



GWI UPDATE – 14 November 2018



Graduate Women International (GWI) joins hands with the global movement to end Violence against Women on 25 November

— Graduate Women International News —

GWI announces 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign

This year again, Graduate Women International (GWI) will join hands with the global movement to end violence against women and all forms of gender-based violence by taking part in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence (GBV) Campaign. The 16 Days of Activism campaign is an annual movement aiming to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls around the world. Beginning with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November and concluding with Human Rights Day on 10 December, the Campaign unites the voices of millions of women and girls to raise awareness about GBV, work to eliminate all forms of GBV and demand equal protection and full access to fundamental human rights of safety and education. This year, the theme, “Together We can End GBV in the World of Work!” brings attention to GBV in the workplaces as one of the most important and widespread obstacles to women’s economic empowerment, autonomy and independence – and to the realisation of gender equality. The 2017 Campaign involved more than 700 organisations in some 92 countries under the theme of “Together We Can End GBV in Education!”, which directly related to GWI’s core mission, promotion the right to quality and safe lifelong education for girls and women at all levels; the advancement of the status of girls and women; and the ability of women and girls to apply their knowledge and skills in leadership and decision-making in all forms of public and private life. GWI aims to build on the energy and momentum of last year’s Campaign creating more awareness on how to eliminate GBV with our [social media](#) and 16 Days of Activism advocacy toolkit that will provide National Federations and Associations (NFAs) impactful and easy-to-follow advocacy ideas and press release.

Run for Girls' Education

GWJ will be leading a team of 15 runners at the 41st Course de l'Escalade to be held on 1 December 2018. Our objective is to promote the importance of girls' education and to raise funds for our programs like Teachers for Rural Futures and the Girls' Choices Mentoring Program. We sincerely appreciate the generous support of Geneva's [Corner Trader](#) online trading platform and the Picard and Wachter families whose contributions add to the support of GWJ programmes. For more information contact Stacy Dry Lara at: sdl@graduatewomen.org. Please click [here](#) to contribute to our efforts.



— GWJ Member News —

Rwanda Association of University Women's Project Convener appointed to Ministerial position

Recently, Ambassador Soline Nyirahabimana, NFA Member and Project Convener of the Rwanda Association of University Women (RAUW), was appointed to the Cabinet of Rwanda as Minister of Gender and Family Promotion. The cabinet of Rwanda in 2018 is 50% women making Rwanda, with Ethiopia, the only two African countries with gender equality in their governments. Ms. Nyirahabimana previously served as Rwanda's Ambassador to Switzerland and Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva before she was recalled in 2013. She also sits on the GWJ Projects Committee. "This is very good news for Rwanda as well as for GWJ as we need women like Soline to advance gender equality", says Geeta Desai, GWJ President.



Ms. Soline Nyirahabimana, Rwandan Minister of Gender and Family Promotion.

Paraguay welcomed as the newest GWJ National Federation!

Graduate Women International (GWJ) extends a warm welcome to the Paraguayan Federation of Graduate Women (PFGW). We are pleased for PFGW joining our growing global network of graduate women. PFGW joins 53 other GWJ NFAs representing countries across the world, all advocating in solidarity to improve safe access to secondary, higher and continuing education for all girls and women. The Board members of the PFGW are Malvina Segovia, President, María José García, Vice-President, Fátima Fleitas, Secretary, Paola de la Sobera, CIR, and Ana Acosta, Treasurer. Our NFAs offer a wide range of educational, humanitarian, and cultural activities that support GWJ's mission and are a community for like-minded women to gather in their country. Our NFA members influence policy and legislation on women's rights at the international level and gain an international perspective on women's issues. Interested in becoming a member? [Join today!](#)



Top row, left to right: María Angélica Prono, Fátima Fleitas, Paola De la Sobera, Arizelis Memmel, Verónica Figueredo, Rachel Kimbrow, Gloria Brizuela, María José Méndez, María Teresa Ynsfran and Elena Prono. Bottom row, left to right: Ana Acosta, María José García, Malvina Segovia, Teresa Galiano, Marilis Bareiro.



