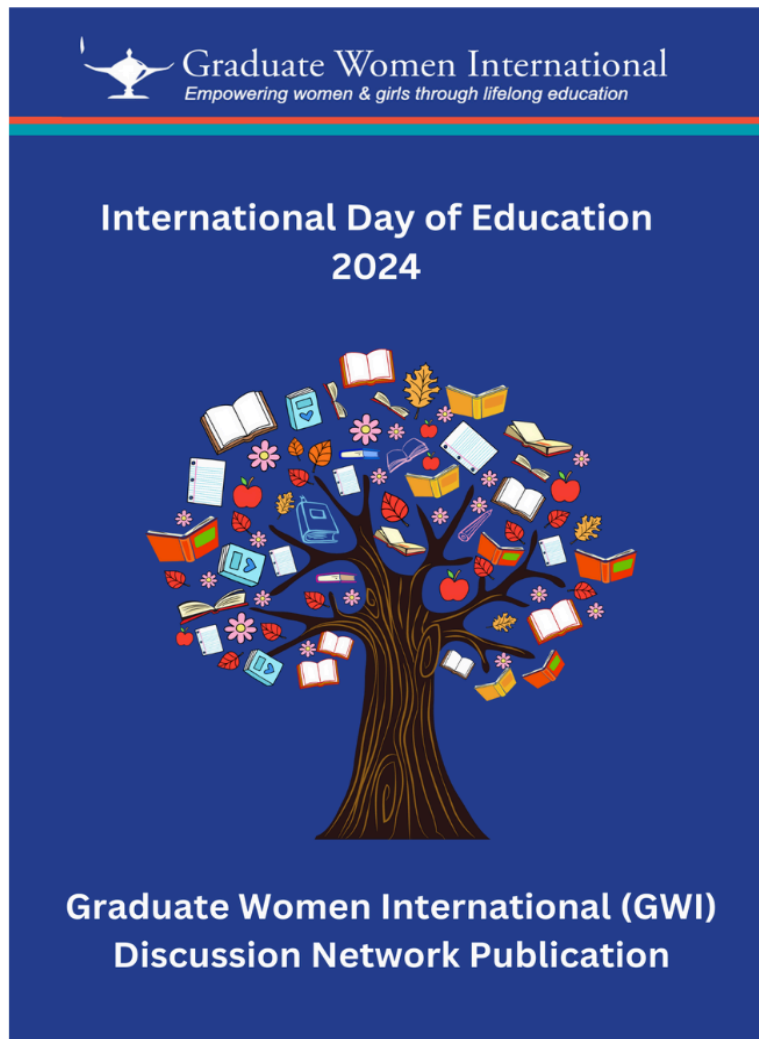




GWI UPDATE – 31 January 2024



GWI celebrates International Day of Education on
24 January 2024

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI marks International Day of Education on 24 January 2024 with a Discussion Network on Green Education

In celebration of the role of education for peace and development, International Day of Education is observed annually on 24 January and this year's theme is 'Learning for lasting peace'. **For 2024, GWI held an open member's Discussions Network dialogue within its global community of graduate women.** The initiative fostered an exchange of ideas and insights among GWI members about green education and how to ensure the integration thereof into educational curricula is done so without placing additional burdens on women, who already faced disproportionate vulnerabilities from climate damages. **We invite you to read and share the remarkable contributions of our publication which can**

be found [HERE](#).

Young Members' Network (YMN) President Letter for 2024, and successful webinar on 20 January

This year, YMN's President submitted a letter extending warm wishes for the New Year, but also unveiling exciting plans for 2024. "We are starting the year 2024 with much renewed energy and enthusiasm! Great work already in January – CSW68 Youth recommendations submitted on 15th January and monthly conversation on 20th January!" In fact, on 20 January, YMN held its monthly Conversation Series under the theme "*Exploring the Rich Tapestry of Spanish Society*." The event welcomed two speakers from the Spanish Federation of University Women, Alba Benitez Boldo and Maia Klaus Kutz. **The webinar recording can be found on the GWI Vimeo channel [HERE](#). The full President's Letter can be found [HERE](#).** YMN's submission of CSW68 Recommendations can be found [HERE](#)

— GWI Member News —

YMN's President, Sudha Srivastava, Receives Award at Women Economic Forum

Sudha Srivastava was awarded "Iconic Woman Creating a Better World for All" at the



Sudha Srivastava,
Women Economic Forum

annual global Women Economic Forum (WEF) 2023 held in London between 28 - 31 October. The theme for the 100th edition of the WEF was *Economic Co-operation for Recovery and Resilience: Empowering SHEconomy*. Srivastava was also invited as a speaking delegate and she shared her views on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), financial inclusion and youth empowerment. This award is for leaders who with their entrepreneurial spirit, creative actions and attitudes are bringing in the much-needed soft power to bring cultures and countries closer in friendship and exchange. It is for those who are making a difference and participating in co-creation.

