



## GWI UPDATE – 12 March 2025



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

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#### **Graduate Women International Celebrates International Women’s Day 2025**

Graduate Women International (GWI) proudly joined the global celebration of International Women’s Day (IWD) 2025 on 8 March, reaffirming its commitment to advancing gender equality. Under the theme “Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress”, this year’s IWD highlighted the urgent need for sustained investments in gender equity for sustainable development.

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### — GWI Member News —

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**Anna Grimaldi wins the supreme NZ Halberg Award for Para-Athlete of the year in New Zealand.** Graduate Women Otago’s Women’s Day Speaker Anna Grimaldi, a Paralympic Gold medalist was announced the winner of the ISPS HANDA Para Athlete/Team of the Year Award at the 62nd ISPS HANDA Halberg Awards at Spark Arena, Auckland. In 2024, Anna Grimaldi won a Women’s T47 long jump silver medal and Women’s 100m T47 bronze medal at the Para Athletics World Championships in Kobe, Japan. She also won a bronze medal in the Women’s 100m T47, and a third successive Paralympic long jump T47 gold medal at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games. **GWJ extends its congratulations to Anna Grimaldi for her Award.**

### **The Spanish Federation of University Women celebrates its 105 anniversary on 7 March**

The Spanish Federation of University Women (FEMU), at the time Juventud Universitaria Femenina (JUF), was created in 1920, a few years after women were allowed to take higher studies in Spain, with the goal of building and giving meaning to the new identity of «female university students». In a social setting in which some progress was being made in the model of household femininity, the JUF spread the discourse and action taken by these intellectually trained professional women who, from 1928, extended their social-political participation, also demanding equal rights for women. By forming linguistic structures and with new life experience and practices, the JUF trained a minority sector of university women to become an elite guiding the emancipation process, which gradually took on authority in public life. **GWI is very proud of FEMU for their 105 years of commitment in supporting women and girls' education rights and opportunities!**

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **GWI attends United Nations Director General annual civil society meeting**

On 17 February GWI attended the Directors General's annual meeting with civil society, addressing key elements and achievements from 2024, as well as upcoming events, general information and priorities for 2025. The Young Activist, Geneva Peace Talk and Pact for the Future were just some of the United Nations successful events of 2024. Moving into 2025 the 50th anniversary of Biological Weapons Conventions and the 100th Anniversary of Geneva Protocol will be celebrated.

A big priority for 2025 is ensuring adequate financial investment into sustainable development for 2030, as well as thinking beyond, making sure that sustainable development is a key foundation to all decisions. With the new energy centre being placed in Geneva, the UN will move from fossil fuels to using fully renewable sources. Other major infrastructure changes include ensuring the building is fully accessible to all bodies, a new visitor centre to help increase engagement and advocacy, as well as having a separate entrance, making the member states access smoother and quicker. All archives are now digital and available to everyone globally and there is hope of a new building which will provide further storage and space for civil society to work. Unfortunately, this year there is still limited space for side events and activities, but the Director General ensures that with adequate planning and advance notice, the events can be organized.

Finally the UN Geneva will experience some budget cuts which the Director General and her team are taking into account and coming up with a plan to ensure these cuts have limited impact on 2025, more information about these plans will be released later on. A strong consensus for this year is for the Member States to pay their full, to the United Nations. To find out more about the Director General and priorities for the United Nations Geneva click [HERE](#).

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## — Commission on the Status of Women 69th Session —

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### **GWI releases comprehensive Commission on the Status of Women handbook**

The 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) kicks off on Monday, 10 March 2025, ushering in two weeks of advocacy, critical dialogue, and global collaboration! This year's session holds special significance as we mark the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a landmark commitment to advancing gender equality worldwide.

To help participants navigate and maximize your engagement, GWI is pleased to present the GWI Delegates and Participants CSW69 Handbook—your essential guide to this pivotal event. Inside, you'll find:

- GWI written statement link and GWI co-sponsored statements
- Key registration details for the CSW69 Forum, where you can craft your schedule from over 900 parallel events and connect with global changemakers.
- Strategies to amplify your advocacy, including talking points that align with GWI's mission and elevate your voice in critical discussions.
- Practical resources and insights to ensure a seamless and impactful experience—whether you're a seasoned advocate or attending for the first time.

Your participation at CSW69 is more than attendance—it's action. With your engagement, GWI continues its 106-year legacy of advancing women's education and empowerment worldwide. Let's make CSW69 a powerful moment for progress and impact! **Download the comprehensive handbook [HERE](#), and get ready to make a difference!**

### **GWI remaining CSW69 Parallel Events**

Organized by the Young Member Network this Parallel Event titled, Empowering Young Women for Sustainable Development: Progress and Future, will be held 19 March 2025, 8:30 am Eastern Standard Time (Virtual). The interactive event will showcase the progress and challenges affecting the achievements of gender equality for the full realization of Agenda 2030. With case studies focusing on aspects of leadership development, digital spaces and AI, period poverty, environment. Gaps and challenges will be addressed providing the innovative solutions from an expert panel of young women from across the globe. There will be opportunities for audience interaction via breakout sessions, opinion polls and Q&A. **Register in advance for this event [HERE](#) and check out the flyer below to see distinguished speakers.**

The Women in Power and Leadership Accelerating Advancement Towards Gender Equity Parallel Event will be held 20 March 2025, 12:30 pm Eastern Standard Time (Virtual). Organized by GWI VP Advocacy, the parallel event will underscore that women remain under-represented in leadership roles across all sectors: politics, business, government, and international organizations. Women leaders bring diverse perspectives and drive inclusive, foster innovation and sustainable policies, yet embedded barriers hinder their access to pivotal roles of decision making and power nor reach mass representation. Join the event to hear from distinguished leaders from around the world. **Register in advance for this event [HERE](#) and check out the flyer below to see the event agenda.**

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### — Give the Gift of Membership —

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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.

