



Graduate Women
International (GWI)

Press Release

On World Youth Skills Day, Graduate Women International calls for states, communities and educators to empower young women and girls through technological skills

Geneva, Switzerland, 15 July 2017 – World Youth Skills Day, though a celebration of all youth, provides us with a platform to discuss how we can better invest in young women and girls so that they can combat gender discrimination and develop skills in non-traditional settings.

On this day, Graduate Women International (GWI) urges states, communities and educators to be proactive and introduce young women and girls to technological skills. For a growing number of young people in developing countries, [smartphones](#) are their only devices. Knowledge of how to use mobile technology is therefore crucial, serving as both a method of information gathering and an avenue for future professional success in a global economy heavily dependent upon digital technologies. Access to education about mobile technology is instrumental to providing young women and girls with a means of empowerment and mode for challenging traditional gender stereotypes.

Programs such as UNESCO's [YouthMobile](#) are one type of ongoing initiative that engages young women and girls with mobile technology, teaching them technological skills and connecting them with their surrounding communities. Likewise, GWI has been working with Orange Device Group and teenage girls in Kigali, Rwanda to develop [Girls' Choices Mobile App](#)—a mobile application aimed at increasing girls' access to information on different career paths and opportunities that become available through further education. Not only are these apps engaging young women in technological skills such as app production, but the information provided to other women and girls by these applications has endless potential.

“Sustainable Development Goal 4 target 4.4 calls for a substantial increase in the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills. GWI promotes education and training as critical developments to the success of today's young women as they transition from school to the workplace. We encourage young women to continuously improve their skills wherever possible in order to improve job quality and decrease labour market disparities”, said Geeta Desai, GWI President.

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 80 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI is the leading girls' and women's global organisation advocating for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels. GWI is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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