



GWU UPDATE – 05 November 2025



Makerere University, Kampala UGANDA

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

Teachers for Rural Futures program welcome two new students

GWI is proud to announce the addition of two new students to the Teachers for Rural Futures program who will study at Makerere University during 2025-2028. These promising young women from rural Uganda will begin their bachelor's degrees in education, embarking on a journey to become qualified secondary school teachers. Thanks to the generous support of our donors they can fully dedicate themselves to their studies and training, confident in the opportunities your contributions have made possible. Their education will strengthen their own futures and enable them to return to their communities as examples of leadership, encouraging girls to stay in school and advancing gender equality through teaching. [Click HERE to know more about our past graduates](#) and [DONATE](#) to support more young women from rural Uganda to become teachers.

— GWI Member News —

University Women Europe (UWE) to host conference on women's voices and skills for a future of peace

GWI regional group, UWE, will hold its 2025 Conference and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Naples, Italy, from 6-9 November under the theme "Women's Voices and Skills for a Future of Peace." The event will convene women graduates and panellists from across Europe to explore how women's expertise, creativity, and leadership advance peace.

The AGM will open with remarks from UWE President Anne Bergheim-Nègre, followed by business sessions, financial reports, and national updates addressing European policy frameworks on gender equality and the Istanbul Convention.

The conference, held at the Università Parthenope, will feature distinguished panellists who will address the intersections of women's rights, creativity, and peacebuilding. Giuliana Cacciapuoti, Arabist expert on the Islamic Arab world, will discuss Arab and Muslim Nobel laureates who defend equality and justice within their cultural traditions. Donatella Gallone, journalist and editor, will present "The Power of Images," examining how women's visual narratives create empathy and dialogue. Isabel Bolli, doctoral researcher at the University of St. Gallen, will reflect on democratic foundations of peace through a gender perspective. Gabriella Esposito, PhD, Research Director at Italy's National Research Council, will highlight gender-inclusive urban regeneration. Tiziana D'Aniello, Councillor for Equal Opportunities of the Municipality 5 of Naples, will explore women's leadership in architecture as a force for social cohesion, while Maria Carolina Siricio, Neapolitan artist, will present her sculpture "Elleboro," symbolizing hope and renewal. **GWI wishes UWE a successful AGM and conference.**

Spanish- Speaking Culture Bridge discussion on Stereotypes

The Spanish-Speaking Culture Bridge invites all Spanish-speaking GWI partners to join an engaging online panel discussion entitled "Stereotypes: How They Are Created and Passed Down Through Generations." The event will take place on November 11th, 2025, at 17:30 CET, and will be streamed live on Zoom and YouTube. The panel, held entirely in Spanish, will feature specialists from Paraguay, Spain, and Mexico.

This conversation will explore how gender stereotypes are formed and perpetuated across generations often rooted in patriarchal traditions where women are confined to the private sphere and men occupy dominant roles in the public and domestic realms. Panellists will discuss the social and cultural mechanisms that sustain these patterns and, most importantly, reflect on what can be done to dismantle them and promote gender equality. GWI encourages readers to participate in this meaningful dialogue through this [LINK](#) and **thanks FEMU, the Spanish-Speaking Culture Bridge, and all panellists and participants for hosting this conversation on gender, identity, and change through generations.**

— GWI at the United Nations (UN) —

GWI UN Representative engages in UN Women Beijing+30 dialogue

GWI UN Representative in New York Maureen Byrne, PhD, participated in the UN Women and Civil Society's 6th Meeting on Beijing+30 Confirmation on 27 October. The session highlighted Member States' commitment to advancing gender equality through upcoming Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) session that will focus on digital violence, access to justice, poverty, and women's leadership. UN Women announced the introduction of interactive multi-stakeholder hearings to expand civil society's influence and enhance collaboration among governments, NGOs, and the private sector. Key discussions centered on ending digital violence against women and girls, advancing gender equality through policy reform, and improving accountability within CSW processes. GWI highlights the goal of ensuring universal access to education and lifelong learning for girls and women, as part of the global SDG agenda. **GWI thanks Dr. Byrne for her active participation and thoughtful contributions to this important dialogue.** All readers are encouraged to read the full report [HERE](#).

Social Forum "Enhancing the Right to Education: Emerging Challenges and Enabling Factors"

On 30 October, GWI attended the side event "Enhancing the Right to Education: Emerging Challenges and Enabling Factors" during the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Social Forum in Geneva. The event gathered representatives from governments, international organizations, academia, and civil society to discuss how education, as a fundamental human right and public good, can be safeguarded in times of global change.

Participants reaffirmed that education is both a right and an enabler of all other rights, yet increasingly threatened by conflict, climate change, economic instability, and rapid technological shifts. While digitalization and AI offer new learning opportunities, they also risk deepening inequality without fair and inclusive governance. Bridging the digital divide was highlighted as essential to ensuring no learner is left behind. States shared efforts to promote equal access at all levels, support inclusion in early and higher education, expand STEM opportunities for girls and underrepresented groups, and strengthen teacher training, especially in rural areas. Many emphasized the need for greater public investment and action against structural barriers. Teachers were recognized as central to good education and fostering dignity, inclusion, and social cohesion.

GWI message that advancing gender equality through education is vital to achieving sustainable development and human rights for all. When guided by inclusion and equality, education becomes a collective force for peace and democracy. **GWI thanks intern, Mila Metivier, for her contributions.**

— Give the Gift of Membership—

Girls Education for Brighter Futures is a GWI programme that funds global education, gender equality and women’s empowerment projects around the world. With your donations, this programme can, through its various projects, have a profound impact on young girls’ lives by ensuring they can access education. The latest initiative, “Training Adolescents, Teachers, and Parents in Luuka District in Making Reusable Sanitary Pads”, funded by the Bina Roy Partners in Development project, is helping to improve the personal health of women and girls, teaching them skills that provide new sources of income, and increasing school retention rates for girls in the Luuka District, in Eastern Uganda. GWI invites you to click [HERE](#) to learn more about this project and is grateful to all the generous support of the Girls Education for Brighter Futures programme. We appreciate all contributions towards these projects. Please click [HERE](#). **Thank you for making such a difference!**

— Did you know? —

GWI co-sponsored Widows Right International (WRI) Seminar on war widows striving for peace
On 17 October, GWI co-sponsored the seminar “Widows and Peace: The Role of War Widows in Striving for Peace” at the UN in Geneva. The event, organized by WRI, brought together international experts from civil society and Member States, advocates, and policymakers to explore the critical issues widows of all ages face locally, nationally, and globally. It shed light on the often-overlooked experiences of more than 300 million widows worldwide, many of whom face discrimination, poverty, and social exclusion. The seminar highlighted how widows, once empowered, can become active agents of peace and community rebuilding. By supporting this initiative, GWI highlighted the importance of inclusive approaches to peacebuilding that recognize and value the contributions of all women and the need to amplify the voices of those too often absent from global peace and security discussions. **GWI expresses its gratitude to Zarin Hainsworth, Chair of WRI, for leading such an inspiring and meaningful discussion. GWI invites readers to learn more about WRI and its mission by clicking [HERE](#).**

— Dates and Events —

17 November

Student’s Day

19 November

World Toilet Day

24 Nov-10 Dec
9 December
10 December

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence
Anti-Corruption Day
Human Rights 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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