



Graduate Women
International (GWI)

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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On International Day for Countering Hate Speech, GWI Sparks Dialogue through Interviews

Geneva, 18 June 2024 - As the world observes the 2024 International Day for Countering Hate Speech, Graduate Women International (GWI) is taking significant steps to eliminate hate speech and promote peace. With a focus on raising awareness about the harms of hate speech, GWI is committed to countering hate speech and its profound impact on women and girls.

To mark this day, GWI is releasing a powerful infographic and a video featuring interviews with students and stakeholders discussing hate speech targeting women. Participants shared their insights on the effects of hate speech on gender inequality and explored potential solutions within the education systems. Click [HERE](#) to access the infographic and [HERE](#) for the interviews.

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. For this reason, GWI underscores the essential role of media education in countering hate speech, enabling girls to understand the concept of hate speech and its diverse manifestations online and offline. Additionally, media education can equip women and girls with tools enabling them to cultivate resilience and the capacity to effectively challenge and counter hate speech. The policy position paper is accessible by clicking [HERE](#).

In support of this policy paper, former United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Alice Wairimu Nderitu, stated: “ If we are truly committed to preventing atrocity crimes including addressing hate speech as a major risk indicator, we must be more resolute in placing women at the forefront of existing processes and mechanisms for atrocity prevention”, emphasising the crucial role of women in addressing hate speech, by considering their experiences as primary targets of it. GWI encourages watching the full speech [HERE](#).

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4.7 promotes education for sustainable development and peace, targeting hate speech and discrimination. GWI supports this by urging students to oppose sexist remarks and calling on teachers to establish training and reporting mechanisms to counter hate speech effectively.

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with 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 Special Partnership with UNESCO and in special relations with the ILO.

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