



## GWI UPDATE - 01 July 2026



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

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#### **GWI Board Adopts 2025–2028 Strategic Plan**

The GWI Board of Officers has adopted the 2025–2028 Strategic Plan, establishing the strategic direction that will guide GWI’s work throughout the current Triennium. The Strategic Plan identifies six strategic goals that will guide GWI's governance, advocacy, membership engagement, organizational sustainability, and international collaboration:

1. Advocate For Quality Education (Sustainable Development Goal 4), Including Digital Learning, For Women and Girls at All Levels and Advance Leadership Skills.
2. Grow GWI’s Profile, Credibility, and International Capacity to Achieve GWI’s Mission and Vision.
3. Strengthen Member Engagement and Deepen NFA Involvement and Connection.
4. Strengthen Impact and Value Through Collaboration with National Federations and Associations (NFAs) in Advocacy and Education on Women’s Issues.
5. Retain GWI Membership and Increase the Number of NFAs and Independent Members and Enhance Associate Member Structure.
6. Realize Sustainable GWI Finances and Regulatory Compliance to Achieve Organizational Excellence.

The Plan also recognizes the importance of emerging priorities, including digital education, ethical artificial intelligence (AI), intergenerational leadership, evidence-informed advocacy, and

measuring organizational impact while adhering to best-practice governance. Supporting the Strategic Plan is a Key Activities Framework that translates each strategic objective into actionable activities and provides a practical roadmap for implementation throughout the Triennium. Access the GWI 2025–2028 Strategic Plan [HERE](#).

### **GWI Supports Displaced Women Graduates Beyond World Refugee Day**

Although World Refugee Day is observed annually on 20 June, the barriers facing refugee and displaced women and girls continue throughout the year, including interrupted education, loss of professional credentials, language barriers, and limited access to employment. GWI's 2026 World Refugee Day infographic highlights these realities while underscoring the role of education, skills development, and professional requalification in helping displaced women graduates rebuild their lives. It also showcases GWI's international advocacy for the educational rights of refugee and displaced women and girls, together with the organization's practical support through the Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates.

The infographic also introduces the 2026–2028 GWI Hegg Hoffet Committee, convened by Cynthia Adinortey of the Ghana Association of University Women. Committee members include Karoline Dorsch of the Swiss Association of University Women, Alice Kagoda and Milly Kasaja Mubiru of the Association of University Women Uganda, Dr Vasanti Patwardhan of the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations, Brenda Robertson of the Canadian Federation of University Women, Selin Solu of the Turkish Association of University Women, and Eleni Tabua-Young of Graduate Women Fiji. The Committee administers two application cycles each year for the Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates, reviewing applications, interviewing candidates, and awarding short-term financial assistance of up to CHF 3,000 to qualifying applicants. The Fund supports displaced and refugee women graduates in updating professional qualifications, developing host-country language skills, pursuing employment opportunities, and rebuilding their professional lives. Click [HERE](#) to access the GWI World Refugee Day infographic.

### **GWI releases infographic for the World Day Against Child Labour**

GWI marked World Day Against Child Labour (WDACL) on 12 June 2026 with an infographic and social media campaign highlighting the urgent need to end child labor and protect every child's right to education. The infographic presents recent data showing that 138 million children were in child labor in 2024, including 54 million in hazardous work, and it calls for stronger policies and inclusive, gender-responsive education systems that tackle the root causes of child labor. As a Special Partner of the International Labour Organization, GWI also shows how its global programs, such as Bina Roy Projects, Teachers for Rural Futures, and the Hegg Hoffet Fund, help keep children in school, prevent exploitation, and advance key Sustainable Development Goals on

poverty, education, gender equality, and decent work. Click [HERE](#) for the English 2026 GWI infographic and [HERE](#) for the Spanish version.

