



GWI UPDATE – 13 March 2024



— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI earns GlobalGiving 2024 Achievement Award badges

GlobalGiving is a platform that connects nonprofit organizations like GWI to donors in nearly every country. The 2024 badges recognize GWI's tireless work advocating for women's rights, equality, and empowerment through education. These badges signify GWI as an officially verified and vetted organization, suitable for advocating for 100% of girls and women worldwide to attain education beyond primary school. Additionally, GWI has been awarded a Top-Ranked Organization badge for its exceptional performance in both actions and advocacy. These recognitions from GlobalGiving mark a new chapter in GWI's journey, motivating ongoing efforts to improve access to quality secondary and tertiary education for women and also motivating our donors, whom we thank. Throughout 2024, GWI proudly showcases its achievement badges on its website, underscoring its commitment to empowering women globally. **See our badges here:**



GWI Press Release: GWI's Parallel Events at CSW68

On 10 March, a press release announcing GWI's activities during CSW was published. This press release was delivered on all of GWI's social media platforms and on all of GWI's communication networks. With CSW starting Monday, 11 March 2024, this press release describes and promotes all three GWI-sponsored parallel events that will be taking place virtually. **We invite you all to read it [HERE](#). Below, you can also find a summary of these parallel events, and the flyers at the bottom of this Update.**

Expert Mechanism on the Right To Development (EMRTD) calls for input by 26 April

On 19 February 2024, an [invitation letter](#) for the EMRTD study entitled “The Individual and Collective Dimensions of the Right to Development” with a thematic focus on “Women’s active, free and meaningful participation in development, with emphasis on decision making” was released. The study aims to identify and share the implementation of the right to development provided by thematic expertise in the field. Lilian Valiña writes in the call for inputs guide, “From a general perspective, the study aims to contribute to the strengthening of knowledge and awareness related to the Declaration on the Right to Development”. It is crucial to have women's participation and be inclusive at all stages of the development process, particularly in decision-making. EMRTD calls for international organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions to provide input to the study. **Your participation matters, and the EMRTD looks forward to your instructive submissions. Send your input before 26 April 2024 to OHCHR-emrtd@un.org; check [HERE](#) for more instructions.**

— GWI Member News —

GWI’s Young Member Network (YMN) holds webinar for International Day of Women and Girls in Science

On 23 February 2024, GWI’s YMN hosted a conversation session featuring two young members who work in STEM fields and celebrated their accomplishments in science: Alukhanyo Xonti, from South Africa, and Soknhna M S Yakhine Siop, from Spain. All young members from GWI National Federations Association and GWI Independent Membership were invited to join the conversation to hear and share their stories. During the session, Alukhanyo Xonti presented her research on “Understanding Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1 and its impact on a patient's daily life”. Through her investigation, she successfully identified patients' social and emotional challenges and highlighted the caregiver’s burden among the patients' families. Next, Soknhna M S Yakhine presented her research on the South African landscape, focusing on the region's food insecurities as well as sharing her personal development. In her research, *Diplotaxis tenuifolia* is identified as one solution that can be adopted as a functional food for to enhance nutrition. Maintaining GWI's mission of fostering friendship and promoting cooperation, networking, support, and understanding among women, the YMN conversation series launched last year aims to do just that. Furthermore, the “Growing Together” conversation series brings together GWI young members from around the world as changemakers to advance careers, breaking glass ceilings and foster support for each other. **GWI congratulates Yakhine and Xonti for their dedication and exceptional STEM careers. Watch the recording of the event [HERE](#).**

The Spanish Federation of University Women (SFUW) celebrates its 104th anniversary!

The origins of the SFUW date back to 7 March 1920, when Juventud Universitaria Femenina (JUF) was created in Madrid, Clara Campoamor and María de Maeztu served as presidents in the early years. Thanks to the impetus of these visionary women, JUF was immediately integrated into the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). Its president attended the First International Conference, which took place that year in London, where she presented a report entitled "University Education for Women". One hundred and four years later, women and girls today benefit from the vision and are well supported by SFUW on their

path to achieving academic success. **GWI is extremely proud of SFUW for their 104 years of dedication to supporting women and girls' education rights and opportunities. Felicidades! Click [HERE](#) to read the study in Spanish.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI participates in exchanges with the United Nations 78th session General Assembly President and Director General of the United Nations Office in Geneva during this 55th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC55)

During HRC55 taking place 26 February - 5 April 2024, GWI was honored to participate in an exchange with H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, on 27 February 2024. During this exchange, civil society organizations, such as GWI, got a chance to give input into the theme of this General Assembly: 'Peace, Prosperity, Progress, and Sustainability'. H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis addressed all of our concerns before emphasizing the importance of civil society contributions in devising solutions to today's increasingly complex and interconnected challenges threatening human rights globally.

