GWI UPDATE – 8 November 2023

GWI Young Members Network Monthly Conversation Series 2023 - “Growing Together”
With great enthusiasm, the GWI Young Member Network (YMN) launched a new monthly conversation series under the theme "Growing Together" with its first session held as Meet & Greet in October. Each month, the YMN will spotlight one to two young members, with an interactive session sharing their work or expertise, offering collaboration opportunities with other network members and much more. Sessions are for one hour, relaxed and can be joined via Zoom from anywhere. The series is “By Young Members, For Young Members”. It is held in alternating morning or afternoon sessions each month to allow fair participation of all GWI time zones. The series is open to all GWI young members from National Federations or Associations (NFA) and Independent Members. New members interested in joining GWI are also welcome. The next session will be on 25 November 11:00 a.m. Central European Time (CET). Please see the flyer at the bottom of the Update for details. Click HERE for the registration link.

“We encourage all GWI NFAs to help their young members to actively participate and utilise the GWI platform”, Sudha Srivastava, President, YMN.

Last session! GWI Peer-to-Peer programme on Japanese culture and language
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, is offering Japanese culture and language courses entitled, “A Glimpse of Japanese Culture & Language” to all GWI members worldwide. One last class will be offered on 15 November.
Meet and April's next was will with Treasurer, friendly Stoican, from the and gender session to the provided president in of Anne Guler, Ba welcome brief of host in Turkey, Republic the women. focus current Paul aims to advocate Ms. will sexual exploitation. Club GWI members all join November at Reavy the dedication acceptance new and University and President, in of Istanbul parliamentary Nazan Moroğlu, the Convention”. crisis, remember IBA Bar Association. From Dr. Bahar Negre, University London and law, Dr. Annelies Pierrot-Bults for her seven years dedication as UWE Treasurer. It was announced that next April’s Meet and Greet will be

― GWI Member News ―

Save the Date! Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation conversation
On 17 November all GWI members are invited to join the Canadian Association of University Women (CFUW) E-Club and the University Women’s Club of Vancouver for conversation about human trafficking for sexual exploitation. Speakers will include renowned former inner high school teacher, advocate and author, Ms. Cathy Peters, who has given over 650 presentations on human trafficking for sexual exploitation to more than 20,000 people, and award-winning Canadian country music artist and founder of Not in My City, Paul Brandt. Not in My City is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that aims to end sexual exploitation. Also presenting will be Janine Benedet, lawyer and professor at University of British Columbia Peter A. Allard School of Law. Her expertise includes civil law and labour law with a current focus on sexual violence against women. The conversation will be held on 17 November at 6:00 p.m. Central European Time (CET). Please see the flyer at the bottom of the Update for additional information about the speakers. GWI invites you to register to join this important conversation by clicking HERE.

University Women Europe holds conference and Annual General Assembly
Report submitted by Aisha Alshawaf, Vice President for University Women Europe, Convenor, GWI Project Development Committee
The University Women Europe (UWE) 2023 conference was held on 5-7 October on the centenary of the creation of Republic of Turkey, hosted by the Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) with a theme, “Peace, Equality, Solidarity and Women”.

The conference began with a brief welcome from Dr. Başak Ovacık, TAUW Convenor of International Relations, Meral Guler, TAUW President, Esen Deger Alpagut, TAUW İzmir Branch President, and Dr. Anne Negre, UWE President. Lectures followed by Dr Ovacık and Nazan Moroğlu, past president of TAUW, specialist in gender equality law, member of the parliamentary union advisory committee on gender equality, and past Vice President of the Istanbul Bar Association. Both speakers took participants through the history and milestone events in women’s rights, ranging from the 1926 civil code that provided equal rights and the progress of education in Turkey as it moved from religious to secular ethos. Phrases to remember from the presenters, “For equal right peace is a must” and “We need solidarity and cooperation in the way to gender equality.” The next session was about women in crisis, with a formidable panel including moderator Feride Acar, Professor Emeritus Political Science, CEDAW President, and contributor to the writing and implementing the Istanbul Convention”.

The UWE Annual General Meeting (AGM) included governance items with the election of a new Treasurer, Georgeta Stoican, lawyer from Romania, who gave friendly words of acceptance and thanks with gratitude paid to Annelies Pierrot-Bults for her seven years dedication as UWE Treasurer. It was announced that next April’s Meet and Greet will be

Please refer to the flyer at the bottom of the Update for more information. To register for the last class please send an email to Ms. Pat Reavy at patreavy43@gmail.com with the subject “A Glimpse of Japanese Culture and Language.”
hosted by the Marbella Association of Spain, and the conference and AGM in Albania.

“It was a very good conference with a high level of extremely knowledgeable speakers, the Turkish members were very friendly and engaging. We had an enjoyable evening meal with music at a local restaurant overlooking the sea front,” said Alshawaf. To read the event’s comprehensive summary submitted by Alshawaf, please click HERE.