Graduate Women New-Zealand (GWNZ) appoints new National Executive Bureau

On 2 October, GWNZ members gathered virtually for the GWNZ Annual General Meeting during which the new National Executives for 2019/2020 were appointed. The 2017/2018 term has been a fruitful year for GWNZ members, who have continued to successfully advocate for the right to education for all women and girls and foster friendship and understanding among graduate women in New-Zealand and beyond. “I have enjoyed my term as President, working with National Executive and the Branch Presidents. I have also welcomed the opportunity to attend Branch meetings and meet with individual members as I moved around the country. Thank you to all GWNZ members for your continued interest and support in advancing the cause of women and girls in education”, says Bernadette Devonport, GWNZ President 2017/2018. “Graduate Women New Zealand will remain in excellent hands, under the leadership of the incoming President, Pip Jamieson (Independent Member, Nelson)”, she adds. GWI warmly congratulates the new GWNZ National Executives on their appointment and expresses its sincere gratitude to the 2017/2018 National Executives for their outstanding work. Their passion and commitment towards improving the status of women and girls through access to education at the highest level is an inspiration for all GWI members around the world.

— GWI “Peace through Education” Triennial and Conference —

The GWI 33rd Triennial GA, Centenary Celebration and One - Day Conference will be held 25-28 July 2019 at the University of Geneva in Geneva, Switzerland. This major milestone event represents a new beginning for GWI, within a changing global landscape - one of strategic relationships with the UN, knowledge competencies in global policies that widen the social and economic divide and advocacy for global and national governance that protect women’s and girls’ rights. Our Theme “Peace through Education” reflects our deep-seated recognition of education, particularly education for women and girls as the cornerstone of peaceful, just and sustainable societies.

Current Calls for Participation in the GWI 33rd Triennial and Centenary Celebration

 Applications are now being accepted for the Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship. Instructions and link to the form are [here](#). **Deadline the apply is 1 December 2018.** 

EXTENDED: Call for Song Competition is [here](#). **EXTENDED (new deadline 30 November 2018).**

EXTENDED: Call for 2019 Chitra Ghosh Award is [here](#). **EXTENDED (new deadline 30 November 2018).**

EXTENDED: Call for 2019 Nazan Moroğlu Young Member Award is [here](#). **EXTENDED (new deadline 30 November 2018).**

EXTENDED: Call for GWI Centenary Project – NFA Outstanding women is [here](#). **EXTENDED (new deadline is 2 January 2019)**

Call for 2019 Workshops is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 11 January 2019.**

Call for Resolutions for the 33rd Triennial is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 2 February 2019.**

CLOSED: Call for Nominations Committee is [here](#). **CLOSED (deadline 7 September 2018).**

CLOSED: Interdisciplinary Seminar Papers and Posters [here](#). **CLOSED Deadline to apply is 31 October 2018**

— Advocacy —

International Students' Day, November 17

Marked annually on 17 November, International Students' Day is a global celebration of students, highlighting the rights of students and the importance of higher education. This year GWI celebrated International Students' Day with a three-day social media campaign featuring facts about the day, articles on the impact of students, and advocacy ideas on how to support students locally and globally. GWI believes students represent the next generation and a strong well-educated generation will bring about a better and more sustainable future. "When all efforts are needed to build a better future for all, women's and girls' potential remains largely and unjustly untapped", says Geeta Desai, GWI President. "Yet, the students of today are the leaders and builders of tomorrow: now is the time for the global community to invest in the education of all women and girls at the highest level to, in turn, benefit from their vitality and creativity", she adds. Click [here](#) to read and share GWI's International Students' Day, press release that celebrates students steering a more sustainable future.

GWI observes World Toilet Day on 19 November

World Toilet Day, celebrated annually on 19 November, calls attention to the urgent need to increase access to toilets, stressing that women are disproportionately affected by the lack of basic sanitation. Globally, one third of all school's lack access to safe water and sanitation and many girls drop out of school during puberty because there aren't separate toilets, hand washing facilities, and sanitary napkin disposals. In September 2017, GWI Executive Director Stacy Dry Lara voiced GWI's concerns about the lack of adequate sanitation in many areas of the world in front of the 36th session of the Human Rights Council. On this occasion, GWI called on States to recognize that time is now to invest in adequate sanitation, as the lack of sanitation remains one of the main reasons so many schoolgirls are denied education in many areas of the world. To mark World Toilet Day 2018 GWI recognizes that a leading barrier to achieving quality education is a lack of proper sanitary facilities in schools and renews its commitment to advance the opportunity for safe access to quality education for female students around the world with special emphasis this year on the need to eradicate corruption as an insurmountable barrier to the provision of adequate infrastructures and sanitary facilities in schools in many areas of the world. Plan to follow GWI beginning 18 November, the our [social media](#) campaign and join us in calling attention to the urgent need to increase access to clean sanitation! #WorldToiletDay