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **Mexican Federation of University Women to host Virtual Lecture Series**

On Friday, 3 July, the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) will host “The First Participation of Women in Federal Elections in Mexico,” a virtual lecture to be delivered by Dr. Gloria Luz Alejandre Ramírez, Secretary General of FEMU and Professor-Researcher at the Autonomous University of Mexico City (UACM). On Tuesday, 14 July, FEMU will present “The Power of the Robe: Women Lawyers Who Paved the Way for Women’s Rights,” a virtual lecture held in celebration of Mexico’s Lawyers’ Day and presented by Dr. María Patricia Lira Alonso, moderated by M.A. Alma Elena Sarayth de León Cardona, Mexico’s Representative to the Spanish-Speaking Cultural Bridge of GWI. On Thursday, 16 July, FEMU will hold the virtual book presentation “Tz’akbu Ajaw, the Red Queen of Palenque,” by Beatriz Saavedra, as part of the “Writing to Exist” series, inviting audiences to explore the intersections of literature, history, and women’s memory through the figure of the Red Queen of Palenque, with event flyers for all activities available at the bottom of the Update and all events streamed online via the Women’s Museum YouTube channel, which you can access [HERE](#).

### **Swiss Association of University Women (ASFDU/SVA) elects new leadership**

GWI extends its congratulations to the new Co-Presidents of the ASFDU/SVA. This transition marks an important moment for ASFDU/SVA and its ongoing commitment to advancing education and engagement for women and girls in Switzerland. GWI looks forward to continued collaboration with ASFDU/SVA in advancing shared priorities and strengthening opportunities for women and girls through education. **GWI welcomes ASFDU/SVA Co-Presidents Claire Daams, Dr. of Law, and Ruth Nieffer.**

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## — GWI at the United Nations (UN) —

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### **UN80 Initiative Advances Comprehensive United Nations Reform**

GWI United Nations Representative, New York, Maureen E. Byrne, PhD, reports on the latest developments of the UN80 Initiative, which aims to strengthen the United Nations’ impact and reduce fragmentation and duplication across the United Nations system. At a 26 May 2026 briefing, the UN Secretary-General stressed that Member States must choose between planned reform led by them or crisis-driven, externally imposed change, underscoring the urgency of action. The General Assembly’s resolution 80/251 introduces major changes to how United

Nations mandates are created, implemented, and reviewed, including a 21% reduction in staff positions, relocation of 230 posts to lower-cost locations, integration of supply chains, and a more flexible peace operations structure. It also introduces a new Human Rights Group and stronger shared services, technology, and data systems through initiatives such as a Unified Services Roadmap, a United Nations System Data Commons, and a Technology Accelerator Platform. **GWI thanks Dr Byrne for her participation and summary.** Click [HERE](#) to read the report.

### **GWI Participates in Alliance of NGOs General Assembly in Vienna**

On 5 June, GWI United Nations Representative, Vienna, Elisabeth Francis, represented GWI at the General Assembly of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held at the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime in Vienna. During the meeting, Elisabeth served as President of the Nominations Committee. The meeting reviewed the Alliance's activities over the past year, including the launch of its first Civil Society Compendium, participation in United Nations Constructive Dialogues on firearms, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, technical assistance, and international cooperation, and preparations for the upcoming United Nations Crime Congress to be held in Abu Dhabi.

In her report, Francis notes that the Alliance now comprises more than 70 member organizations from all regions and continues to strengthen civil society engagement in United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice processes. She also highlights the Alliance's active working groups on cybercrime, access to justice, gender-based violence, and environmental crime, emphasizing that GWI's membership provides an important platform for advancing advocacy on issues affecting women and girls while collaborating with organizations across the global justice community. **GWI appreciates Francis's leadership in the Committee and her reporting in its events.** Click [HERE](#) to read the report.

