



Graduate Women
International (GWI)

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stacy Dry Lara, GWI Executive Director
sdl@graduatewomen.org
Tel: +41 22 731 23 80

Graduate Women International aims to achieve “Generation Safe and Healthy” through education

Geneva, Switzerland, 12 June 2018—Graduate Women International (GWI) joins the international community in marking the **16th annual [World Day Against Child Labour](#)**, and those governments, employers and civil society organizations and citizens all over the world who strive to eliminate this criminal and corrupt practice.

“The successful implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4 is crucial to eliminating child labour. Education is a child's best hope against exploitation. The rise of an unequal global society resulting from the present unbridled form of Globalization has allowed child labor to continue in many countries regardless of the enacted laws, against child labor, in those countries. As global citizens, we each have a responsibility to speak out against this outrage no matter where we live”, says GWI President, Geeta Desai.

GWI is encouraged by the decline in child labour reported by the International Labour Organization (ILO) between 2012 and 2016. Yet, we remain concerned for the **168 million children ages 5-14 forced to participate in child labor, more than half working in conditions hazardous to their health**. Additionally, **young workers ages 15-24 suffer a 40% higher rate of occupational injuries** than adults. This year, ILO is spreading awareness of these dangers by setting “[Generation Safe and Healthy](#)” as the 2018 World Day Against Child Labor theme.

In line with this theme, GWI highlights the risks facing the girl child when engaged in child labour. **Domestic service is the [main economic activity](#) for girls under the age of 16, with more girls employed in this sector than any other**—and which is among the least regulated of all occupations. By working in the private, removed spaces of individual households, girls often become invisible and vulnerable to abuse, exploitation, abuse and trafficking.

Ensuring children are learning instead of working will help ensure a more prosperous future, and fulfill the [rights of boys and girls](#) to education, rest and recreation, protection from violence, abuse, and exploitation and to a healthy childhood. The spread of information about the dangers of child labour in areas where it is most prevalent, especially through gender-sensitive programmes and policies, can help eliminate the practice.

GWI calls upon the international community to use education, both formal and informal, to fight for the elimination of all forms of child labour, protect the children currently involved in hazardous working conditions, and ensure that future generations can all be “Generation Safe and Healthy”.

Graduate Women International (GWI) is a membership-based international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, with presence in over 60 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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Contributing to this press release is GWI intern Kellen Dorio from Boston University.