— Call for applications —

GWI Centenary Project NFA Outstanding Women

In July 2019, GWI will celebrate 100 years since our founding. As part of the Centenary Celebration, the GWI Board is asking each NFA to submit profiles of International Federation of University Women (IFUW)/GWI outstanding woman. These are women who embody the mission and vision of GWI. They are someone whose contributions to GWI are notable, who is renowned for their academic, political, social, research achievements, and/or has worked to advance equity for women and girls through supporting GWI's mission. Please limit your submittals to a maximum of two profiles of outstanding IFUW/GWI women, living or deceased. We kindly ask that the submissions be a 300-400 profile on your outstanding woman and please include a photo. The preliminary submission deadline is **2 January 2019** and final submissions are to be submitted to Anne Holden Rønning, Norway, achrroen@gmail.com or to Louise

McLeod, GWI Marketing VP lmcleodgwi@gmail.com. For more information and the submission criteria, please [click here](#).

Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship

GWI is offering the Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship to be awarded at the GWI Peace through Education Centenary Conference to be held 25-28 July 2019 to a woman graduate for her postgraduate research, study and training. The fellowship is intended to encourage international scholarship and is to be used in a country other than the one in which the applicant was educated and other than the one in which the applicant habitually resides. The fellowship is for eight to 12 months of work and must enhance the original research or scholarship on which a postgraduate applicant is already engaged. The Caroline Spurgeon Centenary Fellowship application opportunity is open free of charge to women PhD candidates who are members of GWI, either through a National Federation or Association (NFA) or through independent membership. Non-members can apply for a fee. The application deadline is **1 December 2018**. The official [call for application](#) and [application form](#) are available on the GWI website.

NGO CSW, New York Women of Distinction Award 2019

Every year the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, New York, (NGO CSW/NY) presents the Women of Distinction Award to a woman in recognition of her leadership in the struggle for gender equality, human rights, and women's empowerment. The awardee gives the Keynote Address at the Consultation Day, the launch of the CSW63 Forum. Flight and accommodation are included with this award. The honoree should be: a leader of distinction in her field of expertise concerning women and girls and a role model; an advocate for positive social change to close the leadership gap, implement the SDGs, particularly SDG5, to create a more equitable society; an effective communicator who can address "Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls," the priority theme of CSW 63; a leader who can make a difference when she returns home. The honoree must also be available to travel to the United Nations, New York from 9-12 March 2018. Please email names of nominees with supporting documents (letter of nomination, curriculum vitae) to woda@ngocsw.org. **The deadline is 30 November 2018**. Applications are considered complete when the letter of nomination and curriculum vitae are submitted. For additional information on the award and selection criteria, click [here](#). Please note that all submissions are made directly to NGO CSW New York directly.

— GWI at the United Nations —

Mexico, Nigeria, Senegal reviewed at the 31st session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR31)

From 5-16 November 2018, UPR31 took place at the Palais de Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Established in 2006 by UN General Assembly Resolution 60/251, the Universal Periodic Review is one of the primary mechanisms of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC). It is a national human rights examination that each of the 193 UN member states must undertake every four and a half years. Among the 14 countries under review during this session were Mexico, Nigeria and Senegal, three important and active NFAs affiliated to GWI. In the case of Nigeria, GWI welcomes the recommendations to adopt measures to strengthen educational opportunities for girls and women, through pursuing its efforts towards increasing accessibility to education at the primary and secondary level for all girls, including programmes to support girls to continue their studies and to encourage those who had dropped out of school to return. Several State parties recommended Nigeria to further its efforts towards the full respect of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and protection of all women

and girls against all forms of violence against women. CEDAW, along with State parties, recommended that Nigeria raise awareness among religious and traditional leaders and the general public about the criminal nature of female genital mutilation, including so-called female circumcision, and its adverse effect on the human rights of women. GWI supports these recommendations and hopes it will lead to an improvement in the safety and status of women and girls in Nigeria.

