



## GWI UPDATE – 25 February 2026

**12 March 2026**  
3:30PM CET (Central European Time)  
Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3W07070>

**“From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Pathways to Access Justice for Women”**

**PANEL OF SPEAKERS**

<b>Sudha Shivastava</b> SmartEmpower "Leadership Begins: Making Policy Pathways to Women's Access to Justice"	<b>Nana Adwoa Adomah-Boadi</b> "Digital Education in Equitable GenAI and Right to Participate"	<b>Tzani Valencia</b> "Justice Starts in the Classroom: How Education Shapes Women's Access to Justice in Mexico"	<b>Niamh Merritt</b> "Women's Access to Justice in 'Digital' Regions"
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**BREAKOUT SESSION LEADERS**

<b>Cynthia Adenomon</b> "Women's Access to Justice"	<b>Carli Perrini</b> "Women's Access to Justice"	<b>Ashley Anne Adams</b> "Women's Access to Justice"	<b>Menna Mohamed</b> "Women's Access to Justice"
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**GWI Young Members Network CSW70 Parallel Event**

**12 March, 2:30 - 4:00 pm**  
Auditorium, Salvation Army Centre  
CSW 70 - Physical Parallel Event

**FROM LAW TO LIFE:**  
How Women's Organizations are Advancing Justice through Community Accountability

<b>Bonnie Rame</b> "Women's Access to Justice"	<b>Olivia Barragán</b> "Women's Access to Justice"	<b>Scott Jones</b> "Women's Access to Justice"	<b>Barbara Probst</b> "Women's Access to Justice"
<b>Sally Thompson</b> "Women's Access to Justice"	<b>Patricia Kishner</b> "Women's Access to Justice"	<b>Dr Laura Peralta</b> "Women's Access to Justice"	<b>Emily Van Veen</b> "Women's Access to Justice"

**CSW70 SIDE EVENT**

**Knowledge is Power:**  
Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls

**Wednesday 11 March 2026, 15:00-16:30 EDT**  
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations  
885 2nd Ave, New York, NY 10017

This side event explores how education strengthens women's and girls' access to justice – from legal empowerment to social, economic, and community-based pathways.

**CSW70 Side and Parallel events to be held at the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)**

## — Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

### GWI highlights Mother Language-Based Education as a key to gender equality and inclusion

Through a dedicated social media post marking International Mother Language Day 2026, GWI emphasized the critical role of language in ensuring inclusive and equitable education worldwide. The post recalls that numbers of learners are still taught in languages they do not fully understand, limiting their academic success, confidence, and future opportunities. It underscores that mother tongue-based multilingual education is essential to advancing gender equality and quality education, particularly for girls and those from indigenous, migrant, and minority communities. Referencing international commitments and GWI's longstanding advocacy for girls' education, the publication highlights that protecting linguistic diversity is fundamental to empowering learners and building inclusive societies. GWI calls on its members and supporters to use the campaign as an advocacy tool to raise awareness, promote multilingual education, and support efforts that ensure every girl can learn in a language that respects her identity, enabling her to thrive and fully participate in society. Click [HERE](#) to download and share the campaign.

### GWI earns GlobalGiving 2026 Achievement Award badges

GlobalGiving is a crowdfunding platform that connects organizations like GWI to donors in nearly every country. The 2026 badges recognize GWI's tireless work advocating for women's rights, equality, and empowerment through education. These badges signify GWI as an officially Verified and Vetted Organization, suitable for advocating for 100% of girls and women worldwide to attain education beyond primary school. Additionally, GWI has been awarded a Top-Ranked

Organization badge for its exceptional performance in both actions and advocacy. These recognitions from GlobalGiving mark a new chapter in GWI's journey, motivating ongoing efforts to improve access to quality secondary and tertiary education for women and also motivating our donors, whom we thank. Throughout 2026, GWI proudly showcases its achievement badges on its website, underscoring its commitment to empowering women globally. See our badges here:



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— GWI Member News —

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### **GWI Young Member Network holds Monthly Conversation Series on Agronomy & Science**

GWI's Young Members Network (YMN) held the second session of its 2026 Connect & Grow Monthly Conversation Series on the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science held annually on 11 February. With YMN member spotlight speaker Nelisiwe Chonco and moderator Alukhanyo Xonti, this conversation addressed "*Agronomy: The Science of Growing Tomorrow. A White Collar with a Blue Edge.*" Participants had the opportunity to hear inspiring stories and insights directly from young women scientists shaping the future of science. **GWI thanks the YMN team, Chonco and Xonti for their collaboration, and all participants of this important discussion.** Click [HERE](#) to access the recording.

