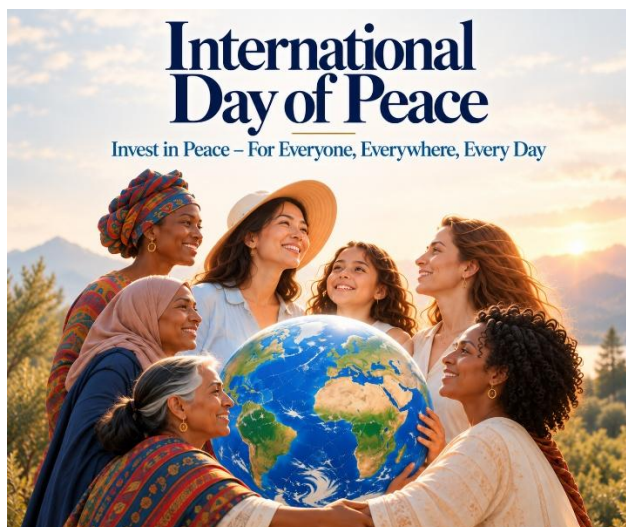




GWI UPDATE – 16 September 2026



GWI celebrates International Day of Peace.

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI celebrates International Day of Peace

Each year on 21 September, the world observes the International Day of Peace, a United Nations observance established in 1981, with its first commemoration held in 1982. The Day is dedicated to strengthening the ideals of peace through non-violence, dialogue, and cooperation within and among nations. Since 2001, 21 September has been designated as a day of global ceasefire.

For GWI, peace and education have been closely connected since its founding in 1919. Established in the aftermath of the First World War, GWI, then the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), brought together graduate women across national boundaries in the conviction that education, international understanding, and cooperation could contribute to lasting peace. More than a century later, the founding principle of peace through education remains relevant to GWI's mission of safe access to quality education and lifelong learning up to the highest levels. To mark the 2026 International Day of Peace, GWI has created a timeline tracing its century-long commitment to peace through education alongside key United Nations milestones in advancing peace and women's participation. Click [HERE](#) to access the graphic.

Did you know? The United Nations Peace Bell was cast from coins and medals donated by people from around the world, including children who contributed coins collected by the delegates of 60

nations. The Bell bears the inscription, “Long live absolute world peace,” a lasting reminder that the pursuit of peace belongs to people as well as governments.

— GWI Member News —

Graduate Women Zambia (GWZ) awarded 35,000 British pounds sterling research grant

GWZ congratulates GWZ on being awarded a 35,000 British pounds sterling research grant under the Women’s Global Fund, in collaboration with the Non-Governmental Gender Organizations’ Coordinating Council (NGOCC). The research will generate evidence to inform advocacy, policy engagement, environmental enforcement, and corporate accountability.

The project will be carried out by four principal researchers from GWZ: Dr. Annie Musonda, Project Lead; Dr. Margaret Mwale-Mkandawire, Gender Specialist; Dr. Pauline Monde-Cheelo, Environmental Specialist; and Dr. Euphrasia Ng'andwe, Methodology and Data Analysis Specialist. GWZ will lead the technical research and capacity-building components, with NGOCC providing advocacy coordination. *GWZ congratulates GWZ and its research team on securing this important award and looks forward to following the project’s progress over the coming year.*

GWI Independent Member Network (IMN) explores the power of intergenerational mentorship

On 6 October, the GWI IMN will hold the fifth webinar in its Raising Awareness Campaign, “Challenges to Women’s Empowerment: Causes and Remedies,” at 4:00 p.m. Central European Summer Time (CEST). GWI Independent Member Catalina Cajías Jaya, Director of Women Economic Forum Ecuador and President of Fundación Vamos Más Alto, will present “Challenges to Female Mentorship that Transform Lives: The Power of Connecting Generations.”

Cajías specializes in international cooperation and strategic alliances and has facilitated the participation of hundreds of leaders in international platforms. In addition to her roles with Women Economic Forum Ecuador and Fundación Vamos Más Alto, she serves as WICCI Ecuador Business Council President and G100 Country Chair for Leadership and Entrepreneurial Education. Drawing on her experience connecting leaders, organizations, and institutions across the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa, Cajías will explore the opportunities and challenges of mentorship between generations of women. Her presentation will consider how the exchange of experience, knowledge, and perspectives between senior and emerging leaders can support women’s leadership, expand professional and advocacy networks, and create meaningful opportunities for both mentors and mentees.

