



GWI UPDATE – 30 September 2026



GWI celebrates Girls Education for Brighter Futures and International Day of Older Persons.

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

From staying in school to lifelong learning - GWI Girls Education for Brighter Futures

GWI's Girls Education for Brighter Futures project supports education at several stages of life, from helping girls stay in school to giving women opportunities to develop new skills. Its GlobalGiving progress reports show how donor contributions, including monthly gifts, support locally led projects and GWI's advocacy for safe access to quality education. GWI also works at the international level to keep girls' education and lifelong learning on the policy agenda. Together, community projects and advocacy address both immediate barriers to learning and the wider conditions that determine whether women and girls can continue their education. Read the latest Girls Education for Brighter Futures report [HERE](#).

GWI supports the International Day of Older Persons

To mark the International Day of Older Persons on 1 October, GWI is supporting "Connecting Generations: Rediscovering the Value of Our Elders in an Aging Society," a hybrid event at the United Nations in Vienna on 5 October, from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m. Central European Summer Time (CEST). The event is organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on Ageing in cooperation with the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime Civil Society Unit.

The 2026 United Nations theme, "The Age of Longevity: Rethinking Systems for Longer Lives," asks how institutions can respond to longer lives. The discussion will examine ways to connect generations and ensure that older persons remain visible and active in their communities. Its

program includes a presentation on “Generations Connected by Lifelong Learning,” a subject closely aligned with GWI’s commitment to education throughout life. GWI supports opportunities for older women to continue learning, share their expertise and participate fully in society. To join the event, click the Zoom link [HERE](#).

— GWI Member News —

Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de Marbella (AMUM) awards 14 first-year scholarships

AMUM has awarded scholarships to 14 first-year college students this year. The awards mark the association’s continued commitment to helping women pursue higher education, particularly those facing social or economic barriers. As AMUM celebrates 15 years of supporting women’s education, it is also looking to build lasting connections with scholarship recipients and invite them to contribute their talents to future projects. GWI congratulates AMUM and this year’s scholarship recipients.

New National Federation and Association leadership in Bangladesh, Paraguay and Scotland

GWI congratulates newly elected officers of its National Federations and Associations (NFAs) Bangladesh Federation of University Women, Paraguay Federation of Graduate Women, and Graduate Women Scotland.

In Bangladesh, Prof. Begum Gul Bahar was elected to serve as President; Nabia Bari as Vice President and International Representative; Rezia Salam and Tasnim Ferdousi were elected as Vice Presidents; Rasheda Aktar as Secretary General; and Sultana Israt as Treasurer.

In Paraguay, Fátima Fleitas was elected to serve as President; Gloria Brizuela as Vice-President; Pamela Gonzalez as Secretary; Katie Barnett Rivas as International Representative; and Ana Acosta as Treasurer.

In Scotland, Catriona Sutherland was elected to serve as President; Hossa Skandary-Macpherson as International Representative; Leila Nashat Mokadem as Educational Representative; and Rachel Marsh is responsible for Treasury and Membership.

Officers elected by members of GWI’s NFAs are vital to advancing GWI’s mission. Through their work at the local, national, and international levels, they connect members, lead education initiatives, and contribute to GWI’s international advocacy for safe access to quality education and lifelong learning for women and girls. GWI congratulates all new officers and wishes each a successful term of office.

GWI Independent Member Network (IMN) explores mentorship across generations

As a reminder, the GWI IMN will hold its next Raising Awareness Campaign webinar on 6 October at 4:00 p.m. 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 will discuss how women at different career stages can exchange experience and knowledge, build professional and advocacy connections, and learn from one another. GWI members are encouraged to join the discussion, which connects with the intergenerational mentorship priorities in GWI’s 2025–2028 Strategic Plan. Register in advance [HERE](#).

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

Join CFUW on Wednesday, 7 October, at 7 p.m. Eastern Time for a discussion of the challenges facing women and girls in Zambia and the Young, Happy, Healthy & Safe initiative, CFUW’s 2025–2027 International Service Project. Former Senator the Honourable Marilou McPhedran will moderate a conversation featuring Zambian novelist Mubanga Kalimamukwento and representatives of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and CFUW. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar. This promises to be an inspiring session 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.

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI engages in UNESCO global discussions on Education Beyond 2030

On 2 September, GWI participated in a meeting of UNESCO’s Collective Consultation of NGOs on Education 2030 (CCNGO) on progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) and the global education agenda beyond 2030. UNESCO shared preliminary findings from its global youth and student consultation, which had reached approximately 100,000 young people in 164 countries. Responses presented at the meeting indicated that young people want education to balance preparation for work with skills for daily life. Financial knowledge, sustainability, social connection, peace, and mental health were also identified as priorities. The findings remain preliminary; the survey is open until 30 September 2026.

