



GW I UPDATE – 31 July 2024



July Infographics

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

On Pan-African Women's Day, GWI proudly highlights achievements of its African affiliates

On Pan-African Women's Day, GWI celebrates the remarkable achievements of African women and their pioneering role in advancing gender equality. Established in 1962 during the first conference of the Pan-African Women's Organization, this day recognizes the critical contributions of African women in achieving political freedom and enhancing women's social and economic status on the continent. GWI remains committed to empowering and unifying African women since forming the Federation of University Women of Africa in 1991.

In tribute, GWI highlights the achievements of its twelve African National Federations and Associations (NFAs) through an infographic and press release featuring inspiring stories of African women pioneers. Notably, the South African Association of Women Graduates, celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2023, exemplifies the longstanding impact of African NFAs in GWI's history. "On this day promoting gender equality as per Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 let us remember the important role African women play today as - farmers, traders, entrepreneurs, professionals, academics and leaders locally, nationally, and globally," says Patrice Wellesley-Cole, GWI President.

Through the Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID) Program, African NFAs have coordinated numerous projects focused on mentoring and educating women and girls about their rights, potential career opportunities, environmental protection, literacy classes, and many other impactful initiatives. **GWI invites readers to access and share the press release [HERE](#) and infographic in [English HERE](#) and in [Spanish HERE](#) to learn more about these inspiring initiatives.**

GWI featured on Bloomsbury Institute "The Business Show" radio program

On 1 July, GWI President Patrice Wellesley-Cole, Treasurer and Young Member Network (YMN) President Sudha Srivastava, and Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara were featured on the Bloomsbury Institute radio program "The Business Show." The show is hosted by Arif Zaman, a Senior Lecturer in Business at the Bloomsbury Institute and lead of the Bloomsbury

Institute enterprise outreach work in the Centre for Community Engagement and Learning. The Business Show keeps listeners informed on global business and enterprise trends and is part of a broader initiative by Bloomsbury Institute to provide a platform for educational discussion. The Wellesley-Cole, Srivastava and Dry Lara, discussion highlighted GWI's rich history in the education rights sphere, the YMN, and their visions for GWI's future. **The 37-minute radio interview can be heard [HERE](#).**

GWI marks World Day against Trafficking in Persons with infographic

Observed annually on 30 July since 2013, World Day against Trafficking in Persons aims to raise awareness about human trafficking internationally, with a focus on identifying the underlying socioeconomic and cultural issues that create vulnerability, enabling human trafficking to thrive. This year, GWI joins the United Nations (UN) and other organizations in calling upon Member States to recognize the atrocities of human trafficking and enhance their efforts to prevent and convict for his crime.

GWI observes the 2024 theme, "Leave No Child Behind in The Fight Against Human Trafficking," with an infographic highlighting facts about this crime; the number of convictions for trafficking offenses fell by 27 percent in 2020 from the previous year. One in three victims of human trafficking globally is a child, and children are twice as likely to face violence during trafficking than adults (UN Office on Drugs and Crime). Sadly, women and girls continue to be disproportionately trafficked, accounting for some 71 percent of those trafficked. **To access the infographic with more fast facts about trafficking in persons, click [HERE for English](#) and [HERE for Spanish](#).**

GWI releases the 2023 annual report

GWI releases its 2023 annual report, offering a comprehensive overview of its activities over the past year. This document highlights GWI's various projects and international advocacy efforts, showcasing the significant impact of its initiatives globally. Additionally, it underscores the active participation and engagement of GWI members throughout the year, with a particular focus on the activities of the YMN and a look to the future with the 2024 BRPID projects. The report provides valuable insights into the accomplishments and progress made by GWI in 2023 and its diverse range of programs undertaken to empower women and girls through lifelong education globally. **To learn more about GWI's impactful work and achievements in 2023, click [HERE](#) to read the full annual report.**

— GWI Member News —

GWI YMN celebrates five years



In a remarkable celebration of progress and camaraderie, the GWI YMN marked its 5th anniversary with an enlightening interactive session on 26 July. Founded during the GWI Centenary Celebrations in Geneva in 2019, the network has thrived, significantly impacting its members and the broader GWI membership community. Keynote speaker GWI YMN President Sudha Srivastava guided attendees through a comprehensive overview of the network's history, mission, and foundational

activities, illustrating its substantial growth and ambitious plans for the future. The session's highlight was undoubtedly the heartfelt reflections shared by some of the founding young members alongside insights from newer members who have joined in the past five years. Moderated by Cynthia Adinortey from the Ghana Association of University Women and Tzazil Valentia from the Mexican Federation of University Women, their stories underscored the dynamic and transformative journey of the YMN, reinforcing the collective spirit and dedication that promises to propel the network to new heights in the years to come. Hurray for five years of making a difference!

