



Volume V, Issue I (January – February 2018)

Appreciation of donors

Graduate Women International (GWI) takes this opportunity to thank all of our donors. We have received some astounding contributions since our last *inFocus* publication. Some donors prefer to remain anonymous such as the remarkable family who made a very-appreciated CHF 10'000 contribution. We had a successful Escalade fundraising season last fall and we give special thanks to all of our contributors and runners. For those who support GWI GlobalGiving projects, we send our sincere gratitude for your recurring and/or one-time donations. With sincere appreciation.

The crucial role of women in science for the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda and its centrepiece, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), call for a transformation of the way societies interact with the planet and each other. This transformation requires new technologies, new ways of structuring societies and economies and, above all else, innovative and equal educational opportunities. The international network of graduate women is brought together by one core belief: that providing women and girls around the world with equal access to education in all domains and at the highest levels is both a fundamental human right, as well as a key enabler to achieve economic growth and sustainable development. Tackling some of the greatest challenges of the 2030 Agenda -- from improving health to combatting climate change -- will indeed rely on harnessing all talent available. Yet women and girls continued to be excluded from participating fully in science with less than 30% of researchers worldwide being women.

The International Day of Women and Girls in Science, observed each year on 11 February, is a reminder that women and girls play a critical role in science and technology communities and that their participation crucial to fulfil the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Women are not only half the world's population but are also often disproportionately affected by many of the global challenges we face. This positions them with a unique set of experiences, needs, and perspectives that must be recognized and addressed as we seek to realize a more just and sustainable future. Girls and women, both young and ageing, are sources of knowledge, expertise, and solutions that must also be better supported and tapped. This is untenable and deprives both women and society of tremendous gains and, until remedied, will

hinder achievement of the SDGs. Let's consider the paramount links between women and girls in science and the SDGs:



Science, technology and innovation play a crucial role in alleviating poverty. Together these disciplines contribute to a wide array of developments from boosting agricultural productivity to providing the means to generate energy cheaply. By eliminating the barriers to women and girls' participation in science, societies ensure that their entire population benefits from their full capacity as a means to eliminate poverty.



Science plays an essential role in providing the tools for humanity to alleviate hunger. From new agricultural techniques to innovative plant breeding and engineering schemes for increased productivity, science is necessary to achieve global food security. Women and girls are among the world's most hungry and the talent of all women scientists is needed to end food insecurity.



The lack of women in science means that women and girls suffer lower quality health care than received by men. Due to gender bias in research, generations of women have suffered disproportionately more side effects from various medications because the recommended doses were based on clinical trials that focused largely on men. It is urgent to bring more women in medical research to stop this gender bias and improve health.



Ensuring the safe and equal access of women and girls to science education is the first and most crucial step in closing the gender gap in scientific fields. The involvement of more women and girls in science will contribute to increasing the quality and inclusiveness of science education and widen career choices.



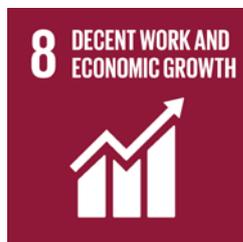
Gender diversity in science education and careers brings together women with unique backgrounds, perspectives and ideas to innovate and build a more sustainable and inclusive world. Equal participation of men and women in scientific research drives innovation and strengthens the economy. Economies and cultures are stronger when women and girls are elevated in all parts of society.



Water scarcity, poor water quality and inadequate sanitation negatively impact educational opportunities for girls across the world. Sanitation is the often-ignored link between education, economics and health in the developing world. To tackle this crisis, a transdisciplinary approach is essential along with innovative thinking of all women scientists to ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation.



Involving more qualified women in the field of science can enrich the creativity and insight of research projects and increase the chances for responsible innovation. Today, women hold only 20-24 percent of jobs in the renewable energy sector. Efforts to ensure women reap the benefits of the green economy must come earlier in life as increased investments in their access to quality education as girls.



