



Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education and Empowerment for Sustainability  
11-13 September 2025, Lusaka, Zambia

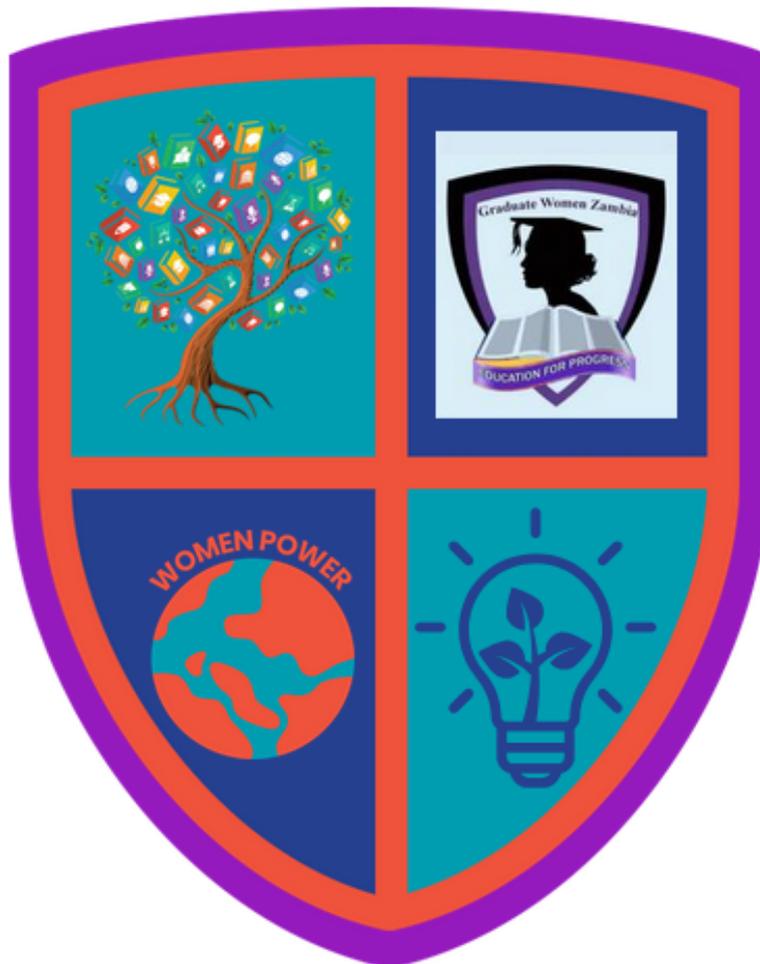
Graduate Women International

# GWI Triennial 2022-2025

## Board & Committee Reports

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

GWI 35<sup>th</sup> Triennial Meeting  
11-13 September 2025, Lusaka, Zambia





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## GWI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND GWI BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

### STACY DRY LARA, GWI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One of my greatest privileges as Graduate Women International (GWI) Executive Director is to present Triennial reports. The challenge is that a brief report cannot fully reflect the breadth of the office's work over three years, but I share here selected highlights and warmly welcome further dialogue about our activities.



The past three years reflect the dedication of our Board of Officers, National Federations and Associations (NFAs), Independent Members, Committees, and the Geneva office—supported by 14 outstanding interns from China, France, Italy, Nepal, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United States. Their contributions underscore both the impact of GWI's mentoring role and the commitment of the next generation to our mission.

Geneva, often called the heart of humanity and human rights, continues to provide GWI with a unique headquarters. Switzerland's reputation for neutrality, stability, and international cooperation strengthens our global voice and amplifies NFA visibility when presenting their projects and advocacy. Geneva hosts most Permanent Missions to the United Nations as well as key agencies, including the International Labour Organization and UNESCO's satellite office, with whom we maintain special partnership relations, and the World Trade Organization, with whom we celebrated our centenary. These connections enable GWI to align priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals and advance the agendas of our NFAs. Geneva's vibrant civil society further enhances our coalition-building at a time when civic space is narrowing worldwide.

As Executive Director, I regularly engage with Permanent Missions on behalf of NFAs, presenting press releases and advocacy tools, discussing strategies, and raising NFA concerns directly with diplomats and decision-makers. These exchanges ensure that member perspectives remain visible in international policy discussions. It was a pleasure to host President Patrice Wellesley-Cole at several such meetings, demonstrating the value of GWI leadership being seen and heard at the highest levels.

Our international advocacy remained strong across United Nations campuses in Geneva, New York, Paris, and Vienna during this Triennium. GWI actively and regularly contributed to the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the High-Level Political Forum, the Commission for Social Development, and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. We submitted regular written statements urging Member States to reduce barriers to education for women and girls, co-sponsored by invitation some 35 United Nations statements, and organized multiple parallel events annually. As President of the NGO Committee on Human Rights in Geneva, I was proud to host President Wellesley-Cole (2023) and Japanese Association of University Women member Chizuko Suzuki (2024) to deliver oral statements to HRC sessions. GWI also contributed to the Beijing+30 Civil Society Forum, UNESCO NGO Conferences, several high-level panels, and, with the support of the United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention, published the comprehensive



Hate Speech Policy Paper that was circulated globally. In addition, I was honored to serve on UNESCO's team producing a toolkit to strengthen NGO partnerships with National Commissions.

The 2023–2025 Triennium was also defined by a strong communications strategy that supported member engagement. The office produced nearly 80 Update newsletters and multiple Special Editions, reaching an average of 4,000 subscribers per issue with more than 600 articles. We averaged 1,200 annual social media posts, expanding awareness of GWI in international circles. Greater member interaction with these channels would be especially valuable.

Member webinars and Discussion Networks created spaces to address critical issues and strengthened community connections. Peer-to-peer initiatives—including the Spanish-Speaking Culture Bridge, Connexion Francophone, and a Japanese cultural series—promoted cross-cultural exchange. The Independent Member Network maintained membership across 39 countries, expanding its outreach through WhatsApp and a vibrant webinar series organized by Independent Member Sahar Gamal. It is rewarding to work with the Membership Committee and Independent Member Network on these efforts as well as the Young Member Network to host the monthly conversation series Growing Together, hold regular Meet & Greet sessions, and support CSW parallel events annually.

I was also pleased to join centennial celebrations with affiliates in Switzerland and South Africa and to work closely with the Young Member Network to launch Growing Together and host regular Meet & Greet sessions for new members.

Each year, the office produced an average of 12 advocacy infographics and toolkits marking 24 UN Days of Observance, many published by the notable Women's United Nations Report Network, with whom media relations remain strong. Our 2024 16 Days of Activism campaign, Breaking the Silence, Reclaiming Our Power, drew significant member participation through a global poster campaign. These tools remain available for members, and I encourage you to use them widely and participate in our calls for engagement.

Beyond advocacy, GWI advanced programs with direct impact. Teachers for Rural Futures in Uganda supported six young women, with two graduates each year returning to rural communities as teachers and role models. Office fundraising of nearly USD 40,000 secured the program's sustainability and prepared for expansion. Our Girls' Education for Brighter Futures campaign raised about USD 14,000 to support GWI projects, including Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID). After a COVID pause, BRPID resumed with projects ranging from income-generating initiatives in Nepal, menstrual health education in Uganda, artificial intelligence training for job creation in El Salvador, mentoring in Turkey, and women's health research in Egypt. The Hegg Hoffet Fund also continued its vital role by awarding grants to refugee women for language classes, physician recertification, business writing, and other reintegration tools. It is deeply rewarding to collaborate with the Project Development Committee and the Hegg Hoffet Committee on these efforts.

I wish there were more space to describe the breadth of the office's work. As GWI marks 106 years and concludes another Triennium, our vision is unchanged: that 100 percent of girls and women worldwide achieve education beyond primary school. I extend my gratitude to our Board of Officers,



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tireless United Nations representatives, Committees, and the many interns whose energy enriched our work. Above all, I thank our members, whose commitment inspires me daily, and it is my honor to work alongside you.

Thank you and sincerely,



**Stacy Dry Lara**

**GWI Executive Director**

## REPORT OF THE GWI PRESIDENT 2022-2025 TRIENNIUM

**Patrice WELLESLEY-COLE, Graduate Women International/GWI**

Dear GWI Family,

Celebrating Graduate Women International's (GWI) 106th Anniversary on 11th July 2025 before the 35th Triennial Conference in Lusaka, Zambia from 10th-13th September 2025 marks the final weeks of a significant Triennium. We can proudly look back at notable achievements in an action-packed post COVID era due to the commendable work of the Board, Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Convenors, Committees, National Federations and Associations (NFAs) Presidential, CIR and NFA Executive leadership, Members including Independent Members (IMs) and GWI representatives in Geneva, Paris, Vienna and New York who gave us a diplomatic perspective.



Organisational Development's (OD) Renew and Rebuild pivot was the basis of the Strategic plan and is ongoing and continues at pace. Working relationships with UN agencies (annually at Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and Summit of the Future in 2024) focus on SDG 4 - quality education (see projects and Fellowships), seeking funding from global organisations and increasing NFA membership is key to this strategy. Hypotheses and prognoses addressed through GWI platforms - from CSW GWI parallel and side events, Hybrid meetings, Webinars and Discussion networks (such as personal experiences) ranged from AI, Philanthropy eradicating poverty, the Menopause to Structural and historical systemic issues such as patriarchy to the triple planetary crises of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. The latter, the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), concentrated on Plastics, Planet v Plastic: Elimination of single use plastics. GWI's 3 CSW69 parallel events - the Mexican Federation of University Women in conjunction with EDUCOM, was 'Education; the only way to solve old and modern Anti-Feminism', plus 'Empowering young Women for Sustainable Development progress and Future' and 'Women in Peace and Leadership;



Accelerating Advancement towards gender equity' were the other 2 different CSW parallel events. The intellectual rigour of such insights has enriched GWI.

2024 was historic as GWI had a big birthday - it was 105 years old. The GWI Heritage Fundraising wall is a permanent memorial to this milestone, launched by Education Vice President Dr. Shirley Gillett. 34 videos from GWI's NFAs also commemorated this Anniversary, compiled on Vimeo. It was a fitting tribute that, due to our 'success in the non-profit organisations Awards' (unsolicited), Acquisition International (AI) designated GWI the 'Most empowering Global Graduate Women's network, 2024'.

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

105-year Celebration video: <https://vimeo.com/982380273>

Working with the UN involved publishing a Policy paper on Hate speech in 2023, commissioned by former UN Under Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Genocide Alice Wairimu Nderitū who addressed us at our Town Hall meeting.

Peer to Peer, Advocacy Influencers, Japanese Cultural event, Spanish Speaking culture thrived. Young Members were active under President Sudha Srivastava leading to a Mentorship and Leadership programme.

Congratulations to Basel, Geneva and South Africa on their centenaries in 2023 and Ireland's in 2024, the latter of which I attended in person and WG-USA 15 in 2023.

In March, 2023, I addressed the Human Rights Council (HRC) remotely on Digital Education.

Members continued to receive Press releases, Infographics, regular updates, participating in Discussions networks, Webinars, plus Regional meetings.

GWI 's work is highlighted through social media biweekly LinkedIn posts, a 2024 interview on Spotify-Radio Bloomsbury, and a 'Ham and High' local London paper article.

GWI successes include Projects like Bina Roy and Dr. Mehta seed fund, Fellowships and Grants, graduation of the Teachers For Rural Futures (TFRF) in Uganda, increasing Membership amongst Independents, new NFA-Benin, Written statements at the UN and Global giving. Such sustainable activism demonstrates our relevance abiding by humanitarian principles. This has enabled us to survive and remain solvent. Of course, the more funding we have, will ensure that we can expand our work globally.

The Board may have faced challenges during the Triennium, but has overcome them inspired by GWI's mission, vision, Team spirit and unflinching support of members, which the Board much appreciates.

We have now reached a consequential time in the GWI Calendar, which will define us, namely the 35th Triennial Conference and General Assembly (GA) in Lusaka, Zambia, from 11th-13<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at the Mulungushi Conference Centre. On 10th September, there will be the traditional African



Welcome event.

GWI is most grateful to the Zambian Association of University Women for hosting the Triennial Conference. Our sincere thanks go to the 20 strong Zambian Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) chaired by Dr. Wilma Nchito and the President, Dr. Annie Musonda.

The priority theme of the Conference is - 'Building the Future, Integrating Culture, Education and Empowerment for Sustainability'. Exploring key global issues through interrelated sub-themes, these discussions will contribute to shaping GWI policies, strategies and collaborations for the next Triennium, reinforcing GWI's commitment to quality education.

The Conference and GA will be the summation of the Triennium, showcasing everything that GWI stands for.