Mexico has been encouraged to end all form of violence against women and girls. To achieve this, it was recommended that Mexico increase protection of women and girls, prosecute those guilty of violence, and create a system of support and care for the survivors. Furthermore, State parties recommended stepping up the fight against femicide and the importance of persecuting all perpetrators of femicide. A third common recommendation made for Mexico was to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls. GWI welcomes these recommendations and believes they will be an integral part in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in Mexico.

The review of Senegal included many recommendations from participating states on completely ending the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and child marriage, ensuring the minimum age to marry is 18. GWI supports these recommendations as not only are FGM and child marriage harmful to the girl but they are also a barrier to access to education. Like Nigeria and Mexico, it was also recommended to Senegal to end all forms of violence against women and girls and suggested that this could be achieved more quickly by hiring more female officers. States recommended putting measures in place to end trafficking of children and prosecute all those involved. GWI hopes these recommendations will contribute to the positive work already being done in Senegal to protect and advocate for women and girls.

A comprehensive summary of the reviews for those three countries will be made available shortly on the GWI website. This report will provide a synthesised overview of the main themes in relation to GWI's mission and values, as discussed by the stakeholders during the review of each of the three countries.

The human rights of women in the context of the third UPR review of Mexico

On Wednesday, 7 November, during the UPR31 and in partnership with UNESCO, the UNESCO Chair of Human Rights for the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and GWI, the [Federacion Mexicana de Mujeres Universitarias](#), (FEMU), held a parallel event to examine the human rights of women in the context of the third UPR review of Mexico. The panel of speakers consisted of Ambassador Miguel Angel Ruiz Cabañas, Marcela Eternod, Executive Secretary of the National Women's Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES) and FEMU's, Dr. Gloria Ramírez. In their presentation, panellists reviewed the two previous UPR sessions on Mexico and the recommendations made during these sessions as well as recommendations made by CEDAW. They went on to describe the challenges of implementing these recommendations in Mexico, highlighting the need for a follow-up mechanism that comprises the legislative, executive and judicial



Dr Gloria Ramírez, Ambassador Miguel Angel Ruiz Cabañas and Executive Secretary of the National Women's Institute of Mexico (INMUJERES) Marcela Eternod speaking at the event

branch, at the national, state and municipal levels. The interactive side event was well received by all those in attendance and GWI admires the work FEMU is doing to advance the rights of women in Mexico.

— Give the gift of education —

[#GivingTuesday](#) is a movement to create an international day of giving at the beginning of the holiday season, fuelled by the power of collaboration and social media. It was created in 2012 to combat consumer culture and kick-off the charitable donation season around the holidays. Last year, #GivingTuesday broke records with \$274 million raised in one day. This year GWI aims to join the day of global generosity and support access to safe quality education for women and girls. GWI programmes that are supported by #GivingTuesday are: [The Teachers for Rural Future programme](#), which trains young women in rural Uganda to be secondary school teachers, providing access to education and strong role models for thousands of girls; and [the Hegg Hoffet Fund](#), which assists graduate women, who have been displaced as a result of war, political upheaval or other serious emergencies, in attending language or professional training courses to better integrate into their new countries. Support for GWI's projects has a tremendous impact on the lives of women and girls, allowing for our continued advocacy for women rights and access to secondary education. Please consider joining the #GivingTuesday movement by [donating](#) towards women's empowerment through quality education at the highest level.

— Did you know? —

Did you know? Between 1940-1945, during World War II, the occupying powers over Belgium, France Luxembourg, Norway, Poland banned the meeting of any organizations with international connections. However, the local committees and groups of the IFUW continued meeting in secret and gave what mutual aid they could to those in need. Even a would war did not stop these women from seeing the importance of education for women.

— Other information and events —

17 November	International Students' Day, Global
20 November	Universal Children's Day, Global
25 November	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Global
27 November	Giving Tuesday
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, Global
29-30 November	FEMU International Seminar "The role of women in Latin American Migration to the United States"
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities, Global
10 December	Human Rights Day, Global
18 December	International Migrants Day, Global
11 Feb-1 Mar 2019	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 71 st session, United Nations, Geneva

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.

Graduate Women International

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