### **UNICEF Executive Board Highlights Global Challenges for Children and Education**

GWI United Nations Representative Bryne continues her recent United Nations reporting with a summary from the UNICEF Executive Board Annual Session held from 16 to 19 June 2026, focusing on GWI's advocacy goals for girls' and women's education and SDG 4, including gender-equal secondary education, expanded tertiary access in low-income countries, and lifelong learning for women. In her opening statement, UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell identified two key emerging challenges for children: the rapid expansion of AI, with children making up about one-third of global internet users, and unsustainable debt burdens that are constraining public investment in health, education and nutrition. UNICEF's 2025 results included large-scale support for maternal and child health, vaccine delivery, education access for out-of-school children, and measures to protect adolescent girls at risk of child marriage, achieved with substantially less

funding than requested under its humanitarian appeal. GWI thanks Dr Byrne for her participation and reporting. Click [HERE](#) to read the report.

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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 for all donations that can be given [HERE](#). **Thank you for making such a difference!**

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## — Did you know? —

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Blanche Hegg-Hoffet (1894–1978) was a pioneering Swiss psychologist and long-standing leader of the Swiss Association of University Women, whose commitment to supporting highly educated women forced to flee their home countries led GWI to establish, and later name, the Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates in her honor. Through years of fundraising and organizing practical assistance, she helped displaced women graduates requalify, update their credentials, and rebuild their professional lives. Today, every contribution GWI members make to the Hegg Hoffet Fund continues her legacy of ensuring that no woman’s hard-won education is lost because she was compelled to leave home. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the GWI Hegg Hoffet Fund.

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## — Dates and Events —

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15 June-10 July	Human Rights Council 62 <sup>nd</sup> session
11 July	GWI Birthday
15 July	GlobalGiving Bonus Day fundraiser
15 July	World Youth Skills Day
30 July	World Day against Trafficking in Persons
31 July	Pan-African Women’s Day
28 October	GWI Annual Meeting, virtual

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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)







15 aniversario  
museo de la mujer



# PRIMERAS PARTICIPACIONES DE LAS MUJERES EN ELECCIONES FEDERALES EN MÉXICO

VIERNES • JULIO 3 • 12 HORAS

Imparte:

**Dra. Gloria Luz Alejandre Ramírez**  
(Secretaria General de la FEMU. Profesora Investigadora de la UACM. Profesora de Asignatura de la FCPyS. UNAM)

VIRTUAL

CONFERENCIA



Transmisión simultánea a través del canal de Youtube  Museo de la Mujer

 Informes y registro: [repcionmuseomujer@gmail.com](mailto:repcionmuseomujer@gmail.com)



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museo de la mujer

# LA FUERZA DE LA TOGA:



María Asunción Sandoval Olaes  
(1872-1943)



Clementina Batalla Torres  
(1894-1987)



María Lavalle Urbina  
(1908-1996)



María Cristina Salmorán  
(1918-1993)

## Abogadas que Abrieron Camino a los Derechos de las Mujeres

Imparte: **Dra. María Patricia Lira Alonso**  
(FEMU)

Modera: **Mtra. Alma Elena Sarayth de León Cardona**  
(FEMU-Coordinadora del Puente Cultural de Habla Hispana de la GWI)

VIRTUAL

CONFERENCIA

Transmisión simultánea a través del canal de Youtube Museo de la Mujer



Informes y registro: [repcionmuseomujer@gmail.com](mailto:repcionmuseomujer@gmail.com)

MARTES • JULIO 14 • 12 HORAS



15 aniversario  
museo de la mujer

**CICLO “ESCRIBIR PARA EXISTIR”**

**TZ’AKBU AJAW,  
LA REINA ROJA DE PALENQUE  
(MUJER CINABRIO)**



**JUEVES • JULIO 16 • 12 HORAS**

**BEATRIZ SAAVEDRA GASTÉLUM, AUTORA**

**PARTICIPAN:  
LUIS LAGOS (ESPAÑA)  
MARÍA MARRODÁN (ESPAÑA)**

**VIRTUAL**

**PRESENTACIÓN EDITORIAL**

Transmisión simultánea a través del canal de Youtube Museo de la Mujer



Informes y registro: [repcionmuseomujer@gmail.com](mailto:repcionmuseomujer@gmail.com)