



GWI UPDATE – 4 June 2025



“Youth for More Equality and Less Violence – Marathon on Social Media” participants. Photo credit: AMUM

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI celebrates academic excellence with 2025 Fellowship Awards

GWI offers every three years, on the occasion of its Triennial General Assembly, a fellowships programme. On 22 May, GWI released a press release to announce the recipients of the 2025 International Fellowships. These awards celebrate and assist distinguished women scholars in advancing postgraduate research and promoting academic excellence. Eighty candidates from 32 countries, studying at 50 universities globally, applied to the programme this year. **Click [HERE](#) to read the full press release and discover the names of the winners.**

GWI marks Menstrual Hygiene Day

In many parts of the world, menstruation is still surrounded by taboo, limiting open dialogue and reinforcing harmful misconceptions. On 28 May, to mark Menstrual Hygiene Day, GWI released an infographic focused on menstrual health, dismantling barriers, and supporting the right to education. Under this year’s theme, “Together for a Period-Friendly World,” GWI urges collective action to raise awareness and normalize menstruation and remains committed to breaking down the barriers and leading efforts toward change. **Access the infographic [HERE](#).**

— GWI Member News —

GWI Independent Member Network hosts the second webinar on women's empowerment

On 26 May, the GWI Independent Member Network (IMN) hosted the second webinar of the webinar series titled “Challenges to Women’s Empowerment: Causes and Remedies”. The speakers, Geetpriya Kaur, Janaki Parajuli and Mariana Gonçalves, were brought together by the IMN for an insightful exchange.

Geetpriya Kaur, through her presentation titled “Female Oral Cancer and the Positive Impact of AI”, addressed the gender-specific challenges women face regarding oral cancer, including social stigma, emotional distress, financial burden, and barriers to early diagnosis and treatment. Her presentation emphasized how cultural taboos and gender inequality worsen outcomes for female patients.

Janaki Parajuli examined the deep-rooted nutritional challenges faced by women and girls, especially in Nepal. She identified different factors like early marriage, poverty, food insecurity, cultural taboos, and uterine prolapse that lead to poor health, and psychosocial distress for women. Janaki highlighted solutions such as education, mobile health services, adolescent nutrition programs, and community empowerment.

Dr. Mariana Laranjo, with her presentation called “The Fragmentation of Health Data and its Disproportionate Impact on Women”, addressed how fragmented health data systems are and how this issue is a burden for women, especially as family health managers. She explained how the lack of interconnected systems and health records causes delays and redundant care. Her solutions to this problem included building patient-centered digital systems, improving women’s digital health literacy, and advocating for inclusive policies. Access the recording of the webinar [HERE](#).

Marbella Association of University Women successfully concludes “Youth for More Equality and Less Violence” project

The Marbella Association of University Women (AMUM) has successfully completed the second phase of its project “Youth for More Equality and Less Violence – Marathon on Social Media”, funded by the Andalusian Government and supported by the Marbella City Council.

Over one weekend, more than 30 high school students took part in a creative marathon to design and launch innovative social media campaigns promoting gender equality. During the event, participants engaged in educational games, social media workshops, debates, and theatre-based activities, culminating in the publication of campaigns on Instagram and TikTok. These campaigns explored issues such as the historical invisibility of women, the fragility of traditional masculinity, and the need to view society “through a violet lens”.

The results were encouraging. Besides the quality and originality of the prototypes presented, surveys conducted before and after the event showed significant progress in participants’

knowledge, critical thinking, and commitment to gender equality. However, the project also revealed challenges such as initial disengagement from students, low male participation and a common perception that inequality is a distant or personal issue.

The project now enters its third and final phase: each group will carry on posting content to achieve strong social media performance and impact. The project team will continue monitoring campaign activity and the project will conclude in July with a final evaluation and awards ceremony.

GWI congratulates AMUM on the successful completion of the second phase of the “Youth for More Equality and Less Violence” project. *“This initiative is both timely and commendable. The thoughtful integration of education, advocacy, and social media demonstrates AMUM’s commitment to equipping youth with the tools to challenge inequality and promote respectful, inclusive communities”* says Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director.

— GWI at the United Nations —

Commission on the Status of Women 69th Session (CSW69) critical analysis

This report, presented by GWI Vice President of Advocacy Shaila Rao Mistry, offers a critical analysis of leadership perspectives in the context of CSW69. It explores systemic barriers, strategic approaches, and the evolving role of women’s leadership in advancing gender equality within international policy frameworks. Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.

— Give the Gift of Education —

Girls Education for Brighter Futures is a programme that funds global education, gender equality and women’s empowerment projects around the world. The closure of schools and universities during COVID threatened girls’ education worldwide. With your donations, this programme can, through different projects, make a profound impact on young girls’ lives by ensuring they can access education and the resources they need to succeed. The latest initiative, “Training Adolescents, Teachers, and Parents in Luuka District in Making Reusable Sanitary Pads”, funded by the Bina Roy Partners in Development project, is helping to improve the personal health of women and girls, teaching them skills that provide new sources of income, and increasing school retention rates for girls in the Luuka District, in Eastern Uganda. GWI invites you to click [HERE](#) to learn more about this project and 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 difference!**

— Did you know? —

UNESCO calls for nominations for the 2025 International Literacy Prizes

UNESCO has opened nominations for the 2025 International Literacy Prizes, inviting literacy educators, organizations, and governments worldwide to submit impactful projects under the theme “Promoting literacy in the digital era.” The prizes aim to highlight innovative efforts that equip people with essential skills for today’s digital world, promoting inclusion and empowerment. Despite progress, global literacy challenges persist, with over 754 million people lacking basic skills. Six prizes are awarded annually: three UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prizes, focusing on mother-tongue literacy, and three UNESCO Confucius Prizes, recognizing tech-based efforts in rural and underserved communities. Applications are open to individuals, NGOs, and government bodies with measurable, aligned projects. The deadline for candidates to apply is 13 June 2025, and nominating entities must submit final nominations by 27 June 2025. Winners will be announced on International Literacy Day, 8 September 2025.

— Dates and Events —

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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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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