Graduate Women International
Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

GWI UPDATE – 25 October 2023

From top to bottom, left to right: Maya Angelou, Shirley Anita St. Hill Chisholm, Toni Morrison, Miriam Makeba, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie and Lupita Nyong'o

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI celebrates Black History Month

While Black History Month has its roots in the United States, it is celebrated each October in various forms in many other countries. Black History Month is a vital and timely observance for Graduate Women International to acknowledge the achievements and contributions of Black individuals throughout history. Presently, GWI honours Patrice Wellesley-Cole, GWI's first Black president. Wellesley-Cole is British born, originally Sierra Leonean. She practised in Freetown, Sierra Leone as a lawyer in the 1980s. In 1989 she was elected the first GWI, then Federation of University Women, Vice President of African origin. This accolade led to her being made an Honorary Fellow of St. Hugh's College, Oxford, her Alma mater on the recommendation of Principal, Dame Elish Angiolini. She strongly believes that, 'highlighting black culture and history in education improves diversity and understanding between nations and helps to eradicate ignorance and discrimination'.

'History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again". - Maya Angelou

This years' European theme 'Saluting our Sisters' invites all to celebrate and highlight the achievements and contributions of Black women throughout history. To honour Black

History Month, GWI also pays tribute to the acclaimed American poet, storyteller, activist, and autobiographer Maya Angelou who left a significant impact on American culture and literature. As a civil rights activist, Angelou worked for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X. Throughout her life, Maya Angelou never ceased to defend the place of women and black people in American society.

GWI Peer-to-Peer programme on Japanese culture and language offered
In 2020 GWI launched the Membership Marketplace, which includes the 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, member Beecken Mako, JAUW, will be offering Japanese culture and language courses entitled, 'A Glimpse of Japanese Culture & Language' to all GWI members worldwide. Please refer to the flyer at the bottom of the Update for more information. **GWI encourages all GWI members to register for this enriching series by sending an email to Ms. Pat Reavy at patreavy43@gmail.com with the subject 'A Glimpse of Japanese Culture and Language' specifying which session(s) in which you want to participate.**

GWI organises the 'UNITE! Educate to End Violence against Women and Girls' poster campaign. Deadline to submit 31 October.
Beginning with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (VAW) on 25 November and ending with Human Rights Day on 10 December, the 16 Days of Activism against GBV (16 Days of Activism) is a widespread, annual movement for the international community to centre its efforts on eliminating violence against women and girls around the world. As a part of the 2023 16 Days of Activism, all GWI National Federations and Associations (NFA) members and Independent Members globally are invited to take part in the poster campaign. The objective of the campaign is to increase awareness about the rising incidents of GBV and VAW and encourage prevention and elimination. Posters will be distributed globally to GWI networks for maximum impact. **Please click HERE to learn more about the poster campaign. We already have several posters submitted, hurry up and be the next one!**

GWI marks United Nations Day 2023
GWI has a longstanding commitment to the United Nations (UN) and has maintained Special Consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council since 1947. This commitment aligns with UN Day, celebrated 24 October each year, commemorating the 1945 UN Charter. The day serves as an opportunity to honour the UN's accomplishments and promote the principles of peace, cooperation, and diplomacy, underlining. To mark the day, GWI organised a social media campaign that included related UN facts and advocacy ideas on how the work of the UN can be promoted. UN Day might have passed yet every day is an opportunity to support the work of the UN. We encourage you to follow GWI on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

— GWI Member News —

Applications are now open for the 2024 JAUW Fellowship!
The JAUW established the International Fellowship Program on 1 April 1987. The objective

of the programme is to allow promising non-Japanese women researchers/graduate students to conduct research in Japan by providing them with a fellowship. Those selected for the programme will be invited to spend 4-6 months in residence in a research institute/university in Japan. **Click HERE for application details.**

Save the Date! Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative webinar organised by the Canadian Federation of University Women E-Club and the University Women's Club of Vancouver
On 17 November all GWI members are invited to join Ms. Cathy Peters, a former inner city high school teacher, advocate and author. She has made over 650 presentations on human trafficking for sexual exploitation to more than 20,000 people. She has also connected with all city counsellors and Members of the Legislative Assembly in British Columbia and all Canadian Members of Parliament and senators. We encourage all our members to join us at the webinar which will be held at 6:00 p.m. Central European Time (CET) on 17 November. Please see the flyer at the bottom of the Update. **GWI invites you to register for this rich and informative webinar by clicking HERE.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

