



GW I UPDATE – 11 September 2024



— Graduate Women International (GW I) News —

GW I President to speak at Summit of the Future Side Event: “Catalysing Philanthropy for Gender Equality”

The United Nations (UN) Summit on the Future is taking place at the UN in New York 22-23 September 2024 as part of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly. The aim of the Summit is to adopt a Pact for the Future that will take up pressing international issues, accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda, that includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, and prompt reforms of various parts of the UN system. Join us online for a high-level discussion, **“Women’s Leadership, AI and Bridging the Digital Divide” side event organised by Women in Philanthropy and Impact Africa (WIPIA)** in partnership with UN Women and leaders of other international women’s organisations on the strategic role of philanthropy and women’s leadership in driving change to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The event will feature GW I President, Patrice Wellesley-Cole, along with Helene Molinier, Senior Policy Advisor on Innovation, UN Women; Mia Shah-Dand, Founder, Women in AI Ethics; CEO, Lighthouse 3, Dr Sindy Zemura-Bernard; CEO, Southern WIPIA. See the flyer at the bottom of the Update for more information about the speakers. **GW I encourages registration [HERE](#).**

GW I hosts Discussion Network inviting members to share GW I experiences

Sparked by the GW I 105-Year Anniversary and Heritage Fundraising Wall, GW I initiated the GW I Stories and Lived Experiences Discussion Network discussion. With responses from members around the globe, GW I offers a compilation of these memorable moments, personal stories and reflections, along with future aspirations for GW I. These personal stories offer valuable insights not only on the vital role that GW I has played in past decades but also emphasise ongoing contributions and inspiring the future directions GW I can take to strengthen our community. GW I thanks all members who participated in the 105-year Discussion Network discussion. **Read the compilation [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) to make add your**

name to the GWI Heritage Fundraising Wall.

GWI Young Member Network (YMN) set for 2nd session of mentorship series
After successfully launching its first session, find the recording [HERE](#), of a four-part mentoring series on 12 August to commemorate International Youth Day, the YMN looks forward to its **upcoming session on 21 September** for the International Day of Peace. This mentorship programme will focus on careers in the humanitarian sector, where members will gain insights into different career paths and experiences within the field. **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 to each participant. Additional sessions will take place on 24 October, focusing on youth engagement in United Nations processes, and 25 November addressing e-learning and gender studies. Registration details will be announced soon. **Please see the flyer at the end of this newsletter for further information.**

— GWI Member News —

Women Graduates - USA (WG-USA) invites members to its annual conference this 27 - 29 September, in Washington D.C.

GWI members are invited to attend the WG-USA Annual Conference on September 27-29 at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda, Maryland. This event is focused on programs and speakers that reflect the global perspective of WG-USA. It includes a U.S. foreign policy expert, a former Director of the Peace Corps, and a professional actress portraying how Eleanor Roosevelt used her voice for a better world. Announcement will be made about the current scholar-recipient from Myanmar. Additionally, the conference will showcase WG-USA current initiatives in education, prevention of violence against women, safe access to women's healthcare and, in collaboration with the Canadian Federation of University Women and the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU), address refugee issues. To maximise the programme impact, advocacy training will be conducted. [Register HERE](#) or **contact Conference Director Pat Stocker at patstocker@aol.com.**

FEMU shares newsletter

GWI is pleased to share the latest edition of FEMU's newsletter. FEMU continues to lead the way in advancing the development of women as a cornerstone of comprehensive societal growth in Mexico. GWI encourages all members to access all previous newsletter [HERE](#) to stay informed on FEMU's contributions for a brighter future for all women in Mexico. **Read the latest newsletter [HERE](#).**

University Women Europe (UWE) to hold conference

UWE is set to hold its annual conference in Albania from 26-29 September 2024. The annual conference is titled, "Overcoming Gender Bias in AI. Development and Implementation!" While registration is at capacity, stay tuned to the Update for the full report that will be issued by UWE post-conference. Those who will be attending the conference will have the opportunity for conversation, sharing insights, and helping shape the future of technology.