My sincere thanks to the GWI Board, Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara and Interns for being part of a memorable Triennium's collaborative effort and a special thank you to IPP Terry Oudraad.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER: TRIENNIAL REVIEW 2023-2025

### Dr. Karoline Dorsch-Häsler, Treasurer 2024-2025



The very strict financial oversight and savings measures have been successful so far, yet GWI still remains on an austerity budget. The 2023-2025 Triennial started in a positive way financially, with a capital of 83'858 Swiss Francs and a Reserve Fund of 39'924 Swiss Francs, thanks to the positive result of the 2019 General Assembly and Conference. The Reserve Fund is an unrestricted fund that can be used by the Board in consultation with Financial Committee (FinCom). More savings are basically not possible, if the organisation has to be run in a reasonable way. For example, the General Director has no assistance, apart from very efficient trainees. For such an organisation, this in fact is very little. Fortunately, there have been generous general donations and donations for restricted funds. In the table below, the financial situation of the 2023-2025 Triennial is summarized. Detailed information can also be found in Annexes 1-3 and in the audited Annual Reports, see: <https://graduatewomen.org/media-publications/annual-reports/>

	2023	2024	projected 2025
Total income	173'472	183'050	287'805
Total expenditure	202'706	201'050	228'021
Restricted funds	162'169	145'780	142'336
Number of members	7'886	7'009	6'801



### **Financial management**

As described in the report of the Finance Committee, all financial reports and budgets have to be scrutinized by FinCom. They then have to be recommended for acceptance to the Board. In addition, bank payments always have to be signed by two persons.

### **Membership**

At the moment, in 2025, GWI consists of 47 National Federations and Associations with a total of 6801 members, in addition to about 50 Independent Members. In 2022, GWI had 8391 members. GWI is very happy that a new member, Benin, has joined in June. The income from the NFA dues is at the moment the really sustaining income of GWI. Unfortunately, the number of members has fallen again during the current triennial, even though not as drastically as in the previous triennial.

### **Fundraising**

The *Teachers for Rural Futures* (TRFR) programme in Uganda is still running successfully, and it has been supported generously by the City of Geneva until 2022. Luckily, this programme received this year an anonymous donation with the large sum of 20'000 Swiss Francs. The fundraising project *Girls Education for Brighter Futures* is also running in a positive way. The programmes have been profiting from being run by Global Giving, a non-profit organisation which provides an online crowdfunding platform. In addition, as confirmed in verbal and written form by Vanguard (USA), GWI is one of the beneficiaries of the estate of Kathryn Horvat, a former member of Women Graduates-USA. GWI is entitled to a rather large sum, budgeted with 52'000 USD. GWI expects to receive the money in 2025. In summer 2024, the GWI 105 Heritage Fundraising Wall was set up, which brought nearly 10'000 Swiss Francs by middle of 2025.

### **Restricted funds**

GWI has been and is still running a number of SDG-related programmes, such as the above-mentioned Teachers for Rural Futures, the Bina Roy Partners in Development fund or the Hegg Hoffet Fund. These programmes are supported by well-funded Restricted Funds and managed by GWI committees (see Annual Reports and Annex III).

### **Dues and Dues Alleviations**

A new dues structure had been recommended and was accepted by vote by the General assembly in 2022. However, for some NFAs, the increase was rather high. It was recommended that these NFAs continue to receive the same rates/alleviations in 2023, while they were supposed to pay the standard rates in 2024. In some cases, this has not been possible due to high losses in the exchange rates between the local currencies and the Swiss Franc rate, or due to very difficult economic situations. Based on FinCom discussions, some countries have been given alleviations also in 2025. As decided by the General Assembly in 2022, the dues should remain the same for one triennial. In these difficult financial and political times, the dues will be proposed to remain the same also for the coming triennial, as explained in the Internal Resolutions.

### **Change of Treasurer**

Unfortunately, the Treasurer elected in 2022, Sudha Srivastava, resigned from her position as Treasurer for personal reasons in August 2024. Having had the experience with GWI finances as Assistant Treasurer Switzerland since 2019 and Convenor of the Finance Committee since 2022, I



was asked to take over the position of Treasurer. Fortunately, with Sudha's help as well as with the help of the executive Director Stacy Dry Lara and the former Treasurer Dr. Katharina Strub, the transition was manageable, even though I had to learn a lot in a short time. I kept the role as Convenor of FinCom for that last year, in the same way as in previous Triennials, where the Treasurer also had the role of convenor of FinCom.

### **Triennial Planning 2026-2028**

The Triennial Planning is a rather difficult task. Income from dues has been continuously going down as can be seen in the Table above. Fortunately, donations have been rather steady, and there has also been more than once a very generous person or organisation helping to keep finances afloat.

### **The 35th General Assembly and Conference 2025**

The Zambian NFA generously offered to organize the Conference in Lusaka, Zambia on 11-13 September, 2025 and has worked very hard to organize it. Together with them and with our accountant we have prepared a budget with the goal to keep costs as low as possible and to avoid deficits. Of course, quite a lot is rather difficult to foresee, such as the number of attendants. The budget was scrutinized and eventually approved by FinCom before being submitted to the Board of Officers and then accepted. Of course, we are all very much looking forward to this meeting.

### **Acknowledgements**

Having jumped into the job of Treasurer rather unexpectedly and quickly, I was extremely grateful to the Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara with her profound knowledge of the GWI organisation and for her help and Catherine Herbez, the accountant, with her expert knowledge in bookkeeping matters. Both of them always had time when I needed it. I am also grateful to the members of FinCom for their help. Last but not least I thank the President Patrice Wellesley Cole and the members of the Board who were helpful with financial discussions and ideas. All in all, it was a very interesting and stimulating experience.



## REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT ADVOCACY 2022-2025 TRIENNIUM

### Shaila Rao Mistry, VP Advocacy



It has been an honor to serve as GWI's first Vice President of Advocacy in this newly created role during a historic triennium. Inspired by GWI's legacy in global advocacy, my mission was to elevate the organization's visibility, credibility, and strategic influence, particularly with the United Nations and other key international platforms. As the First VP in this role, my mission was to amplify GWI's leadership in advancing women's empowerment and voices in high-level decision-making and policy. In this role, I focused on connecting high-level policy engagement with innovative advocacy approaches to open doors for GWI's long-term sustainability.

Notable milestones include our engagement with the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), including contributions to the CSW Revitalization movement, Outcome Document language, and both oral and written statements to member states. I make particular reference to my year-long consultation and leadership role in the Beijing+30 UNECE Review in Geneva.

Especially significant was building unprecedented high-level allyships across sectors, from government leaders to private institutions, to expand GWI's capacity for consultation and future strategic alignment. These efforts helped position GWI as a trusted thought leader in global policy. This report highlights key advocacy initiatives led or supported and reflects GWI's commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and to the Beijing Platform for Action.

#### Why Advocacy Matters - Our Impact

Advocacy is the driving force behind systemic change. It closes policy gaps, challenges entrenched inequities, and ensures that women's voices are not only heard, but meaningfully acted upon at every level of governance and decision-making. During this triennium, Advocacy has advanced GWI its reputation as a dynamic and credible force in shaping global and national agendas. Through strategic engagement with international institutions, cross-sector collaboration, and a values-based approach, we strengthened our ability to influence policy, build partnerships, strong allies and to amplify our voices.

Our advocacy efforts are evidence based, purposeful, and innovative. We informed national policy dialogues to introduce forward-looking initiatives like *Advocacy Without Borders*, which is now in its early development. This initiative reflects GWI's commitment to transforming local concerns into global priorities through innovation and collective impact.

#### Key Achievements 2022-2025

##### 1. Policy Influence at National, Regional, and Global Levels

- Represented GWI at critical spaces, including UN CSW Member States meetings, UN Women forums, NGO CSW NY, and UNECE Geneva events, ensuring our advocacy is embedded in key dialogues and policy-shaping processes
- Engaged consistently in foreign policy, global impact, CSW Revitalization, and B+30 processes, aligning GWI's positions with broader international development priorities



- 2. Oversight and Leadership of the Resolution Committee**
  - Facilitating NFA implementation of the 10 Triennium Resolutions, including Work Plans
  - Call for Resolutions 2025 Triennium - Guidelines and consultations with NFAs
  - Review of 8 proposed resolutions for 2025, including – Webinars, training, and drafting.
- 3. Artificial Intelligence Resolution** - Authored WG-USA Artificial Intelligence Resolution on AI development at source, and training of NFAs, and women's participation and engagement.
- 4. High-Level Engagements & Strategic Allyships, and Partners:**
  - Built key allyship with global entities and the private sector to support project development, mission, and future fundraising, such as the World Bank and, International Monetary Fund
  - Collaborated on thought leadership with NGO CSW NY, CSW UNECE, and UN Global Compact
  - Engaged high-level individuals and thought leaders to deepen advocacy on UNSCR 1325: Women, Peace, and Security and SDG implementation.
- 5. Pioneering Initiatives - Advocacy Without Borders**
  - Innovated, developed, and launched the *Advocacy Without Borders* initiative to foster collaboration among NFAs on shared issues, laying the groundwork for global collective action. Our evidence-based outreach efforts have now been in place for the next phase.
- 6. Leading CSW 67, 68, 69 Advocacy - Spearheaded GWI's engagement**
  - Leading advocacy at formal sessions and side events
  - Delivering statements to Member States on AI, digital equity, online harassment, and women's leadership in technology and entrepreneurship
  - Hosted a milestone CSW event on UNSCR 1325 with a former UN Security Council Ambassador. And other events on Access to Health, Artificial Intelligence, etc.
- 7. Policy Development & Global Influence- UNECE Beijing +30 Review and CSW**
  - Contributed to the year-long development of the Zero Draft and Final Outcome Document for CSW, including collaborative drafting of language and strategy.
  - B+30 Review leading year-long consultations, providing policy expertise on Healthcare; Women in decision-making; Artificial Intelligence; Institutional Mechanisms
- 8. Knowledge Building and Global Communication**
  - Authored and published a Critical Analysis report on Beijing+30, Beijing Platform for Action, an in-depth review focusing on Women in Decision-Making, Health, Economy, and Institutional mechanisms
  - Created video statements and workshop presentations for global distribution.
  - Published strategic analysis reports post CSW sessions to all NFAs and stakeholders, to inform planning, advocacy, and fundraising, and influence mindsets.
- 9. Intergeneration Mentoring - Training and Development:**
  - Collaborated with Marymount University for 2 years to develop training and mentoring programs for younger generations to participate and advocate at CSW 67 and 69
- 10. Fundraising Strategy**
  - Created a Fundraising Strategic Plan aligning advocacy goals with financial sustainability and donor engagement.
  - Established key allyship with the private sector, as the first steps to future opportunities for GWI
- 11. Advocacy Capacity Building**
  - Conducted training workshops and webinars at CSW and other platforms on effective advocacy techniques, resolutions, and stakeholder engagement.



- Collaborated with the Membership VP and Individually Affiliated Members (IMs) to support broader member engagement and regional representation.

## 12. Presentations at Conferences and GWI Global Regional Events

- Presented virtually at the UWA - South Asian Conference, strengthening regional ties –
- GWI Advocacy for NFA members at CSW 67, 68, 68 on Healthcare, Technology, and AI
- Presented at the Conference of the Parties (COPS) 27 and 28 on Artificial Intelligence
- Parallel Events at CSW 67,68, and 69 Women in Decision Making

## Advocacy Builds a Strong Future

GWl stands at a pivotal moment, ready to build on the momentum of the last three years. As civil society spaces shrink and gender gaps widen in digital innovation, leadership, and peace building, our advocacy needs to accelerate to meet pressing global challenges. Together with our NFAs and members, we form a powerful, proven network, well positioned to lead. Our track record of influencing systems, forging partnerships, and advancing strategic frameworks has prepared us for this next phase. The shifting global landscape presents both a responsibility and a unique opportunity to drive lasting change. We invite the GWl leadership network to expand our reach and deepen our impact with Strength, Unity, and Focus. Thank you, GWl.

## REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION 2022-2025 TRIENNIUM

### Dr Shirley Gillett, VP Education

This document reports on the activities and achievements of the Vice President (VP) Education for the GWl board for the 2022-2025 triennium. It includes webinars and associated involvement in CSW; work with EDUCOM (Education Committee); involvement and initiation in GWl discussions; and the organisation of the triennium conference.



On 13th September 2023, I presented a road map strategy for education at our virtual GWl Town Hall, emphasising the importance of my role in promoting the Millennium Development Goals, in particular - SDG 4 – Quality, Equal and Inclusive Education for All.

I worked with EDUCOM convener Lucia Guzman and EDUCOM to present two excellent and well-received education-oriented parallel events for CSW, the first virtual (2024), the second in person (2025).

These were: GWl virtual Parallel Event “Educating Outside the Classroom: Women's Museums Empowering Girls and Women “on 12 March 2024.

And the second, the In-person Parallel Event, “Education: Only Way to Solve Old and Modern Antifeminisms”, 14th March 2025 -see EDUCOM Convener committee’s report.

The final achievement I am proud of in regard to EDUCOM and webinars is encouraging them to present a workshop at Lusaka, Zambia, on “Childbrides and Education”.



The relationship between EDUCOM convenor Lucia Guzman (Mexico) and the committee was strong. I always attended their regular ZOOM meetings and two current members have applied to return for another term.

