



GWI UPDATE – 19 June 2024



— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —



*Patrice Wellesley-Cole,
GWI President 2023-2025*

GWI President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole featured in London's Ham&High

GWI is pleased to share this write-up by President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole, published on 6 June in London's Ham&High publication. In this article, she reflects on GWI's history and collective achievements, expresses gratitude to our dedicated members and the Board of Officers, and outlines our ongoing commitment to empowering women and girls through education and global initiatives. **Read the online version [HERE](#).**

On International Day for Countering Hate Speech, GWI releases video compilation and infographic

On 18 June, as the world observes International Day for Countering Hate Speech, GWI continues to actively advocate to eliminate hate speech, focusing on its profound impact on women. To mark this day, GWI released a powerful infographic and a video featuring interviews with students and stakeholders discussing hate speech targeting women. In 2023, GWI published a policy position paper emphasising the urgent need to address hate speech, particularly sexist hate speech, which not only reinforces gender inequality, but also increases violence towards minorities, and undermines human rights, inclusion and cultural diversity globally. These resources highlight the effects of hate speech on gender inequality and explore potential solutions within education systems. **To access the infographic that contains links to the video, press release and policy paper, click [HERE](#). For the video click [HERE](#), and for the press release [HERE](#).**

On International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, GWI calls for a global recognition of the disproportionate effect of conflict on women

Today, GWI marks the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly to raise awareness about the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, honor the victims and survivors, and pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives to and lost their lives in, standing up against these crimes. GWI is publishing an informative infographic this year highlighting the intersectional challenges between gender, conflict and education. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by sexual violence, and their rights should be ensured. **Access the infographic [HERE](#).**

GWI observes World Refugee Day with informative infographic

Tomorrow, 20 June, GWI will release a powerful infographic to mark World Refugee Day. World Refugee Day celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution. This day shines a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees, helping to mobilize political will and resources so refugees can not only survive but thrive. In this infographic can be found a compilation of resources for refugees, including GWI's own Hegg Hoffet fund. This infographic was also kindly translated to Spanish by the Spanish-Speaking culture bridge. **Find the English infographic [HERE](#), and the Spanish version [HERE](#).**

Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates applications open 20 June to 15 August

The latest round of GWI Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates application is officially open from 20 June to 15 August 2024. The Hegg Hoffet Fund is dedicated to assisting displaced women graduates facing challenges due to war, political upheaval, or other emergencies. It provides short-term grants up to 3,000 Swiss francs for refresher courses, language training, and integration support. **Read more about eligibility and how to apply [HERE](#).**

— GWI Member News —

GWI calls upon National Federation Associations (NFAs) for video submissions for the 105-year celebration!

For its 105th-year celebration to be held 11 July, GWI its NFAs to craft unique and expressive videos that encapsulate the rich history and heritage of their respective NFAs. To inspire creativity, GWI encourages NFA members to showcase their cultural identity, conduct engaging interviews, create collages of historical photographs, or narrate significant milestone stories. **Each video will be featured for 24 hours in a special compilation on 11 July 2024, commemorating GWI's 105 years of existence and remarkable achievements.** Members are encouraged to **submit their videos by 1 July 2024, through [this form](#).** GWI encourages every NFA to participate in this initiative, and seize the opportunity to showcase their uniqueness and accomplishments. **For further details, please find more information [HERE](#).**

GWI Young Member Network (YMN) Growing Together Conversation Series

Message from Sudha Srivastava, YMN President & GWI Treasurer

“Under the proactive leadership of Sudha Srivastava, GWI YMN continues to grow in numbers and diversity. The monthly conversation series 'Growing Together' is very popular spotlighting 1-2 young women each month from the YMN. The series is "By Young Members, For Young Members". All GWI Young Members are welcome to join. In May, we had an interactive session and enjoyed learning about the language of dressing. This month in June conversation, we will be exploring how to use 100% of our brain by turning the two hemispheres and activating the perception channel.” **Please see the flyer below for more details. Register for the Conversation Series [HERE](#).** GWI YMN welcomes all young women from GWI NFAs to sign up for the YMN that is free to GWI members. New members are also welcome to join GWI and be part of YMN. **Click [HERE](#) to sign up for the GWI YMN.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI attends the 77th World Health Assembly in Geneva

