



**GWI UPDATE – 3 January 2024**

**Special Edition: 2023 Year-at-a-Glance**



## GWI Legacy of Peace: Promoting Peace through Education



**A bit of history:** Graduate Women International (GWI), founded in 1919, is based on promoting peace between all nations. WWI had just ended; Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, Professor Caroline Spurgeon, and Rose Sidgwick sat together in 1918 and conceived the idea of a worldwide organisation uniting university women, fostering friendship and understanding to help prevent another such catastrophe.

**GWI stands unwavering with women worldwide, fostering solidarity and education, recognizing women's role in peace building, and contributing to a more harmonious and non-violent future.**

## GWI at the United Nations

GWI actively participated in **three** Human Rights Councils (Geneva), Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Economic and Social Council, High-Level Political Forum, Commission for Social Development, Sustainable Development Goal Summit, UNICEF (New York); Conference on NGOs and UNESCO (Paris); Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna), and more.



- ✓ Submitted **7 written statements** and delivered **1 oral intervention** to the United Nations and its mechanisms.
- ✓ Actively participated in **CSW67**, submitting **1 written** statement garnering **12 cosponsors**. Organised **2 CSW67 parallel events**, with GWI affiliates organising **4 more**.
- ✓ Submitted **3 comprehensive recommendations** for GWI affiliates under review by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- ✓ Represented GWI at the **Business and Human Rights** session and **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** session at the United Nations of Geneva
- ✓ Some **20 reports** covering United Nations attendances submitted by GWI United Nations Representatives in Geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna.
- ✓ GWI continued serving as **President, NGO Committee on Human Rights** and **Senior Advisor to the NGO CSW Geneva Bureau**.

**GWI thanks United Nations representatives Maureen Byrne, Maryella Hannum, Elisabeth Francis, Reinhild Strauss, Dominique Ciavatti, Eliane Didier, and Helen Lom for their contributions.**

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## GWI Membership



### GWI fosters an active and engaged member community.

- ✓ Successfully onboarded independent members from **35 countries**. Maintained National Federations and Associations (NFAs) in **48 countries**.
- ✓ Facilitated **7 engaging** member Discussion Network dialogs on topics critical to women and girls' relevant topics, such as for World Teachers' Day.
- ✓ Membership Marketplace continued the successful **Spanish-Speaking Culture Bridge** NFA-to-NFA Project, commenced the **Connexion Francophone Project**, and held a **4-part Japanese Language and Culture** course as a Peer-to-Peer activity.
- ✓ Organised **12 webinars**, with participation from **609 members**; **95%** of webinar participants would recommend GWI's webinars.
- ✓ GWI affiliates in **Switzerland (Basel and Geneva sections)** and **South Africa** celebrated **100 years**. **Women Graduates-USA** celebrated **15 years**.

## Young Member Network (YMN)

GWI YMN is comprised of passionate pro-active female change-makers from over **25 countries** across the globe, advocating for issues impacting young women/girls. Under the leadership of YMN President, Sudha Srivastava, 2023 highlights of the network include:

- ✓ More than **20 new young members** joined in 2023; all YMN receive regular communications via the YMN President's Letter who also shares important news/opportunities with the network.
- ✓ Hosted YMN parallel event at CSW67 titled, **"Gender Equality in Digital Education: Young Women and Financial Challenges"**.
- ✓ **5 young members**, including YMN President Sudha Srivastava, participated in CSW67 in New York in-person.
- ✓ YMN celebrated **International Youth Day 2023** taking centre stage with a video project under the theme, **"Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World"**.
- ✓ Launched a new YMN monthly Conversation Series titled, **"Growing Together"**.
- ✓ Hold regular **Meet & Greet** session for new members.



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## GWI Communications



GWI's mission is propelled forward through a robust communication and social media strategy that includes multiple weekly informational posts, marking of significant international Days of Observance, and press releases, all that passionately foster GWI's 104-year mission of peace through education.

- ✓ Posted some **1100** social media posts published across Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn.
- ✓ Audience engagement on Facebook and Instagram **increased by 23%**, while the Update newsletter engagement reached **40%**, documenting a **5% increase** since 2022.
- ✓ Published **8 press releases** highlighting GWI critical viewpoints on education.
- ✓ Distributed **26 Update newsletters**, totaling some **210 informational write-ups**.

## GWI International Advocacy



In tandem with activities at United Nations campuses, GWI executes a comprehensive global advocacy strategy.

- ✓ Produced Hate Speech Policy Paper with support from UN Under-Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide.
- ✓ Ran the **"UNITE: Educate to End Violence against Women and Girls"** poster campaign for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.
- ✓ Marked **23 annual Days of Observance**, with messaging powerful messaging aimed to reduce barriers in education .
- ✓ Published **10 infographics** in furtherance Days of Observance, of which **6** were featured on the **Women's United Nations Report Network**.



## GWI Projects and Grants

- ✓ **Teacher for Rural Futures**  
Onboarded **2** new students. **Three** student teachers participated in **summer student teaching practice**.
- ✓ **Hegg Hoffett Committee**  
Hegg Hoffet Committee reviewed nearly **50** applications and interviewed **5 candidates** eligible for grants.
- ✓ **Bina Roy Partners in Development**  
Call for 2024 Bina Roy Partners in Development projects applications issued. The programme will support **5 new projects**.
- ✓ **500+Challenge: Power of Many Empowering Education**  
Launched **500+Challenge** fundraising campaign for the **GWI Girls Education for Brighter Futures** programme benefiting 1000s of women and girls annually.
- ✓ **Awards**  
Nominated by the **Royal African Society** for the **2024 Earthshot Environmental Prize**.



Teachers for Rural Futures  
Student Teachers

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## GWI Leadership, Staff, and Interns

### Seven 2023-2025 Board Members



**Patrice Wellesley-Cole**, President, **Mildred Asmah**, Vice President, Projects, **Meera Bondre**, Vice President, Membership, **Shirley Gillett**, Vice President, Education, **Shaila Rao Mistry**, Vice President, Advocacy, **Ujwala Shinde**, Vice President, Legal & Governance, **Sudha Srivastava**, Treasurer



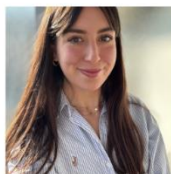
### Staff

**Stacy Dry Lara**, Executive Director



### Six 2023 Interns

GWI's mission is fueled by the invaluable support and contributions of its inspiring 2023 interns. We offer appreciation to: (from left to right): **Alexis Chelle (U.S.A.)**, **Salomé Delsaux (France)**, **Paloma Martial (France)**, **Marie Mihalcea (France)**, **Sophia Schaaper (Netherlands)**, and **Sonia Timalisina (Nepal)**.



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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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