The STEM workforce is crucial to the world's innovative capacity, industrial development and global competitiveness which precede economic development, employment and social stability. For growth to be inclusive, the global community needs to eliminate gender gaps in all fields, including science, where it stands around 70% globally.



Gender inclusion and diversity benefit greatly innovation-driven economies like the global technology market. For example, companies with more diverse workforces perform better financially. According to several studies and analyses, companies ranking in the top 25% in terms of diversity are more likely to have financial returns above the medians of their industries.



Women have less access to resources such as property, financing, technology and education that are needed to support active engagement in science, technology and innovation. As a result, their presence in employment, entrepreneurship and research is lower than men. Removing the barriers to women's involvement in science is a crucial to the overall reduction of inequalities.



For all of us to survive and prosper, we need new, intelligent urban planning that creates safe, affordable and resilient cities with green and culturally inspiring living conditions. By closing the gender gap in scientific careers and education, women and girls will finally be able to contribute meaningfully in research regarding urban planning and the development of a green economy.



Producing and consuming in unsustainable ways drives climate change and destructs the environment. The implementation of SDG12 will help to achieve sustainable development plans, reduce future economic, environmental and social costs, and strengthen economic competitiveness. By eliminating the barriers to women's participation in science, societies safeguard the sustainability of their entire population and develop responsible modes of consumption and production.



Increased female participation in science is key to tackling climate change, not least because women and girls can contribute to a better understanding of the impacts of climate change on communities resulting in a more effective and sustainable response to the climate change threat.



As much as 40% of the world's oceans are heavily affected by human activities, including pollution, depleted fisheries and loss of coastal habitats. The protection of oceans and the lives that depend on it will require an international scientific partnership, the regulation of harvesting and fishing and the enhancement of research and knowledge on issues critical to the survival of life below water. In this urgent endeavour the crucial contribution and potential of women scientists cannot be overlooked any further.



The sustainable use of ecosystems will benefit women and girls living in the areas most affected by damaged ecosystems as they are more likely to be affected by droughts and food insecurity caused by the impacts of land degradation. Women, and indigenous women in particular, must be included in decision-making and scientific research on ecosystem use at all levels, as essential players in preserving our planet.



Even in those scientific fields where women are present, they are still widely underrepresented in policymaking and programming. Building strong scientific institutions that inform effectively policy and decision requires the equal representation of women scientists at all levels.



Women and girls are affected by all 17 SDGs and all actions within must be gender-sensitive if we are to lead to a more equally beneficial existence. As science plays a paramount role in the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs, women and men alike must be willing and able to partner and participate equally to the building of a more sustainable world.

Advocacy

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

In 2010, U.S. President, Barack Obama, designated January as National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month. Now, January is often referred to as Human Trafficking Awareness Month and serves as a reminder to the global community of their responsibility to take action against all forms of human trafficking. During the last two weeks of January, GWI put human trafficking at the forefront of its social media strategy by posting daily awareness-building tips on the topic on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). GWI is committed to raising awareness about this worldwide violation of human rights that ensnares millions of people, of which some 71% are women and girls, into modern-day slavery. GWI called the attention of its social media followers to some of the key aspects of this complex and rapidly growing crisis including its global dimension, the extreme vulnerability of women and girls to traffic in human beings and the alarming link between sex trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence such as child marriages. In the social media campaign, GWI addressed the necessary actions for the full elimination of human trafficking by underlining the fact that education is a crucial element in the rehabilitation of human trafficking victims and the protection of at risk youth. GWI stressed that education is an undeniably powerful vehicle for empowerment that is not only a crucial tool to help break cycles of poverty but is also critical for reducing the trafficking and exploitation of women and girls. Another key factor underlined was the need to act at the community level to protect women and girls from human trafficking and to encourage former victims to take up leadership roles with civil society groups tackling trafficking in human beings and slavery at the local and community level. If you missed the campaign you can look back and still share the posts [here](#).

