



GWI UPDATE – 14 October 2026



GWI celebrates International Day of the Girl 2026 with the creation of a practical toolkit.

— Graduate Women International (GWI) News —

GWI celebrates International Day of the Girl (IDOG) 2026

Observed annually on 11 October, the International Day of the Girl Child was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2011 through resolution 66/170. The observance recognizes girls' experiences and draws attention to barriers that affect their rights and opportunities. It also highlights the need to protect girls' rights and include their perspectives in decisions that shape their lives. Lastly, the day creates a moment for individuals to unite internationally in acknowledgement of the unique challenges girls face around the world, emphasizing the importance of advocating for the advancement and protection of their rights. Civil society organizations, United Nations partners, and girls' leadership networks established the IDOG 2026 theme as "End child marriage and invest in girls' rights!" The theme reflects the scale of child marriage, with United Nations estimates indicating that more than 12 million girls are married each year, or roughly one every three seconds.

GWI recognizes IDOG 2026 with the creation of a practical toolkit, which explores the advancement of girls' education as a significant factor in reducing child marriage. Specifically, this toolkit examines each of the seven core targets of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which ensures inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all, as well as lifelong learning opportunities. GWI members and nonmembers alike can utilize the toolkit's advocacy ideas as practical considerations, adapting them to national and local contexts in their own communities. Readers can also draw inspiration from the toolkit's overview of related GWI initiatives advancing girls' education around the globe. Click [HERE](#) to access the 2026 IDOG toolkit!

— GWI Member News —

Latin American Conference of Graduate Women to meet in Paraguay

The Paraguay Federation of University Women/Mujeres Graduadas Paraguay will host the 10th Latin American Conference of Female Graduates and University Students in Asunción from 3 – 5 November. The theme is Education, Culture, and Sustainability: Women's Leadership in Latin America.

The conference's objective is to reaffirm education as a strategic pillar for building a culture of sustainability in Latin America, recognizing women's role in transmitting knowledge, caring for life, territorial development, and driving social transformation toward a more just, inclusive, and sustainable future.

Sessions will take place at CONACYT American Space on 3-4 November, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Paraguay Time (PYT), and at Teatro de las Américas (CCPA) on 5 November, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. PYT. All times are local to Asunción. The flyer does not provide registration instructions; members interested in attending can contact the organizers through Instagram at @mujeresgraduadaspy or @xencuentrolatam.mgpy. Please see the flyer at the end of the Update.

— GWI at the United Nations (UN) —

GWI continues advocacy for lifelong learning in older persons' rights discussions

On 1 October, International Day of Older Persons, GWI participated as an observer in "Older Persons at the Centre: Towards a Legally Binding Instrument," held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva (UNOG). Co-organized by the Permanent Missions of Argentina and Slovenia and the NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva, the event brought together diplomats, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, civil society experts, and older persons to discuss their participation in developing an international legally binding instrument on their human rights.

GWI's participation continued its engagement over the past year in discussions advancing the development of an international legally binding instrument on the human rights of older persons. In previous interventions, GWI emphasized the importance of lifelong learning and teaching methods responsive to older persons' learning needs.

The discussion emphasized the value of older persons' diverse experiences in shaping the instrument and guiding its implementation and monitoring. For GWI, this process offers an opportunity to advocate for older women's rights, including equitable access to education and lifelong learning and full participation in public life. GWI will continue to follow this process.

GWI Cosponsors Vienna Dialogue on Connecting Generations

Continuing its support of the International Day of Older Persons, GWI cosponsored "Rediscovering the Value of Our Elders in an Aging Society," held on 5 October at the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Vienna. Organized by the Vienna NGO Committee on Ageing in cooperation with the UNODC Civil Society Unit, the event focused on intergenerational dialogue and older persons' participation in community life.