An important task for VP Education is organizing the Triennium conference of seminar papers and workshops. This has involved working in a coded special email system, receiving the above reading and assessing them for inclusion, and many communications (which I enjoyed), and finally organizing them into a programme for the conference day. I had a major role in co-constructing the main theme and wrote the subthemes, and chaired the regular meetings between the board and the LAC (Local Arrangements Committee).

In this, I built up strong relationships from early on with Annie Musonda, president of GW Zambia, and Wilma Nchito, chair of the Local Arrangements Committee.

And from a broader perspective I have tried to support SDG 4 “quality education” in a conceptual and practical way keeping an eye of on how it relates to other areas such as the Bina Roy, advocacy, fundraising, the project teachers, GWI online members discussions, and current events always pointing to education being broader than attending school and vital to the development of girls and young women globally. In 2023, I revitalized the online members' discussions with suggesting and leading a discussion for “World Teachers Day “around the question “What did teachers mean to you?” and also took part in the members' discussion on Artificial Intelligence.

Although not directly the education portfolio, as chair of the 105th anniversary I invented the Heritage wall, which will fund education projects.

One of the hardest things I have done in all my time was promoting and setting up the in person parallel event for CSW 2025 with the difficult parallel NGO system, which required staying up most of the night to get a room. This is the first one GWI has had and is unique in co -construction between Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) and GWI (EDUCOM). It went excellently and was a credit to both.

Most recently, I contributed to the Bloomsbury radio interview, a London based conversation with Arif Zaman, Executive Director, Commonwealth Businesswomen’s Network, promoting our triennium, and as chair of the Zambia conference committee, speaking on the intellectual background to the theme and subthemes and the upcoming resolutions.

I have attended all monthly board meetings and, for most, presented a written report. Part of the roadmap included the possibility of a project with UNESCO or UNICEF, and despite trying, I did not fulfil this.

I would like to thank President Patrice Wellesley Cole and Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara, Lucia Guzmán, and the EDUCOM members. Our EDUCOM virtual meetings were a highlight.



## REPORT OF THE VP FUNDRAISING 2022-2025 ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Fernanda Vidal-Correa, VP Fundraising



Appointed as Vice President for Fundraising in July 2024, I joined the GWI Governing Board during the final year of its 34th Triennium. While my tenure was limited in time, I sought to lay solid groundwork for long-term funding diversification and visibility. The focus was on advancing institutional fundraising, submitting key funding proposals, and opening strategic relationships with potential corporate donors to benefit GWI's flagship programmes. I remain fully available to the incoming Board for any questions or clarifications regarding the submitted applications or ongoing processes

#### 1. Institutional Fundraising Activities

##### *A. L'Oréal Fund for Women Application*

In collaboration with the GWI President and office team, I led the preparation and submission of a comprehensive funding application to the **L'Oréal Fund for Women**. This effort targeted securing multi-year institutional support for the **Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID)** programme. The process was intensive and required weeks of work to meet L'Oréal's high standards for clarity, impact, and feasibility.

The application process involved compiling over **30 detailed responses** to narrative questions, including gender-based impact statements, measurable indicators, risk management strategies, governance structure, and sustainability planning. I coordinated and drafted an **in-depth project proposal**, created a full set of supporting documents, including an **executive summary, budget form, and impact narrative**, while aligning with L'Oréal's internal social impact evaluation model. Additionally, the work required synthesizing financial, operational, and programme data across multiple geographies and engaging with GWI's office and NFAs to ensure accuracy and relevance.

- **Status:** Submission completed; awaiting funding decision.
- **Anticipated Outcome:** If successful, this funding would provide core support for BRPID implementation and visibility through a major global brand.

##### *B. Avery Dennison Foundation (ADF) Application*

I also led the full design and submission of a proposal to the **Avery Dennison Foundation**, requesting **USD 95,000** over two years in support of GWI's **Teachers for Rural Futures (TFRF)** programme in Uganda. The proposal development was both time-sensitive and labor-intensive, involving the drafting of a strategic application package that included an **impact-aligned narrative, a detailed budget with justification, a theory of change**, and tailored content to align directly with Avery Dennison's pillars of **Education Access, Secure Livelihoods, and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**.



This required deep engagement with the programme's on-the-ground implementation details, including projected outcomes for scholarship recipients, educational barriers in rural Uganda, and long-term community impact. I also adapted the language and structure of the proposal to fit the Avery Dennison Foundation's **grantmaking criteria**, and created a clear monitoring and evaluation framework with sample KPIs to measure results. The process included strategic consultation with GWI leadership and the TFRF Uganda team to ensure every element reflected both **mission alignment and operational feasibility**.

- **Status:** Proposal submitted; awaiting next steps or invitation to proceed.
- **Strategic Contribution:** Builds a foundation for a potential long-term partnership and significant programme investment.

## 2. Corporate Engagement – Chloé CSR (Women Forward Initiative)

In March 2025, I led a strategic meeting with **Ms. Aude Vergne**, Chief Sustainability Officer at **Chloé**, alongside GWI Board Officers. The meeting successfully introduced GWI to Chloé's CSR leadership and identified three collaboration pathways:

- In-Kind Donations:** Chloé can provide fabric donations, delivered to countries selected by GWI. These could support future workshops on sewing, sustainable fashion, or women's entrepreneurship.
- Financial Grant Window:** Chloé accepts applications for financial support (deadline **November**). Though our current term ends before this window, the contact and framework are now in place for the incoming Board.
- Volunteering:** Chloé employees can volunteer in mentoring or capacity-building for women-led projects.

## 3. Follow-ups for the Incoming Board

### a) Pending Applications:

#### a. L'Oréal Fund:

Monitor the decision timeline for the submitted proposal (expected second half of 2025). If unsuccessful, review feedback (if provided) and consider reapplication for the 2026 cycle, building on the current proposal and evaluation metrics.

#### b. Avery Dennison Foundation:

Await feedback or invitation to move to the next stage of the process.

If invited, submit any requested revisions or documentation promptly to secure potential funding for the Teachers for Rural Futures programme.

### b) Capitalize on Chloé Contact:

- Prepare and submit a **full financial proposal by November 2025** under Chloé's Women Forward funding stream. This requires a clear project narrative, outcomes, and budget.



b. Explore immediate engagement through **in-kind donations of fabric**, which can be requested at any time. Consider using this fabric to support workshops or vocational programmes in GWI member countries (e.g., sewing, product-making, or entrepreneurship).

## REPORT OF THE VP LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE TRIENNIUM PERIOD 2022-2025

### Ujwala Shinde, VP Legal and Governance



It was a pleasure to be a VP Legal and Governance for the esteemed organisation, Graduate Women International, working for the women's cause globally.

Being VP Governance it was a job to work with the President, Vice Presidents and Executive Director to help in smooth conduction of meetings and recording the minutes. Wherever and whenever needed legal advice is provided to the Board.

It was a great experience to make documental preparations with Governance Committee and Executive Director for the Triennium General Assembly.

Constitutional amendment is proposed by the VP Governance, at the triennium. The GWI Constitution provides the legal and structural foundation for our work in advancing the rights and education of women and girls worldwide. Periodic review and amendments are essential to ensure that our Constitution remains aligned with the evolving needs of our organisation, reflects contemporary governance standards and strengthens our ability to advocate effectively at international level.

As a VP Legal and Governance, various policy documents are prepared for the smooth working of the Triennium General Assembly. Constitution of Nomination Committee and to prepare the work-procedure for Nomination Committee, to provide required documents and information for smooth selection of potential candidate for election at Triennium General Assembly was the important work, done with the assistance of Governance Committee and Executive Director.

Worked with the Governance Committee developing the Face-to-Face Rules of Procedure for the Triennial General Assembly for the Board.

Worked with the Governance Committee and assisted the Interim GWI Treasurer in preparation for the Internal Resolutions for the Triennial General Assembly.

As a Vice President Legal and Governance, with the Governance Committee reviewed all constitutional requirements related to Voting procedures, submission procedure of voting delegates names and proxy voting procedures.

With the Governance Committee reviewed the final Triennial GA Booklet for governance and constitutional accuracy.

Multiple meetings were held with Nomination Committee, Governance Committee and Executive Director for procedural detailing and policy discussion.



As a VP Legal and Governance I would like to thank to Governance Committee active members, Pat Patton and Katerina Strub for their experienced guidance, efforts and timely support and special thanks to Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director, for her support and assistance. I am also grateful to President Patrice and all the Board members for their support.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT BY THE SWISS ASSISTANT TREASURER 2022-2025

#### Dr. Karoline Dorsch-Häsler, Assistant Treasurer Switzerland



#### Finance Committee Members

**Dr. Karoline Dorsch-Häsler**, Swiss Association of University Women, Assistant Treasurer Switzerland, Convenor, 2022-2024

**Susan Lane**, Canadian Federation of University Women, Assistant Treasurer Canada, 2022-2025

**Rosa Maria Mendoza**, El Salvador, 2022-2025

**Neeta Patwardhan**, India, 2022-2024

**Nuran Uzun Turan**, Türkiye, 2022-2025

Without voting rights:

**GWJ Treasurer (ex officio)** Sudha Srivastava, GWJ Treasurer, 2022 until August 2024

**GWJ Treasurer (ex officio)** Dr. Karoline Dorsch-Häsler, GWJ Treasurer, September 2024-2025

**GWJ Executive Director** Stacy Dry Lara

As decided by the 2019 General Assembly, GWI has to publish a financial report four times a year. FinCom (Finance Committee) had proposed to the Board that all financial matters (reports, budgets, reserve fund expenses etc.) should first be reviewed and recommended by FinCom, before a motion is moved by the Board. FinCom discussed all these reports in meetings or electronically and made recommendations to the Board of Officers. FinCom was happy to be able to make positive recommendations. The finances were handled with great care by the Treasurer Sudha Srivastava and the Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara, as well as by the accountant Catherine Herbez of Fiduciaire Herbez Locca in Aubonne. Income and Expenditures are shown and discussed in the Treasurer's report. FinCom also discussed the yearly and triennial budgets as well as the 35<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference budget in detail, prepared by the same persons as above, and made recommendations to the Board of Officers.

#### Financial situation of GWI

Despite the austerity budget, the financial situation of GWI in the first two years of the Triennium looked reasonably stable, and the major part of the income came from the dues from the National Federations and Associations (NFAs). Again, the loss of members had a negative impact on the



income. The financial situation of the Restricted Funds is not being discussed here; this is done in the corresponding reports. However, FinCom also discussed the financial movement in the Restricted Funds and gave its recommendations.

### **Expenditures**

Due to the austerity budget of GWI, the Executive Director is the only employee with a fixed salary, doing all the work, although with very valuable help by trainees and volunteers. At the same time, the members of the Board have to do more work by themselves. During the COVID-19 epidemic, travelling had mostly stopped, and it has not picked up pace in this past Triennium, which obviously was a benefit to finances. On the other hand, a very positive effect was that more international webinars took place, with often very interesting discussions and networking, and at a much lower cost. Thanks to the General Reserve Fund originating from the 2019 Triennial Assembly, any extra expenses were covered.

### **Recommendations**

From the end of 2022 until July 2025, FinCom issued a total of 38 recommendations. Apart from recommendations on budgets and Financial Revenue and Expenditure statements, FinCom discussed quite a number of applications by NFAs for dues alleviations.

## REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### **Lucía Guzmán, Education Committee Convener**

#### **Education Committee Members**

**Confidence DIKGOLE** (South Africa)

**Christine HELLER** (USA)

**Nesrine KOC** (Turkey)

**Marianne SINGH-WARAICH** (Canada)

**Geneviève ADUKPO** (Ghana)

Although it was not easy to agree on dates and hours for our meetings since we live, literally, all around the world with its different time zones, we managed to adjust our schedules in order to meet monthly. We also had to take into account that some Members spend part of the year in one continent and part of the year in another. During these past years we suffered earthquakes, fires, floods and violence in some of our communities and cities. These factors forced two EDUCOM members to move and live in other cities, and three of us (me included) had to undergo difficult surgeries and long recoveries. So we agreed that our moto should be: "EDUCOM, MOVING FORWARD!"



## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE AWARD OF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

### **Başak Ovacık, Convener Fellowships Committee**



### **Fellowships Committee Members**

**Ranjana Banerjee** (India)

**Marite Mehr** (Spain)

**Naa Adeley Sutha Alakja** (Ghana)

**Momtaj Khalil** (Australia)

The Committee updated the Application Form and Guidelines, set a timetable to start the applications, evaluations, and announcements. Stacy created a private email for applications from a separate domain, and as the convener, I started to receive e-mails in November 2024. I received 415 emails until the process was over. The office and I answered many different questions. I classified all these emails and created an Excel file, downloaded all application forms, transcripts, references (2 for every candidate, coming from different professors' email addresses), photos, membership proof/certificate, and created a full file for the committee members. At the end, we received 80 qualified applications. The committee evaluated these applications in 2 rounds, discussed them in Zoom meetings, and we reached 6 awardees in May 2025. We announced the awardees, and the office made the payments.