### **GWI National Federations and Associations submit CSW70 written reports**

#### ***Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)***

CFUW calls on Member States, the United Nation, and justice institutions to address the consequences of failing to ensure access to justice for all women and girls, in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. Drawing on global evidence it highlights how discriminatory laws, economic inequality, and intersecting forms of marginalization, particularly for Indigenous women, compound barriers to justice. It emphasizes the need for disaggregated data, accountability, and inclusive, trauma-informed justice reforms. To read the full report click [HERE](#).

#### ***Women Graduates-USA***

Women Graduates–USA highlights the structural, legal, and cultural barriers that continue to deny women and girls effective justice, particularly those facing intersecting forms of discrimination. It calls for the repeal of discriminatory laws, gender-responsive justice systems, expanded legal aid,

and sustained institutional reform, urging governments, the United Nations system, and civil society to take coordinated, accountable action to ensure justice for all women and girls. To read the full report click [HERE](#).

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## — GWI at the United Nations (UN) —

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### **GWI to hold CSW70 Side Event on Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls**

Co-hosted with the Permanent Mission of Ireland and Soroptimist International, GWI is organizing an in-person Side Event titled: “Knowledge is Power: Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls” on 11 March 2026, 15:00-16:30 EST, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations. 885 2nd Ave, New York, NY 10017. This side event will delve into how education contributes to enhancing access to justice for women and girls, directly aligning with the CSW70 priority theme. It will highlight evidence-based policies that integrate education into legal empowerment frameworks, helping women and girls assert their rights. Key points include data and case studies showing how education reduces barriers to justice, with insights from India and globally. This Side Event will also discuss partnerships among UN entities, Member States, and civil society promoting scalable solutions for equitable legal systems. See flyer below.

### **GWI President to speak at CSW70 Parallel Event on Advancing Justice through Accountability**

GWI is pleased to announce that GWI President, Pat Patton, will be a featured speaker at the CSW70 Parallel Event titled *From Law to Life: How Women’s Organizations are Advancing Justice through Community Accountability*, taking place in person on 12 March 2026 from 2:30 to 4:00 pm EST at the Salvation Army Centre in New York, New York. Organized by the leading international women’s organizations, this event will explore how civil society is working to bridge the gap between gender equality laws and the lived realities of women and girls. The discussion will highlight the critical role of women’s organizations in promoting accountability, advancing education and economic empowerment, and strengthening implementation of global commitments such as SDGs 5 and 16. **Bringing together global leaders and advocates, the event will provide an important platform to exchange strategies and reinforce collective efforts to advance gender justice worldwide.** See the flyer below.

### **YMN to host CSW70 parallel event**

Organized by the GWI YMN this Parallel Event titled, *From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Pathways to Access Justice for Women*, will be held virtually on 12 March 2026 at 3:30 pm EST. The interactive event, led by a panel of GWI young members from across the globe, will highlight the need of empowering young women through education, mentoring and training opportunities providing solution-driven pathways to access justice. There will be opportunities for audience

interaction via breakout sessions, opinion polls and Q&A. See flyer below. Register in advance for this event [HERE](#).

### **Let's Go Virtual**

GWJ encourages those unable to attend CSW70 in person to register for the online CSW70 Forum and follow Side Events online. The virtual environment allows everyone to participate in the CSW70, offering opportunities to explore hundreds of events and connect with thousands of participants, including events organized by GWJ and many organized by GWJ affiliates. Meet with fellow NFA members or colleagues to watch the sessions live or at a convenient time. Then, follow with discussion and advocacy planning. For more information and to register check out the [flyer below](#).

