



GWI UPDATE – 29 November 2017



GWI joins the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence to galvanize action to end violence against girls and women around the world.

— Graduate Women International news —

GWI President, Geeta Desai, gives keynote address at FEMU's International Seminar

On 24 November 2017, GWI President, Geeta Desai, gave the keynote address at the *Federación Mexicana de Universitarias* (FEMU) International Seminar, “*Atrévete a Cambiar*” (“Dare to Change to a Culture of Substantive Equality”) held in Mazatlán, Mexico. Ms. Desai’s keynote, “Women’s Global Leadership: Moving from Theory to Practice,” encouraged women to recognize and utilize knowledge-based tools to empower themselves and bring gender balance to vital decision-making in all aspects of life and how women’s leadership is responsible for expanding economies, making peace, reversing environmental damage and creating more socially just societies.

The conference was inaugurated by the Governor of Sinaloa, the Mayor of Mazatlan City and the President of the National Human Rights Commission. In attendance were FEMU members, university students from Mazatlan, various women's groups from Mexico City, human rights activists, representatives from NGOs in Mexico City and human rights professionals from the high commission. Panellists included members from FEMU, faculty from the National University of Mexico UNAM (which began in the 16th Century), Feminist Scholars and representatives of NGOs. Watch for a full report of the remarkable address, comprehensive coverage of the event and photos that will be posted soon.

GWI welcomes Dr. Gloria Ramirez de Guerrero from FEMU in Geneva

GWI delightedly welcomed Dr. Gloria Ramirez de Guerrero from the *Federación Mexicana de Universitarias* (FEMU) to Geneva. Dr. Ramirez traveled to Geneva from Mexico City to attend the 70th Pre-sessional Working Group of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) held on 20-24 November at the Palais des Nations. The two talked about the importance of joint collaboration with CEDAW and how, together, they can make recommendations



Dr. Gloria Ramirez, FEMU, and Stacy Dry Lara to the GWI office in Versoix, Geneva

for GWI NFA countries that are under review. As part of the 70th Pre-sessional Working Group, on Monday 20 November, Dr. Ramirez addressed CEDAW Committee regarding the FEMU shadow report. In her CEDAW intervention, she noted that violence against women remains a major and growing problem in nearly all parts of Mexico. She cited cases of femicide and increased disappearances, particularly of younger women, as well as threats made to human rights activists working on these issues. She also spoke about the problem of the criminalization of abortion and the injudicious jail sentences handed down to women who abort or miscarry. A full account of the session is being developed and will be published in the coming weeks. GWI sends heartfelt thanks to Dr. Ramirez for her visit, commends FEMU's work with CEDAW and looks forward to further collaboration to advance the status of women and girls in Mexico and worldwide.

GWI runs fundraising campaign on #GivingTuesday – It's not too late to contribute

On 28 November 2017, GWI participated in the annual #GivingTuesday fundraising campaign. Calling out via Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn to girls education champions for contributions via GlobalGiving to support GWI programs: [Teachers for Rural Futures](#) in Uganda, where GWI is currently sponsoring five young women at Makerere University to become secondary school teachers. The program aims to advance the status of young girls in the rural parts of Uganda and provide positive community role models; the [Hegg Hoffet Fund](#) for displaced women is a GWI program that assists graduate women who have been forced to flee their homes due to war, political upheaval or other serious emergencies. We sincerely thank GWI supporters who generously responded to our appeal. If you missed #GivingTuesday, you can still make a contribution to the programs via the links above. GWI sincerely appreciates all contributions made towards our programs.

— GWI member news —

FEMU's Glenda Hecksher makes historic presentation to Pope Francis



Famed sculptor and FEMU CIR, Glenda Hecksher, presents his Holiness, Pope Francis, with a sculpture she created.

FEMU's Convener of International Relations (CIR), Glenda Hecksher, who is also a renowned sculptor in Mexico, recently travelled to the Vatican and met his Holiness, Pope Francis, to whom she presented a unique sculpture she created especially for him. GWI congratulates Glenda on this brilliant opportunity.

CFUW joins the global community's effort to elimination of violence against women and girls

Annually, 25 November to 10 December is recognized internationally as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) is expanding this multilogue on the issue of GBV and is appealing to the international community to eliminate GBV. Along with a comprehensive [toolkit](#), CFUW, with its 100 clubs across Canada, is mobilizing numerous actions

and events to raise awareness about GBV. Two of CFUW's clubs, the Parksville-Qualicum branch and the Southport branch, are conducting registered events with the official [16 Days of Activism Canada](#) campaign. GWI congratulates CFUW's participation in the 16 Days of Activism and underscores that instances of GBV can be drastically reduced if all NFAs commit to similar awareness-building efforts, for the duration of the sixteen days and beyond. Read CFUW's [press release](#) for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November, the kick-off to the 16 Days of Activism. Included in the press release is a link to CFUW's written submission for the third Universal Periodic Report of Canada, with a thematic focus on the elimination of violence against women.

— Advocacy —

GWI reminds you of the [16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign Toolkit](#)

The toolkit offers stats, sample Facebook posts and Tweets, community involvement ideas and more.