On 27 May, GWI participated in the inaugural plenary session of the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA) at the “Palais des Nations” in Geneva, marking the beginning of fruitful discussions among delegates, partner agencies, civil society representatives, and experts. This event serves as a crucial platform setting the stage for discussions on present and future global public health priorities. Aligned with this year’s theme “All for Health, Health for All”, representatives of the Netherlands and Belgium emphasised the pressing need to include women in research traditionally centred on men, stressing the importance of inclusive health systems to promote gender equality. **For more information on the WHA, please click [HERE](#). GWI thanks the interns for their participation to this relevant conference.**

GWI participates in the 56th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC56) with written statement, panel presentation, and more

At the HRC56, GWI reaffirms its dedication to promoting digital learning and access to digital resources, as emphasised in three previous HRC statements. Recognizing education as the cornerstone of equality, GWI highlights its critical role in achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Education equips women and girls with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities to participate in society and tackle global challenges like poverty, hunger, health, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. Ensuring equitable access to education for women and girls is essential for human rights, sustainable development, and social progress. **Read the full statement [HERE](#).**

GWI United Nations Vienna representative, Elisabeth Francis, participates in the Committee on Narcotic Drugs 67th session (CND67)

From the CND67 held in Vienna, Austria, 14-22 March, GWI United Nation Vienna representative, Elisabeth Francis, submitted two comprehensive advocacy reports. She reports that the CND was the largest ever, with over 2500 participants from 140 Member States, 18 intergovernmental organizations, 141 NGOs, and nine United Nations entities. The session included a high-level segment on the Midterm Review of the 2019 Ministerial Declaration and five days focused on international drug control. Key topics included the rise of synthetic drugs, with U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken emphasizing the urgent need for global cooperation against synthetic drug trafficking. Four resolutions were adopted on alternative development, rehabilitation, medical access to controlled substances, and overdose prevention. The session featured 174 side events and highlighted the global impact of drug challenges on sustainable development goals. GWI's involvement included attending plenary meetings and relevant side events. In her reports, Francis also includes personal observations and wrote that "the world drug problem is global – it impacts women and girls in all countries." Moreover, the reports highlight actions that should be considered. The side event report also provided detailed insight into three interesting events. To access **the full advocacy report** click [HERE](#) and the **CND side event report** [HERE](#). **GWI thanks Elisabeth for her extensive reporting that serves to extend the GWI mission and advocacy goals.**

— Give the Gift of Education —

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? —

Celebrating 105 Years: GWI's launches summer social media series, highlighting key historical events of GWI's history

On 2 June, GWI launched a special social media series in celebration of its 105th anniversary. This one-month summer series highlights key events in GWI's history with pictures directly from GWI's archive, starting with its foundation by the three founding mothers in the 1920s and continuing through to the present day. The series will feature significant milestones, achievements, and influential figures that have shaped GWI over the decades.

For instance, did you know that in 1924, after the 3rd conference in Oslo, the Norwegian Federation presented a small, enamelled pin showing the lamp of learning in gold on a blue background? This badge was then adopted by the International Federation of University Women (IFUW, now GWI), and is still GWI's logo today. **To find more information about this initiative and deeper insights into GWI's history, please click on the link [HERE](#).**

— Dates and events —

18 June - 12 July	56th Human Rights Council, Geneva, Switzerland
19 June	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
20 June	World Refugee Day
15 July	World Youth Skills Day
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons
31 July	Pan-African Women's Day
09 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
31 August	Swiss National Federation Centenary, Bern, Switzerland
10 - 13 Sept 2025	GWJ 35th General Assembly and Conference, Location: TBD

Follow us on social media!



2024 Copyright. All Rights Reserved.

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

GWJ, 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

7-9, Chemin de Balexert, CH-1291, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org



