



— GWI UPDATE – 9 January 2019 —



— Graduate Women International News —

Welcome to the Association Haïtienne des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AHFDU)!

GWI is delighted to announce that AHFDU has joined the GWI network of National Federations and Associations (NFAs). *“With the greatest pleasure, GWI welcomes AHFDU as a new member in our GWI family. We are proud to have them within our midst and we hope to work together in advocacy, projects and other activities”*, says Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI Vice-President Membership. The AHFDU Board of Directors is composed of Izell D. Dubuisson, President, Gulanada B de Katiana Dorsainvil, Vice-President, Evelyne Florestal, Secretary General and Esther Dorsainvil, Treasurer. AHFDU is located in Port-au-Prince, the capital city of Haiti and counts 30 members within three local branches. GWI recognises AHFDU’s mission to promote women’s and girls’ right to education in order to build a more equal, open and sustainable future for all.

In Memory of Helen Dunsmore

GWI extends its deepest condolences to Helen Dunsmore family and friends after her recent passing. A member of Graduate Women Scotland (GWS), Helen Dunsmore was the past President of the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) and past President of University Women Europe (UWE). An important figure of our international network of graduate women, she will be fondly remembered by many members. *“I first got to know Helen as a young delegate from Sierra Leone in the eighties and was very much in awe of her”*, says Patrice Wellesley-Cole, President of the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG). *“Her quick wit and constitutional knowledge meant she was a brilliant Chair. She was quite simply a titan and unparalleled as a President”*, she adds. Helen’s dedication to the vision and values of GWI are recognised by members from across the world, such as Louise Croot from Graduate Women New Zealand (GWNZ), who remembers *“Helen with special memories”*. Helen’s extraordinary kindness and warmth touched all who met her: *“She was so kind to me in person, but especially on behalf of the late Fumi Takano, the past-IFUW President assisted by Helen. I deeply thank her for her devotion to IFUW”*, says Reiko Aoki, from the Japanese Association of University Women.

— GWI Member News —

Bina Roy Project Highlight – New Video of the FEMU Oral Hygiene Project in Mexico

As part of the 2017-2018 Round of Funding for the Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID), generously provided by VGIF (www.vgif.com), the Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU) held a programme with the goal to promote dental hygiene and reduce oral infections in more than 120 children from two to six years of age from low-income families in the Mexico City's Xochimiclo community. The specific objective of the project was to teach the target group basic oral hygiene knowledge and skills and to raise their awareness on the importance of adequate hygiene to avoid severe oral disease complications. This was achieved by offering oral hygiene practice and information, free of charge from August 2017 to June 2018 in four-hour sessions to groups of 20 pre-schoolers, their parents and teachers. Members of each of those target groups requiring primary dental attention were examined by the dentists and dentistry professional free of charge during those sessions. In total, the project has directly benefited 172 persons in total, including 80 girls in vulnerable situation from low-income families who do not have access to oral health services. As of now, FEMU is determined to pursue the project and continues to provide periodical check-ups to their target groups in the Xochimiclo community. For more information about the project, we invite you to view the following [video](#), put together by FEMU.

Girls Who Stem recognises BFWG's commitment to promote women and girls in STEM

STEM careers are considered to be 'the' jobs of the future. Yet, not only is female participation in STEM education and employment low, the attrition rate is also particularly high. Women leave STEM disciplines in disproportionate numbers during their studies, during transition to the world of work and even during their career cycle. To ensure that all girls and women have equal access to STEM education and ultimately STEM careers - an imperative from the human rights, scientific, and development perspectives-, organizations big and small around the world are making great strides to provide invaluable resources, guidance, and advocacy for girls and women to engage with and pursue careers in STEM. Amongst those organisations is BFWG listed by [Girls Who STEM](#) as one of 40 of "the Best STEM Organisations for Girls and Women". Girls Who STEM is a free resource for parents, providing everything from in-depth product reviews to expert STEM for girls advice. GWI extends its warmest congratulations to BFWG for this well-deserved recognition of their continued commitment to improve women's and girls' educational space in all spheres and areas of studies.

39. British Federation of Women Graduates

[@BFWGraduates](#)



You would be mistaken for thinking the British Federation of Women Graduates only provides invaluable assistance to British women graduates. In addition to providing funding for PhD students in British institutes since 1907, the organization also works to positively impact the lives of women graduates overseas.

EAGW – Alexandria a attended notable event against Violence Against Women

“Egyptian Association of Graduate Women -Alexandria (EAGW-Alexandria) members, Ms. Magda Omar and Ms. Sahar Gamal, were invited by Bibliotheca Alexandrina's Women Studies and Social Transformation Programme (WSST) and UN Women (Egypt) to participate in the launch of WSST on the occasion of its "16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women". On this occasion, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina lit up in orange to highlight the event and raise awareness of the issue. It is worth noting that the Bibliotheca Alexandrina has been a pioneer in assuming the library's role in sustainable development and in building knowledge societies”. GWI warmly thanks Ms. Sahar Gamal, EAGW-Alexandria Convenor of International Relations (CIR) for her report of the event.



(From left to right) Ms. Sahar Gamal, EAWG-Alexandria CIR; Dr. Jaidaa Mekky, Prof. of Neuropsychiatry (speaker); Dr. Magda Omar, Ophthalmic Consultant and Head of Women's Affairs in the former National Democratic Party-Alexandria (NDP); Dr. Maha Maaz, Head of WSST program (Bibliotheca Alexandrina); Dr. Hind Hanafy, Member of Egypt's National Council for Women (NCW) and the first Woman President of Alexandria University; Ms. Gielan ElMessiri, Gender Specialist and UN Women Egypt Representative.