— Call for applications —

Wenner-Gren Foundation Fully funded PhD Fellowships for African Students, 2017

The Wenner-Gren Foundation has announced fully-funded fellowships for PhD studies to study at South African University. African students are eligible to apply for this fellowship. The Wadsworth African Fellowships are intended to provide support for African students undertaking study leading to a PhD at a South African university that can provide them with international-level training in anthropology (including biological anthropology and archaeology). **The deadline is 15 December 2017.** Please click [here](#) for the application form and more information.

AKFC's International Youth Fellowship Program

The Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC) is searching for individuals who can demonstrate a commitment to international development, are driven by the desire to make a meaningful change in the world, and are ready to apply their skills and experience to a challenging overseas internship. In the last 28 years, over 500 young Canadians have participated in AKFC's program – an extraordinary opportunity to become a leader in global development.

This prestigious Fellowship is a launching pad for diverse careers in the government, non-profit, media and finance sectors. It offers a training program and an eight-month overseas placement to recent university graduates and young professionals under 30. [Learn more](#) and [download the International Youth Fellowship brochure](#). Interested applicants must apply online via this link. **Application deadline is 1 February 2018.**

— GWI at the United Nations —

GWI attends the 10th session of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology at UNESCO

GWI UNESCO Representative, Eliane Didier, attended the 10th session of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology of UNESCO (COMEST) and the 24th session of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO (IBC), held at UNESCO in Paris, on 12-13 September 2017. These meetings discussed the progress report on the UNESCO Bioethics and Ethics of Science

programme, draft reports on robotics ethics, Big Data and Health, Water Ethics (ocean, freshwater, coastal areas) and a global reflection on the emerging challenges for science and society. You can read her full report and understand how these issues affect and interest the work of GWI [here](#).

GWI attends the NGO Committee on Peace Information and Discussion

Elisabeth Francis, a GWI UN Representative in Vienna, attended the Information and Discussion Meeting of the NGO Committee on Peace, held at the Vienna International Center on 25 October 2017. The meeting participants discussed the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty and the Nobel Peace Prize Award to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). You can read her report and find links to further information [here](#).

— Give the gift of education —

GWI will be leading a team of 15 runners at the 40th *Course de l'Escalade* to be held on 2 December 2017. Our objective is to promote the importance of girls' education and to raise funds for our programs such as *Teachers for Rural Futures*, the *Girls' Choices Mentoring Program*, the *Girls' Choices App*. We sincerely appreciate your contributions to these live-changing GWI education programs and your support of our team who will be running as girls' education champions. Contributions can be made [here](#) For more information, please contact Stacy Dry Lara at: sdl@graduatewomen.org.

Each year, on the first Saturday in December, the most popular sporting event in Geneva takes place in the old town the, [Escalade Race](#). Last year nearly 45,000 runners participated. This event is for everyone - famous international runners to beginners, children and adults alike. Distances run vary from 2km to 8 km depending on the category.

All the races take place in the narrow streets of the old town and finish in the Bastion Park.



RUN WITH US TO SUPPORT
GIRLS' EDUCATION



GWI graciously thanks professional cartoonist, Laurence Rassat, for contributing this groovy cartoon. More of her work can be seen on her website, LRCartoonist.weebly.com.

— Did you know? —

Did you know that on our bookshelves at GWI headquarters in Geneva, we hold a treasure of history? These are GWI's "blue books" as they have been named for their blue cover. In the first blue book, we can read the following Report of the First Conference held in July 1920:

““The international Federation of University Women was founded on July 11th, 1919, when a resolution that, “An International Federation of University Women be, and is hereby, formed” was unanimously

carried at a meeting of representative university women of Great Britain, Canada and the United States, held at the London School of Medicine for Women. The objects of the Federation were defined as being “to promote understanding between university women of different countries; to promote the exchange of lecturers and scholars of different universities; to co-operate with the national bureaux of education; and by these means to strengthen those foundations of international fellowship which must form the basis of the League of Nations.””

We hope you can be as inspired as we are by this quote.

— Other information and events —

Nov 15,2017-March 2018	Les Olympes de la Parole , University Women’s Club of Montreal, (CFUW-GWI)
Dec 1-2	Course de l’Escalade , GWI running team, Geneva, Switzerland
Dec 1-10	60th Anniversary Celebration , Hong Kong Association of University Women (HKAUW-GWI), Hong Kong
Dec 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Dec 4-8	International Civil Society Week , Fiji
Dec 10	Human Rights Day
Dec 18	International Migrants Day
Dec 20	International Human Solidarity Day
Jan 29 – Feb 7, 2018	Commission for Social Development, 56th Session , United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
March 12-23, 2018	Commission on the Status of Women, 62th Session , United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
March 14-15, 2018	ZurichEduCaExpo 2018 - 2nd International Education & Career Exhibition , Zurich, Switzerland
April 17-19, 2018	Federation of University Women Africa (FUWA) Regional meeting, Bibliotheca Alexandrina’s Conference Center, Alexandria, Egypt
July 31-Aug 2, 2018	4th Gender & STEM Network Conference , Oregon, USA

Follow us on social media!



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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