Additionally, on 4 March 2024, GWI participated in the annual meeting of the Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), Ms. Tatiana Valovaya, with civil society, where United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accredited Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) had the opportunity to discuss the office's activities and priorities, along with further consolidating the role of civil society participation in the work of the United Nations. At this meeting, Ms Valovaya, the first female Director General of UNOG, happily announced that UNOG has reached gender parity at all levels of decision-making. **With that, we would like to congratulate UNOG on this achievement and hope it can stand as an example of, not only equality, but also efficiency for organizations everywhere.**

— Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 68th Session—

Let's Go Virtual!

Over the last few years, the CSW has offered an annual environment that allows everyone to participate in the various sessions. **The CSW68 is a treasure trove of information. GWI encourages women's and girls' advocates around the world to register today and participate.** There are two ways to participate in the CSW68: the **CSW68 Forum** offers the opportunity to explore hundreds of events and connect with thousands of participants, in-person and virtually, and through the United Nations CSW, the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, the sessions can be watched via the UN Web TV. **We urge all GWI members to stay up to date on GWI at CSW on our webpage [HERE](#). You can find our CSW handbook with all the important practical information [HERE](#).**

GWI Written Statement for CSW68

NGO statements provide valuable insights, data, and perspectives in support of the CSW priority theme, they contribute to informed policy discussions and decision-making processes during CSW sessions. NGO written and oral statements shed light on the lived experiences and challenges women and girls face worldwide to amplify women's voices and collectively influence CSW deliberations. NGO statements serve as advocacy tools and play a crucial role in shaping the discussions, priorities, and outcomes of CSW sessions, ultimately contributing to the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide.

GWI written statement title: *Education is the cornerstone on which a more equitable and prosperous future can be built for women and girls, and it is through financing of education that we can address poverty, narrow the gender gap, and strengthen institutions.*

Below, is a summary of this statement:

1. Education, especially for women and girls, is pivotal for achieving gender equality and reducing poverty.
2. Graduate Women International (GWI) advocates for universal access to quality education and lifelong learning.
3. GWI urges states to prioritize education financing as a means to eradicate poverty and narrow the gender gap.
4. Strengthening institutions is crucial alongside education to ensure sustainable progress.
5. Gender-responsive financing is essential to dismantle systemic biases and promote gender equality in education.

Please read the full statement [HERE](#).

GWI Breakfast Briefing (14 March) and Social Dinner (13 March)

GWI members and delegates attending CSW in New York are encouraged to join the breakfast briefing and social dinner that week. These events promise to be very insightful and engaging networking platforms for the GWI family present at CSW. Mark your calendars for the last **Breakfast Briefing to take place at the Ambassador Grill NYC, inside the Millenium Hilton Hotel on Thursday, 14 March, from 7 to 8 a.m. (EST)**. During this briefing, you will have the opportunity to hear from GWI's President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole, and from GWI's United Nations Representatives, Maureen Byrne and Maryella Hannum.

Additionally, **the Social Dinner is taking place on Wednesday, 13 March, from 7 to 9 p.m. (EST) at Ali Baba Mediterranean and Turkish Cuisine**. Please note that the **space is limited to 40 attendees**. Find the flyers at the bottom of this Update. **The dinner is almost to capacity of 40, so GWI members urgently RSVP today if you plan to participate. GWI members only.**

GWI to host two more Parallel Events for this CSW68, find more information [HERE](#):

Financial Institutions and Infrastructure Perpetuating Poverty – Gender Bias in Economic Policy

This parallel event will consider financial institutions and infrastructures intended to promote economic growth and alleviate poverty, which systematically contribute to perpetuating and widening gender bias.