GWI members across generations are encouraged to participate in this timely discussion and consider how reciprocal mentorship can contribute to their own leadership, professional engagement, and work within GWI. The subject has particular relevance to GWI's 2025–2028 Strategic Plan, which identifies a vibrant and diverse intergenerational membership and leadership community as a strategic direction. Strategic Goal 4.3 specifically calls for an intergenerational advocacy program centered on reciprocal mentorship and intergenerational learning to increase advocacy impact. Register in advance [HERE](#).

British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) author to discuss GWI co-founder Caroline Spurgeon

On 23 September, BFWG Greater London member Natalie Wright will discuss her book, *Women and the Rise of Academic English Studies: Pragmatic Criticism*, that examines three pioneering women scholars, including Caroline Spurgeon, a founding member of International Federation of University Women (IFUW), now GWI. Spurgeon (1869–1942) holds a particularly significant place in the history of GWI international graduate women's movement. She received BFWG's first Prize Fellowship in 1912 and later played a central role in the founding of the IFUW, now GWI. Wright will share new insights into Spurgeon's academic life and legacy while also taking participants behind the scenes of researching, writing, and bringing the book to publication. Click [HERE](#) to join via Zoom at 8:00 p.m. CEST. Meeting ID: 824 3476 6023. Passcode: BFWGAdmin.

Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) webinar set to examine education and the realities facing women and girls in Zambia

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, 7 October at 7 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, for an inspiring evening exploring the realities facing women and girls in Zambia—and the power of education, storytelling, and community to create change. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

Moderated by Former Senator, The Honourable Marilou McPhedran, this special webinar will feature acclaimed Zambian novelist Mubanga Kalimamukwento in conversation with representatives from the Stephen Lewis Foundation and CFUW, including CFUW president, Linda Sestock. Together, participants will discuss the challenges confronting women and girls in Zambia and the impact of the Young, Happy, Healthy & Safe initiative, CFUW's 2025–2027 International Service Project. This promises to be a thought-provoking and inspiring evening—and one you won't want to miss! Donate to CFUW's 2025–2027 International Service Project [HERE](#). See the flyer at the bottom of the Update for more information and registration QR code.

The Federación Mexicana de Universitarias (FEMU) promotes women's education, rights and cultural engagement in Mexico

GWI FEMU affiliate continues an active program of education, research, women's rights advocacy, and cultural engagement through the Museo de la Mujer in Mexico City. Its September program

addresses feminist history, interculturality, human rights, equality for women in higher education, literature, and the arts. Among the continuing activities is “Ven a escribir un trocito de la niña que fuiste,” a writing workshop for women scheduled for 20 and 27 September. The Museo de la Mujer is also presenting La raíz que florece, a temporary exhibition by artist Diana Sepúlveda, through 31 October. FEMU’s programming provides opportunities for academic exchange, creative expression, and public discussion on issues affecting women and girls. See the flyer at the bottom of the Update for further details.

— GWI at the United Nations (UN) —

GWI reports on the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

From 1 to 5 June, GWI United Nations Representative in Vienna Elisabeth Francis represented GWI at the 35th Session of the United Nations CCPCJ in Vienna. The session brought together more than 1,500 participants, including representatives of 126 Member States and more than 600 civil society representatives from 135 NGOs.

The CCPCJ adopted three resolutions by consensus addressing online sexual extortion of children, trafficking in persons for forced criminality, and transnational fraud and scam centers. These issues have significant implications for women and girls, particularly in relation to trafficking, sexual exploitation, cybercrime and access to justice. *“It was a relief that the CCPCJ could find the consensus to pass three important resolutions. The CCPCJ chair noted that ‘it was a strong week for multilateralism,’ but political tensions surfaced repeatedly with one major country unwilling to endorse references to key UN concepts, such as ‘sustainable development’ and the term ‘gender’,” says Francis.*

During the session, Francis also participated in an informal dialogue with newly appointed United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Executive Director Monica Juma and met with United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls Reem Alsalem, contributing to GWI’s visibility and engagement within the United Nations community. Through this engagement, GWI continues to bring attention to crime prevention and criminal justice issues affecting women and girls and to the important role of education in prevention. GWI will continue following these issues at upcoming United Nations meetings on transnational organized crime. GWI thanks Francis for her representation and encourages subscribers to read and share her comprehensive report [HERE](#).