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### — Did you know? —

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GWl extends a warm thanks to Connie Preston for her dedication and hard work at GWI during her time interning. Preston interned for four months, during which she made major contributions to GWI initiatives and memberships. As an intern, Preston showed strong leadership and great potential. Some of her hard work included co-production the Update newsletter, leading the development of GWI’s new coming website, production of the video infographic for International Day of Women and Girls in Science, preparations for the upcoming CSW69, with honorable mentions for the Year-at-a-Glance, and co-producer of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. **“I sincerely thank Connie for her**

**dedication, professionalism, and invaluable contributions during her internship. Her leadership, creativity, and commitment to advancing GWI’s mission have left a lasting impact. From spearheading key initiatives to shaping vital communications, Connie demonstrated**

remarkable potential. We are grateful for her hard work and wish her every success in her future endeavors,” says Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director.

BEIJING  
+30

09-21 MARCH 2025  
**CSW69**  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN  
FOR ALL WOMAN  
AND GIRLS  
Rights. Equality. Empowerment.

# EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROGRESS AND FUTURE

## KEY SPEAKERS



**Sudha Srivastava**  
(United Kingdom)

Leadership  
Development



**Cynthia A Adinortey**  
(Ghana)

Period Poverty and  
Menstrual Hygiene



**Nyarai Tunjera**  
(South Africa)

Digital Spaces  
Technology & AI

**Wednesday, 19 March 2025**

1:30 P.M. CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME (CET) / 8:30 A.M. EASTERN STANDARD TIME (EST)

**Registration link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/registration/tZAsdOqrrT0rHNW6c-kQWj4d-wWgnR90HaEJ#/registration>



As CSW69 is reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, this highly interactive CSW69 Parallel Event will highlight the urgent need of gender equality for the full realisation of Agenda 2030, focusing on the aspects of leadership development, digital spaces/AI and period poverty. There will be opportunities for audience interaction via breakout session, opinion polls and Q&A.

## BREAKOUT SESSION LEADERS



**Alukhanyo Xonti**  
South Africa



**Tzazil Valencia**  
Mexico



**Nkem Menkiti**  
Nigeria



**Dağlar Yaraşır**  
Turkey



**Ellen Antwi-Adjei**  
USA

Graduate Women International Young Members Network CSW69 Parallel Event: Developed and produced by Sudha Srivastava (GWI Youth Representative) and YMN team.



## Women in Power and Leadership: Accelerating Advancement Towards Gender Equity

Thurs, Mar 20, 2025, at 12.30 pm EST/ 9.30 am PST [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TO JOIN](#)

Full link provided below if copy-paste is needed



**Keynote Speaker  
Ambassador Anwarul  
K. Chowdhury**, former  
Under-Secretary-  
General and High  
Representative of the  
UN Initiator, as  
Security Council  
President - led 1325



**Hon. Deputy  
Executive  
Director  
Nyaradzayi  
Gumbonzvanda**  
Integrating  
Gender Lens to  
Macroeconomic  
Policy



**Moderator  
Shaila Rao  
Mistry**  
CEO Founder  
STEM-Institute,  
VP Advocacy.  
Graduate  
Women  
International

**Eleanor Smeal**  
Founder and  
President of  
Feminist  
Majority



**Irene Natividad**,  
President Global of  
Women, Globe  
Women Research  
and Educational  
Institute

Why are women still under-represented in high leadership roles across all sectors: politics, business, government, and global organizations? To ensure Women's leadership is the norm, rather than an exception, we must expose intersectional factors shaping public perceptions and address systemic obstacles. To promote equitable access to leadership and build pathways to a gender-responsive future, we need to dismantle exclusionary barriers and advocate for policy reforms. **Join us to hear perspectives from our Keynote Speaker, H.E UN Deputy Executive Director and other distinguished High Global Leaders**

**Our Initiatives** - We invite you to join us in the following:

- ❖ Beijing +30 UNECE Geneva Report - an insightful Reflection of Gains and Losses
- ❖ Advocacy Without Borders: Advocacy Influences at Work - GWI initiative
- ❖ Resolution on Artificial Intelligence and impact on decision making – GWI/WG-USA

**Click or Copy link to register**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsde-hqD8uGdJsDslNkBLNlX7UlgFtTK#/registration>

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## — Dates and Events —

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24 February - 4 April	58th Session of the Human Rights Council
8 March	International Women's Day
10-21 March	CSW69
10 March	GWI's Breakfast Briefing
12 March	GWI's Social Dinner
13 March	GWI's Breakfast Briefing
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
22 March	World Water Day
6 April	International Day of Sports for Development and Peace
11-13 September	GWI 35th Triennial General Assembly

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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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