We identify effective policies for the inclusion of women, particularly the unbanked women, and diversity as critical steps to redress these exclusionary, gender-biased differentiating practices and predatory individuals. Date and Time: **Monday, 18 March 2024**, 7:30 p.m. Central European Time (CET) / 2:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). **Register for this event [HERE](#).**

Sustainable Financing for Gender Equality: Young Women’s Perspective

As the world is moving towards a sustainable future, we cannot imagine gender equality without sustainable financing especially for young women. This interactive event will explore gender disparities due to financial factors with examples from various regions of the world. Date and Time: **Tuesday, 19 March 2024**, 1:30 p.m. Central European Time (CET) / 8:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). **Register for this event [HERE](#).**

GWl’s National Federations and Associations (NFAs) are also sponsoring various parallel events during CSW, including some virtual:

#1. Women’s Multidimensional Poverty Challenges and Grassroots Responses: Insights from Japan, Sri Lanka, and Guatemala, **Friday, 15 March – 8:00 a.m. EST / 9:00 p.m. JST**, register [HERE](#).

#2. Improving Infrastructure and Financing to Support Global Women in Midlife (40+) and Beyond, **Sunday, 17 March – 2:30 p.m. EST**.

Presenters: Dr. Nirshila Chand and Dr. Rajasree Nambron

#3. Challenge To Empowerment: “Experience and Replicable Strategies of Refugee Women”, **Tuesday, 19 March – 2:30 p.m. EST**, join [HERE](#).

Sponsored by CAMEUS, this event will feature 3 refugee women explaining their pathway to professional success as they traveled from their home countries through Canada, Mexico and/or the United States.

#4. Poverty Impacting Women’s Healthcare Access: Gender Biased Artificial Intelligence and Infrastructure Creating Barriers, **Wednesday, 20 March – 12:30 p.m. EST**, join [HERE](#).

Organizer: Shaila Rao Misty

— 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 gift for the graduate woman in your life is a GWI membership. There are many benefits of being a member of GWI, including belonging to an influential international NGO composed of graduate women influencing policy and legislation on women’s issues at the international level and gaining an international perspective on 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 new intern, Xinyang Sun, this February



Xinyang Sun, Spring Intern

Originally from Beijing, China, I am studying at Smith College in Massachusetts, USA, majoring in Political Science and the Study of Women and Gender. During my academic journey, I have been alerted to global problems and learned about the system oppressions that prevent girls from flourishing through textbooks and theories. I am thrilled to be interning at GWI! It is an invaluable experience with hands-on opportunities to further my knowledge, develop practical skills, contribute to meaningful global change in women's lives, and contribute to GWI's mission of empowering women and girls through education. I am excited to work with the brilliant GWI team and amazing graduate women

worldwide; the international NGO experience will provide valuable opportunities to learn from women's rights experts and education specialists for a more comprehensive understanding of real-world challenges. After my internship at GWI, I will return to Smith to complete my Bachelor's degree. Passionate about women's rights and the fight against gender-based violence, I hope to pursue a master's program specializing in gender, race, and diversity to explore the interlinkages and strengthen my analytical skills to combat the inequalities on gender.

— Dates and events —

11-22 March	Commission for the Status of Women 68 (CSW68), New York
13 March	CSW - Social Dinner
14 March	CSW - Breakfast Briefing
15 March	JAUW Parallel Event: Women's Multidimensional Poverty Challenges and Grassroot Responses
17 March	WG - USA Parallel Event: Improving Infrastructure and Financing to Support Global Women
18 March	GWI Parallel Event on Gender Bias in Economic Policy
19 March	GWI Parallel Event on Sustainable Financing for Gender Equality
19 March	CAMEUS Parallel Event - Challenge To Empowerment
20 March	WG - USA Parallel Event: Poverty Impacting Women's access to Healthcare
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
26 April	Deadline EMRTD

COMMISSION on the STATUS OF WOMEN
11-22 March 2024
88th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR GENDER EQUALITY: YOUNG WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE

Tuesday, 19 March 2024
1:30 P.M. CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME (CET) / 8:30 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME (EST)
Registration link: <https://us92web.zoom.us/joining/register/IzAedOgrT0rHNW5c-kOWf44-wWmR90HaE-#/registration>

As the world is moving towards a sustainable future, we cannot imagine gender equality without sustainable financing specially for young women. This highly interactive CSW68 parallel event will explore gender disparities due to financial factors with examples from various regions of the world. An expert panel of young women will present a comparative analysis based on strong database and research. Range of innovative solutions from various collaborations will be presented including public-private partnerships, development finance, public policies, gender budgeting and international funding.

An interactive breakout session is planned for discussion in smaller groups with dedicated leaders and set question. There will be further opportunities for audience interaction via opinion polls and Q&A.