The committee agreed that there are 6 awards to be made (Rose Sidgwick Award CHF 5000, Funds for Women Graduates (FfWG) Crosby Hall Fellowship £6000, British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) Ida Smedley Maclean Fellowship £3000, New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW) Daphne Purves Grant CHF 3000, Nazan Moroglu Recognition Award €1000, Cynthia Burek Recognition Award £1000).



REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE HEGG HOFFET FUND 2020-2022

**Cynthia A. Adinortey, Convener Hegg Hoffet Committee**  
**Hegg Hoffet Committee Members**

- Brenda Robertson**
- Terry Oudraad**
- Ogechi Adiuku**
- Eser Alkins**

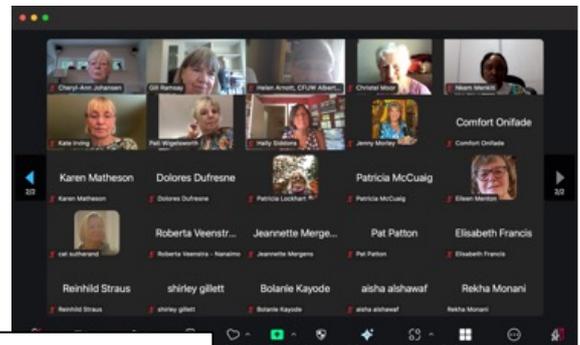
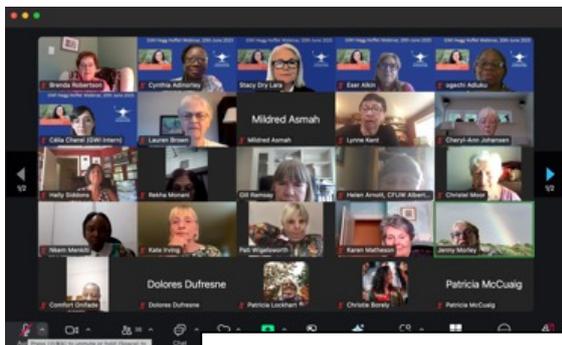


During the 2023–2025 triennium, the GWI Hegg Hoffet (HH) Fund Committee undertook several key initiatives and achieved significant progress in supporting displaced women graduates globally:

- **Application and Award Process Optimizations:** The committee revised application forms to require complete submission, introduced a beneficiary reporting requirement to enhance accountability. Also, the application form was made entirely available online. This is a significant improvement over the previous process where application form were submitted to the convener via email. These steps increased transparency and monitoring efficiency.
- **Grant Distribution and Beneficiary Support:** Between May and July 2024, 32 applications were received comprising 10 without university degree and 22 with at least a university first degree. Those 10 did not meet the eligibility criterion of having at least the first degree and as a result could not proceed with their applications. The 22 remaining applications were reviewed by members seven were short listed to attend an online interview. Out of the seven who were short-listed and contacted to attend the interview, 5 were able to honor our invitations. Grants of up to 3,000 Swiss Francs were awarded to 3 beneficiaries pursuing varied courses—including language training, professional refresher courses, medical courses and university semester fees.
- **Between April and June 2025, 22 applications were received out of which 6 have been scheduled for an interview on 8th August 2025.**
- **Publicity and Outreach Efforts:** To raise awareness of the fund, the committee organized webinars (notably planned around International Refugee Day in June 2025), developed promotional materials including flyers and presentations, and engaged in social media and peer-to-peer workshops. These activities aimed to increase application rates and visibility among displaced women and relevant organisations.



Figure 1: Hegg Hoffet Flyer



Participants and organizers at Hegg Hoffet Webinar 2025



## REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT MEMBER NETWORK 2022-2025

### Sahar Gamal, Convener Independent Member Network

#### Independent Member Network Members

- Ms Ariani Narwatsujati (Indonesia, Co-Convener)
- D. Mariana Gonçalves (Brazil)
- Dr Geetpriya Kaur (India)
- Ms Veronica Eugenio (Philippines)
- Ms Willet Salue (Liberia)
- Ms Janaki Parajuli (Nepal)
- Ms Tashie Ngwanguong (Cameroon)

Because the IMN is only one year old (14 months to be precise), the only initiative that was achieved was a "Raising Awareness Campaign" titled "Challenges to Women's Empowerment: Causes and Remedies". In this campaign 7 Independent Members from 7 different countries and belong to 7 different fields of specializations discussed 8 challenges to women empowerment. This campaign is divided into stages where each stage is built on the outcomes of the previous one. The first stage lasted four months (April



– July 2025) and took the form of a monthly webinar series where each participant gave a presentation about one of the challenges. To establish validity and uniformity, all participants were required to use a GWI PPT Template that covered the following five points: identifying the challenge, the causes, its effect on women and girls, the current or suggested remedies, and the expected role of GWI. At the end of the first stage, a survey was conducted to get the participants' feedback about the campaign, how they benefited from each other, and how they were inspired to move forward. The 7 IMs are: Ariani Narwatsujati (Indonesia) who discussed "Challenges Facing Female Students", Willet Salue (Liberia) who discussed "Community Health Challenges and their Effect on Women and Girls", Geetpriya Kaur (India) who discussed "Female Oral Cancer and the Positive Impact of AI", Janaki Parajuli (Nepal) who discussed "Challenges to Women and Girls Nutrition: Causes and Remedies", Mariana Gonçalves (Brazil) who discussed "The Fragmentation of Health Data and its Disproportionate Impact on Women" and " Women's Underrepresentation in Leadership Positions in the Health Sector", Veronica Eugenio (Philippines) who discussed "Disability Policies in the Philippines and Empowering Girls through Music Education", and Tashie Ngwanguong (Cameroon) who discussed "Women in Biochemistry: From the Lab to Life-Saving Therapies Empowering Women and Girls".



## REPORT OF THE YOUNG MEMBERS NETWORK 2022-2025

### Sudha Srivastava, President Young Members Network (YMN)

*“GWI Young Members Network stands for passionate proactive female change makers who inspire, empower and mentor women through education to embrace diversity, inclusiveness, friendship, freedom and peace, which leads to strategic actions and positive solutions.”*



Building on the success of wonderful work during previous Triennial, the new initiatives in this Triennial helped in consistent growth of the network with increasing numbers and diversity. GWI membership increased due to the specific interest in YMN and activities. YMN Team meets regularly to discuss and plan events, projects and connections tailored around the interests of the Network. **Here are the key highlights:**

#### **UN Commission on the Status of Women Parallel Events and in-person participation:**

- Organised and hosted YMN Parallel event at CSW67 titled ‘**Gender Equality in Digital Education: Young Women and Financial Challenges**’ in March 2023.
- Organised and hosted YMN Parallel event at CSW68 titled ‘**Sustainable Financing for Gender Equality: Young Women’s Perspective**’ in March 2024.
- Organised and hosted YMN Parallel event at CSW69 titled ‘**Empowering Young Women for Sustainable Development: Progress and Future**’ in March 2025.
- 12 Young Members including YMN President Sudha Srivastava, participated in-person in New York United Nations Head Quarters spanning three years.

**Monthly Conversation Series “Growing Together”** - Most popular Monthly Conversation sessions *by YMs for YMs* spotlights two YMs each month creating collaboration opportunities.

**YMN Mentoring Series 2024** – Focused on Early Careers, Career Progression in Media, Careers at United Nations, Gender Studies and Activism on Elimination of Gender Based Violence.

**YMN Consultation and Formal Committee** - As part of the re-organisation of the YMN towards making it a more formalised GWI Committee, a comprehensive YMN Consultation was created and conducted by YMN President in July 2023. Formal Proposal to make YMN a GWI Committee with elected convenor and members, was first submitted to the Board in February 2023 and several times thereafter.

**UN Women CSW68 Global Youth Consultations** - 15 Young Members from 7 countries participated in UN Women CSW68 Global Youth Consultations and submitted Recommendations Report.

**International Women’s Day** – YMN hosted an Intergenerational event “Inspiring Inclusion”.



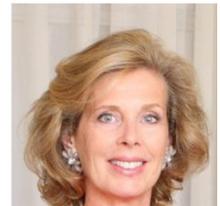
**5 years of YMN in July 2024** - Hosted celebratory event commemorating Five Years of YMN since July 2019 by highlighting proactive leadership and teamwork with numerous key achievements of foundations, growth and future prospects.

Actively participated in 16 Days of Activism VAWG, SAAWG 100 Years, SDG Summit and SDGs workshops in NFAs, UN special days video projects, Youth Forums, regular Meet and Greet sessions for new members. YMN Video project for GWI 105 Years celebrations and presented at both sessions in intergenerational intervention.

I would like to thank everyone who has been part of this journey – big or small – with positive impact. We are stronger together! *Thank you, Sudha Srivastava, September 2025.*

## REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE 2022-2025

### Eloísa Sánchez-Amillategui, Convener Membership Committee



#### Membership Committee Members

**Pat Reavy**

**Shevata Rai Talwar**

**Jolie Massay**

**Magda Kaniki**

**Marité Mehr**

**Sahar Gamal** as IM Convenor

In order to develop strategies to improve and expand GWI's membership, Marité Mehr created a comprehensive questionnaire (sent out in July 2024) that helped gather valuable feedback from NFA leaders on the challenges they perceive in retaining existing members and recruiting new ones.

The leaders of our NFAs perceive the recruitment of new members as a much more serious problem than the long-term retention of members. Since the organisations suffer from the very serious problem that their members are getting older and are not as active as they used to be, the recruitment of young members is mandatory.

Based on the analysis of the replies, we have proposed the following priority actions:

1. We must show NFA and future members why GWI is different from other women's organizations, and what its most important achievements. To do this, we are working on a paper that clearly documents the outcomes and the impact of GWI Resolutions and policy submissions to the UN Assembly, the UN Committees, Institutions, Banks, etc as well as to individual Governments. To do this, we are looking into the possibility of a student writing a thesis on the subject, a company conducting the study on its own behalf, or subsidising someone to do so (there would be volunteers from IM if it were a paid job).



2. Continue to motivate NFA-to-NFA activities with ongoing lives in order to build an enriching network: We are sending, from time to time, a “Membership letter” to presidents and CIRs
3. Work together with IMN and YMN: Understanding their needs and attracting young members will be the only way for GWI to achieve intergenerationality. We would love to have an ongoing, open, and constructive relationship with them for the sake of GWI.
4. Consider options for fee-supplementation for extraordinary situations. For this, GWI will set up a donation-based fund to aid NFAs dealing with the inability of members to pay fees.
5. Regarding the language barrier for the written communications, the GWI Constitution has been translated into Spanish, and we hope to have it in French very soon. We have searched the market for simultaneous translation tools.
6. Make all the necessary efforts to reach out to the NFAs who resigned in 2017 and try to get them back.

If you are interested in sharing the survey and its results, please do not hesitate to ask us.

## REPORT OF THE PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### Aisha Alshawaf, Convener Project Development Committee



### Project Development Committee Members

Saira Bano

Yasim Sarisu

Kathryn Wilson

We were eager to restart Bina Roy Partners in Development (PID) after COVID-19. Spring 2023, a review of finished projects was conducted, and outstanding projects were identified, and questionnaires were sent to previous project leaders. PDC set a time frame for a new round of applications, confirmed the budget, and the number of projects supported. We were given a mandate during the triennium to include SDG4 projects as part of renew and rebuild.

A webinar was held in October to mark the launch of the new round of projects, with attendees hearing inspiring success stories from project leaders in Turkey, Nepal, and Mexico.

Applications were received in February 2024, as follows -

- Uganda - training adolescents, teachers, and parents in the Luke district in making reusable sanitary pads.
- Nepal – women’s empowerment through education and income generation activities.
- Egypt - the impact of Egyptian women’s health on economic empowerment and national income.
- Turkey - Enlighten your hometown, enlighten our homeland.
- El Salvador - Artificial intelligence to boost your professional career.
- Senegal - Environmental Citizenship Education in Schools.



Details of each project were considered, and questions were sent to leaders.

All six projects were approved. Initial payments were authorised, with the cycle starting June 2024.

PDC analysed mid-term reports to ensure that objectives and timeframes were on track, and rated the projects; which have continued to the end of the term with final instalments paid.

PDC has worked on the Dr Vinaybala Mehta sustainable development goals (SDGs) seed fund, with a donation in October 2022 of 10,000 Swiss Francs from Dr Mehta.

Purpose and criteria were specified through an MOU. The GWI board asked PDC to work on this project.

In line with the Fund's criteria, applications were open to all fully paid-up NFAs who must work with external partners or other NFAs.

In summer 2024 committee agreed that one project would be approved, led by the GWI office, collaborating with PDC. Projects are related to SDG4, focusing on quality education. Other important aspects include fundraising, stakeholder collaboration and membership growth.

PDC agreed application process, timeline, and publicity, approved by Board.

PDC considered the applications received and shortlisted three -

- South Africa: Improving reading and creative writing for schoolgirls
- India: Improving craft skills for women utilising flowers collected from temples, and developing hospitality skills through homestays.
- Thailand: Giving skills to older women in deprived communities to improve job prospects.

Applications from Egypt and Uganda were not considered as they had been in the current Bina Roy cycle. Interviews were undertaken with shortlisted projects; South Africa had the majority vote. PDC requested the Board to allocate some of the heritage wall fund to MSF projects, which was agreed.

