



GWI UPDATE - 15 July 2026



— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

It's Today: GWI Rise and Lead GlobalGiving Bonus Day Campaign

Today, 15 July 2026, GWI launches its GlobalGiving *Rise and Lead* fundraising campaign as part of GlobalGiving's July Bonus Day. This special 24-hour event is a unique opportunity for supporters to multiply their impact on women's and girls' education globally. The GlobalGiving 2026 Bonus Day campaign begins on 15 July at 10:00 Eastern Time. During Bonus Day, donations of \$100 USD or more to the GWI Rise and Lead campaign help GWI receive a share of the GlobalGiving \$150,000 USD matching fund pool and may also unlock additional bonus prizes. By supporting GWI, donors contribute to GWI's 107-year history of building peace through safe access to quality education and lifelong learning. Through international and locally led initiatives, GWI works to remove barriers to education for girls, expand lifelong learning opportunities for women, and strengthen communities through teacher training and capacity-building in underserved regions. We invite GWI members, friends, stakeholders, and supporters to donate today and share the GWI campaign within their networks. Together, we can ensure that more women and girls have the chance to learn, grow, and lead today and for generations to come. Support the GWI work by clicking [HERE](#) to donate and support women's and girls' access to education and lifelong learning. To experience the GWI *Rise and Lead* song, listen [HERE](#).

GWI Celebrates 107 Years of Empowering Women and Girls through Education

On 11 July 2026, GWI marked 107 years of advancing education and empowerment for women and girls. Since its founding in 1919, GWI has remained committed to defending the right to



education and promoting the leadership, and professional opportunities of women and girls across generations. This anniversary is both a celebration of the long GWI history and a recognition of the enduring strength of its global community. For 107 years, GWI has brought together graduate women, educators, and advocates to raise awareness about the importance of access to quality education, advocate globally for women and girls, and advance equality at local, national, and international levels. As GWI celebrates this milestone, the organization also

looks ahead with purpose and determination. In a world where millions of girls and women still face barriers to education and opportunity, GWI continues to stand for progress, solidarity, and sustainable change through education. For details on the GWI history, click [HERE](#).

— GWI Member News —

Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) to host Events and Seminars

In July, FEMU continues to promote education, human rights, and gender equality through a rich program of assemblies, seminars, conferences, and cultural events. At its July assembly, FEMU members, led by Executive President Mirella Feingold and Founding President Patricia Galeana, began an in-depth discussion of the CSW71 agenda, focusing on poverty, natural resources, climate change and disaster-risk reduction in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. Looking ahead, FEMU will hold the 2026 State Seminar “Sembrando igualdad, cosechando futuro: Mujeres impulsando la Agenda 2030”, which will explore how women’s leadership, economic autonomy, care work, and innovation can drive progress toward gender equality and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in collaboration with the Quetzalcoatl University of Irapuato. The seminar includes a September cycle of virtual sessions that explore how justice, economic autonomy, care systems, and technological innovation can advance gender equality and empower women and girls in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

On Wednesday, 12 August, the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) will host the virtual lecture “Artificial Intelligence and Gender Equity”, delivered in Spanish by Dr. María Eugenia Guzmán Gómez and moderated by Dr. Raquel Ramírez Salgado, offering a historical perspective on information technologies and Artificial Intelligence and examining how cultural biases shape AI systems and affect gender equity. On Thursday, 20 August, FEMU will present “Poetry in the Voices of Its Authors: The Word as Identity”, a virtual literary gathering

held in Spanish that brings together women writers Marina Pratici, Marianne Toussaint, and Gabriela Cantú, coordinated by Dr. Beatriz Saavedra Gastélum, inviting audiences to explore language as identity, memory, and belonging through live readings of their poetry. **The event flyers for the activities are available at the bottom of the Update, and all events are streamed online via the Women’s Museum YouTube channel, which you can access [HERE](#).**

Graduate Women Fiji (GWF) elects new leadership following successful Biennial General Meeting

GWI extends its congratulations to the new Council of GWF. This transition marks an important moment for GWF and its ongoing commitment to advancing education and engagement for women and girls in Fiji. GWI looks forward to continued cooperation with GWF in advancing shared priorities and strengthening opportunities for women and girls through education. **GWI welcomes GWF President Maelin Pickering-Bhagwan, CIR Maryann Lockington, Vice President Membership Jane Prasad, Vice President Development Ronna Lee, and Treasurer Amrita Josu.**

