

# Graduate Women International

## GW



Graduate Women International (GWI)



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## Founding members, in 1919, from left to right

- **Dean Virginia Gildersleeve** of Barnard College (USA),
- **Rose Sidgwick** of the University of Birmingham (England)
- **Professor Caroline Spurgeon** of the University of London;  
the first president of the IFUW

Read: von Oertzen C. (2012) *Female Networks for Science: Programs and Politics*. In: *Science, Gender, and Internationalism*. Palgrave Macmillan Transnational History Series. Palgrave Macmillan, New York



# Peace through Education

## They believed that graduate women:

- could create a peaceful, just and fair society – a society of substantive equality.
- are bonded by trust and mutual respect and working in international collaboration could successfully advocate for human rights particularly the rights of women and girls.
- should use the advantage of their education and provide leadership at home and in the world.



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# GWI Vision

- GWI's vision is 100% of girls and women in the world achieving education beyond primary school.
- GWI advocates for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality secondary and tertiary education and training up to the highest levels.



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# GWI Mission

***GWI is a global non-governmental organization (INGO) of graduate women whose purpose it is to:***

- ***Promote*** lifelong education for women and girls;
- ***Promote*** international cooperation, friendship, peace and respect for human rights for all;
- ***Advocate*** for the advancement of the status of women and girls; and
- ***Encourage and enable*** women and girls to apply their knowledge and skills in leadership and decision-making in all forms of public and private life.



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# GWI Membership

- **GWI is membership based federation** and therefore can keep her independency, right to speak & lobby with no financial ties. We have about 14'000 members from around the world.
- **GWI finances are mainly build on dues income from the National Federations and Associations (NFA's)** based on their membership, Independent members and donations for projects, fellowships & grants. Although with our current Organisational Development Process, we hope obtain also outside funding.



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# Membership Activities I

- **Regional activities** through the GWI Regional Groups, such as the **University Women of Europe**
- **Support for Professional and Personal Networking**
- **Twining:** Friendship and Project cooperation between and within the NFA's



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# Membership Activities II

- We can offer **Membership Marketplace NFA-to-NFA** : Projects such as Spanish-speaking culture bridge , sexual harassment at work, Afghan Peace negotiations and the implications for women.
- Or **Peer-to- Peer courses** on positive parenting , early career skills, Spanish lessons, literacy skills, on ICT
- **Webinars North-South dialogues**





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# GWI Young Members Network

- **GWI YMN is comprised of passionate change makers and proactive young women from over 20 countries** across the globe, advocating for issues impacting youth.
- YMN President, Sudha Srivastava, regularly **contributes to the GWI Update Newsletter and submitted creative work on UN and GWI advocacy Days of Observance.**
- **Organised a successful ‘Connecting Across the Generations’ webinar series in 2021** . All four webinars marked special International Days and Actively participated in ECOSOC Youth Forum, Generation Equality Forum, Geneva Peace Week, and NFA’s gender forums many guest speakers including ILO experts were hosted.
- **Will organised and participated** in the GWI CSW66 parallel event **“Young Women and Climate Action: Educating a Climate Conscience Generation”** .



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# Knowledge and Information

- Global Leadership Development;
- Policy statements & position papers;
- Strategic alliances with other women organisations / groups;
- Actionable Alerts to NFAs requesting support for petitions;
- Takes issues of concern in Human rights and education for women to the highest levels of legislative power, by supporting local NFAs in their advocacy efforts;
- Facilitating with the implementation of the NFA's resolutions;
- Access to fellowships, awards, training, webinars, workshops;



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# GWI Partners and stakeholders

Special Consultative Status UN (ECOSOC)

Official relation with UNESCO and ILO



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



The United Nations  
in Vienna



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality  
and the Empowerment of Women



International Labour  
Organization



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER



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# Advocacy

- Global advocacy through representatives to advocate for primary, secondary, higher and further education for women and girls as instrument to enhance (their) human rights at the UN centers, ECOSOC – UNESCO;
- Advocacy – targeting global institutions and government policies
- Instruments and info for NFA's
- Participates in review modification of international treaties such as CEDAW
- Participates in the yearly CSW, in New York;

