



GW I UPDATE – 22 May 2024



— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GW I Tackles Menstruation Taboos through Education

In many societies worldwide, menstruation remains shrouded in taboo, hindering avant-garde conversations and perpetuating harmful myths. On Menstrual Hygiene Day, celebrated annually on 28 May, it is crucial to confront these stigmas and recognize their profound impact on girls' access to education. GWI is dedicated to dismantling these barriers and stands at the forefront of this movement. With a focus on breaking down barriers and standing for education rights, GWI continues to work towards a #PeriodFriendlyWorld through education. Alongside the press release, GWI is pleased to announce its observation of 2024 Menstrual Hygiene Day will include an educational infographic in support of “The Pad Project” organization. As part of the soon-to-be-released infographic, GWI emphasizes breaking stigmas to empower women through education. The full press release can be found [HERE](#). Watch for the Menstrual Hygiene Day educational infographic release on 28 May.

Teachers For Rural Futures (TFRF) GlobalGiving Report

GWI recently submitted its mandatory tri monthly GlobalGiving TFRF progress report. GlobalGiving is crowdfunding platform that connects donors to grassroot projects worldwide. [GWI's TFRF program](#) is increasing the number of qualified female student teachers in Uganda by providing scholarships and mentoring to young women from rural areas for them to

become qualified teachers and ambassadors for girls' education. In this most recent report, GWI shares the exciting news that our current students are participating in student-practice internships this summer. During the student practice, supported by GWI and its donors, the students will apply the theoretical knowledge learned in the classroom to real-life classroom settings. This opportunity is a testament to the importance and effectiveness of GWI donors, showcasing the positive ripple effect on the lives of those benefiting from this initiatives. **GWI invites you to learn more about the progress in TFRF, [HERE](#), and keep donating [HERE](#).**

GWI publishes comprehensive toolkit and press release for International Girls in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Day

On this year's International Girls in ICT Day, GWI released a comprehensive advocacy toolkit highlighting the gender disparities that still pervade the ICT sector. International Girls in ICT Day is observed annually on the fourth Thursday of April, it is an International Telecommunications Union (ITU) initiative to encourage member states, along with civil society organisations, to create programs that empower young women and girls to pursue studies and careers in ICT. The GWI toolkit encourages women and girls to further engage with ICTs, along with educators and policy makers to acknowledge the gender digital divide by explicitly targeting policies to women and girls. It highlights successful practices and programs around the world that work to promote young women and girls' participation in the ICT sector, it also provides information and resources on GWI's efforts and commitment to bridging the gender digital divide, including guidelines and frameworks to support the implementation of ICT in education. **Read the toolkit in English [HERE](#), find the Spanish version, kindly translated by the Spanish-Speaking Culture Bridge, [HERE](#).**

Professors Without Borders launches The Women in Higher Education Fellowship Program

Professors Without Borders is a UK-registered educational charity with a mission to bring quality education and opportunities in academia to students and faculty. The fellowship is an exciting new initiative hosted by Professors Without Borders' Think Tank aimed at creating a supportive community for women navigating their careers in the academic sector. Through this fellowship, a range of opportunities designed to empower and upskill women, facilitate networking, and provide mentoring support will be offered. Participation in the fellowship is free of charge, and applications from women at all levels of their careers who work in teaching, research, support, and administration in the higher education sector are welcome. **To apply for the fellowship or learn more about the program, please visit their [website](#) or contact them directly at cvarin@prowibo.org. The application deadline is 1 June 2024. Read more about the fellowship [HERE](#).**

— GWI Member News —

South Africa Association of Graduate Women (SAAWG) extends 100-year celebration

Last year, SAAWG celebrated its Centenary, and the joy of accomplishments and achievements continues. Founded in 1923, SAAWG has been working concordantly for over a century, and GWI praises SAAWG's commitment to improving the status of women and girls, as many international and national fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, and awards are available to members. **Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the virtual celebration and presentation on 3 June 2023. Read more about SAAWG's history [HERE](#).**

