



## **GW I UPDATE –23 April 2025**



GW I Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates application season is open from 15 April to 30 June 2025.

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

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#### **GW I opens Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates grant season**

GW I is pleased to announce the opening of the 2025 Hegg Hoffet Fund grant season, running from 15 April to 30 June. The Hegg Hoffet Fund provides short-term grants to graduate women who have been displaced due to war, political upheaval, or other serious emergencies. These grants assist with expenses such as refresher courses, language training, and integration into new professional environments. For more information about the Hegg Hoffet program qualifications and to access the application, please visit the GW I website.

In observance of World Refugee Day on 20 June, GW I will host a special webinar to mark the day and showcase the Hegg Hoffet program. Attendees will gain insights into the application process and hear firsthand experiences from past grantees, highlighting the program's impact on their professional and personal journeys. Registration details will be published soon.

#### **GW I Presses for Action to Reverse Gender Inequity in Tech**

The International Girls in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Day is observed annually on the fourth Thursday of April to celebrate the empowerment of young women and girls in ICT careers. This year's theme is "Girls in ICT for inclusive digital transformation." To mark the day, GW I released a press statement highlighting the role of digital education for women and girls in achieving inclusive digital transformation. The rapid shift to digital education has intensified existing inequalities, making it essential to address these gaps and ensure all women

and girls can access and benefit from digital learning, regardless of their circumstances. [Click HERE](#) to read and share the release.



### **Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education, and Empowerment for Sustainability**

The GWI 35th Triennial General Assembly and Conference will take place from 11–13 September 2025 at the Mulungushi International Conference Centre in Lusaka, Zambia. This milestone event will convene members and advocates from around the world to engage in critical dialogue on the future of education, women’s empowerment, and sustainability.

The priority theme is: Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education, and Empowerment for Sustainability. With a focus on strengthening education systems through the lens of integrated cultural education relevance, the public conference will explore key global issues through five interrelated sub-themes:

1. Education and empowerment for women in diverse contexts: Pathways to a sustainable future.
2. What is a future context in which education, culture, gender and the economy will operate?
3. Gender-based cultural issues and barriers in education in relation to gender equity.
4. How relationships including intergenerational and community enable growth and sustainability.
5. Technology, AI, and Innovation: Relevance to Empowering Women for the Future.

These discussions will contribute to shaping GWI policies, strategies, and collaborations for the 2026-2028 triennial to reinforce GWI’s international commitment to equitable access to quality education for women and girls of all ages.

The early bird registration fee for both the General Assembly and Conference is 350 Swiss francs, with registration opening soon. This fee provides access to all sessions, keynote addresses, related conference materials, workshops, seminars, networking breaks, and more.

Further details regarding the programme, speakers, and registration procedures will be announced shortly. GWI encourages all members, partners, and interested stakeholders to mark

their calendars and prepare to contribute to this significant event dedicated to advancing global education and gender equality.

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **Canadian Federation of University Women announces the 2025-2027 international service project partner**

The 2025-2027 selected International Service Project Partner is Young, Happy, Healthy & Safe (YHHS) with the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF). This project will support girls learning about sexual and reproductive health in rural Eastern Zambia through health and rights information that can help protect them from early marriage and pregnancy, gender-based violence, HIV infection and caregiving responsibilities. YHHS's work advances the status of women and girls in rural Eastern Zambia by addressing the barriers that prevent girls from accessing and completing their education. A comprehensive overview of the project will be released in May 2025.

### **GWI Independent Member Network hosts Challenges to Women's Empowerment webinar**

The upcoming webinar, "Challenges to Women's Empowerment: Causes and Remedies," is open to all GWI Independent Members (IM) and will feature a diverse panel of IMs working across critical sectors in health and education. This session will explore persistent barriers to women's empowerment through the lens of lived experience and professional expertise, addressing both underlying causes and actionable solutions. Following opening remarks from Independent Member Network Convener, Sahar Gamal, speakers Ariani Narwastujati (IM Co-Convener), Dr. Geetpriya Kaur (Oral Pathologist), and Willet L. Salue (ActionAid Liberia) will discuss key topics such as access to education for girls, the intersection of artificial intelligence and female oral cancer, and the impact of community health issues on women and girls. The session will share learning experiences, promote cross-border dialogue among IMs, and reinforce GWI's advocacy efforts through meaningful connection and professional exchange. This webinar will take place on 28 April 2025 at 6:00 p.m. CEST on Zoom. **Click [HERE](#) to register.** If you are interested in becoming a GWI IM, we invite you to click [HERE](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **GWI participates in Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2025**

GWI participated in the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development held on 2–3 April at the United Nations in Geneva. Prior to the event, during the civil society pre-meeting on 1 April, GWI collaborated with fellow civil society members to develop key recommendations to be presented at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Regional Forum, and highlighted challenges to achieving gender equality, including barriers to education. In the address, GWI powerfully contributed that access to quality education is fundamental to achieving all targets under Sustainable Development Goal 5, from eliminating violence and harmful practices to increasing women's participation in decision-making and economic life. Consequently, during the

Forum, GWI Intern Grace Wanebo was selected to deliver an oral intervention, written in partnership with other civil society representatives from the UNECE Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism at the roundtable on SDG 5, focusing on the importance of gender-disaggregated data and evidence-based policymaking. **Read the statement** [HERE](#).

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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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### **GWI recognizes public libraries as vital hubs for education and lifelong learning**

GWI supports public libraries as vital spaces for lifelong learning, empowerment, and equality. Around the world, women and girls, particularly those from rural, low-income, or marginalized communities, often face barriers to accessing these resources. On World Book and Copyright Day, GWI highlights the need for increased funding and support for public libraries from public, private, and government sectors. Through initiatives like the Nepal Association of University Women's Reading Room in Kathmandu and the Samoan Association of Women Graduates' children's library in a hospital, GWI helps ensure that women and girls can access crucial educational tools. Read the press release for 2024 World Book and Copyright Day [HERE](#).

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## — Dates and Events —

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23 April	World Book and Copyright Day
25 April	International Girls in ICT Day
28 May	Menstrual Hygiene Day
12 June	World Day Against Child Labour
19 June	International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
20 June	GWI Hegg Hoffet Program webinar, Zoom
11-13 September	GWI 35th Triennial General Assembly, Lusaka, Zambia

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Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership,  
decision-making and peace.

GWI, formerly IFUW, maintains special consultative status to ECOSOC since 1947  
and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

**Graduate Women International**

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