— GWI at the United Nations —

Committee on the Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) holds 88 Pre-Sessional Working Group (PSWG): GWI reports on Ireland, Israel and Mexico
The Convention on Discrimination against Women is the most significant United Nations (UN) human rights treaty for women and comprises 189 state parties who have ratified the convention, each committing to report on the progress they have made in implementing the CEDAW within their State. During its sessions, CEDAW considers each State report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the States in the form of binding observations. From 30 October to 3 November 2023, CEDAW held its 88th pre-sessional working group where three GWI NFA countries were reviewed: Ireland, Israel and Mexico. The pre-sessional working group provides an opportunity for NGOs to provide oral information in closed meeting. A brief summary of reports is below followed by a link to a more comprehensive report.

Since 2014, Ireland has strengthened its legal frameworks, institutions and comprehensive policy to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (UN Women). GWI notes, however, that there is room for improvement in Ireland’s use of digital technology to support learning and teaching as it is significantly lower than the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and European Union averages. The report submitted by Israel to CEDAW is applaudable and prepared with insights from critical data. However, GWI highlights some shortcomings. The report overlooks the importance of increasing the number of female teachers who can serve as influential role models for female students, motivating more students to attend school and inspiring other women to pursue teaching roles. Mexico is the second most populated country in Latin America, with over 120 millions inhabitants as of 2015 data and 51,4% of which are women. GWI voices concern over the lack of measures the Mexican government is taking to address and alleviate the gap between Mexicans girls living in rural areas that tend to be less educated than their male counterparts. GWI interns, Marie Mihalcea (France) and Sonia Timalsina (Nepal), prepared a comprehensive report of the CEDAW 88th PSWF. Please take a moment to read this comprehensive and exceptional report HERE.

— Give the Gift of Membership —

The GWI Independent Member network is growing with many new members joining from around the world over the past few months. A thoughtful holiday gift for the graduate woman in your life is GWI membership. There are many benefits of being a member of GWI including belonging to an influential international NGO comprised of graduate women
influencing policy and legislation on women’s issues at the international level, and gaining an international perspective of women’s issues through networking activities. Click [HERE](#) to find out how to join GWI a GWI NFA or as an Independent Member.

— Did you know? —

GWI offers its thanks to our intern Sonia Timalsina. “I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to intern at GWI. This experience has been truly invaluable, gearing me with the skills and knowledge needed to take the next significant step in my life. As I prepare to take my bar exam in December, I am committed to creating a meaningful and positive impact in the lives of young girls and women. Thank you to the entire GWI family and my special gratitude to Ms. Stacy who has been my source of inspiration and motivation since the day of my interview”, writes Sonia. “I offer my thanks and congratulations to Sonia for her exceptional contributions to GWI during her three-month internship”, says Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director. **GWI wishes Sonia all the best and the utmost success on her bar exam in December, and all future endeavours.**

— Dates and events —

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<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
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<td>20 November</td>
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<td>25 November</td>
<td>End Violence Against Women Day</td>
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<td>25 Nov-10 Dec</td>
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GWI Young Members Network (YMN) invites you to...

**YMN Monthly Conversation Series**

**“GROWING TOGETHER”**

“Women helping women: Our role as Young GWI Members”

**Spotlight Speaker**

**Charity Abraham**
Young Member from Ghana Association of University Women (GAUW)

Assistant Registrar & PhD Candidate in Business Administration at University of Cape Coast, Ghana

Expertise: Human Resource Strategist

**Session Moderator**

**Tzazil Valencia**
Young Member from Mexican Federation of University Women

**SCHEDULE**

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2023
11 AM CET
(CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME)

**REGISTRATION LINK:**
HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/SJ/1980438203
PWD:QIJUSOPJEAJNNT7QJUBLG52QZOUTQ0

**YOUNG MEMBERS ONLY**
GWU 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

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Join Us: Friday, November 17, 2023, 6:00P.M. Central European Time (CET)
Please copy and paste into your browser this time converter to determine your specific local time
https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html

You are invited to join Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) E-Club &
the University Women’s Club of Vancouver for a conversation on

Human Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation

Cathy Peters
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 and describes herself as a
mother bear who is determined to end this horrific exploitation
often referred to as modern day slavery.

Paul Brandt
The most awarded male Canadian country music artist in history.
The result of his travels around the world, seeing the impact of
decriminalization of the sex industry, led him to start "Not in my
City" in Calgary, Alberta an NGO with a mission to end sexual
exploitation.

Janine Benedet
Lawyer and professor at UBC Peter A. Allard School of Law, Janine’s
areas of teaching expertise include criminal law, labour law, the law
of sexual offences and legal ethics. Her current research focuses on
sexual violence against women, including prostitution, pornography,
and sexual assault. She is a member of the British Columbia bar and
engages in pro bono litigation in sexual violence cases.

This Zoom conversation is hosted by Graduate Women International, is brought to you by
the CFUW E-Club & the University Women’s Club of Vancouver.

Register HERE for November 17th at 6:00P.M. CET
with your Name and Club.
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvf
-GrpjqjH9diM4atyfmirOuyHlmJ9fXQ#/registration
Follow us on social media!

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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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