### **Project: "Enlighten your hometown, enlighten my country". 6/2/2024 - 31/12/2024**

24 volunteers from 8 different TAUW branches. They had online training and orientation and produced a guidebook on the project's activities. Volunteer students developed skills in running social responsibility projects, working with children, planning and communication, and leadership. The main themes that they focused on included children's rights, gender equality, social media, respect to nature and the environment and healthy living. Teachers and 145 children in total were involved aged between 7-14, from 14 different cities in the country. The average number of children per volunteer is six. They provided a course of five modules in the hometown of student volunteers; this was a challenge as the timing was limited to students' term holidays.

Below are two photos taken during the project.



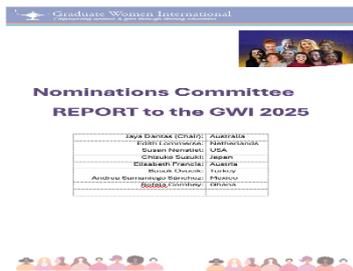
REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

**Dr Jaya Dantas, Nominations Committee Convenor**



**Nominations Committee Members**

- Edith Lommerse (Netherlands)
- Susan Nenstiel (USA)
- Chizuko Suzuki (Japan)
- Elizabeth Francis (Austria)
- Basak Ovacik (Turkey)
- Andrea Samaniego Sánchez (Mexico)
- Rofela Combey (Ghana)



Access the full report of the Nominations Committee, which includes biographies of each member, at the following link:  
[https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/GWI\\_Nominations-Committee-Full-Report\\_2025\\_Abridged\\_05.09.25.docx](https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/GWI_Nominations-Committee-Full-Report_2025_Abridged_05.09.25.docx)



## REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

### Catriona Sutherland, Resolutions Committee Convener

#### Resolutions Committee Members

**Laura Rojo McLeod** (WG-USA) UNTIL May 2025

**Louise McLeod** (WG-USA)

**Beryl Mathews** (CFUW)

**Neelam Patil** (IFUW)

During this session, engagement with NFAs proved more difficult, as it became evident that work had not progressed on approximately half of the 2022 agreed resolutions. This may in part reflect the presence of overlapping resolution themes, which RESCOM had flagged early in the process and made efforts to streamline and suggested collaboration. Nonetheless, these resolutions were agreed by the membership, and RESCOM remains committed to working collaboratively to ensure their implementation.

As a small group of volunteers, RESCOM continues to engage with a considerable workload embedded in the current Terms of Reference. While we are committed to supporting advocacy efforts, it's important to clarify that advocacy around resolutions should stem from the submitting NFA's activities. RESCOM can offer guidance and assistance, but we are not the drivers of these initiatives. We also emphasise that "advocacy"—in its everyday sense—is about individuals championing causes or activities, which may not always relate to the UN or broader frameworks. An internal resolution proposes incorporating advocacy into the RESCOM TOR, but this can only be actioned with clear communication from submitting NFAs.

You will be aware that an internal resolution proposes incorporating advocacy into the RESCOM title and, by default, to the Terms of Reference. This development has three important components.

- First, it calls for a more defined role for the Vice President Advocacy within RESCOM—recognising their valuable contributions while also respecting their broader responsibility for advocacy across the organisation.
- Second, it reflects what RESCOM has consistently communicated throughout this session: resolutions are not merely statements of intent; they must be supported and enacted by local group participation to have a meaningful impact.
- Third, should this proposal be passed at the General Assembly, a revised Terms of Reference for RESCOM will need to be drafted, agreed upon by the incoming board, and shared with members—accompanied by clear guidance outlining what can realistically be expected. As always, active communication from submitting NFAs remains essential.



## REPORT OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

### **Suwithida Charungkattikul, Governance Committee Convener: Thailand**



#### **Governance Committee Members**

**Pat Patton** (Canada)

**Katharina Strub** (Switzerland)

**Aylin Moralioglu** (Turkey)

The Committee reviewed a recommendation from a Board member that fell outside the position's Terms of Reference and the organisation's strategic direction. Lacking sufficient information, the Committee concluded it could not provide substantive advice, and no further action was taken.

In early 2025 the Governance Committee developed a comprehensive document for the Board of Officers outlining the preparatory requirements for the Triennial General Assembly. This document included Constitutional requirements, deadlines, responsibilities of each Board member and communication requirements with NFAs. Once completed, Board members prepared their individual areas of responsibility.

- The Governance Committee prepared a detailed format for the Nominations procedures for potential candidates for the 2025 Triennial GA (General Assembly) and provided documentation to the Nominations Committee as it was formed. The Nominations Committee, with the assistance of the VP Legal and Governance, then took over all action regarding nominations.
- The Governance Committee prepared the GWI led proposal for constitutional amendments and coordinated submissions from NFAs. It prepared the circulars for proposed constitutional amendments for NFAs to review in advance of the Triennial GA and conducted the Discussion Session with NFAs held on 14 July 2025 to review and suggest amendments to the Proposed Constitutional Amendments. Following this the Committee completed the final circular of Proposed Constitutional Amendments for NFAs and prepared the final constitutional amendments for the Triennial Booklet.
- The Committee developed and submitted to the Board the Face-to-Face Rules of Procedure for the Triennial GA.
- The Committee assisted the Interim GWI Treasurer in preparation for the Internal Resolutions for the Triennial GA.
- The Committee also reviewed all constitutional requirements related to Voting procedures, submission procedure of voting delegates names and proxy voting procedures. It advised, when necessary, on process requirements in preparation for the Triennial GA.
- Finally, the Governance Committee reviewed the final Triennial GA Booklet for governance and constitutional accuracy.

The Governance Committee would like to thank Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director, for her support and assistance and to Ujwala Shinde, VP Legal and Governance, for her direction and liaison with the Board of Officers.



## ZAMBIA LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE (LAC) MEMBERS

### Members

- Professor Wilma C. Nchito – LAC Chairperson
- Dr. Annie Musonda M. – Communications and Information Coordinator
- Dr. Nelly Mwale – Marketing Coordinator
- Dr. Rose Chikopela – Conference Programs Coordinator
- Dr. Pamela Chirwa B. – Finance Manager
- Dr. Charity Meki-Kombe – Registrations Coordinator
- Dr. Judith Ilubala-Ziwa – Sponsorship and Partnership Coordinator
- Dr. Sylvia B. Mwansa – Fundraising and Donations Coordinator
- Dr. Euphrasia Ng'andwe – Local Activities and Tours Coordinator
- Dr. Bibian Kalinde – Music and Entertainment Coordinator
- Ms. Dorica Lungu S. – Venue Arrangements and Technology Coordinator
- Ms. Grace Kabwe M. – Transport Coordinator
- Dr. Margaret Mwale M. – Host and Lodging Coordinator
- Ms. Hope Fulumaka – Protocol Coordinator
- Ms. Tiwonge Mbale Z. – Training Coordinator
- Dr. Pilira Tembo C. – Volunteer Coordinator
- Ms. Josephine Bwalya N. – Deputy Volunteer Coordinator
- Dr. Eunice S. N. Imasiku – Safety and First Aid Coordinator
- Ms. Peggy Chewe Z. – Childcare and Special Needs Coordinator
- Dr. Rebecca Kayumba P. – Food and Catering Coordinator
- Ms. Womba Kankondo – Legal and Compliance Coordinator



## REPORTS FROM GWI REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS

### UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES, GENEVA

#### **GWI United Nations Representatives, Geneva**

**Elena Bauchiero**  
**Suzanne Nette**  
**Célia ChereI**

During the 2023–2025 Triennium, Graduate Women International (GWI) was represented at the United Nations in Geneva by the Executive Director, supported by a team of incredible interns. This representation ensured consistent engagement with Human Rights Council (HRC) sessions, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), UNESCO, the Universal Periodic Review, and other United Nations bodies where education and gender equality remain central issues. GWI’s interventions at these forums strengthened the organization’s international profile.

GWI participated in all nine 3-week HRC sessions during this period. Summaries were distributed to members and to the newsletter readership of about 4,000 in Special Editions, including HRC56 (July 2024), HRC58 (April 2025), and HRC59 (July 2025).

In 2023, GWI submitted three written statements to the HRC. At HRC-52, GWI urged governments to guarantee equitable access to lifelong learning, addressing pandemic setbacks and barriers such as early marriage, lack of infrastructure, and digital exclusion. At HRC-53, GWI underscored the role of education in women’s entrepreneurship, calling for curricula that include entrepreneurship, improved access to financing, and gender-disaggregated data. At HRC-54, co-sponsored with partner NGOs, GWI emphasized the role of sport in advancing education, leadership, and gender equality, urging states to integrate sport into curricula, invest in facilities, and support women in leadership.

In 2024, GWI expanded its advocacy through written statements to the HRC. At HRC-55, GWI advanced the concept of “Green Education,” urging states to integrate sustainability, environmental awareness, and climate change education into all learning formats to reinforce Sustainable Development Goal 4. At HRC-56, GWI called for measures to bridge the gender digital divide by promoting digital literacy, expanding access to open educational resources and internet connectivity, and strengthening educators’ digital capacity, especially for women and girls in underserved communities. At HRC-57, GWI highlighted quality education as key to fostering peace, tolerance, and AI literacy, reaffirming the need to empower women and children as agents of peace.



In 2025, GWI continued this momentum. At HRC-58, marking the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, GWI presented recommendations to broaden access to secondary, tertiary, and non-traditional education, embed AI and digital literacy, reform curricula to counter gender stereotypes, strengthen teacher training, and improve monitoring and data systems. At HRC-59, GWI focused on protecting girls' education in conflict settings—where exclusion is highest—calling for endorsement of the Safe Schools Declaration, accountability for attacks on education, gender-responsive humanitarian responses, teacher training, legal measures against gendered hate speech, and inclusion of education data in UPR reporting. At HRC-60, GWI addressed the shift “From Digital Divide to Digital Equality,” urging Member States to close gendered gaps in access and skills through targeted infrastructure, affordable internet, educator digital training, gender-sensitive learning environments, and public-private partnerships.

Beyond the HRC, other highlights included GWI's participation in the Annual High-Level Panel commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, where discussions underscored both achievements and persistent challenges such as gender-based violence and unequal access to education. GWI also attended thematic side events organized by UN Missions and agencies on issues including human rights mainstreaming in foreign policy, gender equality in the digital age, the right to free education, the launch of phase five of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and accountability for reproductive violence.

GWI contributed to other UN mechanisms as well. At the February 2025 CEDAW session on gender stereotypes, GWI highlighted the persistence of harmful norms that limit women's educational and economic opportunities. At the June 2025 UNESCO event Towards a Global Alliance Against Racism and Discriminations, GWI emphasized education's role in dismantling systemic barriers. At the Centre d'Accueil de la Genève Internationale event in June 2025, GWI exchanged with peers on civil society's role in shaping responses to global challenges.

A major focus of this Triennium was the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (2–3 April 2024), where GWI joined the UNECE Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism at the SDG 5 roundtable. GWI emphasized the importance of gender-disaggregated data and evidence-based policymaking. During the civil society pre-meeting, GWI collaborated with partners to prepare recommendations for the Forum, stressing barriers to achieving gender equality, particularly those rooted in unequal access to education. This work reaffirmed education as a cross-cutting enabler of all SDG 5 targets, from ending violence and harmful practices to increasing women's leadership and economic participation.

Geneva, often referred to as the heart of humanity and human rights, continues to provide GWI with a unique headquarters. Switzerland's reputation for neutrality, stability, and international cooperation strengthens GWI's global voice and raises the visibility of NFAs presenting their projects and advocacy. Geneva hosts most Permanent Missions to the UN and key agencies, including the International Labour Organization and UNESCO's satellite office, with whom GWI maintains special



partnership relations, as well as the World Trade Organization, with whom GWI celebrated its centenary. These connections allow GWI to align its priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals and support the agendas of NFAs. Geneva's active civil society further enhances coalition-building at a time when civic space is narrowing worldwide.

Looking ahead, GWI's UN team in Geneva will strengthen partnerships with NGOs to increase visibility and impact, and deepening member engagement with the UN system by co-sponsoring statements, supporting side events, and broadening report distribution. Encouraging NFAs to use these materials in national advocacy remains essential.

## UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES, NEW YORK

### GWI United Nations Representatives, New York

**Maureen E. Byrne, PhD**

**Maryella Hannum, MSc**

We contribute to GWI Advocacy efforts as a team through regular attendance and participation at United Nations (UN) meetings and events both in-person and virtually. These efforts include regular meetings and events related to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), NGO Committee on the Status of Women NY (NGO CSW NY), the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), Commission for Social Development (CSocD), NGO Committee on Social Development (NGO CSocD), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), and UN Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS). Information from meetings and events is submitted regularly to GWI's International News and the Update Newsletter for dissemination to NFAs and GWI membership.