GWI observes the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM

Beginning in 2003, 6 February marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). As defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) this practice comprises all procedures that intentionally alter or injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. FGM is recognized by the United Nations as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. To mark the day, GWI echoed its commitment and advocacy towards the elimination of the harmful practice of FGM through a [social media advocacy campaign](#) and the publication of a [press release](#) on the topic with emphasis on GWI [Resolution 6](#) adopted at the 32nd triennial conference in 2016. In Geneva, GWI participated in an event and panel discussion sponsored by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights at the Palais des Nations. In line with the 2018 theme, “Ending FGM is a political decision”, the event brought together a diverse group of duty-bearers including government officials, parliamentarians, health professionals, parents and other stakeholders to discuss openly how political will can be translated into more effective and sustainable actions towards the elimination of FGM. While the different speakers recognised the importance of State responsibility and action in the fight for the elimination of this extreme form of discrimination against women and girls, the crucial role of communities was also a common thread. As pointed out by Mr. Solomon Amare Zewelde, a parent and activist against FGM from the United Kingdom, it is vital to educate men and boys, who know very little about FGM, about the violence and danger of this practice in order to motivate a change in behavior from within the communities.

[Dr. Sophie Turner Zaretsky, GWI United Nations Representative, New York shares her experience as a woman in science](#)

On 11 February 2018, GWI joined the global community in observing the third International Day of Women and Girls in Science through a seven-day [social media advocacy campaign](#) and the publication of a [press release](#). This year's theme "Equality and Parity in Science for Peace and Development" provided the space for GWI to reaffirm that removing the barriers girls' and women's face in science studies and careers is vital for the achievement of the internationally agreed 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The deficiency of women and girls in STEM is characteristically linked to the deep-rooted gender biases and gender stereotypes broadly accepted by education systems towards women and girls in science, as exemplified by the personal experience of Dr. Sophie Turner Zaretsky, GWI United Nations Representative in New-York. "I graduated from medical school in London, England in 1962. At that time women represented about 10% of the class, and I was told by fellow male students that I should not be there because I was taking a man's place and that I would get married and would not practice medicine", says Dr. Turner Zaretsky. "Needless to say, none of the women listened to negative statements, and we worked extra hard and succeeded in proving these statements wrong. I went on to marry, have a family, and practice full time, specialising as a radiation oncologist. I retired from practice after 45 years and since then have been a UN rep of GWI", she concludes.

["Science and Technology: for women too!" – a report by Dr. Manjit Dosanjh, GWI United Nations representative, Geneva](#)

GWI Geneva United Nations Representative, Dr. Manjit Dosanjh, also contributed to the women in science observance. On the occasion, she rightly points out that science plays a major role in today's fast-changing world, thus, the urgency to address the gender gap in science and to need to empower women to participate fully in scientific studies and careers. Dr. Dosanjh's report has been published by the [Montenegro Science Minister's Office](#) on their official webpage.

[GWI celebrates International Women's Day on 8 March](#)

GWI encourages all members, partners and friends to celebrate International Women's Day on 8 March. This day represents an opportunity to celebrate the economic, political and social achievements of women around the world and to advocate for the furthering of the status of women and girls. The 2018 theme for International Women's Day is "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives". With global activism for women's equality fuelled by a variety of movements, there is an encouraging global momentum striving for gender parity and the energy is contagious. International Women's Day 2018 is an opportunity to transform this momentum into action, to empower women in all settings, rural and urban, and celebrate the activists who work relentlessly to claim women's rights and realize their full potential. Find out more about the activities taking place across the world [here](#). Beginning 7 March, plan to follow and share the GWI social media campaign that will offer three daily posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) towards the advancement of the status of women and girls.

