



GWI UPDATE – 08 October 2025



GWI members attend 35th Triennial General Assembly in Lusaka, Africa.

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI marks World Teachers' Day with infographic on gender equality in education

On 5 October 2025, World Teachers' Day was celebrated under the theme *"Recasting teaching as a collaborative profession."* In an infographic, GWI underlined the gendered disparities existing in the teaching profession and the need to empower teachers as an essential step to achieve gender equality in education. Special attention was given to the role of women educators, who often serve as role models and help dismantle barriers that prevent girls from accessing and completing school. This infographic recalls that equitable investment in teacher training and professional recognition is a prerequisite for quality education systems. Highlighting the long-standing advocacy and drawing on GWI's policy work, the publication affirms that women teachers are key agents of change in creating inclusive and supportive learning environments. GWI encouraged its network to recognise the vital contribution of teachers, particularly women, and to support initiatives that strengthen collaboration, innovation, and professional development across the teaching profession. **GWI invites you to read and share the full infographic [\[HERE\]](#).**

The GWI 35th Triennial General Assembly (GA) and Conference concludes in Zambia

GWI successfully concluded its 35th Triennial GA and Conference, held from 11–13 September 2025 in Lusaka, Zambia. The event brought together around 100 GWI members from 19 countries, reaffirming the organisation's global commitment to advancing women's empowerment and education through cross-cultural dialogue and collaboration.

Over three inspiring days, delegates engaged in dynamic discussions on the theme “Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education, and Empowerment for Sustainability.” The conference explored pathways toward a sustainable future by addressing key issues such as gender equity in education, cultural integration, intergenerational collaboration, and the role of technology and innovation in empowering women and girls.

A significant milestone of the GA was the election of the new GWI Board of Officers for the 2026–2028 triennium. The newly elected leadership is as follows: President **Patricia Patton**, Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW); Vice President Advocacy **Gisèle Scanlon**, Irish Federation of University Women (IrFUW), Vice President Education **Shirley Gillett**, Graduate Women New Zealand (GWNZ); Vice President Fundraising **Lynne Kent**, CFUW; Vice President Legal & Governance **Joy Hurst**, CFUW; Vice President Marketing **Nataly García Alvarado**, Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de El Salvador (AMUS); Vice President Membership **Meera Bondre**, Indian Federation of University Women (IFUWA); Vice President Projects **Ujwala Shinde**, IFUWA; and Treasurer: **Saskia Voortman**, Graduate Women International Netherlands (GWI-NL)

GWI extends its congratulations to the newly elected Board and expresses gratitude to all outgoing officers and delegates for their continued dedication to advancing the organisation’s mission. GWI also offers warm thanks to Graduate Women Zambia for their gracious hosting. Their welcoming spirit and dedication made the event a success!

— GWI Member News —

GWI showcases National Federations and Associations (NFA) 2023-2025 triennial reports

The NFA [triennial reports](#) offer a valuable reflection of GWI’s global advocacy and ongoing commitment to education and equality. Each report illustrates how GWI’s mission resonates at the national level through programmes that empower women and girls, partnerships that strengthen communities, and advocacy that advances women’s rights in education, employment, and leadership. Together, these reports underscore GWI’s identity as a network that not only connects but amplifies the work of its members worldwide. They provide evidence of how collective action translates global priorities into local progress and how education remains at the centre of change.

Through the submissions, it becomes clear that the shared vision guiding GWI continues to evolve with the challenges and opportunities of the times. The initiatives described reveal resilience, creativity, and sustained engagement in addressing gender disparities and promoting access to learning. GWI acknowledges the time and dedication invested by every NFA in preparing and

sharing these reports. As the organisation moves into the 36th triennial, these insights will continue to guide its actions and reinforce its role as a leading voice for women's education and empowerment worldwide. **GWI thanks all NFAs for their reports, which reflect the organisation's shared commitment to advancing education and equality worldwide.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

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

On 30 September 2025, GWI participated in 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 emphasised that advancing gender equality through education is not only a human right but also a prerequisite for sustainable development.

GWI attended the panel discussion *"Annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Human Rights Council and that of its mechanisms"*. The discussion centred around the theme of strengthening gender perspectives in transitional justice processes.

The discussion focused on the importance of integrating a gender perspective across all aspects of the HRC's work and mechanisms. Participants emphasised that gender equality must be treated as a cross-cutting priority, shaping policies, monitoring processes, and implementation at every level. It was noted that women and girls continue to face systemic barriers that limit their full participation in public, political, and economic life. GWI reiterated that addressing these inequalities requires not only gender-sensitive analysis but also concrete actions that ensure women's voices are meaningfully included in decision-making spaces. GWI also underscored the need for sustained attention to education as a foundation for equality. When girls have equal access to learning opportunities, they are better equipped to engage, lead, and contribute to rights-based development. For GWI, integrating a gender perspective across the Council's work is not only a matter of fairness but a prerequisite for achieving inclusive and effective human rights outcomes for all.

"From Digital Divide to Digital Equality", GWI advocates for digital equality at HRC60

GWI submitted a written statement to the HRC60 titled *"From Digital Divide to Digital Equality."* In it, GWI calls on Member States to ensure equal access to digital education for women and girls and to address the structural causes of the gender digital divide. The statement stresses that digital literacy is integral to the right to education in the digital era and essential for achieving gender equality. It urges governments to integrate digital skills and AI literacy into curricula,

guarantee universal access to infrastructure, train educators, protect digital rights, and create inclusive online learning environments.

For GWI, this statement reinforces its century-long commitment to education as a fundamental human right. By advancing the principle that access to technology and digital education is now central to equality, GWI maintains its position at the forefront of global dialogue on education and as advocates for women and girls everywhere to thrive in the digital age.

— Give the Gift of Education —

Building pathways for future change

GWI is proud to nurture the next generation of women's rights advocates through its internship programme. By providing young professionals with first-hand experience in international advocacy, communication, and education, GWI helps bridge the gap between academic learning and global action.

Over the past four months, Célia Cherel has been an invaluable part of the GWI team. She brought energy, creativity, and a thoughtful approach to every task she undertook. Her commitment to education and her keen sense of initiative left a positive mark on the daily work of GWI.



Célia Cherel, Graduate Women International Intern

During her internship, Célia contributed to communications, represented GWI at United Nations events in Geneva, supported advocacy efforts, and played an integral role in supporting the General Assembly. "As her internship comes to a close, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Célia for her outstanding contributions. We are confident that her passion and talent will continue to inspire positive change as she moves forward with her professional career" says Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director.

— Did you know? —

Pan-African Conference on Teacher Education (PACTED)

During the three-day PACTED starting 1 October, the African Union Commission (AUC) launched the Decade of Accelerated Action for the Transformation of Education and Skills Development in Africa (2025–2034) alongside six strategic frameworks at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa. Building on previous strategies, the agenda strengthens the links between education, industry, and national development while prioritising digital skills, teacher development, and inclusive access. Gender equality is a key component of the new agenda, addressing gaps in STEM and technical education and assisting women teachers through training, leadership opportunities, and improved working conditions. By integrating girls' education as a core element of Africa's development, PACTED 2025 ensures that every girl can learn, teach, and lead. GWI congratulates PACTED for their commitment to women's education, echoing the global effort to strengthen support for women, teachers, and students as drivers of educational progress. This commitment reflects GWI's mission to advance women's education and empower educators and learners as agents of social and economic change. **You can learn more about these instruments [HERE](#).**

— Dates and Events —

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
17 November	Students' Day
24 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

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

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

Graduate Women International

7-9, Chemin de Balxert, CH-1291, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

E-mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org

