



GWI UPDATE – 17 January 2024



Dr. Vinaybala Mehta
1932-2023

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI honours Dr. Vinaybala Mehta

It is with deep sadness that GWI shares the passing of Dr. Vinaybala Mehta, a cherished donour to GWI. Her generous contributions played a pivotal role in advancing GWI's mission to create a world where every woman has the opportunity to access quality education and realise her full potential.

Dr. Vinaybala Mehta was a 3-time Fulbright Scholar, the former President of the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA), Vice-President and Managing Trustee of the UWA, Pune, Teacher Educator of University College of Education, Nagpur, retired Principal of the SNTD College, Pune.

Dr. Mehta has had an illustrious career in education and educational institutions. She pioneered in development of Research Aptitude Inventory and was actively associated with University Grants Commission (UGC), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT). She guided students and her many doctoral students have excelled in their fields and done her proud. She has also done a lot of work in Training the Trainers, in the education field. She had actively participated in several GWI Triennial and Regional Conferences. Dr. Mehta was full of positive energy and led an active life till the age of 91 years.

Always the leader by example, she kickstarted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Fund of the GWI by donating 'seed money' towards this Fund, with the hope that the fund will be used for pursuing projects and education of trainers. She hoped that this fund and its activities will grow multifold in the coming years and enable GWI to make a meaningful impact with well-chosen and executed SDG projects and training of women for such projects.

GWI Young Members Network (YMN) continues Monthly Conversation Series

On the heels of the successful 2023 "Growing Together" Conversation Series, the GWI YMN is continuing its monthly Conversation Series under the theme "Exploring the Rich Tapestry of Spanish Society". This next instalment of the series will welcome two speakers from the Spanish Federation of University Women, Alba Benitez Boldo and Maia Klaus Kutz. Conversation Series sessions are for one hour, relaxed and can be joined via Zoom from anywhere. 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 20 January 4:00 p.m.** Central European Time (CET). **Please see the flyer at the bottom of the Update for additional 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.

GWI releases 2023 Year-at-a-Glance

On 3 January 2024, GWI released its 2023 Year-at-a-Glance publication. This comprehensive publication summarises GWI's achievements, milestones, and impactful initiatives throughout 2023. **We invite you to explore and share the publication that showcases GWI's commitment to empowering women and girls through education. The link is [HERE](#).**

"GWI graciously thanks its Board of Officers, committees, members, staff, and interns for being part of our 2023 success, and we look forward to another year of continued progress and meaningful contributions", says Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director.

— GWI Member News —

Graduate Women Fiji (GWF) wins STEM Education Champion Award

Submitted by GWF President, Rosalia Fatiaki, and Maria Ronna Luna Pastorizo-Sekiguchi

GWF bagged the prestigious STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education Champion Award in the 2023 inaugural Women in Tech Awards which was organised by Outsource Fiji and was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel Suva in December. Since its inception in 1983, GWF has been a beacon of empowerment with its hard working members voluntarily giving their time and efforts to improve the quality of life for women and girls in Fiji through lifelong education. A big part of GWF's significant portfolio is their work in STEM. The GWF Scholarship Fund, for example, supports young women studying in non-traditional fields and also promotes gender equality and leadership. The support is provided to girls who come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds who are

pursuing a qualification in a non-traditional discipline at local universities and institutions. GWF believes that if women are to be empowered so they can contribute effectively to leadership and decision-making in society, they need to be supported in education, particularly in areas where there is low female participation. Since its inception in 2004, the Fund has successfully supported 21 young women studying in male-dominated fields. Winning this award from Women in Tech is a testament to GWF's grit and determination in continuing to be a champion for women and girls in education even during times of hardship. GWF has persevered because they believe in one simple yet powerful truth - educating women and girls can transform families, communities, and the world. **GWI congratulates GWF on this exceptional achievement. To read more about GWF's award click [HERE](#).**

Egyptian Association of University Women (EAUW) hosts successful seminar on violence against women

On 18 November 2023 in the largest cultural palace in Alexandria, Egypt, (Elanfoushy), the EAUW held a seminar on violence against women featuring lecturer, Dr. Safaa Abdel Hamid. GWI invites you to read this brief overview of the seminar submitted by EAUW:



From left to right: Attendee, Mrs Koutelkloub Abdel Megeed, Dr. Safaa Abdel Hamid, lecturer, Prof. Dr. Thanaa Ezz president of EAUW , other attendees interested in the event.

“Violence against women and girls is the most widespread human rights violation around the world. Although many countries have issued laws to combat violence against women, discriminatory customs and traditions still represent major problems. At the global level, an estimated 736 million women, or approximately one in three women, have been exposed

to physical and/or sexual violence by their husbands, sexual violence by other individuals, or both.

