



Graduate Women International  
Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

**GWI UPDATE – 11 October 2023**



# International Day of The Girl

**11 October 2023**

**2023 Theme: "Invest in Girls' Rights:  
Our Leadership, Our Well-Being"**

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— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

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## **GWI marks 2023 International Day of Girl (IDOG)**

The IDOG was first observed on 11 October, 2011, as a result of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopting Resolution 66/170. Since then, it has been celebrated annually to recognise girls' rights and is a reminder to the international community of the unique challenges girls face around the world. The 2023 is timely and a call to, *"Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-Being"*. **For 2023, GWI student teachers from its Teachers for Rural Futures programme offer their sentiments about what IDOG means to them. Their remarkable insight can be read [HERE](#).**

## **GWI hosts webinar with Médecin sans Frontières (MSF)**

On 5 October, in collaboration with MSF, GWI hosted a webinar on, *"The role of community engagement in humanitarian settings"*. Expert speakers from MSF were 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. Both fostered meaningful engagement with GWI members and provided insight into MSF's humanitarian work in Africa including menopausal women. The webinar garnered a 90% excellent / very good satisfaction rating among GWI member participants. **The webinar recording can be seen on the GWI Vimeo channel [HERE](#).**

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

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, Beecken Mako, JAUW, will be offering an online introductory 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.** To confirm the time in your area click [HERE](#).

1. 25 October (W) 9:00 - 10:00 JST Inaugural cultural session (capacity: 50 participants)
2. 1 November (W) 9:00 - 10:00 JST Language Class 1 (capacity: 30 participants)
3. 8 November (W) 9:00 - 10:00 JST Language Class 2 (capacity: 30 participants)
4. 15 November (W) 9:00 - 10:00 JST Language Class 3: Summary (capacity: 30 participants)

We encourage all GWI members to register for this enriching event by sending an email to Ms. Pat Reavy at [patreavy43@gmail.com](mailto:patreavy43@gmail.com) with the subject "A Glimpse of Japanese Culture and Language" specifying which session(s) you want to participate in!

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **GWI organises the "UNITE! Educate to End Violence against Women and Girls" poster campaign**

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. Since 1991, the 16 Days of Activism have united the voices of millions of women and girls to raise awareness about GBV, eliminate it in all forms and demand equal protection for women and girls from GBV. 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.**

### **GWI Young Member Network (YMN) organises the 2023 YMN Meet and Greet Session**



The (YMN) will be hosting a Meet and Greet session on Saturday 21 October at 4 pm CEST. This is a wonderful opportunity for all young members to virtually meet with each other, share interests and the opportunities to collaborate. Moreover, it can be a great occasion to learn more about YMN, goals, programme of events, and actively participate. **Please click [HERE](#) to register for the session. To read the YMN President Ms. Sudha Srivastava's letter and**

learn more about the upcoming events, opportunities and information, please click [HERE](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **UN Announces High Impact Initiatives for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Transformations**

Achievement of the 2030 SDGs is at risk. To address this, and in anticipation of the upcoming SDG Summit 2023, the UN issued a report on High Impact Initiatives that provided information for this summary. The intent was to demonstrate that transformative SDG progress is possible and to mobilise further leadership, investment, and support for impact at scale. The selected initiatives address six transitions, one cross-cutting topic, and five enablers key to driving progress on the SDGs. The six transitions are as follows: Energy Compacts, Biodiversity & Nature, Transforming Education, Social Protection & Jobs, Food Systems – Integrate, Digital Public Infrastructure. The cross-cutting topic is violence against women. **For a more in-depth look at the transitions, the cross-cutting topic and to see the five enabler goals GWI invites you to click [HERE](#). GWI thanks Maureen Byrne, GWI UN Representative, New York for this comprehensive report.**

### **GWI Guest, Joy Yang, UN Reporter attends the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2023**

During the HLPF 2023, the pressing issue of gender inequality was highlighted from various angles. The COVID-19 pandemic acted as a catalyst, exacerbating existing challenges and underscoring the interconnected nature of the SDGs. Gender equality is a critical goal that requires innovative and unconventional approaches and it follows that to effectively close the gender gap, new models, standards, and evaluations are required. Furthermore, emphasising the involvement of men and boys in these conversations is crucial. To foster true gender equality, it is essential to address the responsibility that males bear in creating a respectful and equitable society. Finally, the importance of starting gender equity education, sex education, and reproductive health programs early in children's education was stressed. This early intervention is crucial in creating a society that fosters gender equality. **GWI thanks guest reporter, Joy Yan and invites discovering her comprehensive report [HERE](#).**

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## — Give the Gift of Education —

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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](#).

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## — Did you know? —

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## UNESCO Internship opportunities

Do you want to intern and make a difference? The UNESCO Internship Programme is a learning opportunity for students and recent graduates to learn about UNESCO's mandate, programmes and processes as well as enhance their academic and technical knowledge through practical assignments. Please click [HERE](#) to learn more about it and to apply.

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## — Dates and events —

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11 Sept – 13 Oct	54 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva
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
24 October	United Nations Day
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global

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GW, 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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