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## — Give the Gift of Membership—

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The GWJ 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 GWJ membership. There are many benefits of being a member of GWJ, including belonging to an influential international organisation 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 GWJ.

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## — Did you know? —

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At the 1948 Council following the ninth Conference of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW, now Graduate Women International), Madame Hegg-Hoffet drew attention to the dire situation of women displaced by war and political upheaval. Around 10,000 university-educated women, many formerly teachers, doctors, and dentists, were living in camps. Feeling a deep responsibility, IFUW partnered with the International Refugee Organization to help these women resume their studies and rebuild their futures. Madame Hegg-Hoffet personally visited them, supporting their intellectual ambitions and fostering solidarity. These founding values continue today through the Hegg Hoffet Fund, which provides grants enabling refugee graduates to continue their education, return to their professions, and develop language and employability skills. Beyond financial assistance, recipients benefit from the encouragement and community of GWJ's national and local members reflecting Madame Hegg-Hoffet's enduring spirit of selfless

dedication, giving her “heart, head, time, and money” to this cause. Read more about the Hegg Hoffet Fund [HERE](#).

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## — Dates and Events —

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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
22 March	World Water Day
6 April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
23 April	World Book & Copyright Day
26 April	International Girls in ICT Day

**Follow us on social media!**



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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**

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

E-mail: [gwi@graduatewomen.org](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org) Website: [www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)



CSW70/GWI

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN 70TH SESSION

# LET'S GO VIRTUAL

09-19 MARCH 2026



The CSW offers a virtual environment that allows everyone to participate in the various sessions. **This year's CSW offers more than 800 events** with speakers from all over the world to address the access to justice for all women and girls, including a Young Member Network parallel event a side event!



**Not attending CSW70 in person, then how about a get-together?**

**Organize a watch party with your fellow NFA or colleagues!**



@GRADUATEWOMENINTERNATIONAL @GRADWOMEN @GRADUATEWOMENINTERNATIONAL



Hosted by: Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations  
 Co-hosted by: Soroptimist International and Graduate Women International  
 Supported by: Permanent Missions of Ireland, Mongolia, and Sierra Leone to the United Nations, in partnership with UNESCO, UN Digital Library, CreditAccess India and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network

**CSW70 SIDE EVENT**

## Knowledge is Power:

Education as the First Step to Justice for Women and Girls

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12 March 2026  
 3:30PM CET (Central European Time)

Registration Link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8MgmIKRt16bMBKRLZdUYA>

## "From Barriers to Breakthroughs: Pathways to Access Justice for Women"

**PANEL OF SPEAKERS**

 <b>Sudha Srivastava</b> (United Kingdom) "Leadership Begins Young: Policy Pathways to Women's Access to Justice"	 <b>Nana Adwoa Adowaa Nsiah</b> (Ghana) "Digital Exclusion is Injustice: Girls, AI and Right to Participate"	 <b>Tzazil Valencia</b> (Mexico) "Justice Starts in the Classroom: How Education Shapes Women's Access to Justice in Mexico"	 <b>Nkem Menkiti</b> (Nigeria) "Mentorship: A key Driver for Women's Access to Justice in Nigeria"
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**BREAKOUT SESSION LEADERS**

 <b>Cynthia Adinortey</b> (Ghana)	 <b>Carla Pierini</b> (France)	 <b>Alukhanyo Xonti</b> (South Africa)	 <b>Menna Mohamed</b> (New Zealand)
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**GWY Young Members Network CSW70 Parallel Event**

The event is developed and produced by Sudha Srivastava (President YMN GWI) with YMN Team. The session highlights the need of empowering young women through education, mentoring and training opportunities - providing solution-driven pathways to access justice. The event is highly interactive and the programme is divided into a few engaging sections - diverse panel presentation followed by breakout room discussions led by young women. There will also be further opportunities for audience to participate in opinion polls and interactive Q&A.



### FROM LAW TO LIFE:

How Women's Organizations are Advancing Justice through Community Accountability



This parallel event brings together the world's leading non-governmental women's organizations to explore how civil society is turning legal commitments into real change

12 March, 2:30 4:00 pm

Auditorium, Salvation Army Centre

**CSW 70 - Physical Parallel Event**