



GW I UPDATE – 24 September 2025



Keynote by former Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Yoko Kamikawa at the Swiss Pavilion

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GW I marks International Day of Peace with press release calling for peace through education

On 21 September 2025, GW I marked the International Day of Peace under the theme “Act Now for a Peaceful World.” In its press release, GW I reaffirmed that durable peace cannot be realized without the full inclusion of women and girls in classroom and online education. The organization emphasised that investment in education is not only an issue of equity but also a proven pathway to peace and security. GW I also recalls its 2019 Policy Resolution on Building Peace through Women’s Education that underscores that education is a powerful instrument to prevent violence, encourage dialogue, and strengthen inclusive societies. **GW I invites you to read and share the full press release** [\[HERE\]](#)

— GW I Member News —

“Women in Politics” at the Swiss Pavilion with the Japanese Association of University Women

On 7 August 2025, during EXPO 2025’s Peace, Human Security and Dignity Week, the Swiss Pavilion hosted an inspiring event co-organized by the Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW) and Graduate Women International (GWI). The session, titled “Women in Politics – Part

II”, highlighted the importance of women’s participation and leadership in politics as a cornerstone for peace, dignity, and inclusive governance.

The programme opened with a keynote address by former Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Yoko Kamikawa, who reflected on her political journey and the challenges and opportunities for women in leadership. Her remarks set the tone for a lively panel discussion that brought together female politicians from Japan’s national Parliament, as well as prefectural and municipal assemblies, alongside international voices such as female diplomats and Dr. Felix Moesner, Consul and CEO of Swissnex in Japan. Together, they shared insights into the structural barriers women face in politics, the progress that has been achieved, and the work still to be done to achieve parity.

Adding a global dimension, the event featured a live connection with Geneva, allowing GWI representatives to engage directly with participants in Osaka. The exchange was warmly received, sparking dialogue across borders and reinforcing the message that amplifying women’s political voices is essential to shaping resilient and just societies.

GWI thanks all speakers, panelists, and participants for making this event such a meaningful exchange. With special gratitude to JAUW for their diligence in securing this exceptional opportunity.

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI reports on the 60th session of the Human Right (HRC60) Council held in Geneva

On 16 September 2025, GWI participated in side events during the HRC60 in Geneva, both representing its members worldwide and upholding GWI’s long-standing engagement at the Council. For decades, GWI has maintained a consistent presence in Geneva, bringing the voices of graduate women to international human rights debates. At HRC60, GWI emphasized that advancing gender equality through education is not only a human right but also a prerequisite for sustainable development.

GWI attended the side event *“Family as a Primary Cornerstone, Upholding Parental Roles in Ensuring the Right to Education.”* The discussion highlighted the crucial role of families in supporting children’s development and transmitting values such as responsibility and respect. Families, together with schools, were presented as key actors in protecting children from modern challenges, including cyberbullying and online exploitation. Yet, the event also raised a reality that GWI consistently underscores, namely that caregiving responsibilities in most societies fall

disproportionately on women. Mothers and female caregivers are often expected to ensure not only children's wellbeing but also their access to education, frequently at the expense of their own professional and educational opportunities. For GWI, it is critical that policies designed to support families recognize this imbalance and create systems that alleviate, rather than reinforce, the gendered burden of care. When mothers are supported, daughters are more likely to stay in school, contributing to a cycle of empowerment that benefits entire communities.

On the same day, GWI attended the side event "*Evaluation of the Fourth Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.*" The evaluation highlighted progress in integrating human rights education into higher education and professional training, while also addressing persistent gaps, such as digital divides and climate change. Speakers emphasized the need to empower youth not just as learners but as leaders and active agents of change. For GWI, empowering young women and girls through human rights education equips them to challenge discrimination, participate in democratic life, and advocate for equality in all spheres. Without explicit attention to gender, however, human rights education risks reproducing inequalities rather than dismantling them. Girls who face intersecting barriers such as poverty, disability, or rural isolation must be placed at the center of education policies to ensure no one is left behind.

Through its engagement at HRC60, GWI emphasized that education, when shaped by a gender lens, is a powerful tool to advance equality and build inclusive, democratic, and sustainable societies.

— Give the Gift of Membership —

The GWI Independent Member network is growing, with many new members joining from around the world over the past few months. A thoughtful gift for the graduate woman in your life is a GWI membership. There are many benefits of being a member of GWI, including belonging to an influential international NGO composed of graduate women influencing policy and legislation on women's issues at the international level and gaining an international perspective on women's issues through networking activities. Click [HERE](#) to find out how to join GWI.

— Did you know? —

GWI welcomes the new intern Mila METIVIER

Hi, I'm Mila! I'm currently pursuing a Master's in International Relations at the Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), where my research focuses on how security threats are constructed and represented. Before that, I studied International Relations at the University of Geneva, which is where I first developed a strong interest in peace and security, human rights, and the role of education in driving social change. Over the course of my studies, I've become especially interested in areas such as peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and gender equality. My academic work has explored questions like how media narratives shape our understanding of security and how women play key roles in conflict and post-conflict settings. What motivates me most is the idea that education can be a powerful tool for building inclusive and peaceful societies. That's exactly why I was drawn to Graduate Women International, as its mission resonates deeply with my values and interests. I'm really glad to be back in Geneva and excited to contribute to GWI's work in advancing girls' and women's access to education. I also look forward to learning from GWI's expertise in international advocacy and gender equality, while bringing my own skills and motivation to support its global mission.



GWI is delighted to welcome Mila METIVIER as a new member of our team and wishes her much success in this new chapter.

— Dates and Events —

5 October	World Teachers' Day
11 October	International Day of the Girl
15 October	International Day of Rural Women
17 October	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
24 October	United Nations Day

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

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

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