GWI Swiss National Federation to celebrate Centenary in August

Following the L'Association Genevoise des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AGFDU) 100 years celebration in November 2023, the Schweizerischer Verband der Akademikerinnen (SVA), GWI Swiss affiliate, will celebrate their 100 anniversary this August. Their extraordinary contribution in protecting human rights and promoting peace is recognized by GWI. To celebrate, the delegate meeting SVA 2024 and conference "The Challenge of Artificial Intelligence" with Science Slam will be held on 31 August, at the University of Bern. The event will showcase university graduates and academics with their work in science and sociology. **Click [HERE](#) for more information and to make your reservation. Please stay tuned for detailed program for the August Centenary celebration!**

Canada Federation of University Women (CFUW) releases Breakout Discussion Summary for Earth Day Outreach Conversation: Planet vs. Plastics held on 22 April

On 22 April, CFUW hosted a GWI Outreach Conversation: Planet vs. Plastics: Elimination of Single-Use Plastics. The event featured various global perspectives and facilitated insightful breakout room sessions where participants discussed how their communities are making strides to reduce the use of single-use plastics. **A comprehensive Breakout Session Summary can be found [HERE](#). Access the Zoom Recording [HERE](#).**

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI participates in the 2024 Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) Deep-Dive Series #4: Businesses Caring about Care: Promoting Gender Equality through Family-Friendly Policies and Employer-Support Programs

On 15 May UN Women hosted a WEPs Deep-dive session to shed light on the care economy and businesses' role in promoting gender equality through family friendly policies and employer support programs. The session highlighted care as essential for corporate strategies and proposed various solutions to help women and girls break down the barriers to enter and stay in the workforce. These solutions encourage corporations to implement feasible working arrangements, gender-inclusive corporate culture, paternity leave options, breastfeeding rooms, and subsidized childcare.

GWI reports on Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) review of Egypt

On 13-14 May, GWI participated in the CRC review of Egypt, one of GWI national affiliates, evaluating the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports submitted by Egypt under article 44 of the Convention. During the session, His Excellency Mr. Ahmed Ihab Abdelahad Gamaleldin stressed Egypt's steadfast efforts within human rights initiatives. These initiatives are far-reaching, including efforts to empower women, stop human trafficking and child labour, create alternative care options, and improve education access for its citizens. According to the report, Egypt has witnessed a 2.8% increase in pre-college education and has made strides to improve nationwide health with the "100 Million Healthy Lives" program, expanding access to medical screening and reproductive healthcare. Various questions were posed regarding the implementation of educational programs, child rights, and domestic violence. To read Egypt's full report, click [HERE](#).

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) invites applications to the online course: Trade and gender linkages with a focus on non-tariff measures from a gender perspective

GWI is pleased to inform about a new Trade, Gender and Development Program and Trade Analysis Branch online course, "Trade and gender linkages with a focus on non-tariff measures from a gender perspective" that will be **offered from 17 June to 21 July 2024**. The course targets policymakers, academics from universities and research centres, and representatives of civil society in developing and least developed countries involved in policy formulation and implementation, research, teaching, advocacy or field work in the area of trade and gender. **For more information about the online course, [click here](#). The deadline for application is 2 June 2024.**

— 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? —

Did you know that GWI actively participates in three Human Rights Councils per year?

Against the backdrop of the Human Rights Council resolution 51/21, the Special Rapporteur previously identified health equity as a high priority to be addressed. The Special Rapporteur intends to focus on harm reduction and its intersection with the right to health and related human rights, now calling for inputs to the theme of, "Harm reduction for sustainable peace and development." Responses to the key questions from international organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, and individuals are needed as input. It is essential to ensure the involvement of women and promote inclusivity at every phase of the development process, especially in decision-making; thus, participation matters to bring a unique lens and perspective. **Join GWI in submitting responses to this call. The deadline for inputs is 27 May 2024**, submitted via email, and all responses will be published on the official webpage by default. The questions and further instructions are available [HERE](#).

— Dates and events —

13 - 31 May
28 May

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
Menstrual Hygiene Day

3 June South Africa Association of University Women celebrates 100 years
12 June World Day Against Child Labour
18 June International Day for Countering Hate Speech
19 June International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
20 June World Refugee Day
11 July GWI 105th Anniversary
15 July World Youth Skills Day
31 August Swiss National Federation Centenary
10 - 13 Sept 2025 GWI 35th General Assembly and Conference

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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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