



Graduate Women International

Empowering women & girls through lifelong education

GWl UPDATE – 8 November 2023



University Women Europe's conference and Annual General Assembly held on 5-7 October in Izmir

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWl Young Members Network Monthly Conversation Series 2023 - "Growing Together"

With great enthusiasm, the GWl 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 GWl time zones. The series is open to all GWl young members from National Federations or Associations (NFA) and Independent Members. New members interested in joining GWl 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 GWl NFAs to help their young members to actively participate and utilise the GWl platform", Sudha Srivastava, President, YMN.

Last session! GWl Peer-to-Peer programme on Japanese culture and language

In 2020 GWl 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 GWl members worldwide. **One last class will be offered on 15 November.**

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".

— 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 (CAUW) 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 Izmir 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

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 Timalisina (Nepal)**, prepared a comprehensive report of the CEDAW 88th PSWG. 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? —



Sonia Timalisina, GWI Fall Intern 2023

GWI offers its thanks to our intern Sonia Timalisina. "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 —

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

GWJ Young Members Network (YMN) invites you to...

YMN Monthly Conversation Series ***“GROWING TOGETHER”***

“Women helping women: Our role as Young GWJ 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



SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2023

11 AM CET

(CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME)

REGISTRATION LINK:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/89063142325?
PWD=QUJUSGPEWMJNNTYRQU9LRG52QMZOUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89063142325?pwd=QUJUSGPEWMJNNTYRQU9LRG52QMZOUT09)

YOUNG MEMBERS ONLY





Graduate Women International
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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



THE UNIVERSITY
WOMEN'S CLUB
of VANCOUVER
at H Y C R O F T

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/tZEvfGrpgjH9diM4afymirOuyHlmJ9fXG#/registration>



Friday
17 November



Zoom



Time
6 PM CET

Follow us on social media!



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Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace.

GWl, 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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