GWI participates with NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva



(Left to right) H.E Maurizio Enrico Serra, Ambassador of Italy, Ms. Simone Ovar, Zonta International and NGO CSW Geneva President, Mr. Michael Møller, Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva

As members of the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Committee on the Status of Women (CSW), Geneva, GWI regularly participates in the NGO CSW activities and meetings. At a recent meeting the NGO CSW renewed its commitment to young women and voted to create a young person's sub-committee to better engage with the young women in Geneva. Additionally, GWI attended the NGO CSW "Women and Global Migration: Root Causes and Innovative Solutions" forum, held on 23 February at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The programme

included two panels that discussed factors affecting migration flows, movement and labour force and the promotion of human rights and innovative solutions. Global displacement is currently estimated at over 244 million people. The migratory flows of those who flee their countries in desperation and hope of a better life are rife with unnecessary and tragic deaths and countless other deplorable human rights violations. The forum gave an opportunity to bring governments, experts and practitioners together for a fruitful discussion and to compare evidence, knowledge and good practices. The panels touched different thematic areas such as the causes of displacement, the relationship between migration and the labor market and remedies for better integration in the host countries. A compilation of recommendations is forthcoming.

GWI at the 37th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC)

GWI's written statement addressing the 37th session of the HRC on the promotion of all human rights is now published on the [UN website](#). The written statement addresses the issues of Menstrual Hygiene Insecurity (MHI) and menstruation stigmatization as severe barriers to girls' and women's education worldwide. The statement also makes strong recommendations regarding the recognition of the importance of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) for the achievement of SDGs 3,4,5 and 6. We invite you to [read the statement](#). GWI is slated to deliver an oral statement at the HRC on Friday 9 March urging States to foster tolerance of minority groups and creating a more inclusive world. GWI will notably draw attention to GWI [Resolution 5](#) adopted by General Assembly in 2016 that underscores GWI's commitment to fostering values of tolerance, inclusiveness and recognition of others' rights. Additional participation in the HRC includes an oral intervention by Ms. Jeanne Sarson who addressed the HRC on behalf of civil society on 28 February. Accompanying Ms. Sarson will be Ms. Linda MacDonald who together, for 23 years, have been working on a campaign to recognize Non-State Torture (NST) as a human right violation and crime in Canada.

GWI attends NGO brief with Director General of the United Nations, Geneva



Ms. Lidiya Grigoreva, NGO Liaison Officer (left) and Mr. Michael Møller Director General of UNOG (right)

On 15 February, GWI participated in the bi-annual meeting with Mr. Michael Møller, Director General of the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). During the briefing, Mr. Møller informed those in attendance of the various reforms of the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, and recognised the crucial role of civil society in supporting those reforms, *“The expertise and experience of civil society organizations in monitoring, campaigning, defending, delivering services, researching and building solidarity are vital in*

supporting all three pillars of the United Nation’s mandate”, said Mr. Møller. *“Civil society is an ally of the United Nations. We need to shoulder each other in defending the universal values and in tackling the difficult and complex challenges of sustainable development, peace, justice and human rights”*, he added. Mr. Møller reiterated UNOG’s commitment to the advancement of the status of women and the fight for gender equality. GWI warmly applauds the UNOG for taking concrete measures to establish an inclusive and enabling organisation culture free from gender bias and to ensure gender equality and the empowerment of women in the work of UNOG. Read the full Bi-Annual Civil Society Briefing on the [here](#).

#Connect with Us on Social Media

GWI gathers a community of almost 5,500 followers on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#). Follow us and join in on the conversation on girls’ education.

