



GW I UPDATE – 25 September 2024



— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

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

On 22 September, under the auspices of the Summit of the Future, GWI president, Patrice Wellesley-Cole, presented at the side event, "Women's Leadership, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Bridging the Digital Divide," organized by Women in Philanthropy and Impact Africa (WIPIA) in partnership with UN Women and other leading international women's organizations. The event, held virtually during the Summit of the Future at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, explored the strategic role of philanthropy in advancing gender equality, with a particular focus on women's leadership and entrepreneurship in Africa. Discussions centered on driving inclusive, sustainable growth and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). GWI extends gratitude to President, Wellesley-Cole, for her invaluable contributions to this high-level dialogue. **We also thank all participants and encourage readers to access the event recording [HERE](#).**

GW I supports the International Day of Older Persons

On 1 October, GWI celebrates the International Day of Older Persons by co-sponsoring the event “Geneva Calls: A Pivotal Moment for Older Persons’ Rights”, organised by the NGO Committee on Ageing in Geneva, in collaboration with Member States and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The session is designed to analyse the developments and explore actionable pathways for Member States and all stakeholders to further the human rights of older persons. It will serve as a crucial forum for discussing collaborative and strategic methods to enhance global efforts in upholding and advancing these rights. Furthermore, this occasion will explore ways to sustain the momentum towards robust legal protections and the inclusion of older persons in all human rights frameworks, spotlighting the urgent need to combat ageism and promote an inclusive approach that respects and values the diversity of older persons. By supporting this event, GWI amplifies its commitment and takes decisive steps forward in shaping a future where the rights of older persons are fully recognized and robustly protected. **To read the full concept note and to register, GWI invites readers to click [HERE](#).**

GW I invites contributions to the 105-Year Heritage Fundraising Wall

Launched in celebration of GWI's 105th anniversary, the virtual Heritage Fundraising Wall offers the opportunity to contribute towards advancing girls' education and supporting GWI's

mission. Each block on the wall represents a donation amount and is uniquely personalised with the donor's name. GWI is deeply thankful to those who have already contributed, helping us raise nearly 8,000 Swiss francs since the initiative began. **We invite you to join us in reaching our goal of 10,000 Swiss francs by 11 July 2025. To make your donation, click [HERE](#).**

— GWI Member News —

New Zealand: women shine in historic Olympic success

GWI is thrilled to celebrate New Zealand's remarkable achievement at the 2024 Summer Olympics, marking its highest-ever medal count and the most successful Olympic performance in the nation's history. Notably, the majority of these medals were won by women, highlighting their incredible contributions across sports like rowing, rugby, cycling, and impressive performances in track and field. GWI is especially proud to have Graduate Women New Zealand (GWNZ) as a valued partner of our community and extends its gratitude to GWI Vice President, Education, Shirley Gillett for her dedication to advancing our mission of improving education and employment outcomes for girls and women. Other countries such as the United States, Australia, and France achieved remarkable success, leading the medal count for women in this year's Olympics. In light of this, GWI extends its congratulations to all of its National Federations and Associations whose female athletes emerged as Olympic champions, underscoring the strength, talent, and determination of women in sports on the global stage. **To read GWI's statement for HRC54 on the potential of sports and its positive impact on the education of women and girls, you can access it [HERE](#).**

Messages from GWI's Egyptian Association on the commitment to peace

On 21 September, GWI's Egyptian Association of Graduate Women shared four peace wishes from their celebration of the International Day of Peace:

1. We need to teach children in schools at an early age that peace is not only between countries, but it also begins from everyone, by giving and forgiving;
2. We need more humanity in the world, especially nowadays after what we see in wars that break our hearts, killing civilians, and especially children, with no mercy but with cold blood and hard feelings;
3. We should focus more on raising generations with the importance of the activities that help them to grow in a healthy environment, with minds that work positively and neglecting any hate;
4. The importance of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs), associations, churches, mosques, temples, which have a direct role in spreading love and have peaceful humans.

GWI extends gratitude for these inspirational messages, which remind us of the importance of cultivating a foundation for peace within our communities.