— GWI “Peace through Education” Triennial and Conference —

The GWI 33rd Triennial GA, Centenary Celebration and public 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 United Nations, 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.

✦ [REGISTER NOW](#) ✦

GWI 33rd Triennial, Centenary Celebration and Conference
(early bird registration is open until **30 April 2019**)

Current Calls for Participation in the GWI 33rd Triennial and Centenary Celebration [Summary](#)

Call for Peace through Education 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.**

Call for Board of Officer and Committee Nominations is [here](#). **Deadline to apply is 21 February 2019.**

— Advocacy —

We Did It! GWI 2018 Escalade Run and Fundraiser

For the third year, GWI led a team of Girls' Education Champions to run in the 41st Course de l'Escalade in Geneva, Switzerland on 2 December 2018. Our motivated team, raised some 2000 Swiss francs for girls' education. We are already looking forward to participating again in the 2019 Escalade Run to promote the importance of girls' education and raise awareness of barriers to girl's education. We sincerely appreciate the generous support of Geneva's Corner Trader online trading platform and the Picard and Wachter families whose contributions were essential to the event success.



A few of the 2018 GWI team of Girls' Education Champions

— Call for applications —

GWI Calls for Human Rights Council Civil Society Speaker

In preparation of the 40th Session of the Human Rights Council, Graduate Women International, in collaboration with the Geneva-based NGO Committee on Human Rights, is calling for applications for a speaker representing civil society to address the Council during the General Segment of the High-Level Segment. This will take place in the first week of the Council that begins 25 February 2019 after general statements by the government delegations. GWI seeks a civil society speaker who can offer an informed yet visionary perspective on what the Council could bring to the promotion and protection of human rights, highlight the concerns of actual and potential victims of human rights violations in a constructive manner and rise above specific country situations or particular issues and focus on a vision for the Council. *This year's statement topic themes are: Human Trafficking; Migration; Freedom of Expression and Association; Discrimination and Violence Against Women/Girls; and Youth, Democracy and Rule of Law.* Please note that there is no financial support available to cover travel costs. Please submit your CV, suggested statement topic and Letter of Motivation for addressing the Human Rights Council to Stacy Dry Lara, sdl@graduatewomen.org by **14th January 2019**

Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc. Barbara Hale Fellowships, 2019

The [Australian Federation of Graduate Women \(AFGW\)](#) will offer two AFGW Barbara Hale Fellowships in 2019. The fellowships will be awarded to women graduates who are citizens or residents of Australia and who are enrolled for a PhD degree in research in any discipline at an Australian university. The Fellowships are offered for the second and subsequent years of a doctoral program. The funds must apply towards a specific project or purpose which will extend the scope of the original research on which a postgraduate applicant is already engaged. The deadline is **30 April 2019** at midnight (AEST). Only online applications will be considered. Please click on the following links for the [application form](#) and [more information](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

The 72nd session of CEDAW begins with the review of the United Kingdom

From 18 February 2019 to 8 March 2019, the 72nd session of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) will be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. CEDAW is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The CEDAW Committee consists of 23 experts on women's rights from around the world. During this session, the Committee will review, and address concerns and recommendations, regarding the submission of the CEDAW report by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. For further information about CEDAW and the upcoming session, click [here](#). GWI will be providing a full report on the CEDAW session in the coming weeks.

New-Zealand and Cyprus under review at the 32nd session of the Universal Periodic Review

The Human Rights Council's (HRC) Universal Periodic Review (UPR) will hold the 32nd session from 21 January to 1 February 2019. During the session, two GWI NFAs are under review: Cyprus and New-Zealand. The UPR is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 United Nations (UN) Member States. The UPR is a significant innovation of the Human Rights Council which is based on equal treatment for all countries. It provides an opportunity for all States to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. The UPR also includes a sharing of best human rights practices around the globe. Currently, no other mechanism of this kind exists. To learn more about the UPR process and the upcoming UPR session, click [here](#). GWI will be providing a full report on the UPR session in the coming weeks.

— Give the gift of education —

What better way to start the year than by giving the gift of education to rural women and girls in Uganda? GWI directly addresses the lack of women teachers as a barrier to girls' secondary education by sponsoring girls from rural areas in Uganda to qualify as teachers through the [Teachers for Rural Futures project](#). An increase in qualified women teachers in rural Uganda will have a huge impact on girls' education in the country. The project aims to enable some 2500 more girls to attend school over ten years. Educated girls and women are better equipped to participate effectively in society, to protect themselves from harm and to care for their children. Children of educated women are healthier and far more likely to go to school, creating long-term positive effects for generations. We invite you to contribute to our GlobalGiving campaign that enables young women to achieve their potential, inspire girls to go to school and build more prosperous communities. [Give today](#).

— Did you know? —

Did you know that last year, 1138 women and girls directly benefited from the 2017-2018 BRPID projects in Egypt, Kenya, Mexico, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Turkey? That GWI published more than 1900 posts on three different social media platforms and the GWI Discussion Network last year? Or that

in the same year, GWI increased Independent Members to include 27 countries? For more GWI advocacy facts, please read and share with your friends, colleagues and networks the 2018 GWI Year-at-a-Glance, that highlights achievements in 2018. View and share our 2018 Year at a Glance [here](#).

— Other information and events —

21 Jan – 1 Feb	32 nd session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group, Geneva
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation, Global
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Global
18 Feb-8 March	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 72 nd session, United Nations, Geneva
25 Feb-22 March	40 th session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva
11-22 March	Commission on the Status of Women 63 rd session, New York
10-21 June	International Labour Organisation Conference, Geneva
25-28 July	Peace through Education General Assembly, Centenary and Public Conference, 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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