

GWI UPDATE – 12 August 2026



— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI Summer Series Showcases Global Impact of National Federations and Associations

The 2026 GWI Summer Social Media Series is now entering its final stage and will conclude at the end of next week. Through six themed week's introduction, education, leadership, advocacy, wellbeing, and partnership the campaign has highlighted how GWI National Federations and Associations (NFAs) advance women and girls' education and leadership at local, national, and global levels, drawing on projects and advocacy reported in the 2023 to 2025 Triennial Reports of sixteen NFAs. From scholarships, emergency education funds, and international service projects to leadership training, mentoring programs, national policy submissions, and representation at global forums, the series demonstrates the breadth of NFA impact and the power of collective action to remove barriers to education and promote gender equality. As the series approaches its close, GWI encourages members and partners to follow the remaining posts and revisit earlier content on GWI channels, where each post offers a concise entry point to the full NFA Triennial reports and the inspiring work of the GWI network. The GWI channels are linked at the bottom of the Update. Readers are invited to click [HERE](#) to access the full series.

GWI welcomes Vice President Marketing

GWI is pleased to welcome Rebeca Alonso of the Spanish Federation of University Women as GWI Vice President Marketing for the 2026-2028 Triennial. Alonso brings an international perspective, multilingual communication skills, and a collaborative approach to the role. She is committed to strengthening GWI visibility, supporting effective communication across the organization and

engagement among its 48 NFAs. She is committed to strengthening communication across the culturally and geographically diverse GWI membership and promoting the exchange of successful initiatives and achievements throughout the global network.

“It is a privilege to have the opportunity to serve GWI as Vice President Marketing. I look forward to helping amplify the voices and achievements of our members and NFAs, while supporting the GWI commitment to the education and advancement of women and girls globally,” says Alonso.

Working closely with the GWI Board, Marketing Committee, and Executive Director, Alonso will help guide the GWI marketing and communications in support of the organization's Strategic Plan and mission to advance safe access to quality education and lifelong learning for women and girls. ***GWI warmly welcomes Alonso to the GWI Board and looks forward to her leadership and contributions to GWI.***



Rebeca Alonso, Vice President Marketing

GWI Thanks Spring-Summer 2026 Intern, Ida Niemeier

GWI extends its sincere thanks to Ida Niemeier, who concludes her five-month internship with GWI on 7 August. During her internship, Ida made significant contributions across GWI's advocacy, communications, and digital activities. Among her many projects, Ida worked on international observance campaigns across GWI's social media platforms, contributed to the GWI Update, supported development of the new GWI website, and produced the 2026 Summer Series highlighting the work of GWI NFAs worldwide. ***We thank Ida for her excellent work, enthusiasm, and positive contribution to GWI and wish her every success in her future studies and professional endeavors.***



Ida Niemeier, Spring-Summer Intern 2026

— GWI Member News —

Education and Diversity Webinar Introduces Education Committee (EDUCOM)

GWI members met online on 22 June 2026 for the Education and Diversity Meet EDUCOM webinar. Under the broad theme of diversity and education, each member of the EDUCOM shared a presentation on diversity such as inclusive education in rural settings, disability inclusion in STEM, girls' education in conflict zones, inequality in Latin America, and classroom approaches that support diverse learners. The webinar had two main goals to give members clear information about diversity and education issues in different countries and to introduce EDUCOM members and their expertise to the wider GWI community. Nearly 100 participants joined from across the federation and feedback described the event as inspiring, informative, and a strong way to see EDUCOM in action. Click [HERE](#) to read the full webinar report and click [HERE](#) to watch the Vimeo recording of the webinar.

British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) elects new leadership

GWI extends its congratulations to the newly elected Council of BFWG. This transition marks an important moment for BFWG and its continued commitment to advancing education and engagement for women and girls. GWI looks forward to continued cooperation with BFWG in advancing shared priorities and strengthening opportunities for women and girls through education. GWI welcomes BFWG President Jennie Landsberg, CIR Aisha Alshawa, Vice President Membership and Communications Geraldine Deas, Vice President Events and Program Carrie de Silva, Vice President Marketing Karen Clinkard, Vice President Finance Margaret Middlemass, and BFWG Administrator Sarah Claydon.

— GWI at the United Nations (UN) —

High Level Political Forum 2026 Highlights Sustainable Development Priorities

At the 2026 UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development, Member States reviewed progress on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals. The Forum emphasized that achieving the 2030 Agenda requires stronger international cooperation, investment, innovation, and action that leaves no one behind. GWI followed the HLPF closely with a focus on SDG 6, clean water and sanitation, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals. The focus on SDG 6 and SDG 17 closely connects with GWI work across the GWI NFAs. The NFAs address health, dignity, and education through initiatives such as menstrual health education and reusable sanitary pad training, helping to remove barriers that affect girls school attendance and

participation. GWI NFAs also build partnerships with schools, universities, ministries, community organizations, and international partners to expand educational opportunities, strengthen women leadership, and advance gender equality. By linking local action with international advocacy and education rights, GWI demonstrates the power of partnership to turn the SDGs into practical progress for women and girls.

Honoring Indigenous Knowledge and Women's Rights at the United Nations

The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is a United Nations Day of observance held each year on 9 August to promote awareness of the rights, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous Peoples. The 2026 theme, Honoring Indigenous Midwives Safeguarding Life and Well-being "highlights broader issues of health, knowledge, and rights for Indigenous women and girls, including persistent gaps in access to essential services and information. These concerns strongly resonate with the GWI work at the United Nations and through its NFAs. GWI advocates for Indigenous women and girls to have access to quality education across the life course, accurate health and rights information, and meaningful participation in decisions that affect their communities. Through inclusive, gender-responsive education and recognition of women as leaders and knowledge holders, GWI's work connects directly with the principles underlying the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples and its 2026 focus on safeguarding life and well-being through respect for Indigenous knowledge and rights.

— Give the Gift of Membership —

The GWI 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 GWI membership. There are many benefits of being a member of GWI, 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? —

International Youth Day is observed each year on 12 August to recognize young people as key partners in sustainable development and to highlight the challenges they face. The 2026 theme "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations" stresses that youth live in very different realities yet share common hopes for dignity, opportunity, participation, decent work, quality education, and a sustainable future, with special attention to those in low-income countries and small island developing states. This focus closely reflects the GWI activities. Through the projects and advocacy, GWI works with girls and women in diverse contexts to expand access to education,

strengthen leadership, and support further shared aspirations that International Youth Day 2026 brings to the global stage. Click [HERE](#) for more information on International Youth Day.

— Dates and Events —

12 August	World Youth Day
8 September	International Literacy Day
21 September	International Day of Peace
5 October	World Teachers' 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.

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