# CSW66



14-25 MARCH 2022



**CSW66**

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

**CLIMATE CHANGE • ENVIRONMENT  
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

**GENDER EQUALITY AT THE CENTRE OF SOLUTIONS**



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## GWI's CSW66 written statement

Joint statement supported by:

- Canadian Federation of University Women,
- Federación Mexicana de Universitarias,
- Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas (FAWCO),
- International Alliance of Women,
- International Council of Women,
- International Federation of Business and Professional Women,
- Latter-day Saint Charities,
- Make Mothers Matter,
- National Alliance of Women's Organizations,
- Soroptimist International,
- Widows Rights International, Women Graduates-USA, Inc.,
- Women's Federation for World Peace International,
- Zonta International,

**All** non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council



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## **GWI appeals to the 66th session of the Commission on the Status of Women to urge Member States to**

- Understand the gendered dimensions of climate change and all efforts at recovery from and reduction of change.
- **Support and encourage traditionally excluded populations of women and girls to share their success at climate adaptation** and then replicate these models.
- **Fund and prioritize women's and girls' access to education** and retention up to the highest levels of learning, so that they may be empowered to speak climate truth and justice to power.
- **Include women in all programs and policy development**
- **Include all women** and their innate expertise, academic learning, analytical and critical **skills to build much-needed capacities into the accomplishment of SDG 13** as also a means to achieve SDG 4.



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NGO CSW  
FORUM 66

NGO CSW/NY | 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The **NGO CSW Forum** is the civil society side of the CSW66. The Forum is held again 100% virtual this year. The Forum provides civil society the opportunity to interact with each other via social and parallel events held as part of CSW66.

GWI is holding 3 parallel events during CSW and as well as our Japanese NFA & CAMEUS





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## GWI CSW66 3 Parallel Events

- **Gendered Dimensions of Corruption and Its Impact in Gender Inequality**  
GWI, in cooperation with Women's United Nations Report Network, presented expert panellists who addressed the gendered dimensions of corruption and the unique ways women experience corruption.
- **Climate Crisis and Education: A Woman's Voice Include**  
To describe the global climate situation as it relates to education, GWI representatives from five diverse regions told their country's story regarding the climate crisis and related sustainability concepts. A future perspective was presented by GWI young women as eco-anxiety is high among young people. As well as the role of education in the current teaching on climate crises and environmental migration regarding women and girls. This event supports [GWI's CSW66 written statement](#), the accomplishment of SDG 13 to achieve SDG 4, and UNESCO's urging that **environmental education be a core curriculum subject by 2025**



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# **GWI CSW66 Parallel Events**

## **24 March 2022 at 1 pm CET**

- **Young Women and Climate Action:  
Educating a Climate Conscience Generation**

GWI Young Member Network will present a panel of experts to share their views based on research and a strong database on the role of young women in contributing towards climate action as well as on how education plays a vital role in raising a climate conscious generation. Experts will also provide highlights of actions already taken and recommendations for the future.



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# Projects, Fellowships & Grants

- ❖ **Bina Roy Partners in Development Program**  
supports projects that empower girls and women through education and leadership development. BRPID grants are awarded to NFAs from developing countries on a competitive basis.
- ❖ **Teachers for Rural Futures**
- ❖ **Hegg Hoffet fund for Displaced Women Graduates**
- ❖ **Girl Education for Brighter Futures Global Giving fundraising program**
- ❖ **Supports fellowships & grants for women**

# GWI Centenary Celebration & 33rd Triennial Conference, July 2019 in Geneva





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# **The Conference 2022, 11- 13 November online**

**Host: Indian Federation of  
University Women**



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# The next GWI Trienium .....

- Support women's increased understanding of global forces
- Encourage Young Members to join
- Support development of advocacy instruments and practices that can effectively target the complex interactions between global institutions and national social, economic and political decisions that assault women's rights in every country.
- Develop (global) (e)networks and friendship



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# Our very, very future Young Members???



## Questions ????