



GWI UPDATE – 28 August 2024



Heritage Fundraising Wall

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI invites contributions to the 105-Year Heritage Fundraising Wall

On 1 July, GWI unveiled the virtual Heritage Fundraising Wall to commemorate its 105th anniversary. The wall features blocks representing various donation amounts, each uniquely personalised with the donor's name. Contributions to this fundraiser are instrumental in advancing girls' education and supporting GWI's mission. Since its launch, the Heritage Fundraising Wall has received around 8,000 Swiss francs. GWI expresses immense gratitude to those who have contributed and eagerly anticipates further support. GWI applauds Vice President Education Shirley Gillett for her dedicated efforts in creating and overseeing the wall. [Click HERE](#) to make your donation to the GWI Heritage Fundraising Wall.

GWI Young Member Network (YMN) launches 4-part mentorship series

On 12 August, commemorating International Youth Day, GWI YMN successfully launched the first session of its 4-part mentoring series. The webinar, under the theme, Empowering Young Women for Careers in the 21st Century, featured famed BBC Executive Producer, Project Director and Hybrid Learning Events Director, Chair BBC Women in Stem, Lalita Taylor FRSA. The Vimeo recording of this webinar where Taylor offers young women career advice, can be found [HERE](#). GWI encourages young members to join future session of this series. The next webinar is on International Day of Peace, 21 September, focusing on careers in the humanitarian sector, where members will gain insights into different career paths and experiences within this field. Additionally, Save the Date for the final two sessions of the series on 24 October, focusing on youth engagement in United Nations processes, and 25 November kicking off the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, addressing e-learning and gender studies. All GWI young members and guests are encouraged to join and benefit from this initiative hosted by the GWI YMN. A certificate of attendance will be provided for each session. More information will be sent in the coming days for members who wish to register. **Registration details will be announced soon. Please see flyer at the end of this newsletter for further information.**

— GWI Member News —

GWI Resolution Committee to host a webinar on advocacy training

After the highly successful webinar hosted by the Resolution Committee on Policy Resolutions, which offered valuable insights into creating impactful policy resolutions, GWI is encouraging interested members to take part in the upcoming advocacy training webinar on 4 September. This exclusive webinar is specifically designed for GWI members and aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the GWI Policy Resolution Triennial Advocacy Cycle. Participants will gain valuable knowledge on effective advocacy strategies to enact change and enhance the impact of their National Federation and Association's (NFAs) Policy Resolutions. The session will also offer practical tips and tools for successful Policy Resolution advocacy, using the 2022 Education Policy Resolution as an example. To facilitate maximum participation, the webinar will be offered twice. The first session will be held from 7:00-8:00 a.m. Central European Summer Time (CEST), and the second from 5:00-6:00 p.m. CEST. GWI members are invited to register for the 7:00 a.m. CEST session [HERE](#). To register for the 5:00 p.m. CEST session, GWI members can click [HERE](#). **Please see the flyer at the bottom of this newsletter for more information.**

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) to organise peace assembly

To mark International Day of Peace, CFUW has collected hundreds of peace panels that will be displayed during an International Day of Peace Assembly at Parliament Hill in Ottawa. GWI encourages members who will be in Ottawa on 21 September to join this historic event, where CFUW members and their families will share messages of peace through art and conversation. **For more details, please contact Deborah Dimitruck at deborah.dimitruck@gmail.com or Joan Conrod at naoj39@icloud.com.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI participates in the 2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

From 9-18 July, the HLPF took place at the United Nations, New York under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The HLPF reviews progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). GWI United Nations Representative, New York, Dr Maureen Byrne, represented GWI at the HLPF Ministerial Declaration session. The adopted Ministerial Declaration highlights the urgency of addressing challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change. It underscores the importance of multilateral cooperation and partnerships. It calls for increased financial and technological support for developing countries, advocates for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and stresses the need for resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The declaration reiterates the commitment of member states to uphold international law and the principles of the United Nations Charter. GWI thanks Dr Byrne for representing GWI at the session. **To read Dr Byrne's comprehensive coverage of the session, click [HERE](#).**