"As we celebrate the fifth anniversary of GWI's YMN, I am immensely proud of the vibrant community we've built together. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to GWI's mission have enriched our network and propelled it forward. Congratulations to all of the YMN on reaching this milestone, and here's to many more years of growth, achievement, and transformative impact. Keep the GWI flame burning, said GWI Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara. To watch the heartwarming event, GWI invites clicking [HERE](#).

YMN member Dr Irene Kafui, GWI's contributes to UN Development Program report

Dr Irene Kafui, a GWI young member from the Ghana Association of University Women, is proud to contribute to the 2023 Ghana National Human Development Report (GNHDR) for the UN Development Program. As a Statistics and Gender Expert, her role as one of the authors of this report centered on mainstreaming gender throughout the entire process, from desk research to data collection, analysis, and reporting. The 2023 GNHDR report highlights Ghana's workforce challenges and the need to create sustainable job opportunities. It also highlights the importance of STEM education and digital infrastructure in achieving long-term development goals. Dr Kafui thanks UNDP for the opportunity in the capacity of a consultant. **GWI congratulates Dr. Kafui for this achievement. GWI invites you to access the report [HERE](#). As a complement, a video summarizes the report, you can find it [HERE](#).**

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI contributes to the 2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) with written statement

This year's HLPF was held between 8 July and 17 July and centered on "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions." HLPF is the leading platform within the UN for reviewing and following up on the implementation of the SDGs. It brings together member states, UN agencies, civil society representatives, and various stakeholders to discuss progress and promote actions to achieve the SDGs. GWI contributed to this critical event by submitting a written statement. This statement calls for prioritizing women in decision-making in response to the education crisis threatening the 2030 agenda. It advocates for investing in leadership training within education, implementing gender-sensitive data collection, and dismantling structural barriers preventing women from accessing decision-making roles. **GWI invites you to learn more about the different action points proposed in this statement by clicking [HERE](#).**

GWI UN Representative participates in the 67th Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)

Between 14 and 22 March, GWI UN Representative, Vienna, Elisabeth Francis, participated in the 67th CND in Vienna. The event focused on addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises. Francis reported on various side events related to women's rights and drug use. Notably, a side event on 19 March addressed gender-based violence against women who use drugs, highlighting their precarious situation and its link to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) pandemic, where 20 million of the 39 million people living with HIV globally are women. The event advocated for imposing appropriate criminal penalties for gender-based violence, regardless of drug-use status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or sex work status. It also emphasized supporting community-led networks of women who use drugs and engaging them in local and national initiatives to counter gender-based violence and implement new resolutions. **GWI thanks Francis for her active participation. Read her interesting full report [HERE](#).**

— Give the Gift of Education—

Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates applications accepted until 15 August

The GWI Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates is now accepting applications until 15 August. This fund is dedicated to supporting displaced women graduates facing challenges due to war, political upheaval, or other emergencies. It offers short-term grants of up to 3,000 Swiss francs for refresher courses, language training, and integration support. **GWI's national and local groups also provide moral and integration support to the beneficiaries. For more information on eligibility and how to apply, click [HERE](#).**

— Did you know? —

In 2024, the Hegg-Hoffet Fund celebrates 88 years: reflecting on one of GWI's milestone achievements

The Hegg-Hoffet Fund was established in 1936 and first referred to as the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) Emergency Fund. It was created to assist university women who had lost their rights to work or had been forced to leave their native countries due to political or social upheaval. In 1968, the Fund was renamed in honor of Mme Blanche Hegg-Hoffet from the Switzerland Association of University Women, who played a crucial role in raising funds and providing aid during and after World War II. Mme Hegg-Hoffet, a dedicated member of the IFUW, began her work with displaced university women in 1947, establishing a network of support and managing aid distribution amidst the post-war refugee crisis.

By 1950, Mme Hegg-Hoffet had become the convener of the Special Committee, a role she held for 17 years. During her service, she placed a significant emphasis on aiding intellectual refugees, facilitating their integration and offering support through personal contacts and professional networks. **Today, the Hegg-Hoffet Fund remains a significant initiative helping numerous women refugees realize their full potential worldwide. Read more about the Hegg-Hoffet fund's recipients and history [HERE](#)**

— Dates and events —

31 July	Pan-African Women's Day
09 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
12 August	International Youth Day
19 August	World Humanitarian Day
31 August	Swiss National Federation Centenary, Bern, Switzerland
08 September	International Literacy Day
10 - 13 Sept 2025	GWJ 35th General Assembly and Conference, Location: TBD
21 September	International Day of Peace
5 October	World Teachers Day

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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.

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