The program focused on how lifelong learning, institutional support, and the exchange of knowledge across generations can address social isolation and sustain older persons' participation. Examples included community co-housing, storytelling and oral history initiatives, and volunteer programs drawing on older persons' skills. For older women, access to learning and opportunities to contribute their expertise support their continuing roles as educators, professionals, and community leaders. These priorities remain central to GWI's intergenerational advocacy.

GWI thanks its United Nations Representative in Vienna, Elisabeth Francis, for her work on the event and for facilitating GWI's cosponsorship. Her contribution brought GWI's commitment to lifelong learning into this international dialogue on aging and cooperation across generations.

GWI participates in United Nations Human Rights Council 63rd session (HRC63)

On 2 October, GWI participated in the interactive dialogue on the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), held during the HRC63. This session brought together 25 states and other observers, as well as 10 national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The HRC63 based this dialogue on evidence provided by the A/HRC/63/82 report, particularly as it pertained to armed conflict in the DRC resulting in civilian harm and serious violations of

international humanitarian law. The key concerns voiced by member states, NHRIs, and NGOs included unlawful killings, persistent conflict-related sexual violence, the use and recruitment of children, public health crises, displacement, and shrinking accessible public space. These issues have considerable consequences for women and girls, especially in relation to the systematic employment of sexual violence as a tool of war.

GWI took particular interest in the concerns voiced by the distinguished representative of the Dominican Republic, who stated, “We are concerned in particular about the ongoing sexual violence related to the conflict. The report documents over 1,000 cases during the period, especially affecting women and girls. We are also gravely concerned at the impact of the conflict on the right to education. Over 6,500 schools have been attacked or occupied during the review period, affecting over 3,000 children.”

With its Association Congolaise des Femmes Diplômées des Universités, GWI stands opposed to any and all violence obstructing girls and women from accessing safe, quality education and lifelong training at the highest levels. GWI will continue following these issues at future HRC sessions, and thanks intern Isabel Colburn for her representation.

— Give the Gift of Membership —

GWI membership is constantly growing. This network is a useful resource spanning over 60 countries and countless academic disciplines, connecting members with policymakers, scholars, and entrepreneurs confronting international women’s issues globally. By gifting GWI membership to a graduate woman in your life, you invite her into a network of innovative thinkers dedicated to supporting one another’s goals and advancing girls’ and women’s education globally. Click [HERE](#) to explore GWI membership.

— Did you know? —

GWI is one of the first 10 organizations to obtain Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Since procuring this status in 1947, GWI has collaborated with the United Nations extensively in its advocacy work to advance girls’ and women’s access to safe and equitable education across the globe. This includes GWI’s regular participation in the Commission on the Status of Women, United Nations HRC, the Convention on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the High Level Political Forum. GWI celebrates this partnership as the United Nations begins its UN80 initiative, implementing structural realignments to increase inclusivity, coherence, and accountability.

— Dates and Events —

11 October	International Day of the Girl, Global
12-15 October	Geneva Peace Forum, Geneva
15 October	International Day of Rural Women, Global
28 October	GWI Annual Meeting, virtual
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global

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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

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PRÓXIMOS EVENTOS



X Encuentro Latinoamericano de Mujeres Graduadas y Universitarias

Educación, cultura y sostenibilidad: el liderazgo de las mujeres en América Latina

Asunción, Paraguay | 3 al 5 de noviembre de 2026

3 y 4 de noviembre (09:00 a 18:00 h)

Sede: CONACYT American Space

5 de noviembre (09:00 a 13:00 h)

Sede: Teatro de las Américas (CCPA)

Organiza:  **MUJERES GRADUADAS**
Paraguay

Objetivo

Reafirmar la educación como eje estratégico para la construcción de una cultura de sostenibilidad en América Latina, promoviendo el reconocimiento del papel de las mujeres en la transmisión de saberes, el cuidado de la vida, el desarrollo territorial y la generación de transformaciones sociales orientadas a un futuro más justo, inclusivo y sostenible.

 @mujeresgraduadaspy  /company/mgparaguay

| EVENTO:  /X-Encuentro  @xencuentrolatam.mgpy