Sahar Gamal, participates in the Africa ELTA 8th International Conference

GWI Independent Member, Sahar Gamal, Egypt, attended Africa ELTA 8th International Conference held in Cairo, Egypt (30 May – 1 June 2024). This conference was a collaboration between Africa ELTA Association (Nigeria) and the University of Hertfordshire (United Kingdom) in Egypt, hosted by Global Academic Foundation. English Language Teachers from Egypt, Greece, Nepal, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, and Uzbekistan were inspired by the

conference's theme, "Transforming Minds Transforming Lives in ELT", to discuss current pressing issues such as gender equality, gender inclusivity, gender responsive teaching, climate change, gender-based violence, social justice, challenges of low resources, AI utility, cyber security and SDGs for a better future. **GWI thanks Gamal for her continued support and for her contributions to this recent conference.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI participates in the 57th Session of the Human Rights Council (HRC57)

GWI reaffirms its commitment to advancing women's and girls' rights through education at the HRC57, taking place between 9 September 2024 and 11 October 2024. GWI advocates for education as a fundamental human right and the foundation for its commitment to the implementation of the SDGs.

Panel on quality education for peace and tolerance for every child

On 18 September, GWI joined the panel discussion on quality education for peace and tolerance for every child, chaired by Marcela Maria Arias Moncada, HRC Vice-President. Grounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and aligned with international human rights, development and peace and security frameworks, this discussion emphasises the provision of accessible, inclusive, equitable and quality education for every child as an effective strategy to promote sustainable peace and tolerance. This discussion contributes to the development of specific recommendations to create educational programs that support these goals, especially children in the most vulnerable situations. Conflict-affected girls, in particular, face severe and ongoing violations of the rights they are entitled to under international law, experiencing killings, injuries, abuse, displacement, family separation and missed years of education. These issues dramatically impact their physical and psychological wellbeing and hinder the achievement of durable peace and reconciliation. GWI emphasises the crucial role of quality education for peace in advancing social inclusion and social cohesion which are all key components of conflict prevention and success of peacebuilding efforts. **GWI invites readers to click [HERE](#) to read the full concept note and [HERE](#) to look at the recording of the discussion.**

GWI attends Geneva Peace Talks 2024

On 21 September, to celebrate the International Day of Peace and Interpeace 30th Anniversary, GWI participated at the Geneva PeaceTalks. Under the overarching theme of "The Future of Peace," this year's Geneva PeaceTalks features personal stories from people on the frontlines of peacebuilding, linking the past, present, and future of peace. The PeaceTalks is a global initiative that uses storytelling as a tool to build peace and inspire action. The vision of the PeaceTalks is to expand the space for dialogue about building peace and resolving conflict, believing that all members of society play incredibly important roles in shaping peace at home and in their communities. The event brought together influential speakers from all over the globe, each offering a unique perspective on peace. You can find more information about them and their contributions [HERE](#). GWI reiterates its commitment to contributing to the global movement for peace and thanks intern, Elena Bauchiero, for her coverage of the event. **It's never too late to promote peace and GWI invites readers share our social media campaign for the International Day of Peace by clicking [HERE](#).**

— Give the Gift of Membership —

The GWI 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 GWI membership. There are many benefits of being a member of GWI, including belonging to an influential international NGO 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 GWI.

— Did you know? —

GWI welcomes the new intern Elena Bauchiero



Elena Bauchiero, Intern

My name is Elena Bauchiero and I am a second-year student at ISCTE - Lisbon University Institute and majoring in Psychology of Intercultural Relations. I am absolutely thrilled to be interning at GWI gaining invaluable hands-on experience to help empower women through secondary and tertiary education. Throughout my studies, I have developed an interest in empowering women to combat gender inequality and take on more significant roles in society through the lens of social and cultural psychology. I firmly believe in the immense potential of women as leaders and the necessity of addressing barriers to education to enabling women and girls to realise their full potential. GWI's dynamic and energetic environment will allow me to turn my passion into action while getting the opportunity to meet and work with graduate women from all over the world. My core values, including the promotion of gender equality, cultural diversity, human rights, and social justice, will guide my contributions to GWI's initiatives. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to intern at GWI, viewing this experience as an opportunity for both professional and personal development, strengthening my growth as an individual and as a woman. **GWI warmly welcomes Elena to our team, and we wish her much success.**

— Dates and events —

27-29 September
1 October
5 October
11 October
15 October

Women Graduates - USA, Conference, Washington D.C.
International Day of Older Persons
World Teachers Day
International Day of the Girl
International Day of Rural Women

24 October
25 November
10 - 13 Sept 2025

YMN Mentoring Series 3/4
YMN Mentoring Series 4/4
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
E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org

