



## GW I UPDATE – 6 November 2024



**APPLICATIONS ARE NOW  
OPEN FOR THE 2025  
GW I FELLOWSHIPS!**

**Deadline to submit applications on 15 January 2025**

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### — Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

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#### **Applications Now Open for the 2025 GWI International Fellowships**

GW I is excited to announce the opening of applications for the 2025 round of International Fellowships! These esteemed fellowships are designed to support women scholars worldwide as they advance their postgraduate studies and research, cultivating the next generation of female leaders and innovators. This year, GW I welcomes applications from women currently enrolled in PhD programs and encourages all eligible readers to appl. **Don't miss this opportunity** to advance your studies with GW I's support! Please note that the **application deadline is 15 January 2025**. For more information on the application process, click [HERE](#) to view the 2025 Fellowship Guidelines and Instructions. Download the 2025 Fellowship Application [HERE](#).

#### **GW I attends Beijing+30 Civil Society Forum**

On 19 and 20 October, GW I participated in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Beijing+30 Civil Society Forum, organised by NGO Committee on the Status of Women (NGO CSW) Geneva. Elena, GW I's intern, contributed to this consultation by taking part in the Best Practices and Vision for the Future panel discussion. As GW I's youth representative, she shared some of GW I's most impactful initiatives to promote gender equality. One example is the Girls' Education for Brighter Futures project, which provides scholarships to support girls' education, shaping a brighter future for themselves and their communities. Another remarkable program is the Teachers for Rural Futures, where young female graduates in rural Uganda become role models in their communities, inspiring other girls to pursue education. **These initiatives underscore GW I's dedication to the power of education in helping women reach their full potential.**

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **GWI Young Member Network (YMN) mentorship series: 2nd session recap**

On 24 October, in celebration of the United Nations Day, GWI held the second session of the YMN mentorship series, which was successfully launched in August 2024. (Access the recording of the first webinar [HERE](#)). This session featured Cecilia Schirmeister, the Baha'i International Community's Representative to the United Nations, who shared valuable insights into NGO work, UN processes, and career paths in international relations, drawing from her experiences within this influential community. GWI encourages all young members to join the next session, scheduled on 25 November. This upcoming webinar will kick off the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence with a focus on e-learning and gender studies. **Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this event meaningful! You can access the recording of the October webinar on Vimeo [HERE](#).**

### **2024 Women Graduates-USA Conference Recap: Strengthening Our Voice**

The Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA) annual conference, held in Bethesda, Maryland, from September 27-29, gathered members and guests to discuss advocacy, education, and global empowerment for women and girls. Key sessions included insights on U.S. and international policies from Mark Medish, founder of Keep Our Republic, and a moving personal account by Dr. Yin Yin Win, a legal scholar and civil disobedience advocate from Myanmar. Additional highlights featured Bradford Fitch, President and CEO of the Congressional Management Foundation, who discussed effective relationship-building with lawmakers to advance advocacy goals, and Dr. Jody Olsen, former Director of the Peace Corps, sharing her global journey and experiences in international service. Kate Campbell Stevenson captivated the audience with her portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt, embodying the power of women's voices in history. Panels covered critical issues such as violence against women, global health, and legislative advocacy. **GWI congratulates WG-USA on a successful and inspiring 2024 conference.**

### **Irish Federation of University Women (IrFUW) Centenary Celebration**

GWI extends huge congratulations to IrFUW for their centenary celebration, especially honouring all who spoke and supported this milestone. Special thanks to Grace O'Malley for providing a full summary of the event and complete list of contributors. **Check out the summary [HERE](#)!**

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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**GWI participates in the 10th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (EMRTD)**

From 28 October to 30 October, GWI participated in the tenth session of the EMRTD which facilitated discussions among Member States, civil society, experts, and practitioners on advancing the right to development within current international frameworks, agreements, and instruments. The session included a general debate, a coordination meeting with other United Nations mechanisms on the right to development, and discussions on two studies addressing both individual and collective dimensions of this right and its role in international development cooperation. Additional thematic dialogues were held, focusing on key topics such as business and the right to development, inclusive development through civil society participation, artificial intelligence, trade and biodiversity, and the future of international cooperation. To view the programme of work, access concept notes, and recordings from the session, click [HERE](#). **GWI was honored to contribute to these significant exchanges and reaffirms its commitment to promoting the right to development through strategic investments in education.**

### **GWI attends the Human Rights Council (HRC) Social Forum on Financing for Development**

On 31 October and 1 November, GWI participated in the 2024 HRC Social Forum, which focused on “The Contribution of Financing for Development to the Advancement of All Human Rights for All”. Aligning with the 1986 UN Declaration on the Right to Development, Financing for Development involves allocating financial resources to support the comprehensive growth of nations, ensuring all people, particularly in developing countries, can actively participate in and benefit from development. The forum underscored its importance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promoting economic progress, environmental sustainability, and human welfare. However, a growing financial divide between developed and developing countries poses serious obstacles to equitable progress and highlights the urgent need to address the financing challenges exacerbated by recent and evolving global crises. The forum convened a diverse range of stakeholders—including governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector—to promote inclusive dialogue on solutions for more equitable financing. Topics included restructuring and regulatory measures, as well as principles of justice, equity, and cooperation essential to revitalizing the Financing for Development agenda. By actively participating in this gathering, **GWI reinforces its commitment to a rights-based approach to Financing for Development and urges all nations to prioritize this area.**

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— Give the Gift of Education —

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In support of GWI mission, Girls Education for Brighter Futures Post-Covid 19 programme helps fund projects and initiatives on local, national and international levels, rebuilding the unprecedented disruption in education caused during Covid-19. Your contributions make it possible for women and girls to access safe, quality education that helps to break the poverty cycle and fight for gender equality. This program's most recent initiative, in collaboration with others, was funding the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Beijing+30 Civil Forum, gathering an accumulation of voices to review our progress on gender equality. GWI invites you to click [HERE](#) to read the press release and learn how these initiatives help the futures of girls and women. GWI is grateful to all the generous support of the Girls Education for Brighter Futures Post- Covid 19 programme. To contribute towards more of these causes click [HERE](#). Thank you for making such a meaningful difference!

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— Did you know? —

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**Celebrating United Nations Day, GWI speaks of Virginia Cocheron Gildersleeve**

Virginia Cocheron Gildersleeve, one of the three key founders of GWI, previously known as the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), played a role ensuring women rights was incorporated into the United Nations Charter in 1945, San Francisco. The document pioneered the international agreement in norms and standards, programs and strategies for the advancement of women globally, creating a level of importance that wasn't recognised beforehand. She spent her work advancing women rights in all forms of higher education, encouraging faculty and students to engage in the political movement of the day, creating fellowships as well as advocating for paid maternity leave for the female faculty members. Gildersleeve served as President of IFUW from 1924-1926 and 1936-1939, and her fund has helped over one million women and girls globally. GWI continues the work of ensuring that all women and girls can receive education beyond primary school globally. **Check out our United Nations Day Media post [HERE](#) for more information!**

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— Dates and events —

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17 November	International Students' Day
25 November	YMN Mentoring Series 4/4
25 November	International Day Elimination of Violence against Women
25 November-10 December	16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence
10-21 March 2025	CSW69
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**

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