Twitter Trends This Month [#EndFGM](#) [#CSW62](#) [#WomensDay](#) [#WomensRights](#)
[#GlobalGoals](#) [#EndWarOnChildren](#) [#WomenInScience](#) [#GirlsInSTEM](#)
[#GirlsRightsAreHumanRights](#) [#Refugees](#) [#CEDAW69](#) [#HRC37](#)





GWJ International News

GWJ President Geeta Desai visits Navrachana University, Vadodara, India

During her latest visit to India, GWJ President, Geeta Desai, delivered a talk as part of 'Samvaad', a celebrity lecture series organised by city-based Navrachana University, Vadodara (NUV) located in the Western Indian state of Gujarat. Ms. Desai addressed a panel of 350 students on the crucial impact of globalization on the students' future career highlighting that, not only will they enter the Indian labour market, they will also become integral members and direct contributors to the global economy, thus need to evolve in a global, multicultural and ever-changing environment. During this talk, titled "Design your future: Personal and professional success in a global society" Ms. Desai suggested criteria in which students and young people could use when looking for employment and making professional career choices and the factors that may play a role in this critical decision-making. Ms. Desai strongly encouraged the attending students to join an international organisation such as GWJ, as our global and multicultural network allows students and professional to stay abreast of information in the



GWJ President Ms. Geeta Desai at NUV

context of an interconnected world and provide them with a renewed perspective on their professional strategies.

Member News

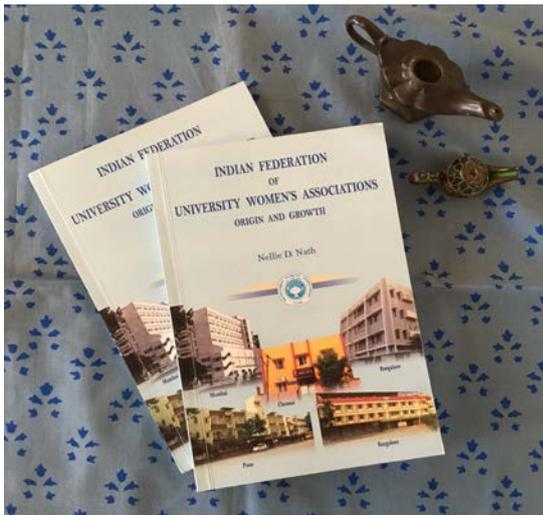
Australia: AFGW contributes to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women

Members of the Australian Federation of Graduate Women (AFGW) have been lending their expertise to the work of the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62), to take place 12-23 March in New York City. The CSW is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and is thus instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. AFGW members have been working diligently in various capacities on the CSW draft agreed conclusions over recent week, as AFGW is an active member of the Australian Government Office for Women and two Australian National Women's Alliances (NWAs) in consultative status with the Australian Government and international fora such as the CSW. The six National Women's Alliances (the Alliances) represent almost 120 women's organisations. The role of the Alliances is to bring together women's organisations and individuals from across Australia to share information, identify issues that affect them and identify solutions. Through their active participation in two of the Alliances, AFGW engages the Australian Government on policy issues as part of a better, more informed and representative dialogue between women and government. AFGW members also actively contribute in various capacities and interests through many forums and/or monitor developments, reviews and progress reports of various international and national agencies and expert groups. GWI warmly applauds AFGW's continuous commitment to the advancement of the status of women and girls and their active efforts in bringing forward the views, voices and issues of Australian women to inform decision-making at all levels.

Canada: CFUW presents the conclusions of its 2018 Rural Women Survey

The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) has published the executive summary of its 2018 Rural Women Survey, conducted in preparation for CSW62. This session's priority theme, "Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls" was the catalyst for the initiative to collect information and data on members' experiences as rural women in Canada. The Rural Woman Survey was distributed to CFUW clubs across the country on 6 December 2017 and closed on 15 January 2018. Two hundred and forty-three members responded to the survey about their experiences in the following categories: Transportation, Health Care, Education, Technology, Gender Based Violence, Equity, Challenges and Opportunities. These categories were chosen because of informal feedback that needed verification on a larger scale. An additional survey for community organizations was developed to harvest information for rural community service agencies and advocates. The responses from the second/sister survey will be reviewed and shared at another time. The Rural Women Survey results reveal patterns of opportunity and issues rural women in Canada face. This information will empower CFUW delegates to advocate for commitments from the United Nations Member States on achieving the SDGs as they relate to rural women. Read the full Executive Summary [here](#). GWI and CFUW will be sending a delegation to attend CSW62 in March 2018.

