

Graduate Women International (GWI)

# Graduate Women International (GWI) 2024 YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE

## Educate, Empower, Enlighten: GWI Shapes the Future of Girls and Women Worldwide

### Our History: A Vision Born from Conflict

GWI was founded in 1919, emerging from the ashes of World War I, a time when the world sought new ways to prevent conflict and advance understanding. Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, Professor Caroline Spurgeon, and Rose Sidgwick, GWI foundin mothers, envisioned a global network of university women dedicated to promoting peace, friendship, and cooperation among nations. Initially established as the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), GWI has since grown into the leading global organization for graduate women, advocating for women's rights, equality, and empowerment through access to quality education and training at the highest levels.

### Celebrating 105 Years of Empowerment

On 11 July 2024, GWI proudly celebrated its 105th anniversary, a milestone that reflects over a century of advocacy for women's education and empowerment. This remarkable legacy is built on the unwavering dedication of our members, whose day-to-day work continues to benefit girls and women worldwide. As we commemorate this historic achievement, we eagerly anticipate the advancements that lie ahead for GWI. In commemoration of GWI 105th anniversary, the Heritage Fundraising Wall was created with all contributions going towards advancing girls' education and supporting GWI missions.



### Heritage Fundraising Wall [Donate Here](#) ✓

Jasmit Phull (JP) 15/07/24 \$205	Graduate Woman Otago 27/06/24 \$105	Woman Graduates-USA 07/07/24 \$505	Barbara Benson(NZ) 27/06/24 \$105	Dr Maureen Byrne 04/07/24 \$205
Dr. Srivastava (London) 12/07/24	Your Name 13/06/24 \$505	Dr Shirley Gillett (NZ) 11/07/24 \$205	University Women's Club of Vancouver 11/07/24 \$1005	Your Name 13/06/24 \$105





## GWI Membership



### GWI Expands its Network and Engages its Member Community

- ✓ Successfully reached **55 independent members** from 39 countries and maintained **National Federations and Associations (NFAs) in 48 countries.**
- ✓ Facilitated **3 member Discussion Network** dialogues, including Commission on the Status of Women 68th session (CSW68), International Day of Education, GWI's 105th anniversary collection of NFA milestones and lived experiences.
- ✓ Membership Marketplace continued the successful **Spanish-Speaking Culture Bridge NFA-to-NFA Project**, celebrating its third year, and commenced the **Connexion Francophone Project.**
- ✓ Organised **8 webinars** and briefings on relevant topics to women and girls.
- ✓ This year, GWI affiliates celebrated significant milestones: the **Irish Federation of University Women** and the **Swiss Federation of University Women** marked 100 years, the **Spanish Federation of University Women** celebrated 104 years, and the **South African Association of Graduate Women** continued their centenary festivities.



## GWI Communications



GWI's 105-year mission of peace through education is propelled forward through comprehensive **communication** and **social media strategies** that include multiple weekly informational posts, marking of international Days of Observance, and press releases.

- ✓ Posted more than **1200 social media posts** published across Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn, with audience engagement increasing by **30%** since 2023.
- ✓ Distributed **27 Update newsletters**, including Year-at-a-Glance, and four themed special editions covering the International Day of Education, CSW68, Human Rights Council 56th session (HRC56), and 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). Each averaged 8 write-ups, totaling **over 200 informational articles** throughout the year.
- ✓ Distributed **3 Circulars** to keep members informed and engaged with key announcements.
- ✓ The Update newsletter reached nearly **4000 subscribers.**
- ✓ Published **12 press releases**, highlighting GWI's participation in CSW68, participation in HRC55, CSW69 parallel events, and **9 dedicated to observance days.**

# GWI International Advocacy

In tandem with activities at United Nations campuses, GWI executes a comprehensive international advocacy strategy.

- ✓ Marked **24 annual Days of Observance**, with powerful messaging aimed to reduce barriers in education.
- ✓ Published **2 toolkits**, including one for International Day of the Girl and another for International Girls in ICT Day.
- ✓ Published **10 infographics** to raise awareness on key observance days, including International Day of Women and Girls in Science, International Day of Indigenous Peoples, Menstrual Hygiene Day, World Refugee Day, World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, Pan-African Women's Day, International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, International Day for Countering Hate Speech, Earth Day, World Day Against Child Labour.
- ✓ Run the **16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign** "Breaking the Silence, Reclaiming Our Power."



## GWI at the United Nations

GWI participated in Human Rights Councils (Geneva), Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Economic and Social Council, High-Level Political Forum, Commission for Social Development, Sustainable Development Goal Summit, UNICEF (New York); Conference on NGOs and UNESCO (Paris); Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna), and more.

- ✓ Submitted **3 written statements to the HRC** throughout the year.
- ✓ Actively participated in **CSW68**, submitting a written statement, copensoring **6 more**, and organizing **3 parallel events**, with an additional **6 events** organized by NFAs and regional groups.
- ✓ Participated in the **Beijing+30 Platform for Action Civil Society Forum**.
- ✓ Contributed to the **High-Level Political Forum** by submitting a written statement, a declaration, event summary, and comprehensive advocacy report.
- ✓ Contributed to the **Commission for Social Development** with a summary report and written statement.
- ✓ Contributed to the **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice** and the **Committee on Narcotic Drugs**, including **2 summaries** for the 33rd session on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and **2 reports** for the 67th session on Narcotic Drugs.

**GWI thanks United Nations representatives Dr Maureen Byrne, Maryella Hannum, Elisabeth Francis, Reinhild Strauss, Dominique Ciavatti, Eliane Didier, and Helen Lom for their contributions.**



## GWJ Projects and Grants



### Teachers for Rural Futures

**Sponsored 6 female students** with GWI scholarship, with **2 graduating** in January 2025. As well as onboarding **2 students** in the fall of 2024. Submitted **3 GlobalGiving reports** and surpassed **700 donations**.



