



Graduate Women
International (GWI)

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GWI urges inclusion of women's needs and perspective within climate initiatives

Geneva, Switzerland, 22 April 2024 – In earnest recognition of Earth Day, marked annually on 22 April, which envelopes an urgent call for action regarding the climate crisis, Graduate Women International (GWI) emphasizes the importance of including women and girls in climate action strategies through adequate funding for education initiatives. GWI acknowledges the disproportionate effect that climate change exhibits on primarily rural, low-income women, creating steeper barriers to education and intensified difficulties for many to shoulder household responsibilities which rely on natural resources. Today, GWI urges national and local leaders to leverage women's expertise and knowledge within State's climate initiatives, maximizing their capability to tackle climate change.

Creating inclusive and effective solutions to mitigate the effects of climate change inherently aligns with all Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), as maintaining a healthy planet is vital to life. GWI underscores the importance of SDG 4, calling for gender equality in education within the larger framework of the climate crisis. By applying women's expertise directly into the climate sector, countries will obtain needed human capital to tackle the climate crisis head-on. To address this challenge constructively, GWI's statement to the Human Rights Council in March 2024, GWI urged States to [transition towards a renewed, sustainable green education model](#).

"It is crucial that we include women along with their needs and priorities within climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. Due to longstanding gender norms, particularly in rural and low-income areas, women have disproportionately faced the steep downfalls of climate change. It is our duty to include women in the decision-making bodies of climate change policies and discussions," says Patrice Wellesley-Cole, GWI President.

GWI adopted various climate advocacy initiatives within its 34th Triennial, with [Policy Resolution 7](#), entitled Climate Change and Gender, focusing primarily on the gendered effects of climate change. Within these resolutions, GWI urges its National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to include the perspective of gender within their advocacy programs on climate change to have optimal outcomes and resolve for their communities. Additionally, [Policy Resolution 10](#), entitled Plastics and Plastic Packaging aligns directly with this year's Earth Day theme: Planet vs. Plastics, raising awareness for the negative effects that plastics have on human and planetary health. Warning the harms of out increasing global plastic consumption and output, it is essential that NFAs take action to phase out single-use plastics utilizing monitoring systems and advocating for government support.

About GWI: GWI is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with a presence in over 60 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for women's rights, equality, and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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