India: Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA) book published



Ms. Nellie D. Nath's book is here pictured on block printing material from the Chennai Bina Roy Partners in Development project, supervised by IFUWA Madras.

Nellie D. Nath from the University Women's Association of Bangalore published a book about the origin and growth of the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA) at the end of 2017. Ms. Nath has been a member of GWI since 1971 and is a staunch believer in the effectiveness of voluntary work for the creation of peace in the world. Her publication presents the remarkable story of the birth and development of IFUWA and its national branches, which have been running successfully entirely on the voluntary services of women graduates for nearly a century. As one of the earliest GWI NFAs, IFUWA will be completing 100 years of existence in two years it IFUWA now counts 14 branches across India and reunites women and girls who are doing an exemplary work towards the advancement of women and girls through the power of education.

IFUW to hold its annual Public Speaking Competition Final for girls under 15

The Irish Federation of University Women (IFUW) will hold the Final of its Annual Public Speaking Competition for Girls under the age of 15 on 3 March at University College Dublin. Each IFUW association previously held local rounds of the competition. The winning teams of three girls and the best individual speaker from each Association's competitions will compete for the team and individual awards. This annual public speaking competition began in Galway in 1957 with full participation of each IFUW Association by 1991. Marie Flatley, Galway University Women Graduates Association President says, "Apart from the obvious benefits accruing through practice of public speaking, no less important is the social dimension, the opportunity it affords to competitors to mix with their peers from other parts of Ireland. It is one of the more worthwhile activities of the federation and one of which we can be justifiably proud". GWI commends IFUW and its local associations for this formidable project contributing to the empowerment of young girls through secondary education and that actively fosters understanding, friendships and cooperation among Irish women and girls. To learn more about the IFUW Annual Public Speaking Competition for girls under 15, please visit the [IFUW webpage](#).



Winners of the Galway University WGA heat of IFUW Public Speaking Competition. The winning team and the best speaker are from Salerno, Galway and are pictured here with their proud teachers.

Turkey: Turkish Federation of University Women Sister Schools Twinning project



TUKD Sister School project three educators singing and dancing with the children



TUKD Sister school project's children and their and their educator

GWI congratulates Türk Üniversiteli Kadınlar Dernegi (TUKD) for the success and positive impact of their twinning project with a disadvantaged primary school in a rural area of Turkey. This project came to life through the establishment of a partnership between TUKD and three promising young female educators teaching at remote and poor schools in the region of Eastern Anatolia. This region, located in the easternmost part of Turkey, Eastern Anatolia has the second most rural population of Turkey after the Black Sea Region and is marked by a harsh continental climate with long winters and short summers. TUKD organised donation drives in order to meet the various needs of the local children and enhance the quality of their daily life within and outside of school. Thanks to the donors' generosity, TUKD has been able to send a variety of school supplies, as well as warm clothes, gently-used books to enhance the school library and various toys and games for the children to play with. These donations are sure to make a significant difference and bring much joy to the children. GWI sincerely applauds this initiative that directly contributes to improving the education of children from disadvantaged backgrounds. Education can be the catalyst needed to pull families and communities out of the cycle of poverty. Knowledge gives children the power to dream of a better future and the confidence needed to pursue a full education, which in turn will help generations to come. TUKD is looking forwards to continued support of these schools in Eastern Anatolia and hope to visit them and meet the children and their dedicated educators at some point as well. Do you feel inspired by this project? For more information about starting a twinning project between two NFAs, [read the GWI Twinning Guide](#). If you want to start a project of the like within your NFA and create a twinning project between two schools in your country and in the country of another NFA, please find below some advices from Nezihe Bilhan, head of the TUKD Sister School Project:

- “Ask your twin NFA to introduce you to a village school (ideally not very far from them so that they can visit the school from time to time)
- Use the information and photos of that school in your newsletter and ask your members if they can help you to find a sister school in your country
- Mothers can get in touch with their kids' schools and explain the project and show the photos of the school in your twin Country
- It is very important for the students of the school to be involved personally in such a social responsibility project
- Get in touch with the teacher explain him/her, our mission and our goals. Inquire about their needs
- Start by asking for simple donations - each student can prepare a care pack with school supplies such as some pencils, notebooks and a card from the student introducing themselves

- These donation drives can be creative such as packaged in a knapsack each or even just supplies packed into a pair of mittens
- You can supplement this effort with a book drive as well. Gently used books can greatly enhance a school library
- If you can't find a school to twin with another school, you can twin with a school yourself as an association like we did”

GWJ United Nations Representative Report

“Equality and Parity in Science for Peace and Development”

Submitted by Dr. Sophie Turner Zaretsky, GWJ UN Representative, New York City

“The idea for an International Day of Women and Girls in Science was generated during the first High-Level World Women's Health and Development Forum organized by the Royal Academy of Science International Trust (RASIT) and The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and held on February 11th, 2015 at the United Nations Headquarters.

In commemorating the 3rd International Day of Women and Girls in Science, (RASIT), the Government of the Republic of Malta, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of: Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Georgia, Hungary, Paraguay, Portugal, Rwanda, San Marino, Thailand and Viet Nam; the International Labour Organization (ILO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) organized a two-days forum at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 8 – 9 February 2018.

The purpose of this Forum was to harness the strategies, expertise and resources across the broadest spectrum of policy-makers, professionals, civil society and the private sector to move equality and parity in science for sustainable development into the mainstream discourse. It is anticipated that this will spark sustained public demand for lasting political action in support of an ambitious outcome from the 2030 Development Agenda process and other declarations and Outcome Documents of other UN fora. The Forum was organized around the following themes:

Priority Theme: Equality and Parity in Science for Peace and Development

- Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of Science, Technology and Innovation
- Understanding Equality and Parity in Science through capacity building, cooperation and data governance (gap in statistics, data to address policy concern, stakeholder coordination, data sharing/exchange, etc.)
- Women in Science in Peacekeeping

Emerging issue:

- Promoting Integrated Policies for Equality and Parity in Science for Achieving Implementation of the 2030 Agenda through a “One UN” lens

Among recommendations and best practices discussed were:

- Education of girls is a humanity issue not just a girl issue. Girls embrace STEM starting with encouragement at a young age at home, in school, and in the community. Role models and mentors play a vital role. There must be equal distribution of resources between boys and girls including access to technological innovations and financial education
- Consider education in sanitation, social technologies, environmental and water issues, as well as IT and health sciences and academia
- When governments, academia and the private sector combine resources progress can happen
- Work/life balance is important. Need adequate maternity and paternity leave
- Men and boys must participate in ensuring gender equality e. g in the Y for X movement

The forum was notable for the fact that the Friday am session was moderated by teenage girls and girls as young as 7-year-old participated and made their needs and opinions known.

The discussions were incorporated in an official Outcome document. A number of Member states have signed it and the sign up is continuing”.

Opportunity

Amongst a wide range of opportunities, we have selected the following for your consideration and for sharing with your membership.

Graduate Women Queensland Sunshine Coast Branch Undergraduate Bursary

Graduate Women Queensland Sunshine Coast Branch (GWQ SC) has provided significant and long-standing support for University of the Sunshine Coast students via a range of bursaries. The organisation aim is to promote the advancement of women through education and offer to this end numerous bursaries annually. These bursaries are available to three undergraduate students in 2018 with a high-grade point average (GPA). Applications are opened to female students in second year or above and who studied for at least one year at the University of the Sunshine Coast (USC). Further information about eligibility conditions and the application process are available [here](#).