#### Key Meetings Attended:

**UN Women; Committee on the Status of Women (CSW67-69; NGO CSW NY)** At all CSW annual meetings we arrange for social gatherings for the GWI CSW delegation and GWI membership, provide presentations at breakfast briefings, review the Secretary-General's statements, and provide input and feedback on the Zero Draft/Agreed Conclusions statements. For CSW 68-69 we worked with the GWI Executive Director to collate a **Planning Handbook** for those GWI members attending either in-person or online (2/24; 3/25).

See below for CSW (2023-25) related activities and reports submitted:

- US Mission Briefing (2/23): An intervention was made urging support of national statistical offices, disaggregated and intersectional data, increased tech training for educators, and acknowledgment of tech companies/platforms that demonstrate measurable reductions in online gender violence and discrimination.
- Provide summary of the CSW67 Agreed Conclusions Document (4/23)



- Provide summary of Secretary-General's Report for CSW68 (3/24)
- GWI Report 68th Session of CSW, Gendered poverty deeply entrenched (4/24)
- CSW 68 (2024) - Reports submitted to GWI included Education and HIV Prevention in Africa for Adolescent Girls and Young Women, Closing the Gender Gap in Education, How to Help Poor Countries Deal With Unsustainable Debt, and Poverty and Gender Bias in Economic Policy (4/24)
- UN Women's 10 Gender Equality Accelerators (4/24)
- NGO CSW NY - Debriefing on CSW68 and An Update on Summit of the Future (4/24)
- UN Women & Civil Society on 4th Meeting on Beijing+30 (2/25)
- Key Points from CSW69 and BPfA+30 Political Declaration (5/25)
- Civil Society Consultation on CSW Revitalization (5/25) Civil Society Organization (CSO) engagement strategy; Beijing+30 Action Agenda implementation; and updates on the CSW revitalization process (6/25)

### Commission for Social Development

- 62nd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD62) (2/24)
- 63rd Session of the Commission for Social Development (CSocD63) (2/25)

### UNICEF

- Education in a Post-COVID World (3/23)
- SDG4 & CSW67: Learning Passport; Skills4Girls (3/23)
- UNICEF & BPfA+30 - Girls Goals: What Has Changed for Girls: Adolescent Girls' Rights Over 30 Years (4/25)
- UNICEF Annual Report 2024 (6/25)
- ILO & UNICEF on Child Labor (6/25)

### High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Highlights of Ministerial Declaration Adopted (7/24)

HLPF Session on SDG5 (7/25) The Women's Major Group made a statement urging member states not to support the Ministerial Declaration, stating that elements in the Declaration weaken SDG5. Their position is that discriminatory laws continue to restrict women's rights, often justified under the guise of religion or belief. They further affirmed that states have a duty to enforce all laws that support gender equality and human rights.

Draft the 2023 ECOSOC High-Level Segment for NGOs (Oral/Written Statement) HLPF – Graduate Women International (GWI) urges Member States to apply a systems lens to priorities and policies to push progress and achieve the 2030 Agenda

HLPF at the Halfway Point as a midterm review (7/23). Overview & highlights of the 2023 HLPF (7/23)

NGO Major Group meetings. NGO Major Group works collectively to facilitate and enhance NGO engagement in processes related to the HLPF (2/23-25); Stakeholder Group Meetings include NGO Major Group; Women's Major Group; and Education and Academia Stakeholder Group (2023-25)



### Committees/Groups Followed:

- NGO Committee on Social Development (NGO CSocD) attend monthly meetings (2023-25)
- NGO Committee on Social Development (NGO CSocD) – Advocacy Subcommittee – Advocacy Priorities for the annual Commission for Social Development (CSocD) meetings (2/25), and for the upcoming Second World Summit for Social Development (11/25)
- NGO Committee on Social Development (NGO CSocD) - Civil Society Forum Subcommittee (2023-24)

**GWJ Report:** *Advocacy Priorities & Planning for the Second World Summit for Social Development (6/25)*

### Key Initiatives:

Instrumental in establishing WG-USA/IIE-SRF partnership co-sponsoring displaced and threatened scholars; Intervention made at the United States Mission to the United Nations (USUN) urging support of national statistical offices, disaggregated and intersectional data, increased tech training for educators, and acknowledgment of tech companies/platforms that demonstrate measurable reductions in online gender violence and discrimination.

### Collaborations:

We are active members of Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA), a United States-based GWJ NFA, serving in various capacities: on the WG-USA Education Committee, as a Board Member At-Large, and as Chair of the WG-USA Fellowship Committee, which established a partnership with the Institute of International Education, Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF).

GWJ UN Representative/WG-USA Education Committee member – Committee chose to focus on the education of indigenous children, migrant children, and homeless children related to legislature, funding, and equity. As a committee member and GWJ Rep, a presentation provided information on what is unfolding internationally. The committee also looked at the impact Project 2025 might have on education, including the dismantling of the Education Department, the undermining of Title IX and other DEI programs, the loss of funding for low-income children, and the targeting of higher education, to name a few.

GWJ UN Representative/WG-USA Board Member at Large – Served on the Task Force Planning committees for the 2023 Annual General Meeting held in Chicago, and the 2024 WG-USA Conference held in Bethesda, Maryland. At each of the in-person meetings, a conference session was planned and organized that focused on the WG-USA/IIE-SRF partnership and included presentations by sponsored IIE-SRF Scholars from Afghanistan and Myanmar and in collaboration with Canadian Federation University Women (CFUW) and management from the Institute of International Education – Scholar Rescue Fund (IIE-SRF). In addition, an Advocacy Training session was arranged for and delivered by the Congressional Management Foundation for membership. Recruited and sponsored four new members to WG-USA & GWJ (2024)

Three WG-USA/IIE-SRF Displaced and Threatened Scholars were sponsored during the term, including two Scholar/Fellows from Afghanistan and one from Myanmar. Scholars shared personal stories and information about their work and research and that included various presentations to WG-USA membership and outreach to membership of GWJ NFAs.



Higher Education Sustainability Initiative (HESI) Networking Sessions & Partnership Framework, fostering meaningful collaborations across the higher education and sustainability communities (2023-35).

In addition to the above, we are members of and collaborate with other NGOs: US Women's Caucus at the UN; NGO CSW NY; NGO Committee for Social Development; Commission on Voluntary Service & Action (CVSA); Institute for International Education (IIE)

**Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Focus remains on education and gender equality. We see these two as integral not only to GWI's mission but also to achieving all of the 2030 SDGs.

**Achievements you are proud of, meaningful contributions:** WG-USA/IIE-SRF partnership co-sponsoring displaced and threatened scholars; Intervention made at the United States Mission to the United Nations (USUN) urging support of national statistical offices, disaggregated and intersectional data, increased tech training for educators, and acknowledgment of tech companies/platforms that demonstrate measurable reductions in online gender violence and discrimination.

**Challenges:** It is costly to travel and stay in NYC for in-person meetings, yet in-person attendance holds benefits unattainable through online sessions.

CSO space at the UN continues to be restricted and a challenge for in-person attendance and participation.

**Suggestions for Improving Representation and Future Focus Areas:** GWI NY needs additional UN Reps, including at least one Youth Rep.

**What new trends in global advocacy do you see that relate to GWI's mission?** Meeting attendance continues to be largely via Zoom and in virtual formats.

**Supporting Documentation:** (see separately for attached photos)

#### Recommendations:

GWI should train members to approach their United Nations Missions using a strategic, systematic advocacy approach for education and gender equality developed by the organisation and grounded in evidence-based solutions. In addition, outreach to all levels of government, private organisations, and other NGOs is needed to have our voices heard. Hold quarterly internal meetings focused on UN Representation for all GWI UN Reps. Name and implement a GWI UN Youth Rep/s program that would actively engage in the work of the UN and raise GWI visibility among UN Sponsored Youth Organisations.

Work to get gender equality and educational opportunity written into law. Fight to dismantle discriminatory laws.

Continue to urge the development and funding of national statistical offices that collect intersectional and disaggregated data to assess accountability and implementation.





Collaborate with multiple players to accelerate tech hotspots and connectivity, including distributing phones and tablets, into the hands of women and girls.



## UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES, VIENNA

### Elisabeth Francis - GWI UN Representative Vienna

**Overview of activities during the reporting period:** A busy three-years, advocating in person on behalf of GWI at the UN agencies based in Vienna across a range of issues that impact women and girls so importantly. Given the presence here of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which establishes and coordinates worldwide crime policy, my key focus has been on global crime that affects women so severely, e.g. gender-based violence, human trafficking, corruption, drugs, traditional harmful practices (FGM and child marriage), environmental crime, crimes against older women. GWI's profile at the UN and within the NGO community has been increased and strengthened. I arranged for GWI to co-sponsor multiple side events at UN Conferences and to submit or co-sign written statements to UN Commissions. GWI's collaboration with fellow NGOs is well established and is continuously expanded through new personal contacts at UN events. I have been active in the Vienna UN NGO Committees and have been elected to board positions on the CSW and Sustainable Development Committees. I attend relevant UN Conferences, Sessions, Constructive Dialogues, Meetings of Experts and other events throughout the UN calendar. Activity is co-ordinated with GWI Head Office and information from UN Vienna meetings and events is reported regularly for sharing with NFAs and GWI membership.



**Key Meetings / Events Attended:** See attached list of meetings, events attended in 2023-5, which is incorporated into this report.

**Agencies / Committees/Groups Followed:**

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, including the **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)**, the **Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)**, the **Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)**, follow-ups to the **UN Crime Congress**, the Kyoto Declaration.

Other UN agencies in Vienna include **UNODA, UNIDO, CTBTO, IAEA**. Following on from **the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in 1993**, there is also much review of progress on Human Rights.

**UN NGO Committees** that I participate in include **NGO CSW Vienna**; the **NGO Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD)**; the **NGO Committee on Ageing (CoA)**; the **NGO Committee on Peace, (CoP)**. In 2025 GWI has joined the **Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**.

**Key Objectives / Initiatives:**

- Through active, in-person participation in major UN events and NGO Committees, to increase the profile of GWI within UN Vienna and the NGO Community. Increase the number of side events co-sponsored / participated, statements submitted or co-signed etc.
- Use presence of UNODC and its related Commissions to focus on issues of importance to GWI / women in the area of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, e.g. human trafficking, people smuggling, corruption, drugs, environmental crime, gender-based violence, traditional harmful practices including child marriage and FGM, transnational organised crime, access to justice, rule of law.
- Focus on the CSW, CSD, CoA and CoP Committees; deepen the relationship with the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

**Collaborations:**

I am particularly involved with collaborations on the CSW, CSD and CoA committees, advocating on women's and girl's education and other issues of importance to GWI. I have participated in various NGO dialogues with the Head of UN Vienna and of UNODC, the Chairs of the Commissions and others. I collaborate and maintain contact with other women's organizations inter alia with Zonta, the Soroptimists, IBPW, WFWPI, African Women's Organisation, WILPF, Women without Borders, and others; I have made a connection with 'Every Women Treaty'.

The **UN NGO committees** meet monthly in the UN and also include occasional visits to intl. research institutes and special exhibitions. In 2023-25 CSW and CSD started to hold various joint events.

To give a few examples of activities and topics at the Committees:

- **CSW:** submission of written statements to CSW67, 68 and 69 and arranged Vienna Consultation Day events: e.g. on *Empowering pastoralist women in mountain regions, navigating environmental and gender challenges*; *AI vs GBV: Is the Cybercrime Convention*



*our shining knight in armour?; Side event topics: Gender gaps in cyber security; Gender-based violence - Rethinking the definition of torture; Making sure that firearms do not end up being used in GBV, including the promotion of a New Optional Protocol to CEDAW. Arranged for special meeting/interactive dialogue with Reem Alsalem, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women. Participation in Beijing+30 working groups.*  
<https://ngocswvienna.org/>

- **CSD:** focus on the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development, including climate change and crimes against the environment. Topics have included: *Has the 2030 agenda become a Sisyphean task? How can civil society help keep the SDGs on track; Resilience of public space? Considerations for the planning and development of public spaces in the face of climate change; Applying lessons from social and personality psychology to sustainable development.*  
<https://ngocsdvienna.org/>
- **CoP:** focus on peacebuilding, disarmament, TNPW, NPT. Topics included: *The original vision of the UN and the Pact of the Future; Global Disarmament, a necessary condition for human survival – special focus on the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW); Peace needs Youth and Media.* Cooperation with UNODA, where GWI has been an Education Partner; CoP organizes events on the International Day of Peace, the ringing of the Peace Bell.
- **CoA:** focus on human rights of older persons, the threats and difficulties that they face; holds International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) events and various side events during CCPCJ and CND: *Marginalisation of older persons, a significant health risk; New forms of criminal acts against and abuse of older persons, a rapidly growing threat against vulnerable persons; Highlighting the role of the brain for healthy ageing (for IDOP 2025).*

### **Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):**

As stated by the UN Secretary General and the Head of UNODC, the global crime agenda impacts all SDGs; advocacy work promoting the importance of women's and girls' education and promotion of a gender-based approach, e.g. in the fight against corruption or harmful practices, can have benefits across the whole SDG agenda. There is particular focus on SDG 4 (Quality Education), 5 (Gender Equality), 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

### **Achievements you are proud of; meaningful contributions:**

I am pleased by the increased profile that has been achieved for GWI here in Vienna, the increased output of our advocacy activities. I have been honoured to be voted to board positions on the NGO Committees. A personal highlight was to be included in the official delegation from Austria to CSW69, which enabled me to attend CSW in New York for the first time.

