



11 July 2025

Dear GWI Family,

Congratulations to Graduate Women International 🎓 👩 (GWI), formerly the International Federation of University Women on our 106th Anniversary, 11 July 2025.

Who was it remarked that we're looking "good" strategically for our age?! The years have not dimmed our mission, vision or passion.

Another year has passed since our milestone 105th birthday celebrations. Every year after reaching the magical **100** is described as a bonus year. We had the [GWI 105th anniversary video](#) compiled in honour of it and the [GWI Heritage Fundraising Wall](#).

The wall is still taking [donations for fundraising bricks](#) in varying amounts. This will be a permanent memorial, and I would urge everyone who hasn't done so already to buy a brick 🧱 - the brainchild of Education VP Dr. Shirley Gillett.

Excitement is building for the 35th Triennial General Assembly and Conference that will take place in Lusaka, Zambia from 11 - 13 September 2025. This is our first in person Triennial for six years when our Centennial Triennial took place in 2019 in our global headquarters, Geneva. Numerous Conference workshop, seminar and paper applications have been submitted. The General Assembly programme is ready with policy resolutions, constitutional amendments, exotic socials planned, tours booked.

Again, I would remind you that [Early Bird registration](#) ends on 31 August 2025. Did you know Zambia, formerly known as Northern Rhodesia, is called the 'air-conditioned state' because of its moderate, temperate climate? I know because as I've said so often, I attended a Commonwealth Lawyers Conference there in Livingstone in 2018. (Livingstone is a 6-hour drive from Lusaka and I understand some attendees are flying there from the capital.)



My hotel was literally round the corner (5 minutes) from the Victoria Falls and statue of Dr. David Livingston. It was hugely successful and Judges and lawyers from all the Continents happily descended on Zambia.

On this celebratory birthday of GWI, may I take the opportunity of thanking the Board, Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara, Convenors, Committees and Independent Members for their unfailing support and dedication. To the National Federations and Associations Presidents, CIRs and members your support is greatly appreciated as we enter the last weeks of this Triennium.

Let me echo the response of a West African President when asked what his greatest achievement was, he replied somewhat laconically, "We survived" - no mean feat with challenges. And we will for many more years because we work as a team.

Enjoy GWI's Special day.

Conference is calling. See you all in Lusaka.

Very best,

Patrice

Patrice Wellesley-Cole, President
Graduate Women International /GWI

Important Links:

Heritage Fundraising Wall Donations

<https://www.gwi105.com/>

105-Year Celebration Video featuring many GWI NFAs

<https://vimeo.com/982380273>

Registration for the 35th Triennial General Assembly and Conference

<https://graduate-women-international.idloom.events/GWIGA2025>