



GW I UPDATE –21 May 2025



— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

Registration for the 35th General Assembly is open

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. The registration fee to the “Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education and Empowerment for Sustainability” event includes access to all sessions, keynote addresses, related conference materials, workshops, seminars, networking breaks, and more. Early registration is open **until 31 August 2025**. Conference participants can select workshops and seminars corresponding to the five subthemes:

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 connections, enable growth and sustainability.*
5. *Technology, AI, and Innovation: Relevance to Empowering Women for the Future.*

Other registration categories are also available, including options for young members, guests, and attendance at the Matebeto Zambia-themed Welcome Reception. In addition to the conference program, participants will have the opportunity to experience Zambia’s cultural and

natural heritage through a series of organized tours. These tours will be a chance to discover the country's traditions and landscapes and to enrich the overall conference experience. **Register today [HERE](#).**

Support girls' education with the GWI 105-year Heritage Fundraising Wall

GWI continues to commemorate its 105th anniversary through the virtual Heritage Fundraising Wall, an opportunity to make a lasting impact on girls' education. Every donation directly supports GWI's mission to advance education and advocate for equitable learning opportunities worldwide. GWI extends its sincere appreciation to those who have already contributed and invites others to purchase a commemorative brick on the fundraising wall. Each contribution helps break down barriers to education and empowers the next generation of women and girls. Join us and make a donation, **click [HERE](#).**

— GWI Member News —

GWI welcomes the newly elected Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) leadership

GWI extends its heartfelt congratulations to TAUW on the successful election of their new Board of Officers during their General Assembly on 10 May 2025. E. Meral Güler has been elected as President, Basak Ovacik as Coordinator of International Relations and Nuran Uzun Turan as Treasurer. This marks an exciting new chapter; GWI is confident that TAUW continued dedication to GWI will drive impactful change.

GWI hosts a Hegg Hoffet Program webinar

In observance of World Refugee Day on 20 June, GWI 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.

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI cosponsors Convention for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) side events

Graduate Women International (GWI) will co-sponsor three high-impact side events during the 34th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), taking place 19–23 May in Vienna. Organized in partnership with Soroptimist International, Zonta International, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW), and key United Nations entities, these events will spotlight urgent challenges at the nexus of gender, justice, climate change, and ageing.

The first event, “Emerging Threats Against Women and Girls in the Digital Era: Artificial Intelligence and Gaslighting” will be held today, 21 May 4:30-5:30 p.m. CEST via Zoom [HERE](#).

Two events will be held on 23 May. (See flyers at the bottom of the Update) The “*Climate Crimes & GBV: Strategies to raise awareness, prevent, and combat climate-induced gender-based Violence*”, side event will explore the effects of climate change on poverty and inequality, and how it increases vulnerabilities, especially for women and marginalized groups. This event will feature a large panel of speakers: Fernanda Gallo Freschi, Zonta International and Zonta Foundation for Women President elect, Christiane Ugbor, African Women’s Organization Vienna, Anna Giudice, Team Leader Access to Justice; Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section UNODC, René Coppock, Zonta International and US Women’s Caucus Membership Director and Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Chair, NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, Executive Director KENNIS and Member of the Board of The Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. This side event will take place on 23 May at 10 a.m. CET. **Click [HERE](#) to register on Zoom.**

The “*Guardianship Risks: How to Prevent Abuse*”, organized by IFBPW in the name of the NGO Committee on Ageing Vienna, will take place 23 May beginning 10 a.m. It will focus on the protection of older persons from the risks and potential abuses associated with guardianship systems and explore strategies to prevent this abuse. This event includes expert speakers Dirk Jarré, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing, Vienna and President of the European Federation of Older Persons, Renate Winter, Austrian Judge to the Special Court for Sierra Leone and expert on family law (Austria), Stella Kammitisi, Advocate and Legal advisor in Nicosia (Cyprus), Fiammetta Cosci, Associated Professor Clinical Psychology University of Florence (Italy), and Gabriele Strasky-Pözl, Legal Guardian and member of NGO Committee on Ageing Vienna, and Rita Assogna, Vice Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing Vienna and representative of IFBPW. This side event will take place on 23 May at 10 a.m. **Click [HERE](#) to attend online.**

GWI thanks United Nations Representative, Vienna, Elisabeth Francis, for her participation and work on the side events.

United Nations Representative, Marueen Byrne, PhD participates in Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) Civil Society Dialogue

The CSW Revitalization Civil Society Dialogue, held at the United Nations New York on 14 May, brought together civil society and the CSW to address concerns of trust, effectiveness, access, and accountability within CSW processes. During her participation Dr Byrne reinforced GWI’s commitment to advancing gender equality through education by advocating for clear implementation strategies, high-level political engagement, and inclusive participation, especially for low-income countries. Key outcomes emphasized stronger funding mechanisms,

meaningful civil society inclusion in decision-making, and alignment of CSW with global education goals, particularly the transition of girls to secondary and tertiary education. GWI also underlined the urgency of integrating education-focused targets across all Sustainable Development Goals. GWI thanks Dr Byrne for her attendance and summary report that can be found [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. The next production of the IM Challenges to Women's Empowerment: Causes and Remedies webinar series will take place on 26 May 4-5 p.m. CEST.