Additionally, Women-Graduates -USA United Nations Representative, New York and former GWI Vice President Advocacy and Education, Louise McLeod, offers a comprehensive report

of the HLPF session. The session stressed the crucial role education and gender equality play in achieving the SDGs. Moreover, the session emphasised the importance of quality education, lifelong learning, and access to technology for women and girls, which are essential for empowering them and closing the gender gap. The session called for stronger collaboration between governments, civil society, and the private sector to address issues such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and underrepresentation in decision-making roles. **GWI thanks McLeod for her comprehensive report that also contains valuable resources. To access the report click [HERE](#).**

GWI participates in the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

From 13-17 May, GWI United Nations Representative, Vienna, Elisabeth Francis, participated in the 33rd session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) held at the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime in Vienna, Austria. The 33rd CCPCJ session focused on advancing international cooperation in combating corruption, terrorism, and organised crime. Over 1,400 participants from 128 member states and 75 NGOs attended, engaging in discussions on cybercrime, environmental crime, human trafficking, and corruption. Four critical resolutions were adopted, including countering human trafficking and preventing violence against children by criminal and terrorist groups. Francis also represented GWI at events on topics such as crimes against older persons and corporate sustainability. The session emphasised the need for cross-border cooperation, youth involvement in decision-making, and intensified efforts towards achieving SDG 16. Moreover, the session stressed the importance of quality education, lifelong learning, and access to technology for women and girls, which are essential for empowering them and closing the gender gap. The session called for more vital collaboration between governments, civil society, and the private sector to address issues such as gender-based violence, discrimination, and underrepresentation in decision-making roles. **GWI thanks Francis for participating and invites reading and sharing her interesting, comprehensive report of the session [HERE](#).**

Additionally, GWI cosponsored and attended several side events during the CCPCJ. The side event summary highlights various side events cosponsored by GWI and attended by Elisabeth. These events addressed critical crime-related issues, including the growing threat of crimes against older persons via advanced communication tools and corporate sustainability directives' role in promoting fair working conditions and engaging youth in crime prevention. Discussions also focused on decarbonizing organised crime, the importance of family in preventing youth crime, and the legal challenges related to environmental crimes and nuclear disasters. These events emphasised the need for multi-stakeholder approaches, awareness campaigns, and policy changes to address these global concerns effectively. **To read and share the comprehensive side event report, click [HERE](#).**

Reflecting on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) and looking ahead

Although the CSW68 concluded in March, its impact remains relevant as GWI looks forward to CSW69 in March 2025. GWI United Nations Representative, New York, Maryella Hannum, is one of GWI main CSW representatives and organisers of the annual GWI CSW events. In this CSW68 summary, she details GWI's active participation in the CSW68. The summary

stresses that the CSW68 priority theme provided a unique opportunity to evaluate and reassess the systemic structures that perpetuate poverty among women and seek actions to leverage public institutions and gender-sensitive financing mechanisms to build a more equitable future. In this regard, gendered responsive economic and social policies are central to addressing poverty among women. The report expresses that gendered poverty is deeply entrenched politically, socially, and economically, causing and leading to ingrained discriminatory systemic structures, laws, and social norms. Additionally, points of contention pertaining to the Agreed Conclusions negotiations were around the use of "gender-responsive" and "gender-based violence," resulting in the elimination of these phrases, which is anticipated to carry over to CSW69 and the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. **GWl warmly thanks Hannum for her annual CSW participation and organisation. Readers are invited to read, reflect and share her report [HERE](#).**

— Give the Gift of Membership —

The GWl 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 GWl membership. There are many benefits of being a member of GWl, including belonging to an influential international non-governmental organisation 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 GWl.

— Did you know? —



Ondine Déruaz-Scheiblin, Spring Intern



Xinyang Sun, Spring Intern

GWl extends heartfelt thanks to interns Xinyang Sun and Ondine Déruaz-Scheiblin for their invaluable contributions GWl is grateful to interns Xinyang Sun and Ondine Déruaz-Scheiblin for their contributions to GWl's communications and advocacy efforts. Sun dedicated six months to GWl, significantly enhancing various initiatives and supporting our membership base. Her noteworthy contributions include drafting a report for the Teachers for Rural Futures project for the City of Geneva, a major project contributor. Additionally, she developed multiple infographics, communication and social media campaigns, and contributed significantly to the Update newsletter production, all of which have been vital in raising awareness about critical issues affecting women's and girls' education worldwide. Déruaz-Scheiblin also made significant contributions during her six-month internship, using her experience in fundraising and video production to further GWl's mission. Her experience enriched GWl's media content and contributed to fundraising initiatives. She played a key role in various communication campaigns by creating infographics, drafting press releases, and managing social media platforms, while simultaneously contributing to the production of the Update newsletter. "I offer my thanks to Ondine and Xinyang for their hard work, dedication, and the fresh perspectives they brought to the GWl team. GWl is pleased to have offered

them practical experience at an international NGO,” says Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director.