### Girls Education for Brighter Futures

Supports GWI vision for 100% of girls and women in the world to achieve quality education beyond primary school. **Sponsored Beijing+30 Civil Society Forum, Widows' Rights seminar**, launched **International Day of the Girl toolkit**, co-hosted HRC **International Day of Older Persons** side event; presented at **UN Institute for Training and Research**; worked with **UNESCO on NGO partnerships**, and somuch more. Achieved 400 donations.



### Bina Roy Partners in Development

**Funded 6 new projects to train women and girls** in a variety of skills and education. Nepal provided arithmetic and literacy courses. Egypt held health and nutrition classes. Uganda trained women to make reusable sanitary pads. El Salvador taught women to use AI tools. Senegal created green clubs and taught sustainable practices in school. Turkey organized session to empower children and families in rural areas.



### Hegg Hoffett Committee

**Sponsored 6 grant recipients**, some include funding **English courses** and **re-certification courses** for a physician and pharmacist.



### Heritage Fundraising Wall

The virtual Heritage Fundraising Wall in celebration of **GWJ 105 anniversary**, with all contributions going towards advancing girls' education and supporting GWI missions. We reached our 10,000 Swiss francs goal and striving to achieve 10,000 more by 11 July 2025.



### Launched 2025 Rose Sidgwick Fellowship

GWJ launched its **2025 fellowship for PhD students** to enhance research or scholarships in their area of study. Application close on the 15 January 2025.







## Young Member Network (YMN)



GWI YMN under the exceptional leadership of YMN President, **Sudha Srivastava**, continues to flourish and grow in numbers and diversity resulting in yet another action-packed year!

- ✓ Had **15 Young Members** from 7 countries participated in **UN Women CSW68 Global Youth Consultations** and submitted Recommendations Report.
- ✓ The **Monthly Conversation Series "Growing Together"** spotlighted **7 Young Members** who presented their professional and cultural journeys with collaboration opportunities.
- ✓ On **International Women's Day**, YMN hosted an Intergenerational event "Inspiring Inclusion."
- ✓ Had **10 Young Members** from 10 countries participate and present their work at **CSW68 YMN Virtual Parallel Event** "Sustainable Financing for Gender Equality: Young Women's Perspective."
- ✓ YMN presented a **video project** for GWI 105 Years celebrations.
- ✓ **Certified Mentoring Series 2024** on Early Careers, Career Progression in Media, Careers at United Nations, Gender Studies and Activism on Elimination of Gender Based Violence.
- ✓ Celebrated **5-year anniversary** highlighting proactive leadership and teamwork with numerous key achievements of foundations, growth and future prospects.
- ✓ Discussions with GWI NFAs about **opportunities for YMs** and its international platforms.



## GWI Leadership, Staff, and Interns



### Eight 2023-2025 Board of Officers

GWI's 2024 modern vision is credited to **8 Board of Officers: Patrice Wellesley-Cole**, President, **Mildred Asmah**, Vice President, Projects, **Meera Bondre**, Vice President, Membership, **Shirley Gillett**, Vice President, Education, **Shaila Rao Mistry**, Vice President, Advocacy, **Ujwala Shinde**, Vice President, Legal & Governance, **Fernanda Vidal-Correra**, Vice President, Fundraising, **Karoline Dorsch-Häsler**, Treasurer.

### One Dedicated Staff

**Stacy Dry Lara**, Executive Director.

### Seven Remarkable 2024 Interns

GWI's mission is fueled by the invaluable support and contributions of its inspiring 2024 interns. We offer appreciation to: **Sophia Schaaper** (Netherlands), **Brooke Leggat** (U.S.A), **Xinyang Sun** (China), **Ondine Déruaz-Scheiblin** (Switzerland), **Elena Bauchiero** (Italy), **Constance Preston** (Scotland), and **Grace Wanebo** (U.S.A).



**Bina Roy  
Partners in  
Development  
2024-2025  
Project Summaries**



Graduate Women International (GWI)






Graduate Women International (GWI)

# Press Release



## WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR 12 JUNE 2024







Graduate Women International (GWI)


# International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 9 AUGUST 2024

## What is International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples?


The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, observed on

# COMMISSION *on the* STATUS OF WOMEN




25 NOVEMBER 2023



## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM

GLADIOLUS THE FLOWER  
OF STRENGTH, COURAGE  
AND INTEGRITY


**BREAKING THE SILENCE,  
RECLAIMING OUR POWER**




## BEIJING +30 UNECE CIVIL SOCIETY FORUM

The strength, resilience and  
practical expertise of Civil Society  
is essential for  
positive change for women and girls  
to be realized in their everyday  
lives.

**19 - 20 OCTOBER  
2024**

2024 GIVING TUESDAY FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN  
WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR MATCHED FUNDS  
IF RECEIVED BY 11 OCTOBER 2024



2024 GIVING TUESDAY FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN  
WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR MATCHED FUNDS  
IF RECEIVED BY 11 OCTOBER 2024

CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT GWI ON GIVING TUESDAY  
(Don't forget to add your GWI affiliate ID)






GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL TOOLKIT

## International Day of the Girl

11 OCTOBER 2024

GWI thanks interns, Elena Bauchiero and Constance Preston, for their work on the 2024 Year-at-a-Glance.



-  @GraduateWomenInternational
-  @gradwomen
-  @gradwomen
-  Graduate Women International

Join a GWI affiliate today at  
[www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)