Representing the GWI IM are speakers, GeetPriya Kaur who will discuss "Female Oral Cancer and the Positive Impact of AI". Next, IM Janaki Parajuli will discuss "Challenges to Women and Girls' Nutrition: Causes and Remedies" and finally, Mariana Gonçalves will discuss "The Fragmentation of Health Data and its Disproportionate Impact on Women". Click [HERE](#) to register as an IM or GWI guest.

— Did you know? —

GWI welcomes the new intern Célia Cherel

My name is Célia Cherel, and I am currently pursuing a master's degree in International and Development studies, with a specialization in conflict, peace, and security at the Geneva Graduate Institute (IHEID) in Switzerland. I hold a bachelor's degree in International Relations from the University of Geneva, where I developed a deep interest in global governance, human rights, and international cooperation. Over the years, I have developed a deep commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. I am particularly interested in how education can be a transformative tool in peacebuilding processes and in post-conflict recovery. This interest also led me to explore the role of women in peace processes through my academic work. In addition to my academic background, I recently completed a



Célia Cherel, Graduate Women International Intern

team-based project with UPR Info, a Geneva-based NGO that supports the Universal Periodic Review process. This experience allowed me to work on human rights-related research and deepen my understanding of international mechanisms for accountability and advocacy. I chose to intern at Graduate Women International because its mission to ensure that all girls and women have access to education beyond primary school resonates with my own passion for advocacy and social change. I am delighted to contribute to GWI's important work of empowering women and girls through education and advocating for gender equality. I am excited to gain valuable hands-on experience in the field of international advocacy and gender equality and acquire new skills while collaborating with women around the world. **GWI is excited to have Célia Cherel as a new member of our team and wish her much success in this new chapter.**



CLIMATE CRIMES & GBV: STRATEGIES TO RAISE AWARENESS,

PREVENT, AND COMBAT CLIMATE-INDUCED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE,



Rising temperatures and the worsening effects of climate change are expected to intensify poverty and inequality, while also increasing the frequency and severity of extreme events such as cyclones, flash floods, droughts, and extreme heat. These disasters destroy livelihoods, disrupt access to essential services, and heighten vulnerabilities – particularly for women and marginalized groups. As a result, climate change not only damages the environment but also fuels human rights violations, including gender-based violence (GBV).

23 MAY 2025

10:00 AM CET

ROOM M 7



Zoomlink:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89579662408?pwd=Cp4RECQxVmlRbqFx02AwbhS5ewxbxP.1>



CLIMATE CRIMES & GBV: STRATEGIES TO RAISE AWARENESS, PREVENT, AND COMBAT CLIMATE-INDUCED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

23 MAY 2025

10:00 AM CET

ROOM M7



FERNANDA GALLO FRESCHI
ZONTA International and ZONTA Foundation for Women President elect



CHRISTIANE UGBOR
African Women's Organisation Vienna



ANNA GIUDICE
Team Leader Access to Justice; Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section, UNODC



RENÉE COPPOCK
ZONTA International; US Women's Caucus Membership Director



ANNA ALVAZZI DEL FRATE
Chair, NGO Committee on Sustainable Development; Executive Director KENNIS, Member of the Board of The Alliance on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

SPEAKERS

MODERATOR



Zoomlink: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89579662408?pwd=Cp4RECQxVmlRbqFx02AwbhS5ewxbxP.1>

Guardianship Risks: How to Prevent Abuse

CCPCI side event - organized by IFBPW in the name of the NGO Committee on Ageing, Vienna

Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81899117545?pwd=Xe05m2lCpNhtc6wvW3ZmUifrlLdkU1j.1>
 Meeting-ID: 818 9911 7545
 Kenncode: 725279

Time:
 May 23rd 10:00 am
 Place:
 Room MOE79

- **Opening Remarks - Dirk Jarré**, Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing, Vienna, President of the European Federation of Older Persons (EURAG)
- **« The new Austrian Adult Protection Law: Safeguarding Rights or Risks of Misuse? »** Renate Winter, Austrian judge to the Special Court for Sierra Leone and expert on family law (Austria)
- **« Guardianship Challenges: Protecting the Older persons with mental Incapacitation from Exploitation and Neglect »** Stella Kammitisi-Advocate- legal Advisor- Nicosia (Cyprus)
- **«Right to Decide in the Medical Ill: moving beyond Guardianship and Surrogate Decision-making » - Fiammetta Cosci-** Associated Professor Clinical Psychology University Florence (Italy)
- **A short comment on « Missing financial monitoring » Gabriele Strasky-Pölzl** – legal guardian and member of NGO Committee on Ageing Vienna
- **Closing By Rita Assogna-** vice Chair of the NGO Committee on Ageing, Vienna, representative of International Federation Business and Professional Women (IFBPW)

Guardianship for older persons is a legal mechanism designed to protect individuals who are unable to manage their personal or financial affairs. It ensures that vulnerable older persons receive the necessary support and protection, particularly in managing finances and healthcare decisions. However, even the best guardianship system is not without risks. In many cases, legislative provisions fail to adequately safeguard older persons' basic rights. Unethical practices by courts, medical doctors, and guardians can lead to misrepresentation of older persons, causing them to lose control over their assets, personal decisions, and autonomy.

This event focuses on how to protect older persons from the risks and potential abuses associated with guardianship systems and exploring strategies how to prevent abuse.



— Dates and Events —

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|-----------------|--|
| 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 | World Refugee Day |
| 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, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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