There is always so much more to do but I am also proud of the quite detailed reports on UN activities that I submit and hope that these contribute to a greater understanding within GWI of the issues that women face from organised crime and violence. These reports cover my interventions and activities at UN events.



The UN Crime Congress's Kyoto Declaration of 2021 was an important and praiseworthy plan that set the global agenda for the fight against crime, including a gender-based approach, for the subsequent five years. I am proud of the way I have been involved in all the follow-ups – the Constructive Dialogues, Expert / Thematic Discussions – where the issues impacting women have been well covered.

**Challenges:**

Other NGOs have more UN Reps, deeper pockets, greater resources.

**Suggestions for Improving Representation and Future Focus Areas:**

The co-ordination from Stacy is excellent – thank you. Also, GWI's Infographics are very good and welcomed by other NGOs.

Other women's organizations have dedicated resources for writing advocacy statements. If there are GWI members who would like to help with this, it would be great.

**Did you meet or work with individuals or groups whose stories resonate with GWI's mission?**

I am privileged to meet with so many remarkable women from all around the world who come to participate in UN Vienna conferences – such as UN Special Rapporteurs, victims of crime / trafficking, ambassadors, public servants, formidable NGO advocates, even Nobel prize winners. For instance, at the last UNTOC, I met with representatives of indigenous women in Brazil.

Two examples, out of many, that resonate with GWI's mission:

- at the side event that we co-sponsored on Traditional Harmful Practices (FGM and Child Marriage), a fellow speaker was a doctor from Sudan who had emigrated to Austria and now runs the FGM advisory programme of the Austrian authorities. She is an acknowledged expert in her field and was subsequently invited to speak to our NFA.

- Talented young people from around the world speak at UN conferences to provide 'the voice of youth'. At the International Day of Education, I met a student from Nigeria who was a UN Young Rule of Law Champion and was speaking on corruption. I talked with her about GWI and she subsequently joined her NFA. Promotion of youth is a great satisfaction.

**What new trends in global advocacy do you see that relate to GWI's mission?**

NGOs, the involvement of civil society, are under threat in many countries. The UN itself is under threat, caught up in difficulties as certain major countries push back against multilateralism and the ideas / ideals that the UN represents, and restrict funding. Advocacy – and progress - on behalf of women and girls will become more, not less difficult.

**Supporting Documentation:**

Please refer to reports that I have previously submitted which include photographs. Here are various links. For a comprehensive list, see the GWI website

<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/AdvRep-CCPCJ-2024-E-Francis-Vienna.pdf>



<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/AdvRep-CCPCJ-2024-E-Francis-Vienna.pdf>

<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/AdvRep-CCPCJ-2024-E-Francis-Vienna.pdf>

[https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/UN-Official\\_CCPCJ-32nd-Graduate-Women-International-Written-Submission-FINAL.pdf](https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/UN-Official_CCPCJ-32nd-Graduate-Women-International-Written-Submission-FINAL.pdf)

<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/AdvRepSideEvent-CCPCJ32F.pdf>

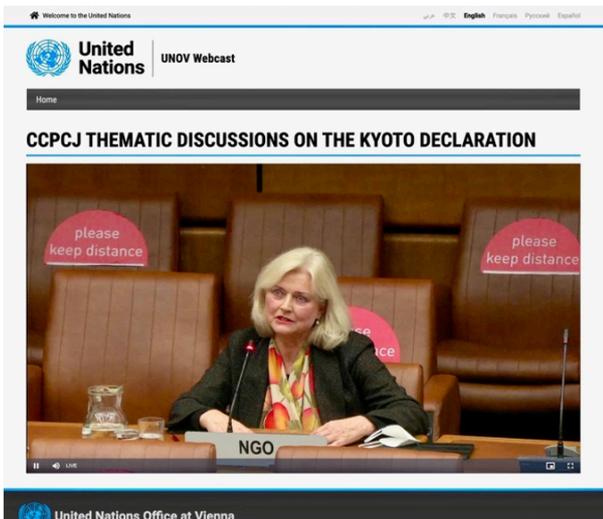
## Recommendations:

- More of the same. Encouraging interested GWI members to volunteer help with statements, come visit during UN Sessions, etc. Provide feedback on UN reports.
- Greater involvement of NFA's. Could CIR's perhaps be asked to compile lists of members interested in crime related issues (and/or with legal or technical expertise) and we then establish a virtual community, where they can contribute?
- Ongoing focus on the Crime issues that impact the lives of women and girls globally so badly. Input and follow up to the next UN Crime Congress in 2026.

## Anything else?

It is a privilege to be able to advocate on behalf of GWI at the UN Vienna. Given difficult global trends, there is so much to do in terms of women's issues and women's and girls' education.

## Selection of Photos



L- Making a statement at the UN (from UN TV)



R – EF with other NGO Reps at the UN



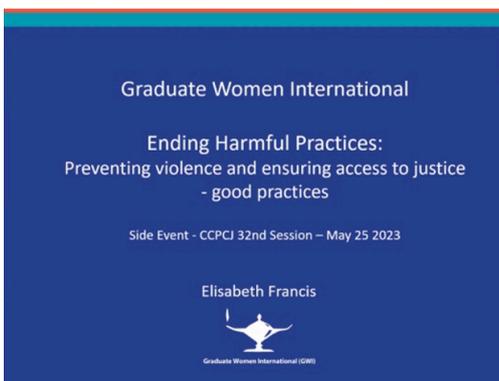
**Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education and Empowerment for Sustainability**  
11-13 September 2025, Lusaka, Zambia



L – CND in General Session



R – EF on panel at GWI co-sponsored side event



L – Cover page of Presentation



R – EF at the UN



L- EF with Comfort Umaru, Prosecutor, Nigeria



C – the Alliance



R – EF with reps of Indigenous Women, Brazil



L – EF and other NGO Reps with Claudia Mahler, UN Human Rights expert



R- Side event flyer

## UN Activities and Events attended - Elisabeth Francis, Vienna

### 2025

8 Jan: Presentation of the **Global Report on Trafficking in Persons**.

10-21 March: **CSW69 1<sup>st</sup> week in-person attendance in New York, 2<sup>nd</sup> week online.**

March – During the 68<sup>th</sup> **Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)**, GWI co-sponsored side event on ‘Hazardous Drug Consumption in Advanced Age.’

25-27 March: **European Regional Preparatory Meeting** for the UN Crime Congress in 2026.

24-27 April: UWE Meet & Greet in Belfast.

6-7 May: **OSCE Chairpersonship Conference** (Finland) on “Gender Equality - Building resilience through inclusion and empowerment.”

19-23 May: **34<sup>th</sup> Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**; I arranged for GWI to co-sponsor three side events: *Emerging Threats Against Women and Girls in the Digital Era: Artificial Intelligence and Gaslighting*; *Climate Crimes and Gender-Based Violence: Strategies to Raise Awareness, Prevent, and Combat Climate-Induced Gender-Based Violence*; *Guardianship Risks: How to Prevent Abuse*.

30 May: NGO Prep Meeting for Constructive Dialogue.

2 June: Joint **Constructive Dialogue** with relevant stakeholders on the UNTOC review process on **Technical Assistance and International Cooperation**.

4-5 June: “**UNODC and Beijing +30: Women, Justice and Security in a Changing World**” organised by Sweden and China. (see report)

24 June Alliance webinar “Now you see them, now you don’t – Fighting **Sextortion** with awareness and law”

26 June Joint event CSW/CSD incl. lecture on ‘The status of women in early Islamic societies’

16 July: HLPF (online) ‘**The Intersectionality of Ageism & Sexism: Harnessing the Power of Older Women**’; side event: 17 July ‘Strengthening Civil Society Voices in Drug Policy for Sustainable Development’

### 2024

21.2 Online Forum - **Gendered Dimensions of Crimes that affect the Environment**

1.3. Civil Society Briefing on **the Summit of the Future**



- 11.-22.3. **CSW68** - followed online, various reports submitted; followed all GWI events and various side events
- 14-22.3. 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the **Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)**: GWI made written input; Report submitted.
- 20.3. Invited to Participate in Austrian Government Stakeholder Dialogue '**Beijing+30**'
- 4.4. Preparatory meeting for UNODC - Constructive Dialogue on Firearms
- 5.4. UNODC - **Constructive Dialogue on Firearms**
- 28.4. Meeting for Civil Society hosted by UN and Austrian Govt to discuss the following major Vienna Conference
- 29.-30.4. First International Conference on "**Humanity at the Crossroads: Autonomous Weapons Systems and the Challenge of Regulation**"
- 13.-17.5. 33<sup>rd</sup> Session of the **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)** - GWI co-sponsored two side events i) CoA side event on '**Violence on and abuse of older persons**' and ii) CSD/CSW side event on the Corporate Sustainable Due Diligence Directive.
- 26.6. UNODC - Presentation of the **World Drug Report 2024**
- 9.7 Prep meeting for the UNODC **Constructive Dialogue on Trafficking in Persons (TIP)**
- 10.7. UNODC - **Constructive Dialogue on TIP**
- 12.7. Preparatory meeting for the UNODC Constructive Dialogue on Smuggling of Migrants
- 15.7. UNODC **Constructive Dialogue on the Smuggling of Migrants**
- 30.9. International Day of Older People event - 'Marginalisation of Older Persons in society – a significant health risk'
- 3.10. 'UN Summit of the Future – Main takeaways and practical aspects to reinvigorate multilateralism'
- 4.10. Thinktank: 'Countering the Interface of Migration, Human Trafficking and related Labor Exploitation 2.0'
- 8.10. Presentation 'After the Summit of the Future: New Momentum for Arms Control and Disarmament' (UNODA and others)
- 14.-18.10. **12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC)**: GWI co-sponsored side event on 'Making sure that firearms are not used in gender-based violence.' GWI signed the NGO Declaration presented on 18/10
- 14.11. **CND Thematic Discussions**
- 15.11. UNODC event – 1<sup>st</sup> **International Day against Transnational Organized Crime**
- 22.11. CoA - Visit to Comenius University Bratislava
- 25.11. UN event during the **16 days of activism against GBV**, Orange the World; *AI and GBV* - Panel discussion; followed by '**Orange Run**'
- 2-4.12. UNODC - Kyoto Declaration Pillar IV: **Thematic Discussion on International Cooperation and Technical Assistance**
- 5-6.12. Reconvened sessions of **CND** and **CCPCJ**
- 10.12. Conference - '**Vienna 10 Years Human Rights City**'
- 18.12. Alliance Briefing on the upcoming Crime Congress in 2026

## **2023**

2023 marked the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **World Conference on Human Rights in 1993** held in Vienna and the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which for the first time stated



that ‘women’s rights are human rights.’ There were various major, high-level conferences held during the year to review progress.

24.1. Launch of the 2022 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

6.-17.3. – **CSW67** (online attendance, reports sent)

13.-17.3. **66<sup>th</sup> Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND)** (VNGOC 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration)

24.-26.4. Erasmus Plus Seminar: **Human Rights for Older Persons**

28.4. First Global Commemorative **Celebration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CoNGO**

22.-26.5. **32<sup>nd</sup> Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)**: GWI submitted written statement on re-offending; I spoke on the panel at a Side Event on Harmful Practices (see report)

5.-6.6. - **Vienna World Conference 30 Years On: Our Rights – Our Future: Protecting human rights for our shared humanity** (with Volker Türk, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights)

14.7. - **World Youth Skills Day**: Collaborations for Agenda 2030

Jul/Aug - **Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) First Preparatory Conference**

4.-6.9 - Intergovernmental **expert group** meeting for development of model strategies on reducing reoffending (virtual meeting)

27.-29.9. - “**UN World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna 1993 – Strengthening Imperatives 30 Years After**” three-day High-Level conference; Interactive Dialogue arranged with **Reem Alsalem**, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women

29.11.-1.12 - **International Conference on Human Rights of Older Persons** (2 days)

4.-8.12. - UNODC **Intersessional Meeting** CND and CCPCJ

10.-12.12. - **Vienna Human Rights Conference – From the Universal Declaration 1948 to the Human Rights Cities of today**



L – At the UN



R – With Reem Alsalem, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women



## UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES TO UNESCO

### Eliane Didier - Representative GWI/UNESCO Rapport triennal 2022-2025

#### Version française | English translation below

**Aperçu des activités menées au cours de la période considérée:** Parmi les 421 ONGs en partenariat officiel avec l'UNESCO (chiffres 2023), GWI est invitée à titre consultatif aux séances de travail collaboratif, organisé selon les priorités définies par les Nations Unies, notamment l'atteinte des objectifs de Développement Durables (SDGs) à l'horizon 2030. Pendant le triennium 2022-2025, celle-ci a été mise à mal par les crises sanitaires, économiques et politiques qui ont accablé le monde (reprise post-COVID difficile, misère, violences, discriminations conflits armés, etc..).

