



## MEDIA PACK

### Backgrounder on Graduate Women International

[Graduate Women International](#) (GWI) is a membership-based international nongovernmental organisation (NGO) based in Geneva, Switzerland, with some [20,000 members 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's programmatic focus**

GWI provides a global voice for women graduates, working for the adoption and implementation of international agreements that will protect and benefit all girls and women, notably to address barriers to access to quality education up to the highest levels. GWI and its membership has run fellowships for many years, investing over USD 2.5 million annually in grants to enable young women to pursue their tertiary studies up to doctoral level.

GWI advocates at grassroots level with local communities, at national level with decision-makers such as government officials and other key influencers, and at international level through human rights mechanisms such as the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva, the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. GWI advocates for countries to spend the UNESCO recommended minimum of 6% of GDP on education.

GWI develops, implements, monitors and evaluates projects that aim to increase gender equality in education and drive the empowerment of girls' and women's through access to and completion of quality, lifelong education.

GWI is a member of the Collaborative for Harnessing Ambition and Resources for Girls' Education (CHARGE), convened by the [Center for Universal Education](#) (CUE) at the Brookings Institution and the [No Ceilings Initiative](#) at the Clinton Foundation. GWI projects that support this initiative are:

#### ***Teachers for Rural Futures***

This project will support 50 young women from rural Uganda to become qualified secondary school teachers and ambassadors for girls' education. GWI is currently sponsoring five girls from Buyende District to complete their Bachelor of Education degree, after which they will return to their communities to teach. 50 teachers would mean a positive impact on up to 11,500 students per



annum. It is a programme that can be extended into other countries. *Teachers for Rural Futures* link: <http://www.graduatewomen.org/what-we-do/projects/secondary-school-teachers-for-rural-futures/>

### **GWI's *Girls' Choices* workshops**

The GWI *Girls' Choices* project is a workshop and mentoring programme to support girls to complete secondary school and transition to tertiary education or work, through workshops and mentoring. To date, the workshops have been run in six countries, positively impacting on the lives of over 450 girls. *Girls' Choices* link: <http://www.graduatewomen.org/home-what-we-do/girls-choices/>

### **The *Girls' Choices for Careers* mobile application**

GWI has partnered with Orange Device Group, to develop the *Girls' Choices for Careers* mobile application (app). This app will provide Rwandan girls with an interactive online tool to help them make informed career choices. As the app will be free for download, it is expected to reach some 300,000 girls in Rwanda. Following the launch in Q4 2016 in Rwanda, the app will be rolled out in other countries. *Girls' Choices for Careers* mobile app link: <http://www.graduatewomen.org/girls-choices-mobile-app/>

### **GWI members' projects**

GWI members volunteer their expertise in a wide-range of community projects, for example:

- Literacy, financial literacy and vocational training programmes
- Mentoring and workshops to promote girls and women's skills and learning
- Initiatives that promote more girls and women in the science and technology fields
- Programmes to promote women up to the highest levels
- Campaigns to increase women's awareness of their rights.

These projects have changed the lives of thousands of girls and women over the years.

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More information on all GWI projects can be found here: <http://www.graduatewomen.org/what-we-do/projects/>

Find us on [www.graduatewomen.org](http://www.graduatewomen.org)

Follow us on [Facebook](#) (our post reach is over 2,000 every week), [LinkedIn](#) (we have almost 400 members) and [Twitter \(@GradWomen\)](#) (we have over 1000 followers)

For more information please contact: Amy Paunila, Communications and Advocacy Officer

T: +41 22 731 23 80; Email: [ap@graduatewomen.org](mailto:ap@graduatewomen.org)