2023 UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Action Weekend and SDG Summit
Report submitted by Louise McLeod, former GWI Vice President Advocacy and Education
Louise McLeod, former GWI Vice President Advocacy and Education, and member of Women Graduates-USA offers her in-depth summary of the 2023 UN SDG Action Weekend and SDG Summit. The event, which generated opportunities for stakeholders, UN entities, and Member States to convene inside the UN headquarters in New York, established specific commitments and contributions to drive SDG transformation between now and 2030. The SDG Action Weekend consisted of the SDG Mobilisation Day on Saturday on 16 September, and the SDG Acceleration Day on 17 September. **For a comprehensive analysis of the event, GWI invites you to click HERE. GWI thanks McLeod for sharing this exceptional report with our worldwide audience.**

— Give the Gift of Membership —

Give the gift of membership to the outstanding graduate women in your life! GWI membership allows graduate women to join the leading women's international organisation that works to empower girls and women through access to lifelong, quality education and training. Give the gift of membership to become part of a global community of some 8,000 members in 60 countries, either as a GWI independent Member or national member of one of our NFAs.

— Did you know? —

Educator **Mary Jane Patterson** is considered to be the first African American woman to receive a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) when she graduated from Oberlin College in 1862. Although Patterson's early years are unclear, it is believed that she was born in Raleigh, North Carolina in 1840. As a young girl, she arrived in Oberlin, Ohio with her family during the mid-1850s. In 1857 she completed a year of preparatory coursework at Oberlin College. Rather than transitioning into Oberlin's two-year program for women, she enrolled in the school's 'gentlemen's course,' a four-year programme of classical studies that led to a B.A. with high honours in 1862. Patterson pursued a career as an educator and also got involved in women's rights, helping to found the Colored Women's League of Washington, D.C. She died at the age of 54 on 24 September 1894.

— Dates and events —

17 November	International Students Day, Global
19 November	World Toilet Day, Global
20 November	World Children's Day, Global
25 November	End Violence Against Women Day
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global
18 December	International Migrants Day, Global
20 December	Human Solidarity Day, Global

Graduate Women International
Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

cfuw E-CLUB

SAVE THE DATE

17 November 2023

THE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB *of* VANCOUVER *at* HYCROFT

Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative Webinar

Graduate Women International members worldwide are invited to join Ms. Cathy Peters, who describes herself as mother bear and who is determined to end the horrific exploitation often referred to as modern day slavery, for the anti-human trafficking webinar.

Ms. Cathy Peters, is a former inner city high school teacher, advocate and author. She has made over 650 presentations on human trafficking for sexual exploitation to more than 20,000 people. She has connected with all city counsellors and Members of the Legislative Assembly in British Columbia and all Canadian Members of Parliament and senators.

This Zoom webinar hosted by GWI is brought to you by the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) E-Club and the University Women's Club of Vancouver.

Friday	*Zoom*	*Time*
17 November		6 PM CET

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER

Graduate Women International

Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

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

SAVE THE FOUR DATES

Please refer to the list below for dates and times of the four courses to take place in October and November 2023. To check the date/time in your location, copy and paste to your web browser https://savvytime.com/

In 2020 GWI launched the Membership Marketplace, which includes the 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, Beecken Mako, JAUW, will be offering an online course of Japanese language and culture entitled, "A Glimpse of Japanese Culture & Language" to all the GWI members worldwide. There will be four sessions as per the below. **Please note that times are listed in Japan Standard Time and Eastern Time.**

To register please email Ms. Pat Reavy at patreavy43@gmail.com

Session 1
Inaugural Cultural Session (capacity: 50 participants)
25 October (Wednesday) 9:00-10:00am Japanese Standard Time
24 October (Tuesday) 20:00-21:00 Eastern Time

Session 2
Language Class 1 (capacity: 30 participants)
1 November (Wednesday) 9:00-10:00am Japanese Standard Time
31 October (Tuesday.) 20:00-21:00 Eastern Time

Session 3
Language Class 2 (capacity: 30 participants)
8 November (Wednesday) 9:00-10:00am Japanese Standard Time
7 November (Tuesday) 19:00-20:00 Eastern Time

Session 4
Language Class 3 Summary (capacity: 30 participants)
15 November (Wednesday) 9:00-10:00am Japanese Standard Time
14 November (Tuesday) 19:00-20:00 Eastern Time

© 2023 Graduate Women International. All rights reserved.

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 Balexert, CH-1291, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

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