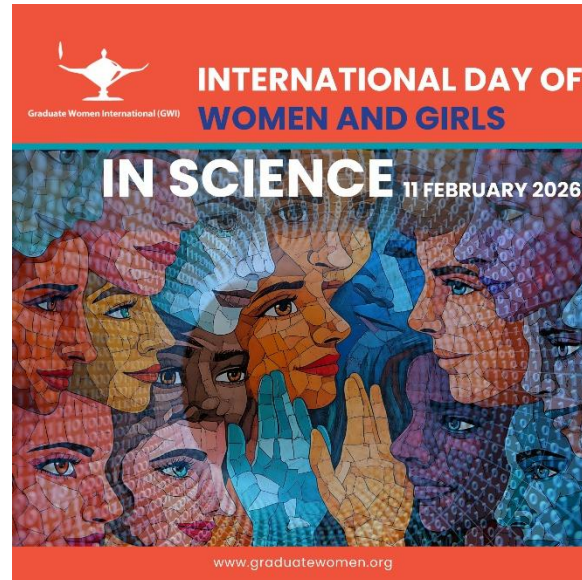




## GWI UPDATE – 11 February 2026



*GWI International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026*

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### — Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

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#### **GWI Marks International Day of Women & Girls in Science with Call for Structural Reform**

Today, GWI marks the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2026 under the theme “*Synergizing AI, Social Science, STEM and Finance: Building Inclusive Futures for Women and Girls*” by releasing its [2026 toolkit](#). The toolkit examines five structural trends reshaping scientific and higher education systems worldwide, from output-based evaluation in applied science to funding continuity, digital and computational disciplines, geographic expansion of research capacity, and the growing strategic weight of science translation and knowledge brokerage.

GWI invites members across its global network to use and share this resource to strengthen calls for accountable evaluation systems, equitable research environments, and sustained investment in women’s scientific leadership, ensuring that women and girls are not sidelined at critical career stages in science and research.

Grounded in current highlights the persistent underrepresentation of women in scientific fields, noting that women remain a minority among science graduates, researchers, and leaders in emerging sectors. GWI also underlines that these gaps are not due to lack of ability but to

structural barriers, as reaffirmed in its 2019 Policy Resolution on Women and STEM and recommends watching the [GWI 2025 video infographic](#).

### **GWI Highlights the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) as a Human Rights Priority**

Through a dedicated social media post, GWI drew attention to the continued practice of FGM and its devastating impact on the health, rights, and futures of girls and women worldwide. The post recalls that FGM is a harmful practice rooted in gender inequality and discrimination and remains a serious barrier to girls' access to education, bodily autonomy, and full participation in society. Referencing GWI's long-standing policy commitment to ending harmful practices, the publication underscores that eliminating FGM is essential to achieving gender equality, protecting human rights, and advancing sustainable development. **GWI calls on its members and supporters to use the post as an advocacy tool**, to raise awareness, challenge harmful norms, and support collective action to ensure that every girl can grow up safe, healthy, and free from violence.

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **GWI Discussion Network Explores Disability Inclusion for International Day of Persons with Disabilities**

In the context of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities 2025, themed *"Fostering disability-inclusive societies for advancing social progress,"* GWI's Discussion Network brings together diverse perspectives from members on how disability is understood, governed, and experienced across countries. The document contrasts medical and social models of disability, emphasizing that true inclusion depends not only on policy but also on changing attitudes and removing structural barriers, particularly those affecting women and girls with disabilities. Contributions from graduate women members highlight issues such as ableism, unequal access to education, and the gap between legal frameworks and everyday reality, while also showcasing lived experiences and advocacy priorities. Together, these reflections reinforce GWI's position that disability inclusion is a matter of rights and justice, and that disabled women must be recognized not only as beneficiaries of inclusion, but as leaders and agents of social change. **GWI thanks Dr. Shirley Gillett, GWI Vice President Education, for putting together this important discussion.** Click [HERE](#) to find the compilation of the valuable contributions shared by participating GWI members.

### **GWI El Salvador Elects New Leadership**

GWI warmly welcomes the newly elected leadership of the Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de El Salvador (AMUS): Ing. Sonia del Carmen Martínez Suárez, President; Lic. Rosa María Mendoza de Serrano, Vice President; Lic. Ana Mirna Avalos Pineda, Secretary; Arq. Yanira del Rosario

Rodríguez Vasquéz, Pro Secretary; Lic. Ana Vilma Menjívar de Lima, Secretary of International Relations; Lic. Berta Hortencia Pineda de Salazar, Pro Secretary of International Relations; Lic. María Surio de Flores, Treasurer; Lic. Zuleima Evelyn Morán Aguilar, Pro Treasurer; Lic. Carmen Haydeé Padilla Bonilla, Trustee; Lic. Blanca Silvia Villegas de Nosthas, Pro Syndicate; Arq. Concepción Ana Melitina García de Cornejo, National Secretariat of FECAMU; and Lic. Coralia Esmeralda Díaz de Enderos, Alternate Secretary of FECAMU. **GWI congratulates the new leadership and looks forward to supporting and working closely with them in the future.**

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## — GWI at the United Nations (UN) —

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### **GWI to hold CSW70 Advocacy Training on 19 February 2026**

In anticipation of the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), taking place 09 - 19 March 2026 in New York, GWI is hosting an information session for all GWI delegates and members that will be participating in person or virtually. This information session will be held on 19 February 2026 at 5 p.m. CET to brief attendees and provide a platform for questions on the methods of work of the CSW. The agenda for this session encompasses crucial topics, such as guidelines on participation, GWI's parallel and side events, an overview of GWI's advocacy plan, and an exploration of GWI's written statements. **We advise all GWI members participating in CSW70 either in person or virtually to join us for this information session by registering [HERE](#).** See the information session flyer below.

### **GWI submits Written Statement to the 61st session of the Human Rights Council (HRC61)**

GWI submitted a written statement to the HRC61 in response to the panel discussion on financing sustainable development and economic, social and cultural rights. Reaffirming that education should not be a policy choice but a core human rights obligation, GWI calls on States to ensure adequate, sustained, and gender-responsive public financing for education as a foundation for equality, poverty reduction, and inclusive societies. The statement highlights global financing gaps, the disproportionate burden on households and women, and presents seven key recommendations to strengthen public education systems and accountability. To read the full statement, click [HERE](#).

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## — Give the Gift of Education—

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Girls Education for Brighter Futures is a GWI program that funds global education, gender equality and women's empowerment projects. Donations to this program, impact women and girls' lives by offering education and income-generating education. One of the latest initiatives, "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 readers to click [HERE](#) to learn more about this project and is grateful to all the generous support of the Girls Education for Brighter Futures program. GWI appreciates all contributions towards these projects. Please click [HERE](#). **Thank you for making such a difference!**

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### — Did you know? —

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The toolkit, "Preventing Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children," highlights the connections between violence against women (VAW) and children (VAC), emphasizing their roots in gender inequality and harmful social norms. Evidence shows that VAW and VAC often co-occur, undermining women’s leadership and children's education. Aligned with **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** and **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**, the toolkit advocates for integrated, gender-responsive strategies to prevent violence and promote equitable environments. It emphasizes that education serves as both a protective factor and a prevention strategy. This resource assists education advocates **in UN advocacy** by reinforcing the importance of addressing education and gender equality to break cycles of violence. The toolkit is available for access [HERE](#).

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### — Dates and Events —

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11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science
21 February	International Mother Language Day
23 Feb-2 April	61 <sup>st</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (Geneva)
8 March	International Women’s Day
9-19 March	70 <sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

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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.

**Graduate Women International**

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