The GWI internship program, alongside the YMN, remains a cornerstone of GWI’s commitment to developing future leaders through education, mentorship, and practical experience. At GWI, we take pride in offering enriching internship opportunities to young women passionate about advocating for the right to education and addressing the barriers faced in accessing education.

— Dates and events —

31 August	Swiss National Federation Centenary, Bern, Switzerland
08 September	International Literacy Day
21 September	International Day of Peace
5 October	World Teachers Day
11 October	International Day of the Girl
15 October	International Day of Rural Women
10 - 13 Sept 2025	GWI 35th General Assembly and Conference, Location: TBD

Follow us on social media!



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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.

Graduate Women International

7-9, Chemin de Balexert, CH-1291, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org





GWI 2025-2028 Advocacy Training 4 September 2024

(Two sessions offered for maximum participation.)



**Questions about how
to advocate with GWI
policy resolutions?**

**Join one of the Resolution Committee
Advocacy Training Sessions**

4 September 2024

7-8 a.m. CEST OR 5-6 p.m. CEST

The advocacy training session will cover:

Join the GWI Resolution Committee for an in-depth review on the GWI Policy Resolution Triennial advocacy cycle. Learn effective advocacy strategies to drive change and amplify the impact of your NFA's Policy Resolution, gain practical insights and tools for successful Policy Resolution advocacy. Example of the 2022 Education Policy Resolution will be examined.

Register Here:

**4 September
7-8 a.m. CEST**



Register Here:

**4 September
5-6 p.m. CEST**

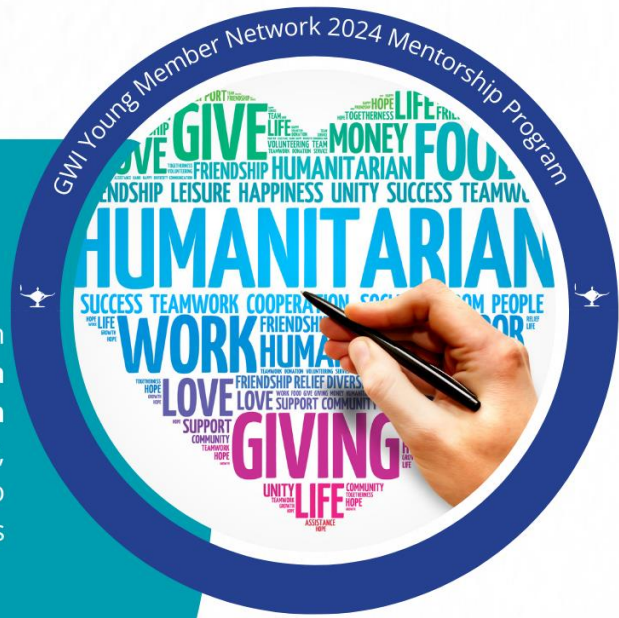


Join the Graduate Women International Young Member Network (YMN) Mentoring Series!

GWI encourages its young members to join the **second session** of this series with a **webinar on 21 September** focusing on careers in the humanitarian sector, where members will gain insights into different career paths and experiences within this field.

REGISTER

Zoom link coming soon!



Additionally, two more webinars will be organised: one on 24 October, focusing on youth engagement in United Nations processes, and another on 25 November for Orange Day, addressing e-learning and gender studies. All GWI young members and guests are encouraged to join and benefit from this initiative hosted by the GWI YMN. More information will be sent in the coming days for members who wish to register.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING SESSIONS

(Details of topic, mentor and registration will be available soon.)



21 SEPTEMBER 2024

Careers in the Humanitarian Sector



24 OCTOBER 2024

Youth and United Nations Processes



25 NOVEMBER 2024

Orange Day! E-learning and Gender Studies

All young women are welcome to join and benefit from this wonderful initiative hosted by the GWI YMN.

A certificate of attendance will be provided for each session.



graduatewomen.org



gwi@graduatewomen.org