GWI engages in CCPCJ35 side events on justice, gender-based violence and education

Beyond the formal CCPCJ35 proceedings, Francis attended 12 side events addressing a broad range of crime prevention and criminal justice issues. More than 100 side events were held during

the week, nearly half organized by or in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). GWI co-sponsored two of the events attended, with several others supported through Francis's participation.

GWI co-sponsored Bringing Justice Closer to the People – Survivor-Centered and Human Rights-Oriented Principles for Responding to Gender-Based Discrimination and Violence. The event focused on improving women's access to justice and responses to gender-based violence, with presentations addressing Indigenous women in Brazil, trafficked women and girls in Austria, experiences from Sudan, and barriers to reporting crimes. Discussions emphasized survivor-centered approaches, improved access to legal aid and reducing barriers women face when interacting with formal justice systems.

GWI also co-sponsored Vulnerability of Older Persons to Scams and Abuse Increases – How to Counter and Prevent the Scams. The event examined the growing risks of fraud, abuse and exploitation faced by older persons, including pharmaceutical and wellness scams, misleading advertising, romance fraud and investment deception. Speakers considered prevention strategies and ways to help older persons, their families and caregivers recognize warning signs.

Among the other side events Francis attended, several addressed issues particularly relevant to GWI. A high-level discussion on digital violence against women and girls examined deepfakes, non-consensual intimate images and other forms of AI-enabled abuse that are outpacing existing legal protections. Another examined technology-facilitated gender-based violence in conflict settings, where online harassment, gendered disinformation, doxxing, surveillance and manipulated images can restrict women's participation in public life and lead to threats and physical risks offline.

Education was also prominent. A side event on higher education for peace and justice examined the role of universities and professional education in crime prevention, accountability and the rule of law. Participants highlighted the contribution of academic initiatives to Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 16 and emphasized that investment in education is essential to building the knowledge, skills and values needed to prevent atrocity crimes and support effective justice systems.

These are only a few of the 12 side events covered in Francis's report. Other discussions addressed trafficking in persons for organ removal, access to justice, online scams targeting older persons, gender and climate justice, and changing global crime and justice trends. GWI thanks Francis for her extensive representation and detailed reporting. Her full report provides information and observations from all 12 side events and can be read and shared [HERE](#).

GWI follows UN80 reform and implications for women and girls

On 3 September, GWI United Nations Representative in New York Dr. Maureen Byrne participated in the United Nations Secretary-General's final briefing to the General Assembly on UN80, the initiative aimed at improving the efficiency, accountability and coordination of the United Nations system. Byrne's report highlights several significant elements of UN80, including the review of as many as 40,000 UN resolutions and related mandates dating back to 1946; substantial operational changes, including a 21% reduction in Secretariat staffing and consolidation of services and technology systems; and the central role of Member States in determining how the reforms move forward. The report also examines changes to UN country-level operations and the proposed merger of UN Women and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Dr. Byrne's comprehensive report provides further insight into these and other UN80 proposals and can be read and shared [HERE](#).

GWI will continue to follow UN80 closely, particularly developments that could affect the United Nations' capacity to advance gender equality, women's and girls' rights, education and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. GWI will also continue to monitor and report on developments concerning the proposed merger of UN Women and the UNFPA. GWI thanks Byrne for her representation and reporting on these critical areas.

— Give the Gift of Membership —

The GWI IMN 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? —

The GWI Toronto Conference of 1947 made IFUW, now GWI, history as the first conference held outside Europe. The Conference theme, "The Impact of Population Change: Social and Educational Implications," had been carefully considered by study groups within the National Federations and Associations (NFAs) and was recognized as an issue of significant international importance.

— Dates and Events —

7 Sept-9 Oct	Human Rights Council, Geneva
21 September	International Day of Peace
5 October	World Teachers' Day
28 October	GWI Annual Meeting, virtual
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Follow us on social media!