Hong Kong Association of University Women (HKAUW) appoints Acting President

GWI extends its congratulations to the HKAUW on the appointment of its Acting President. This development marks an important moment for HKAUW and its continued commitment to advancing education and engagement for women and girls in Hong Kong. GWI looks forward to further collaborating with HKAUW to promote shared priorities and expand opportunities for women and girls through education. **GWI warmly welcomes Acting President Anson Wang, Associate Professor at The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong.**

— GWI at the United Nations (UN) —

GWI engages with United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls

On 4 June 2026, GWI United Nations Representative, Vienna, Elisabeth Francis, participated in a meeting with Ms. Reem Alsalem, United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, held on the margins of the 35th Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna. During the exchange, members of NGO CSW Vienna and the Special Rapporteur discussed a range of urgent issues affecting women and girls, including online and technology-facilitated violence, femicide, violence against mothers, violence against older women, and the risks linked to the expanding global surrogacy industry.

In her report, Francis notes that the Special Rapporteur highlighted how women involved in surrogacy arrangements can face violence, exploitation, trafficking, and slavery-like conditions, while children born through such arrangements may also be vulnerable to sale and trafficking. The discussion also addressed recommendations to include femicide, violence against mothers,

the sale of children, and prenatal sex selection affecting girls within the scope of the forthcoming Convention on Crimes against Humanity.

Francis participated in the meeting in her role as Second Vice Chair of CSW Vienna and reflected on the urgency of the issues raised, particularly the continued scale of femicide and the growing links between surrogacy and transnational organized crime. GWI values Francis's engagement in this important exchange and her continued advocacy on issues affecting the rights, safety, and dignity of women and girls. Click [HERE](#) to read the report. **GWl appreciates Francis's leadership in the Committee and warmly thanks her for reporting in its events.**

GWl UN Written Statement on Breaking Education Barriers through Sport and Education

GWl submitted a written statement to the sixty-second session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC62) titled, Breaking Education Barriers through Sport and Education. The statement responds to the Council panel discussion on empowering women and girls through sport and highlights sport as a key driver of girls' access to education, leadership development, and meaningful participation in society.

The GWl statement stresses that participation in sport can strengthen confidence, resilience, teamwork, communication skills, and leadership capacities, all of which help keep girls in school and support future professional opportunities. It calls for stronger coordination between education, gender equality, and sport policies and warns that discriminatory social norms, violence and harassment, inadequate facilities, and unequal access to resources continue to limit girls' participation in sport.

To address these gaps, GWl urges the integration of safe, inclusive, and adequately funded sport and physical education throughout national education systems, backed by gender-responsive budgeting and evidence-based strategies. The statement also calls for increased cooperation with civil society and youth networks, expanded access to digital education in areas linked to sport and media, and greater representation of women in sport governance, administration, coaching, and officiating. Through this written statement, GWl encourages intensified UN action on sport and development that advances education, gender equality, and human rights for women. Click [HERE](#) to read the statement.

— Give the Gift of Membership —

The GWl 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 GWl membership. There are many benefits of being a member of GWl, including belonging to an

influential international organization 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 GWI.

— Did you know? —

GWI has a Young Member Network (YMN) with more than 100 members. Every year on 15 July, **World Youth Skills Day** is celebrated as an official United Nations Day of Observance, emphasizing the importance of youth acquiring new skills to succeed in the job market. GWI's YMN provides a platform for young women to connect and engage in cultural and professional activities, contributing to their growth and development in line with this year's World Youth Skills Day theme. To know more about the GWI YMN, please click [HERE](#).

— Dates and Events —

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
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
12 August	World Youth Day
28 October	GWI Annual Meeting, virtual

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Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership,
decision-making and peace.

GWI, 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 Balxert, CH-1291, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

E-Mail: gwi@graduatewomen.org Website: www.graduatewomen.org





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MIÉRCOLES 12 DE AGOSTO, 12 HORAS

**IMPARTE: DRA. MARIA EUGENIA GUZMÁN GÓMEZ
(UNIVERSIDAD ANÁHUAC)**

**MODERA: DRA. RAQUEL RAMÍREZ SALGADO
(FEMU, RED CITEG)**

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

 Informes y registro: recepcionmuseomujer@gmail.com



CICLO "POESÍA EN VOZ DE SUS AUTORAS"

La palabra como identidad



INVITADAS:
MARINA PRATICI
MARIANNE TOUSSAINT
GABRIELA CANTÚ

COORDINA:
DRA. BEATRIZ SAAVEDRA GASTÉLUM
(FEMU-ANHG-UNAM)



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