GWI Congratulates Alice Merab Kagoda for her Tenure and Achievements as Chairperson of Iganga Core Primary Teachers College Board

The Board of Governors, established by the Government of Uganda, plays a pivotal role in the effective governance and management of educational institutions. Nominated by the Bishop of the Church of Uganda in the Busoga Diocese region, Alice Kagoda has been serving as Chairperson since 1998, amounting to over 25 years! Her consistent renomination and reappointment by the Bishops of Diocese speaks volumes about the trust in her leadership. Under Kagoda's guidance, significant academic achievements can be observed. Notably, one PhD she supervised received a promotion by the Ministry of Education directly upon obtaining their doctorate. Moreover, her efforts have profound implications for women's empowerment. Despite heading a predominantly male Board of Governors, Kagoda successfully facilitated the academic advancement of several women

during her tenure, providing guidance and support as they ascended the academic ladder. **GWI acknowledges and deeply appreciates Alice's impactful contributions to women in academia. We hope her legacy will continue to motivate and uplift women.**

Celebrating the Life of Professor Dr. Thanaa Ezz: President of the Egypt Association of Graduate Women (EAGW)

It is with great sorrow that GWI grieves the loss of Professor Dr. Thanaa Ezz, esteemed member and President of EAGW, this 20 January 2024. She was a dedicated EAGW member



Dr. Thanaa Ezz
President of EAGW

for over 20 years, she assumed its Presidency in April 2016 and continued to serve until 2024. She also led the Federation of University Women Africa (FUWA) from 2016 to 2019. Throughout her tenure, Professor Ezz demonstrated unwavering commitment to women's empowerment and education. She actively contributed to important international discourse by participating in a variety of research papers. These include: on *The Role of Women's Leadership in Sustainable Development*, presented at the 31st GWI Conference in Istanbul, Turkiye, along with *Obstacles to Education for Egyptian Women*, introduced at the 32nd GWI Conference in Cape Town, South Africa. Beyond academia, Dr. Ezz spearheaded multiple transformative projects supported

by the Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID) grants. Notably, the 2018 Intilaaqah initiative, *Practical Education for Graduate Universities Women and Support Egyptian Artisan Communities*, empowering women in professional trade. Later, in 2021, she presented another BRPID project entitled *Preserving the Ancient Egyptian Historical Heritage by Educating the Contemporary Egyptian Generation*. "Her passion and commitment were evident in every project she touched, and her impact resonates within the very core of our organisation. She was a symbol of giving, social work, and creativity in advocating for women and girls" - Stacy Dry Lara, Executive Director, Graduate Women International.

Indian Federation of University Women's Association (IFUWA)'s International Conference, Themed "Working Together for a Sustainable Future"

The IFUWA's International Conference, themed "*Working Together for a Sustainable Future*", is an upcoming two-day event, exclusively for GWI members and is taking place on **1 and 2 March 2024, in Pune**, gathering minds, ideas, and collaboration. From the inauguration ceremony, insightful panels, and cultural programs, to recognizing outstanding achievements with awards, this conference aims to provide a platform for sharing knowledge and fostering connections. This event will feature a variety of esteemed panellists and presentations on sustainability projects. **For a detailed program click [HERE](#), for the official flyer click [HERE](#), and for additional information please see at the bottom**

of this update.

— GWI at the United Nations —

Women Graduates - USA (WG-USA) invited to submit inputs for zero draft at 2023 United Nations SDG Summit Report

Submitted by Louise McLeod, former GWI VP Advocacy and VP Education, and United Nations Representative for WG - USA.

“To maximize the SDG Summit’s impact, the Secretary General convened an SDG Action Weekend, which generated opportunities for stakeholders, United Nations entities, and Member States to convene inside the United Nations Headquarters and set out specific commitments and contributions to drive SDG transformation between now and 2030.” **To read more about this important summit and WG-USA’s contributions please click [HERE](#).**

Call for Inputs for the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMRTD)

This year, the EMRTD is conducting a study on “*The Individual and Collective Dimensions of the Right to Development*”. The declaration on the Right to Development outlines the right as both an individual right of all human beings and a collective right of all peoples. The individual component emphasises the right of all individuals to participate in and benefit from development, while the collective component stipulates a right to self-determination, referring to the right of all peoples to set their own development agendas. This study aims to delve into the intricate dimensions of this right to development and its practical implications on the duties of States and other duty-bearers. The EMRTD is calling upon stakeholders to provide insights on various aspects: defining “peoples” in the context of this right, outlining the duties of States and other stakeholders in its application, exploring the relationship between individual and collective rights along with potential conflict and resolutions, and providing practical examples on effectively balancing such potential conflicts. **The EMRTD welcomes all of your active participation and invites submissions to be sent to OHCHR-emrtd@un.org before 10 March 2024, for further guidance on this contribution please read the concept note [HERE](#).**

— Give the Gift of Membership —

Give the gift of education to women and girls around the world by contributing to our [Girls’ Education for Brighter Futures Post- COVID-19](#) programme, which directly supports GWI’s advocacy work and projects held throughout the world to remove socio-cultural, gender-related and economic barriers girls face towards education endeavours.

— Did you know? —

The Irish Federation of University Women (IrFUW) celebrates their Centenary this year!

The IrFUW marks a significant milestone this year, celebrating their centenary. Originating from a Women's Association affiliated with the Royal University of Galway in 1907, and later joined by the Dublin University Women Graduates Association in 1922. The IrFUW, was founded in 1924 and consisted of Trinity College Dublin, National University of Ireland (Dublin, Galway, Cork) and Queen's University Belfast, overriding any political or religious differences which might keep them apart. Having worked seamlessly in harmony for a century now, GWI praises IrFUW for their unwavering commitment to our mission of unity, peace and education. **Read more about IrFUW's history [HERE](#). The full program for this celebration will be available soon, stay in touch!**

— Dates and events —

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
01-02 March	IFUWA's International Conference, Pune
08 March	International Women's Day
10 March	DEADLINE - Call for inputs for the EMRTD
10 March	International Day of Women Judges
11-22 March	Commission for the Status of Women 68 (CSW68), New York
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination



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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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