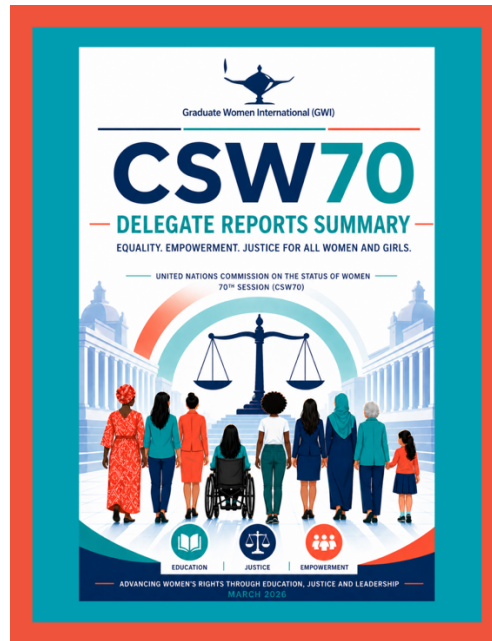




GW I UPDATE - 06 May 2026



GW I CSW70 Delegate Report Summary

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GW I CSW70 Report Summary Highlights Delegate Insights

On 29 April 2026, GWI released a comprehensive summary of reports submitted by its 20 esteemed delegates who participated in the 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), held in New York City from 9-19 March 2026. The report captures key insights, advocacy messages, and priorities shared during this key United Nations forum. A central message emerging from CSW70 is that access to justice for women and girls is closely linked to access to education, legal literacy, digital inclusion, and social protection. Delegates emphasized that women and girls must be able to understand their rights, access support systems, participate in decision-making, and engage safely in both public and online spaces. The report highlights the breadth of expertise within GWI's global network.

Delegates contributed perspectives on legal literacy, inclusive and equitable education, prevention of gender-based violence, women's leadership, and the importance of evidence-

based advocacy. These contributions demonstrate how coordinated action across local, national, regional, and international levels can drive meaningful and lasting change. While significant challenges remain, the report underscores that progress is achievable.

Strengthening legal frameworks, expanding access to quality education, addressing digital risks, and ensuring women's voices are heard are identified as critical steps toward a more just and equitable society. The findings reinforce GWI's continued commitment to advancing women's rights through education and advocacy. Click [HERE](#) to read the full report.

— GWI Member News —

New School Opens in Hatay, Türkiye

Submitted by Dr. Basak Ovacik, Turkish Association of University Women (TAUW) Coordinator of International Relations and President of University Women Europe (UWE)

The TAUW, with 76 years of history as one of Turkey's largest women's organizations, opened its first-ever school building in Hatay's Serinyol neighborhood on 22 April 2026 — just ahead of National Sovereignty and Children's Day on 23 April. The 8-classroom middle school, named Gazi Mustafa Kemal, was built on a 740 m² plot in response to the devastating earthquakes of 6 February 2023. It was constructed by TAUW, funded by national and international donations. The opening ceremony drew significant attendance, including the Deputy Minister of National Education, the Governor of Hatay, the Mayor of Hatay, UWE President Ovacik, and representatives from numerous TAUW branches across Turkey. TAUW President Meral Güler emphasized the importance of equal access to education, healthcare, and housing, stating that a city can only truly recover when its children can dream again. She stressed that children learning in safe, quality schools — regardless of gender — is the foundation of rebuilding society. TAUW Hatay Branch President Tülin Teoman recounted that after an exhausting day of distributing aid following the earthquake, she had a conversation with a student in a schoolyard. The girl shared her dream of becoming an astronaut— and the president was deeply saddened to learn that the child's school had been destroyed in the disaster. It was this moving encounter that inspired her to develop the idea of building a new school. GWI congratulates TAUW for achieving this milestone!



The opening of TAUW's first school building in Hatay's Serinyol neighbourhood on 22 April 2026.

— GWI at the United Nations (UN) —

Measuring What Matters in Global Education

In April 2026, GWI United Nations Representative in New York, Dr. Maureen Byrne, PhD, participated in a high-level session with UNICEF on emerging work measuring foundational learning outcomes, an area of growing importance in global education policy discussions. Her report highlights a critical shift within the United Nations system, measuring access to education toward assessing actual learning.

At the center of this discussion is UNICEF's Foundational Learning Skills (FLS) Module, a standardized tool designed to assess whether children are acquiring basic literacy and numeracy competencies. The FLS module directly evaluates children's abilities in reading comprehension and numeracy through structured, household-based assessments. This approach is particularly significant because it captures data from children attending school and those who are often left out of such data collection, such as those absent or out of school entirely, for a more complete picture of learning.

The growing emphasis on foundational learning also intersects with broader global discussions, including the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The findings confirm a persistent gap. Increased enrollment has not consistently resulted in improved learning. Many

children still do not achieve basic reading and numeracy, which has long-term implications for education and economic participation. For GWI, this work aligns directly with its advocacy position that access must be matched by quality and measurable outcomes. The FLS module strengthens the evidence base for policy engagement by:

- Providing data to support outcome-focused education policies
- Including marginalized and out-of-school learners
- Enabling early identification of learning gaps
- Supporting accountability in education systems

GWI's presence in these discussions ensures that the perspective of women's education advocates remains visible within evolving policy frameworks. Read Dr Byrne's full report [HERE](#).

— Give the Gift of Education —

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 for 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!**

— Did you know? —

Nelly Schreiber-Favre (1879–1972) was a trailblazing figure in Swiss legal history, becoming the first female law student at the University of Geneva and the first woman admitted to the Bar in Western Switzerland. Her career was defined by a tireless commitment to justice, both through her professional legal work and her active participation in the Swiss women's suffrage movement. Beyond her domestic advocacy, she served on the League of Nations' Commission for Intellectual

Cooperation from 1939 to 1945 and was instrumental in the growth of GWI, serving as both second and first Vice-President of the international federation between 1926 and 1932. A dedicated pioneer for women's professional acceptance, she also founded the Swiss Association of University Women, ensuring that future generations of women would have the institutional support necessary to succeed in their careers.

— Dates and Events —

28 May	Menstrual Hygiene Day
12 June	World Day Against Child Labor
19 June	International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
20 June	World Refugee

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GWI, 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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