C'est la raison pour laquelle un gros effort de réorganisation du partenariat ONGs- UNESCO a été entrepris par le Comité de Liaison ONGs-UNESCO et synthétisé dans le rapport du Président sortant. Ce rapport, présenté au cours de la 43ème Conférence Internationale des ONGs en Décembre 2024, salue l'activité irremplaçable des ONGs sur le terrain, et leur implication dans l'élaboration des thématiques de travail, des programmes, des conférences et des forums organisés par l'UNESCO.

En résumé, l'activité de plaidoyer et les actions éducatives de GWI restent dans le droit fil du travail entrepris par nos aînées il y a maintenant plus d'un siècle: améliorer sans relâche le statut des femmes par une Education de qualité tout au long de la vie, et faire respecter leurs droits fondamentaux, à l'Education, à l'autonomie et à la santé.

#### Principales réunions auxquelles nous avons participé :

- **42ème CINGO (Conférence Internationale des ONGs)** - Paris- France- 14-16 Décembre 2022  
« Briser les barrières- Quel rôle pour les organisations de la société civile vers un futur durable? »  
Objectif: Développer des réponses innovantes et multidimensionnelles aux défis posés par le changement climatique et la transformation numérique.
- **43ème CINGO**- Paris- France -17-19 Décembre 2024  
« Construire la capacité pour l'action »  
Objectif: mieux organiser la coopération entre tous les partenaires adhérant aux visions et aux programmes des Nations Unies.

#### Autres réunions/événements majeurs:

- **14ème forum:** « Intelligence artificielle et jeunesse »- En ligne-13-14 Décembre 2023  
Objectifs: Présenter les différents aspects de IA (dont les aspects éthiques) et leurs impacts sur la jeunesse, sur un futur inclusif, sur l'Education.
- **15ème forum:** « Transformer les mentalités »- UNESCO-HQ- Paris-France  
Objectif: S'attaquer aux discriminations et aux inégalités
- **16ème forum:** « Cultures durables »- Abidjan- Côte d'Ivoire- 12-17 avril 2024



- **17ème forum:** « Leadership africain: expérience et expertise dans la Décade Internationale des Sciences pour le Développement durable »- en ligne- 10-11 Décembre 2024
- **Comité de pilotage de la Commission Consultative** « Education pour tous 2030 » « Progression vers SDG4: recensement des actions de transformation dans l'Education » - UNESCO-HQ- Paris-France- 17 Juin 2024

#### Comités/groupes suivis:

**NGOs-Unesco Liaison Committee-** Comité de Liaison ONGs-UNESCO

#### Initiatives Clés:

- Contribution aux discussions d'établissement des priorités et du programme du Comité de Liaison sur les sujets suivants :  
Climat, biodiversité et leurs impacts sur les communautés, Décades internationales, Education, Egalité des genres et construction de la Paix, Education pour la Paix, la justice sociale, les religions et le dialogue inter religieux, impacts de l'Intelligence Artificielle sur la Culture et le Développement Durable.
- Participation à la célébration des Journées Internationales

#### Réalisations dont vous êtes fier ; Contributions significatives :

- Actions sur le terrain pilotées par les Associations et Fédérations Nationales, présentations dans les documents publiés par GWI ( bulletin de liaison, communiqués de presse, brochures, et boîtes à outils ) et dans les réseaux sociaux. Ces publications répondent ainsi aux problèmes spécifiques des femmes dans tous les domaines concernés (Droit à l'Education, Education de qualité, accès aux ressources et à l'emploi, santé, sécurité).
- Réactivation du Réseau des Jeunes Membres.

#### Défis:

Pour les années qui viennent, selon les directives du Comité de liaison, il sera utile de:

1. Améliorer la diversité des sociétés et des communautés et leur représentation, aller vers un monde plus inclusif.
2. Renforcer l'efficacité du travail ONGs- UNESCO, en améliorant la coopération des ONGs avec les Etats Membres et les Commissions Nationales (rapprochement en cours) et en se rapprochant des secteurs UNESCO.
3. Renforcer et prioriser la participation des jeunes. Un groupe de travail a été lancé en 2023 et a contribué à la Conférence Internationale 2024.
4. Développer dans ce cadre le dialogue intergénérationnel.
5. Développer de nouvelles thématiques dont:
6. l'intelligence artificielle, ses avantages mais aussi ses dangers, ses impacts sur l'Education, et sur un futur inclusif (communautés discriminées, femmes, jeunesse)
7. « Verdir l'Education », soit mieux tenir compte des enjeux écologiques qui pèsent sur l'Education
8. Célébrer les Journées Internationales (actions locales, réseaux sociaux)



**Suggestions pour améliorer la représentation et les domaines d'action prioritaires pour l'avenir :**

- Une cartographie thématique des ONG en relations officielles avec l'UNESCO est en cours d'élaboration. Elle devrait permettre de centraliser et de mieux faire connaître à l'UNESCO toutes les actions réalisées par GWI (actions des AFNs, déclarations, communiqués de presse, participations aux Journées Internationales).
- GWI devrait également utiliser l'espace de présentation des ONGs (Hub) disponible au cours des Conférences internationales pour mieux présenter ses actions et distribuer les documents de communications disponibles.

**Avez-vous rencontré ou travaillé avec des personnes ou des groupes dont les histoires résonnent avec la mission de GWI ?**

- **BPW Int (Business and Professional Women)**- Ms M.C Machon-HONORE, Past Présidente du Comité de liaison
- **RFFAF/ODD (Réseau des femmes d'Afrique Francophone pour l'atteinte des Objectifs de Développement Durable)**- Ms Volatiana Randrianasolo
- **IAUPL (International Association of University Professors and Lecturers)**- Mr Oleg Curbatov
- **IAESTE (International Association for Exchange of Students for technical Experience)**- Ms O. Legacka- Membre élu du Comité de Liaison 2024-2026.

**Quelles nouvelles tendances en matière de plaidoyer mondial voyez-vous qui sont liées à la mission de GWI ?**

- Voir Challenges (Intelligence artificielle, risques et bénéfices- Education plus verte)

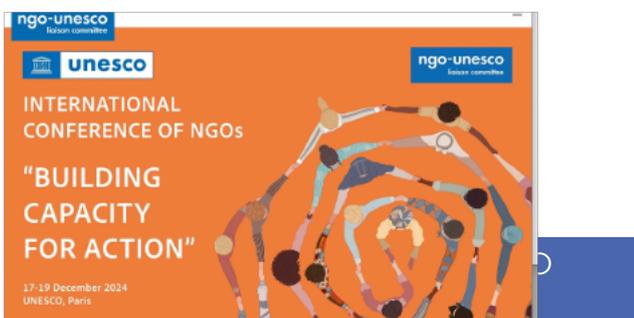
**Justificatifs:**

*Rapport final du Président du Comité de liaison-2024 : Cliquez [ICI](#)*

*Liste des ONG en relation officielle avec l'UNESCO- 2023 : Cliquez [ICI](#)*

**Remerciements:**

UNESCO Reps remercie vivement Graduate Women Zambia, organisatrice de la 35ème Conférence internationale de GWI (Septembre 2025) sur le thème prioritaire pour l'UNESCO: « Construire l'avenir : intégrer la Culture, l'Education et l'« Empowerment » pour la durabilité » et forme des vœux pour le succès de cette réunion.





## Eliane Didier - Representative GWI/UNESCO Rapport triennial 2022-2025

### English Version

#### Overview of activities during the reporting period

Among the 421 NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO (2023 figures), GWI is invited in a consultative capacity to collaborative working sessions, organised according to United Nations priorities, in particular the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. During the 2022–2025 triennium, this process has been severely hampered by health, economic and political crises that have afflicted the world (the difficult post-COVID recovery, poverty, violence, discrimination, armed conflicts, etc.).

For this reason, a major effort to reorganise the NGO–UNESCO partnership has been undertaken by the NGO–UNESCO Liaison Committee and summarised in the outgoing President’s report. This report, presented at the 43rd International Conference of NGOs in December 2024, commends the irreplaceable work of NGOs on the ground, as well as their involvement in the development of working themes, programmes, conferences and forums organised by UNESCO.

In summary, GWI’s advocacy and educational activities remain fully aligned with the work undertaken by our predecessors over a century ago: tirelessly improving the status of women through quality lifelong education, and safeguarding their fundamental rights to education, autonomy and health.

#### Key Meetings Attended

- **42nd International Conference of NGOs (CINGO)** – Paris, France, 14–16 December 2022  
*Theme:* “Breaking down barriers – What role for civil society organisations towards a sustainable future?”  
*Objective:* To develop innovative and multidimensional responses to the challenges posed by climate change and digital transformation.
- **43rd International Conference of NGOs (CINGO)** – Paris, France, 17–19 December 2024  
*Theme:* “Building capacity for action”  
*Objective:* To better organise cooperation between all partners aligned with the visions and programmes of the United Nations.

#### Other Major Meetings/Events

- **14th Forum: “Artificial Intelligence and Youth”** – Online, 13–14 December 2023  
*Objective:* To present the various aspects of AI (including ethical aspects) and their impacts on young people, on an inclusive future, and on education.
- **15th Forum: “Transforming Mindsets”** – UNESCO HQ, Paris, France  
*Objective:* To tackle discrimination and inequalities.
- **16th Forum: “Sustainable Cultures”** – Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire, 12–17 April 2024
- **17th Forum: “African Leadership: Experience and Expertise in the International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development”** – Online, 10–11 December 2024



- **Steering Committee of the Consultative Commission “Education for All 2030”** – “Progress towards SDG4: review of transformative actions in education” – UNESCO HQ, Paris, France, 17 June 2024

### **Committees/Groups Followed: NGO–UNESCO Liaison Committee**

#### **Key Initiatives**

Contribution to discussions on setting the priorities and programme of the Liaison Committee on the following topics:

- Climate, biodiversity and their impacts on communities; International Decades; Education; Gender Equality and Peacebuilding; Education for Peace; Social Justice; Religions and Interfaith Dialogue; impacts of Artificial Intelligence on Culture and Sustainable Development.
- Participation in the celebration of International Days.

#### **Achievements we are proud of; meaningful contributions:**

- Field actions led by National Federations and Associations, publications in GWI documents (newsletters, press releases, brochures, toolkits) and on social media. These publications address the specific challenges faced by women in all relevant areas (Right to Education, Quality Education, access to resources and employment, health, safety).
- Reactivation of the Young Members Network.

#### **Challenges**

1. For the coming years, in line with the guidance of the Liaison Committee, it will be important to:
2. Improve diversity in societies and communities and their representation, to move towards a more inclusive world.
3. Strengthen the effectiveness of NGO–UNESCO work by enhancing cooperation between NGOs, Member States and National Commissions (work already in progress) and by building closer links with UNESCO sectors.
4. Reinforce and prioritise youth participation. A working group was launched in 2023 and contributed to the 2024 International Conference. This should include strengthening intergenerational dialogue.
5. Develop new themes including:
6. Artificial Intelligence, its benefits but also its risks, and its impacts on education and on an inclusive future (disadvantaged communities, women, youth).
7. “Greening Education”, that is, addressing more effectively the ecological challenges that weigh on education.
8. Celebrate International Days (local actions, social media campaigns).

#### **Suggestions for Improving Representation and Future Focus Areas**

- A thematic mapping of NGOs in official relations with UNESCO is currently being developed. This should make it possible to centralise and better highlight to UNESCO all actions undertaken by GWI (actions of the NFAs, statements, press releases, participation



in International Days).

- GWI should also make full use of the NGO Presentation Space (Hub) available during international conferences to better showcase its activities and distribute communication materials.

#### **Did you meet or work with individuals or groups whose stories resonate with GWI's mission?**

- **BPW International (Business and Professional Women)** – Ms M.C. Machon-Honore, Past President of the Liaison Committee
- **RFFAF/SDGs (Network of Francophone African Women for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals)** – Ms Volatiana Randrianasolo
- **IAUPL (International Association of University Professors and Lecturers)** – Mr Oleg Curbatov
- **IAESTE (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience)** – Ms O. Legacka, elected member of the Liaison Committee 2024–2026

#### **What new trends in global advocacy do you see that relate to GWI's mission?**

See Challenges (Artificial Intelligence: risks and benefits – Greener Education).

#### **Supporting Documentation**

- Final Report of the President of the Liaison Committee – 2024: Click [HERE](#)
- List of NGOs in official relations with UNESCO – 2023: Click [HERE](#)

#### **Recommendations**

- Recommendations for enhancing GWI's presence and impact at the UN.
- Goals or focus areas for the next reporting period in 2026.  
(See Challenges.)

#### **Acknowledgements**

UNESCO Representatives warmly thank Graduate Women Zambia, organisers of the 35th GWI International Conference (September 2025) on UNESCO's priority theme: *"Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education and Empowerment for Sustainability"* and extend best wishes for the success of this event.





Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education and Empowerment for Sustainability  
11-13 September 2025, Lusaka, Zambia



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