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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 Balexert, CH-1291, Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland

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





CFUW's annual International Service Project (ISP) 2025-2027 presents:

A webinar evening with Mubanga Kalimamukwento and the Stephen Lewis Foundation



Moderator

**Hon. Marilou
McPhedran**

Former
Canadian Senator



Linda Sestock

President CFUW



Meg French

Executive director
of the Stephen
Lewis Foundation



**Mubanga
Kalimamukwento**

Zambian novelist

**October 7th
7pm EST on Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/Wa5SD2SVSladXa3YFRBcwQ#/registration>



Stephen Lewis
Foundation



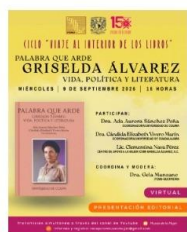
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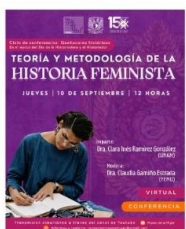


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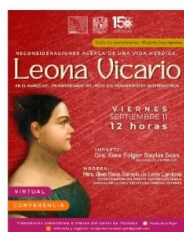




PRESENTACIÓN EDITORIAL
CICLO "VALE LA PENA" DE LOS LIBROS
Libro: Palabra que arde: Griselda Alvarez: vida, política y literatura
Miércoles 9 de agosto, 16 horas
VIRTUAL
Participan: Dra. Adela Aurora Sánchez Peña, Coordinadora, Universidad de Colima; Dra. Cándida Elizabeth Vivero Mann, coordinadora, Universidad de Guadalajara; Lic. Clementina Nava Pérez, Centro de Apoyo a la Mujer (Griselda Alvarez, AC); Coordinadora y moderadora: Gilda Marcano (FEMU-Juvenio)



CONFERENCIA
TEORÍA Y METODOLOGÍA DE LA HISTORIA FEMINISTA
Jueves 10, 12 horas
VIRTUAL
Imparte: Dra. Clara Inés Ramírez González (FAMU)
Modera: Dra. Claudia Garmiro Estrada (FEMU)



CONFERENCIA
RECONSIDERACIONES ACERCA DE UNA VIDA HEROICA, LEONORA VICARIO
En el marco del 230 aniversario del inicio del movimiento de independencia
Viernes 11, 12 horas
VIRTUAL
Imparte: Dra. Anna Folger (MUSEO DE LA MUJER)
Modera: Mtra. Alma Elena Saraguch de León Cardona, Coordinadora del Puerto Cultural de la Isla Mujeres de la SED y Secretaria General de la FEMU



SEMINARIO
RETO VISIBLES Y EMERGENTES SOBRE LA IGUALDAD Y LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS DE LAS MUJERES EN LAS INSTITUCIONES DE EDUCACIÓN SUPERIOR IES: Interculturalidad y derechos humanos de las mujeres en los IES
Viernes 11 de agosto, 16 horas
VIRTUAL
Imparte: Dra. Edith Leal Miranda (UICM, plantel Cuauhtémoc)
Coordinadora: Dra. Raquel Ramírez Salgado (FEMU RED GIBES)



PRESENTACIÓN EDITORIAL
Libro: Reflexiones sobre un cuchillo clavado en la corteza cerebral: la economía patriarcal y la heterosexualidad obligatoria
Sábado 12, 16 horas
PRESENCIAL
Participan: Dra. Patricia Marina Vergara Sánchez (FEMU), Mtra. Luisa Velázquez Herrera, Lic. Norma Jiménez Osorio
Modera: Mtra. DPP Gabriela Amorós (Perspectiva Feminista Jurídica FEMU)



TALLER
VEN A ESCRIBIR UN TROCITO DE LA NIÑA QUE FUISTE
Domingos 6, 13, 20 y 27, 12 horas
PRESENCIAL
Imparte: Dra. Rosio García Rey (UNAM FEMU)
Dirigido a mujeres
Costo: \$80 por sesión



EXPOSICIÓN TEMPORAL

INAGURACIÓN
La raíz que florece

Domingo 13, 12 horas

PRESENCIAL

Artista: Diana Sepúlveda
Presenta: Mtra. Gricelda Sánchez Carranza (FEMU)