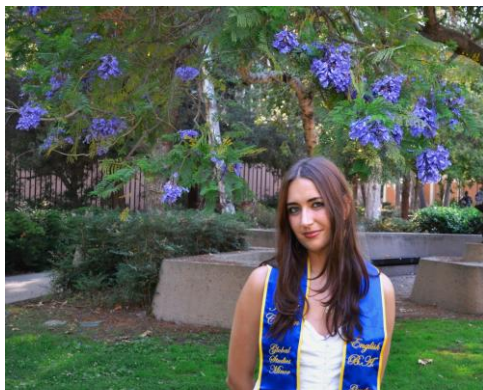
The meeting also covered UNESCO’s Education Beyond 2030 foresight exercise, which brings together researchers, young people, policymakers, educators, civil society, and experts from related fields. They will examine how climate change, artificial intelligence, inequality, and

changing labor markets may affect future education needs. The CCNGO represents civil society organizations on the SDG 4 High-Level Steering Committee alongside education ministers and representatives of international organizations, youth and students, donors, the private sector, and foundations. GWI's participation keeps the organization engaged in shaping education priorities beyond 2030 and ensures that women's and girls' access to quality education and lifelong learning remains part of the civil society discussion.

— Give the Gift of Education —

A gift to GWI's Girls Education for Brighter Futures project helps girls stay in school and gives women opportunities to develop new skills. Donations, including monthly gifts, support locally led education projects and GWI's advocacy for safe access to quality education and lifelong learning. Click [HERE](#) to give the gift of education.

— Did you know? —



Isabel Colburn, GWI Intern

Hello! My name is Isabel Colburn, and I am excited to join Graduate Women International as a new intern this fall. I am a recent graduate from the University of California, Los Angeles, where I studied English, Gender Studies, and Global Studies. In tandem with my studies, I wrote and edited for two publications, including UCLA's oldest feminist newsmagazine. I also oversaw research and advocacy projects which addressed gender justice issues in Los Angeles. During my time at GWI, I am thrilled to learn about the day-to-day operations driving an international advocacy organization. I am excited to foster enduring relationships with the GWI team while contributing to a mission I care about deeply. GWI is delighted to welcome Isabel Colburn as a new member of our team. We look forward to Isabel's contributions and to supporting her professional development during her time with the organization.

— Dates and Events —

7 Sept-9 Oct	Human Rights Council, Geneva
5 October	World Teachers' Day, Global
11 October	International Day of the Girl, Global

28 October
25 Nov-10 Dec

GWI Annual Meeting, virtual
16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global

Follow us on social media!



2026 Copyright. All Rights Reserved.

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-1219, 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/register/Wa5SD2SVSladXa3YFRBcwQ#/registration>



Stephen Lewis
Foundation



GOAL

\$15,000.00



Donate Now!



Connecting Generations:

Rediscovering the Value of Our Elders in an Aging Society

Monday, October 5th, 14:00- 17:30 (arrival at Gate 1 at 13:30)

UN Vienna, VIC, Room CR 2, (C- Building, 2nd floor)

(hybrid) Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83977209425>

This event is co-organised by UNODC Civil Society Unit

Programme:



Welcome by Sieglinde TEUWEN,
Chair of the Committee of Ageing

Moderation: Rita Assogna
Vice-Chair, Committee on Ageing



Words of Greeting: Permanent Mission (tbc.)



Billy BATWARE, Programme Officer, UNODC
**Connecting Generations and Strengthening Partnerships
for the Protection of Older Persons.**

Ph Dr. Nadežda Hrapková
EFOS president,

Project manager at Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia

Generations connected by Lifelong Learning



Mag. Christine SCHWARZ-FUCHS
President of the Federal Council of Austria,
Bridging Generations – The Role of Institutions and Social Services

Dr. Maria Gabriela TOMASINI
Med. Doctor, Brain research

**The Four Dimensions of the Human Heart:
Why the World Needs Its Elders**



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN
CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DES FEMMES



BPW International



A healthy planet



For future generations



Vienna NGO Committee on Ageing: <https://www.ngoageingvie.org/>
UNODC Civil Society Unit: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/civilsociety/about-csu.html>

As global populations age, societies face a critical challenge: how to ensure that older persons are not left voiceless and invisible?

This event, which is co-organised by UNODC Civil Society Unit, focuses on intergenerational dialogue to bridge the social and emotional divide that isolates older persons from the rest of the community and highlights innovative models for intergenerational connection, such as community co-housing projects, storytelling and oral history initiatives, and volunteer programs that leverage senior citizens' skills.

To enter the Building of the United Nations in Vienna, you need to register to receive a day pass: Please arrive between 13:00 - 13:30 on the day of the event, because of the security check; you will receive your ground pass upon showing your ID (Passport, Personal ID, Driving Licence)
LINK to register: <https://forms.gle/fs2SzcbCiPcdqcKW8>

Deadline for registration: Monday, Sept 30th, 2026

Vienna NGO Committee on Ageing

The Vienna NGO Committee on Ageing is a Substantive Committee at the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO). It is comprised of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) that address questions related to ageing and older persons. The Committee advocates on behalf of older persons' rights before the UN Commissions, promotes further integration of ageing issues into UN policies and programmes, and encourages Member States to include ageing needs and rights in their policies.