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI's Call for Quality Education, Peace, and AI Literacy in written statement to the UN Human Rights Council 57th session

GWI, with over a century of dedication to advancing women's and girls' education, submitted a written statement titled, Mandating Member States' Action on Education: GWI's Call for Quality Education, Peace, and AI Literacy to the 57th session of the Human Rights Council Session (HRC57) to be held 9 September to 9 October 2024 at the UN of Geneva. The statement addresses the importance of quality education for promoting peace and tolerance among children and emphasizes the need for inclusive curricula, teacher training, and safe educational environments, underscoring education as a fundamental right highlighted by various UN resolutions. The statement further advocates for integrating AI literacy into education and calls on member states to modernize educational frameworks to address global challenges. GWI's long-standing commitment to peace education, highlighted by resolutions such as "Women - Essential to Peace," stresses women's vital role in peacebuilding and calls for collaborative efforts with member states to promote education policies that foster gender equality, peace, and tolerance. GWI encourages all to read the statement [HERE](#) and widely distribute the statement.

GWI to Participate in HRC57 side event on Critical Human Rights Event for Older Persons

On the 1 October, GWI will participate in an HRC57 side event, titled "Geneva Calls: A Pivotal Moment for Older Persons' Rights," at the Palais des Nations." This session, organized by the NGO Committee on Ageing in Geneva, in collaboration with Member States and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), will examine the progress and actionable strategies that Member States and stakeholders can employ to enhance the human rights of older persons. This event will reflect on the discussions of the 14th session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing and explore ways to sustain the momentum towards legal protections and the inclusion of older persons in all human rights frameworks. This event promises to be a vital step in advancing the discourse on older persons' rights, emphasizing the necessity of an international legally binding instrument dedicated to their protection. To read the full concept note and to register, GWI invites readers to click [HERE](#).

— 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? —

International Literacy Day

Did you know that the International Literacy Day (ILD) has taken place on 8 September since 1967? This annual celebration reminds policymakers, practitioners, and the public of the critical importance of literacy around the world and the need of creating a more literate, just,

peaceful, and sustainable society. Literacy is a foundation for people to acquire broader knowledge, skills, values, attitudes, and behaviours to foster a culture of lasting peace based on respect for equality and non-discrimination, solidarity, justice, diversity, and tolerance. However, millions of children are struggling to acquire minimum levels of proficiency in reading, writing and numeracy, lacking basic literacy skills. Recognizing the pressing need to harness the transformative potential of literacy for promoting mutual understanding, social cohesion, and peace, GWI has been at the forefront of addressing these critical issues through its various projects and initiatives. **Read [HERE](#) our infographic for the celebration of ILD in 2022.**

— Dates and events —

21 September	International Day of Peace
21 September	YMN Mentoring Series 2/4
27-29 September	Women Graduates - USA, Conference, Washington D.C.
5 October	World Teachers Day
11 October	International Day of the Girl
15 October	International Day of Rural Women
24 October	YMN Mentoring Series 3/4
25 November	YMN Mentoring Series 4/4
10 - 13 Sept 2025	GWI 35th General Assembly and Conference, Location: TBD

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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

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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

Catalysing Philanthropy for Gender Equality: *Women's Leadership, AI & Bridging the Digital Divide*

During the UN Summit of the Future in partnership with UN Women



Sunday, September 22nd 1pm NY | 6pm UK | 7pm CET



Helene Molinier

Senior Policy Advisor on
Innovation, UN Women



**Patrice
Wellesley-Cole**

President, Graduate
Women International



**Mia
Shah-Dand**

Founder, Vikarna in AI Ethics
CEO, LightHouse2



Sophia Swire

Philanthropist and
Founder, Gender Equity
Diversity Investments (GEDi)



**Dr. Sindy
Zemura Bernard**

CEO, Southern Africa Endstate
Foundress/Vice Chair &
Co-founder, Women in
Philanthropy & Impact Africa
(WPIA)



Dr. Anino Emuwa

Founder, Africa Women CEO Network
(AWON), Chair & Co-founder,
Women in Philanthropy &
Impact Africa (WPIA)

Online registration link:

For more information: hello@wipia.org

