



# Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact: Stacy Dry Lara, Executive Director  
sdl@graduatewomen.org, Tel: +41 22 731 23 80**

## **On Pan-African Women's Day, GWI proudly highlights the achievements of its African National Federations and Associations**

**Geneva, Switzerland, 31 July 2024** - On Pan-African Women's Day, GWI celebrates the remarkable achievements of African women and their pioneering role in advancing gender equality. This day, established in 1962 during the first conference of the Pan-African Women's Organisation, is a recognition of the critical role of African women in achieving political freedom and advancing women's social and economic status on the continent. It also marks GWI's unwavering commitment to empowering and unifying African women, a commitment that has been upheld since the formation of the Federation of University Women of Africa in 1991.

On this occasion, GWI pays tribute to the exceptional work of each of our twelve African National Federations and Associations (NFAs) through an infographic highlighting their achievements and contributions to GWI's mission, including inspiring life stories of African women pioneers. Some of GWI's African NFAs have been working on education rights for women and girls for more than a hundred years, such as the South African Association of Women Graduates, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2023, underscoring the pioneering role of African NFAs in GWI's history.

GWI African NFAs have participated in and coordinated many of GWI's programmes, educating and empowering women and girls to reach the highest levels of education. For instance, each year since 1978, African NFAs have participated in the [Bina Roy Partners in Development \(BRPID\) Projects](#), implementing various innovative and impactful projects that have positively affected thousands of women, girls, and families across the continent. These programs have focused on mentoring and educating women and girls from local African areas about their rights and potential career opportunities, environmental protection, teaching entrepreneurship skills, gender education, and literacy classes, among many more inspiring initiatives. GWI encourages you to learn more about these fascinating projects by clicking [HERE](#) to access the infographic.

GWI's 2023-2025 Board truly reflects the organisation's dedication to valorising African women. It is diverse and representative, with Patrice Wellesley-Cole, a British-African born in the United Kingdom with Sierra Leonean heritage, serving as GWI's president and Mildred Asmah from Ghana as Vice-President of the Projects Committee. This Board embodies GWI's constant efforts to promote Africa as a flourishing place where countless opportunities for women and girls have arisen and can continue to arise. "On this day promoting gender equality as per Sustainable Development Goal 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.

Graduate Women International (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 has been in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

###

Contributing to this press release is Ondine Deruaz-Scheiblin.

