webinar

All GWI members are encouraged to attend the MSF / Doctors Without Borders webinar on 5 October at 5:00 p.m. Central European Summer Time (CEST). The webinar's theme, "The role of community engagement in humanitarian settings," is designed to foster meaningful engagement with GWI members and to provide insight into MSF's successful humanitarian operations that can be replicated by GWI affiliates. GWI is honoured to present distinguished speakers, including Mr. Harry Piwai, a committed humanitarian with a remarkable seven-year tenure as a Health Promotion and Information, Education, Communication Officer at MSF, and Ms. Lucy O'Connell, experienced Sexual and Reproductive Health nurse currently serving as a Key Populations Advisor in MSF Southern Africa Medical Unit. For further information, please consult the event flyer at the bottom of the Update. **GWI invites you to register for this rich and informative webinar by clicking [HERE](#).**

GWI marks International Day of Peace with press release advocating for peace through the pursuit of peace through Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4

The International Day of Peace, established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981 and celebrated annually on 21 September, was further designated in 2001 as a period of non-violence and cease-fire. This day is dedicated to commemorating and reinforcing the principles of peace within and among all nations and peoples. The 2023 theme, "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #Global Goals," focuses on how the SDGs are essential to preventing conflict and maintaining peace. To mark the Day, GWI released a press release under the headline, "Education has the power to inspire women and girls and pave the way for a future of enduring peace". The release advocates for achieving peace through the pursuit of SDGs, particularly SDG 4 which calls for inclusive and equitable quality education, and SDG 16, which aims to promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies. **GWI encourages reading and widely sharing the press release by clicking [HERE](#).**

— GWI Member News —

GWI Peer-to-Peer programme on Japanese culture and language offered by Beecken Mako from the Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW)

Did you know? In 2020 GWI launched the [Membership Marketplace](#), which includes the innovative Peer-to-Peer programme for members across the world to foster friendship, share skill sets and expertise. As a part of Peer-to-Peer activity, Mako will be offering online sessions on Japanese culture and language. The inaugural cultural session will take place on 25 October accommodating 50 participants. Whereas the Japanese language courses will take place on 1 November, 8 November, and 15 November accommodating 30 participants per class. The sessions will be 60 minutes long and will take place via Zoom beginning 9:00 a.m. Japan Standard Time (JST). To participate, GWI kindly requests interested members to register by emailing Pat Reavy at patreavy43@gmail.com with the subject "A Glimpse of Japanese Culture and Language" specifying which session(s) would you like to attend. Sign up today!

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI calls on States to Harness Sport's Potential and Positive Impact on Women and Girls Education in written statement to the Human Rights Council 54th Session (HRC54)

As a non-governmental organisation in Special Consultative status to the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947, GWI and 11 co-sponsoring organisations submitted a written statement to the HRC54, taking place from 11 September - 13 October 2023 at the UN in Geneva. In its written statement, GWI calls on States to harness the positive impact of sport on women and girls when integrated without bias into education systems. Furthermore, the statement calls attention to the intersectionality between various UN resolutions, mechanisms, and treaties that exemplify sport's positive impact on education. GWI aims to motivate States to increase support and funding for women and girls in sports by highlighting examples of remarkable role models. **The statement has received significant support and GWI invites you to read and widely share the statement [HERE](#).**

— Give the gift of Education —

GWI Teachers for Rural Futures (TFRF) Programme GlobalGiving Report



Class photo of students taught by TFRF student teacher.

Education is a powerful tool that transforms individuals, families, communities, and the entire society. It empowers every single woman and girl who has the opportunity, and it brings positive change to the community as a whole. GWI's TFRF program aims to increase the number of qualified female student teachers in Uganda by providing scholarships and mentoring to young women from rural areas for them to become qualified teachers and ambassadors for girls' education. **GWI invites readers to take a look at the latest programme report by clicking [HERE](#).** This report serves as a deeper insight into the Successful 2023 Summer Student Teaching Practice.

— Did you know? —



Virginia Gildersleeve

Virginia Gildersleeve, one of GWI (previously, International Federation of University Women) founding mothers in 1919, was a promoter of peace. She served as the only U.S. woman delegate to the conference that established the UN in 1945. She was chosen over other women primarily due to her interwar leadership of a gender-specific transnational nongovernmental organization. She was able to insert into the charter the following goals for people around the world: "higher standards of living, full employment, and conditions of economic and social progress and development." She also persuaded the delegates to adopt the following aim for the United Nations: "universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion".

— Dates and events —

11 Sept – 13 Oct	54 th Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva
5 October	World's Teachers Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl, Global
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Global
25 Nov-10 Dec.	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global



SAVE THE DATE

5 October 2023

WEBINAR

"The role of community engagement in humanitarian setting"

Discover how community-driven initiatives can transform education & health outcomes.



Harry Piwai Speaker
Dedicated humanitarian with seven years of impactful work as a Health Promotion and IEC officer at Médecin Sans Frontières.



Lucy O'Connell Speaker
Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) nurse. Currently works as a Key Populations Advisor in MSF Southern Africa Medical Unit (SAMU).



Patricia Wellesley-Cole
GWI President.



Stacy Dry Lara
Moderator.



5 October 2023



5 p.m. CEST
(Central European Summer Time)

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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.

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