SPEAKERS

 Sudha Srivastava United Kingdom	 Tzazil Valencia Mexico	 Cynthia Adinortey Ghana	 Lucy Tifere Fiji
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BREAKOUT SESSION LEADERS

 Alukhanyo Xonti South Africa	 Radwa Mohamed Egypt	 Hiroka Yokoyama Japan	 Momtaz Khalil Australia	 Abigail (Okyerre) Aidoo Canada
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Graduate Women International Young Members Network CSW68 Parallel Event: Developed and produced by Sudha Srivastava (OWI Board Member & Youth Representative) and YMN team.

GWIS NFA-SPONSORED PARALLEL EVENTS:

CSW68
Side Event-Japan



Women's Multidimensional Poverty Challenges and Grassroots Responses: Insights from Japan, Sri Lanka, and Guatemala

March 15, 2024
8:00~9:30 EST
21:00~22:30 JST
ONLINE



Opening message:

H.E. Mr. Osamu Yamanaka/Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

Moderator:

Dr. Yumiko Yamamoto/Associate Professor, Okayama University, Japan

Panelists & Presentation Titles:

Ms. Chie Matsumoto/Journalist, Media cooperative Unfiltered
"Challenges facing elderly women, Grassroots organizing in Japan"

Dr. Sepali Kottegoda/Director Programmes, Women's Economic Rights and Media, Women and Media Collective; Member, Steering Committee of Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW)
"Caregiving and Resilience in times of Crises: Some insights from Sri Lanka"

Mr. Akihiro Tsukamoto (MBA)/Advisor for Financial Inclusion Promotion with Immigrant Remittance in Guatemala for Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
"Empowerment of Women and Improvement of their Economic Conditions through the Use of Credit Unions' Financial and Non-Financial Services"

Click here for the application form



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeqn2AkIekX4PLJbXom3Bb6IG1b2NfwbWkuon72W5fsf/viewform?usp=sharing>

Organizers: Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations / JAWW (Japan Women's Watch) / The National Women's Committee of the United Nations NGOs / The International Women's Year Liaison Group (IWYLG)

CHALLENGE TO EMPOWERMENT: EXPERIENCES AND REPLICABLE STRATEGIES OF REFUGEE WOMEN

Find out how the successful initiatives in their supportive communities propelled refugee women from poverty to employment and towards gender equity. Hear about strategies employed by supporters to help refugee women achieve success.

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM ET

VIRTUAL [Join here on Zoom](#)

PRESENTED BY CAMEUS,
AN ALLIANCE OF CFUW-FCFDU (CANADA), FEMU (MEXICO), & WG-USA



AN NGO CSW VIRTUAL PARALLEL EVENT



Mary Miller
A successful advocate and volunteer with newcomers to Canada, she lives in Belleville, Canada.



Raihanah Zaefi
An Architectural engineer, she migrated from Afghanistan to Canada.



Bibi Ndala
A research scientist at NYU, she migrated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the USA.



María Corina Muskus Toro
A lawyer and university doctoral candidate, she migrated from Venezuela to the USA.



Alma Anaya
A Commissioner at Cook County, Chicago, she migrated from Mexico to the USA.



Commission on Status of Women
Women Graduates-USA, An Affiliate of Graduate Women International

Poverty Impacting Women's Healthcare Access: Gender Biased Artificial Intelligence and Infrastructure Creating Barriers

Mar 20, 2024, at 12:30 pm EST / 9:30 am PST



Join insightful debate on Healthcare Access: Gender Biased Artificial Intelligence and Infrastructure Creating Barriers. Meet our experts

Click here to join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86143734471>
Meeting ID: 861 4373 4471 Passcode: 662018

Health is a human right. Poverty impacts women's health disproportionately, severely affecting their economic security and empowerment, employment, and gender inequity. The intersectionality of health, artificial intelligence, technology, and institutional mechanisms exposes embedded ways of excluding women's voices and leadership in shaping these critical issues.

Our experts will share and valuable insights and knowledge to advocate for change, utilizing technology and AI as tools for inclusivity and empowerment. Join us to drive meaningful progress towards mitigating gender bias in healthcare for women.



Shaila Rao Mistry
CEO Founder STEM-Institute, Advocacy
Convener WG-USA VP Advocacy
Graduate Women International
Moderator - Speaker



Jessica Buchleitner
Journalist, Author, Communicator
Beyond Dystopian Narratives: Emerging Technologies and Women's Health
Moderator - Speaker



Dr. Anino Emuwa
Founder 100 Women @ Davos
AI and Closing the Gender Health Gap



Dr. Ronald M. Razmi MD,
Managing Director, Zoi Capital
The Rise of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare

Follow us on social media!



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

GW, 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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