Violence against women has also increased in various environments, including in the workplace and on the Internet, as a global study conducted by the Economic Research Unit found that 38% of women have faced personal experiences of violence via the Internet and that 85% of women who spend time online have witnessed Violence against other women

According to the results of the Egyptian Family Health Survey 2022, three out of every ten ever-married women in the age group 15-49 reported that they had been exposed to violence by their husbands, and 26% reported that they had been exposed to physical violence, 22% had been exposed to verbal violence, and 6% had been exposed to sexual violence. About a third of women who have been exposed to violence since the age of 15 have sought help to deal with the violence. Violence does not only affect the assaulted woman, but its impact extends to include her children, her family, her

community, and other women's feeling of threat and fear that they will also be exposed to violence. This impact goes beyond the limits of physical and psychological harm, but it leaves a clear imprint as a material cost. These practices help determine the true scale of the problem and its impact on society and provide a new and powerful dimension to understanding the legal, health and other consequences of violence against women and calling for taking the necessary measures to combat violence against women". **GWI congratulates EAUW for hosting an event on such a relevant topic. Please click [HERE](#) to access the comprehensive summary submitted by EAUW.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI submits written statement to the Commission for Social Development (CSocD)

The CSocD is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The Commission serves as the primary inter-governmental body to deliberate upon and strengthen international cooperation on social development issues. Annually, GWI actively participates in the Committee's work through submitting written statements and with attendances by GWI United Nations Representatives, Maureen Byrne and Maryella Hannum, who bring expertise on issues related to women's education, empowerment, and gender equality to the discussions. The 62nd CSocD will take place from 5 to 14 February.

With the aim to use its global network of graduate women to influence the Commission, government policies, and initiatives that promote women's rights and gender equality in the context of social development, GWI submitted a written statement for this year's Commission titled, Unlocking the Potential and Power of Education as the Key to Social Development and Poverty Eradication. Through this statement, GWI advocates for inclusive policies that tackle the unparalleled power of education to create a more equitable and sustainable future. Additionally, the statement invites global collaboration with civil society to unlock the potential of education as a channel for social development and a key instrument in eradicating poverty. **GWI invites you to read and widely share the statement that can be found [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 welcomes Spring 2024 intern, Sophia Schaaper



Sophia Schaaper, Spring Intern

Born in Paris (France) to an Italian mother and a Dutch father, I spent my formative years in Montreal (Canada) and Geneva (Switzerland). My international background along with my passion for human rights and education led me to a BSc in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. To conclude my degree, I dedicated my thesis to dissecting the discriminatory mechanisms underpinning the emergence and perpetuation of gendered hierarchies. I am thrilled to be embarking on this journey with GWI, and to apply my recently acquired knowledge to promote a cause I hold dear. I am very grateful for this opportunity to contribute to the initiative of such a well-established NGO and to learn from the experts in the field. Alongside this

internship, I also devote time to tutor for Anacours (a French tutoring agency), allowing me to contribute to educational initiatives on various fronts. Looking ahead, I hope to pursue an MSc in Social Data Science, aiming to fortify my analytical skills and contribute valuable insights to the intersection of social issues and data.

— Dates and events —

24 January	International Day of Education
06 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
20 February	World Day of Social Justice
08 March	International Women's Day
10 March	International Day of Women Judges
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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

YMN Monthly Conversation Series
"GROWING TOGETHER"

"Exploring the Rich Tapestry of Spanish Society"

We are delighted to take you on a journey through the vibrant and diverse aspects of Spanish culture, education and roles of women and youth in shaping the nation.

Also, we can't forget about the gastronomy!



Alba Benítez Boldo

Young Member from Spain

Alba has Bachelors in Criminology and Masters in Criminalistics and interested in the legal and criminal fields. She is currently doing PhD in Legal and Economic Sciences. Alba also has expertise in Computer Forensics, Forensic Handwriting Analysis, Graphology and Private Security. She is passionate about research and teaching and have curiosity beyond borders living in Iceland and Belgium.

Spotlight Speakers



SATURDAY 20 JANUARY 2024

4 PM CET

(CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME)

REGISTRATION LINK:

<https://us02wielzoo0mlus.meeting/register?TZOPD-1SRZGPHDZ4KJDJQTSNPVSHNMOPKEQ#/REGISTRATION>

YOUNG MEMBERS ONLY



Maia Klaus Kutz

Young Member from Spain

Maia studied Criminology and currently doing Masters in Equality and Gender. Maia is curious, energetic and fun loving person who is always willing to learn. Maia was born in Spain and half German.

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.

Graduate Women International

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