Howard G. Buffett Fund for Women Journalists

Through the Howard G. Buffet Fund for Women Journalists, the International Women’s Media Foundation aims to promote the work and advance the role of women in the news media across the globe is critical to transparency and a diversity of voices. Established with a \$4 million gift from the Howard G. Buffett Foundation, the Fund will support projects including educational opportunities, investigative reporting and media development initiatives. Funding rounds will open for applications in January and June of each year; applications take 6-8 weeks to process. Further information about the fund is available [here](#).

9th UNESCO International Fund for Cultural Diversity (IFCD) call for funding

On 26 February 2018 UNESCO launches its 9th IFCD call for funding and a new initiative with Sabrina Ho “U40 Empowered: Women entrepreneurs powering the digital creative industries”. [The International Fund for Cultural Diversity \(IFCD\)](#) is a multi-donor fund, established by the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) to support its implementation in developing countries. [U40 Empowered](#) is a special call

to expand the IFCD's actions to support young women entrepreneurs in the digital creative industries. This initiative is made possible thanks to the generous contribution of Sabrina Ho, a rising young cultural entrepreneur and philanthropist. "U40 Empowered" represents a unique opportunity to increase young women's opportunities to access funding, infrastructure, equipment and co-production opportunities in the digital creative industries. "U40 Empowered" will also support strategies that address the different needs, aspirations, capacities and contributions of women. "U40 Empowered" supports projects from national and international NGOs from developing countries that are Parties to the 2005 Convention. Project proposals submitted in the framework of this unique opportunity will be reviewed by an independent Panel of Experts and approved directly by Ms Sabrina Ho. The deadline for submitting project proposals is 16 April 2018. Find more info about the conditions and the procedure [here](#).

Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF) 2018 Prize

since 1994, WWSF awards an annual prize of 1000\$ per laureate to women and women's groups around the world exhibiting exceptional creativity, courage and commitment for the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities. The Prize aims to draw international attention to laureates' contributions to sustainable development, food security and peace, thus generating recognition and support for their initiatives and projects. By highlighting and awarding creative development leaders and their work, innovations and experiences enhancing the quality of rural life, WWSF participates in empowering rural women in their contribution to end rural poverty, improve gender equality, and advance women's rights to peace and well-being. Nominees should be women and women's groups currently active in rural life whose efforts have not yet been acknowledged by other awards. They may not nominate themselves. The nominating organization or individual must have direct experience of the nominee's work. Prize laureates are selected by an international Jury composed of WWSF Board of Directors; are announced officially in October and celebrated in their countries on 15 October. Nomination materials should arrive no later than 30 April through the post only. Further information on the prize and its selection process is available [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Until March 2018	Les Olympes de la Parole , University Women's Club of Montreal (CFUW-GWI)
23 Feb – 26 March	37 th Session of the Human Rights Council, United Nations, Geneva
23 Feb	NGO CSW Forum, " Women and Global Migration: Root Causes and Innovative Solutions ", Palais des Nations Geneva (mandatory registration)
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day, Global
8 March	International Women's Day, Global
12-23 March	Commission on the Status of Women, 62th Session , United Nations Headquarters, New York, USA
14-15 March	ZurichEduCaExpo 2018 - 2nd International Education & Career Exhibition , Zurich, Switzerland
22 March	World Water Day, Global

17-19 April	Federation of University Women Africa (FUWA) Regional meeting, Bibliotheca Alexandrina's Conference Center, Alexandria, Egypt
23 April	World Books and Copyrights Day, Global
27 April	International Girls in ICT Day, Global
21-23 June	University Women of Europe (UWE) Annual Meeting, Rome, Italy
31 July-2 August	4th Gender & STEM Network Conference , Oregon, USA

We want to hear from you!

GWI asks NFAs to send in information on news, events, conferences, annual general meetings etc. for 2018 that they would like to see included in the GWI monthly *InFocus*. Please send information and a web link (if available) to Stacy Dry Lara at: sdl@graduatewomen.org.

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