



GWI UPDATE – 20 February 2019



Graduate Women International marks the International Day of Women and Girls in Science and encourages worldwide cooperation to increase opportunities for women and girls in the fields of science

— Graduate Women International News —

GWI celebrates members' contributions to science

Marked annually on 11 February, the International Day of Women and Girls in Science is a conduit to recognize the important role women and girls play in science. This year's theme "Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth" offers a reminder that the inclusion of women in science and the furthering of their access to education is a crucial step in achieving all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Graduate Women International (GWI) takes part in promoting the advancement of women and girls in science through advocacy work at the international, national and local levels, through our special consultative status with the United Nations (UN), and at the grassroots level through the work of our National Federations and Associations (NFAs). To mark the 4th International Day of Women and Girls in Science, GWI is highlighting some of the many projects conducted around the world by our NFA to increase the participation of women and girls in science. You can read more about what our NFAs are doing to foster and encourage female visionaries in science [here](#).

— GWI Member News —

The IrFUW will hold its annual Public Speaking Competition final for girls under 15

The Irish Federation of University Women (IrFUW) will hold the final of its Annual Public Speaking Competition for girls under 15 years on 2 March at Trinity College Dublin. Each IrFUW association previously held local rounds of the competition in Dublin, Galway and Belfast. The winning teams of three girls and the best individual speaker from each Association's competitions will compete for team and individual awards. This annual public speaking competition began in Galway in 1957 with full participation of each IrFUW 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 IrFUW 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 IrFUW competition visit the [IrFUW webpage](#).

British Federation of Women Graduates president honoured with African Excellence Award

On 9 February, the Sierra Leone Poverty Alleviation Charitable Trust (SALPACT) honored Patrice Wellesley-Cole, President of the British Federation of Women Graduates (BFWG) at an inaugural fund-raising dinner dance in Leeds. For her achievement in law, Ms. Wellesley-Cole was one of five recipients of the 2019 SALPACT African Excellence awards. According to the dinner programme, the awards celebrate "the success of African men and women in the United Kingdom (UK) whose professional achievements are worthy of being emulated by young Africans". SALPACT was established on 15 August 2017 immediately following the mudslide that had taken place in Freetown killing over 1000 people and leaving even more homeless. Based in the UK, SALPACT strives to advance education and relieve poverty, particularly child poverty, due to economic or social circumstances in Sierra Leone.



Patrice Wellesley-Cole, BFWG President, receives African Excellence Award

— GWI “Peace through Education” Triennial and Conference —

A promotional poster for the Graduate Women International (GWI) 100th Anniversary and the Geneva event. At the top left, it features the 'GWI 100 years' logo with icons for a bus, train, airplane, car, and globe, and the text 'All roads lead to Geneva 25-28 July 2019' and 'Fostering the culture of peace through education'. The central text reads 'GENEVA the peace capital' above a silhouette of the city skyline, including a fountain. A red button with 'REGISTER NOW' is in the top right. Below the skyline, there are four circular icons labeled 'Celebration', 'General Assembly', 'Conference', and 'Swiss Evening'. At the bottom, it says 'Graduate Women International 33rd Triennial and Centenary Celebration 25-28 July 2019 Peace through Education' and lists activities: 'First 100 Years Celebration . Meeting . Speakers & Panels . Workshops & Seminars . Young Leaders . GWI Day . Local Tours . Receptions'.

Early Bird registration to the GWI 33rd Triennial, Centenary Celebration and Conference closes on 30 April! Don't miss out, [REGISTER NOW !](#)

— Advocacy —

GWI celebrates VGIF's vital contribution to the empowerment of women and girls in India

VGIF (www.vgif.com) provides grants globally to support women-led projects that advance the rights of women and girls, including the GWI Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID). VGIF Program Director, Jenna Wallace, and Program Officer, Evaline Franks, are jetting off on a three-week journey in India to visit five VGIF grantee partners. Along the way, they will be documenting the impact of VGIF projects in an update blog. Projects that are said to be included in the travels are:

- VOC Rural Development Centre which is creating a safer environment for women and girls living in mining villages in Madurai District.
- Tamil Nadu, Vasantham Pengal Sangam which is increasing the nutritional knowledge of 1,000 families from 20 villages in their area.
- Divya Jyoti Mahila Vikash which trains 50 women in organic farming techniques to increase their annual household income and reduce health risks associated with chemical fertilizers.
- The Ara Trust which identifies 10 female refugee artisans and train them to develop marketable Afghan embroidery products to be sold locally. The women acquire the skills necessary to establish a new sustainable livelihood source to support themselves and their families.

Institutes of higher education as key drivers towards the achievement of the SDGs

GW's [written statement](#) addressing the 40th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) on institutes of higher education as key drivers towards the achievement of the SDGs has been accepted by the United Nations (UN) Geneva and will soon be published on the UN website. Cosigned by the Canadian Federations of University Women (CFUW) and Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA), the statement echoes GWI's core belief that equal access, by women and girls around the world, to education in all domains and at the highest levels is both a fundamental human right and a key to the achievement of economic growth and sustainable development. The statement makes strong recommendations about acknowledging the crucial role institutes of higher learning play in the process of development and active inclusion of said institutes in strategies for the achievement of the SDGs. We invite you to read our statement [here](#).

— Call for applications —

Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarships for international students

The Jane M. Klausman Women in Business Scholarship is offered annually by Zonta International (ZI) for women in different parts of the world. ZI established the scholarship to encourage more women to pursue education and careers in business. Each year, up to 32 scholarships are awarded at the district/region level as well as six international scholarships. Women of any age, pursuing a business program with major field of specialization in accounting, finance, business management, marketing, operations management, human resources management, international business, or entrepreneurship at an accredited university/college/institute, who demonstrate outstanding potential in the field and are living or studying in a Zonta district/region, are eligible. Online students are also eligible to apply if enrolled at an accredited university/college/institute. Applications must be completed and presented to local Zonta clubs **according to the club's assigned deadline**. To locate your nearest Zonta club, please click [here](#). Additional information on eligibility can be found [here](#).

Women's Creativity in Rural Life prize 2019 is now accepting applications

The Women's World Summit Foundation (WWSF), an international NGO focused on advancing the rights of women and children and furthering the UN development agenda, is now accepting applications for the 2019 prize for Women's Creativity in Rural Life. The prize grants each laureate 1000 U.S. dollars. It is intended to bring attention to laureate's contributions towards sustainable development, household food security and peace. The women honored by this award model remarkable "creativity, courage and commitment for the improvement of the quality of life in rural communities". Prize laureates will be selected by an international jury composed of WWSF Board of Directors. Additional guidelines have been published on the organization's website along with the Nomination for the 2019 submissions of candidates. **The deadline for applications is 30 April 2019.** Further information about the application process and requirements are available [here](#).

— GWI at the United Nations —

UN set to hold half-day discussion on trafficking in women and girls in the context of migration

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a body of 23 international independent experts that monitor the implementation of CEDAW. From 18 February to 8 March, CEDAW is holding its 72nd session in Geneva. For this session, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) organized a half-day discussion on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration in the framework of the provisions of the CEDAW. The half-day discussion will conclude with recommendations that will provide states with procedures that should be implemented to ensure full compliance with their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil women's human rights in the context of trafficking and global migration. The general discussion is set to be held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, on Friday 22 February. The event will feature many excellent speakers and knowledgeable attendees. More information regarding CEDAW , the 72nd session and those that will be featured is available [here](#).

— Give the gift of education —

GWI is directly addressing 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? —

GWI members have been revolutionizing the field of science with innovations that have resulted in a richer understanding of our world. Did you know that GWI's third president, Professor Ellen Gleditsch (Norway), was a Norwegian radiochemist and Norway's second female professor? She started her career as an assistant to the esteemed Nobel Prize winner, Madame Marie Curie, and later became a pioneer in radiochemistry. She worked to establish the half-life of radium and helped demonstrate the existence of isotopes. Alison Harcourt, a longtime member of Graduate Women Victoria, has been called the ground-breaking grandmother of Australian mathematics. Her work helped measure poverty in Australia and was instrumental in amending the Electoral Act. Fellow Australian member Hilda Jamieson had a wide involvement in the field of science and in many aspects of volunteering such as the Women's Army Corps, Rachel Foster Hospital, Frensham School complex, the Council of Meriden School, Strathfield, and the Twilight Homes. Additionally, Canada's Dr. Vibert Douglas was a Canadian astronomer and the first Canadian woman to become an astrophysicist!

— Other information and events —

18 Feb-8 Mar 2019	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 72 nd session, United Nations, Geneva
11-22 March 2019	Commission on the Status of Women 63 rd session, New York
10-21 June 2019	International Labour Organisation Conference, Geneva
25-28 July 2019	Peace through Education General Assembly, Centenary and Public Conference, Geneva

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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.

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