

GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

Empowering women through access to education at the highest level since 1919



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Why collaborate with Graduate Women International?

Girls' education is the single most powerful forces of change

Graduate Women International (GWI), an international, non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in Geneva, Switzerland, advocates for the empowerment of women and girls through quality, lifelong education and training up to the highest levels. With 100 years of dedicated experience in advocacy on gender and educational issues, through our membership, we are active in some 52 countries. GWI is in Special Consultative status with the United Nations (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1947 and maintains official relations with UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The GWI network of graduate women is brought together by one core belief: **that every women and girl have the right to equal access to education in all domains and at the highest levels.** We advocate for education as both a fundamental human right and a key enabler to achieving economic growth and sustainable development.

Yet, 130 million girls globally are out of school and 15 million girls of primary school age will never even enter a classroom. Today, according to UNESCO, 2/3 of the world's 774 million illiterate adults are women.

Some 171 million people could be lifted out of extreme poverty if every student in low-income countries finished school with basic reading skills, according to UNESCO. Research shows that an additional year of schooling can raise future wages for a woman by up to 20 percent. Girls who complete primary education are less likely to become teen mothers. Nearly 200,000 maternal deaths could be avoided if all girls completed primary education, according to one study. Other benefits include fewer child marriages, lower rates of HIV/AIDS and gains in gender equity.



Become a girls' education champion by supporting GWI

By supporting GWI, the leading graduate women's organisation at the global level, you are directly contributing to the advancement of the status of women and girls through safe and equal access to education and training.

When girls are educated beyond primary school, everyone benefits. Girls who pursue education beyond primary school are less likely to experience serious life barriers such as forced child marriage, early pregnancies, and violence, meaning that they will have more opportunities to work, innovate, and contribute to society. However, there are still barriers that are systemically and culturally embedded that prevent girls from achieving education beyond primary school in many parts of the world.

GWI and its collaborators aim to remove these barriers and allow girls all over the world access to quality education that will enable them to reach their highest potentials.

As a more than a hundred-year-old organisation, GWI takes inspiration from its past accomplishments for the advancement of the status of women through education at the highest level and is now working to bring forth its expertise, passion and unique mission into its second century of existence. As we gather our strength to address the persistent barriers to education that continue to prevent women and girls' from fulfilling their basic right, we are looking to build up our international education champions' network by establishing new partnerships, collaborations, and sponsor opportunities to bolster and support our membership's tireless efforts for education and lifelong learning.

What is the cost of not educating girls and women?

According to the World Bank, limited educational opportunities for girls and barriers to completing 12 years of education cost countries between \$15 trillion and \$30 trillion dollars in lost lifetime productivity and earnings.

The report estimates the global impact of depriving girls of education. Its findings show the transformative power of education for girls in six areas:

- (1) earnings and standards of living
- (2) child marriage and early childbearing
- (3) fertility and population growth
- (4) health, nutrition and well-being
- (5) agency and decision-making
- (6) social capital and institutions.

Source: World Bank, 2020

Realising Sustainable Development Goal 17 through partnerships for women and girls' education



Throughout our work, GWI, draws attention to the strength and vitality of women and girls for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Investing in women and girls is essential for the achievement of the SDGs and the creation of a better future for the global community.

GWI drives particular attention to SDG 4 and 5, which together seek to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning and to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. It should be noted, however, that all 17 SDGs are intricately

related both to themselves and to the empowerment of women and girls.

GWI further drives particular attention to SDG 17 relating to partnerships and collaboration. Success of the SDGs depends on sufficient means to implement them, underpinned by a strong commitment to solidary and cooperation. As a mean to achieve SDG 17, GWI works to foster strategic partnerships with governments, private companies and institutions which can act as tough leaders and financiers, helping to provide lifelong learning opportunities and a place at the decision table for girls.

From impact investors to public and private organisations, GWI partners with socially responsible corporations and foundations **to help provide every woman and every girl with the chance to reach their highest potential through safe and equal access to education.** GWI strongly believes that it is through strategic, constructive partnerships and alliances that education can remain at the top of the international development agenda, while unleashing the proven and powerful force that women represent.

All general contributions, no matter the size, to the work of GWI will help us transform the future of even more women and girls around the world, build peace and provide communities with the opportunity for a more just and sustainable future.

By combining teacher training, mentoring, career development, gender awareness and personal development programmes, together we create long-lasting and meaningful impact. Our partners increase their impact by putting their social commitment into practice and reaching out to future workforce participants, thus reaping both short- and long-term impact.

GWI's partnerships are based on mutual respect and trust—win-win alliances to realise common goals. Together, we design partnerships that leverage both tangible and intangible assets for change, lifechanging impact and sustainable development



What we do: GWI means of driving and implementing change?

Through cooperation between our international membership, staff and leadership, GWI implements projects and initiatives on local, national, regional and international levels that contribute to the promotion and safeguarding of all women and girls' fundamental human rights, with focus on promoting the rights of girls and women to access secondary tertiary, continuing and non-traditional education.

Barriers to women's education are diverse and far reaching, which reflects in the GWI advocacy goals and strategy. Some specific thematic areas that we focus on include:

6000 is the approximate

number of women and girls globally who have been positively impacted by the GWI projects since 2015. Thirty GWI projects have been successfully implemented since 2015 in 14 countries.

- The promotion of safe and equal access to quality education including up to the highest level, including
 - life-long training, technical and vocational educational training (TVET), distanced and e-learning.
- The elimination of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), harassment, bullying, sexual assault and exploitation, trafficking, domestic violence, early and forced marriage.
- the promotion Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- the promotion of safe access to Water, Health and Sanitation (WASH), including the elimination of Menstrual Hygiene Insecurity (MHI)
- the promotion of the rights of minority and disadvantaged women and girls, including rural, migrant, widowed, stateless disabled and indigenous women and girls.
- The promotion of women leadership and gender equality in all spheres of public, private and professional life, including equal political representation of women at all levels of local, national and international governance and women's equal access to all professional and academic spheres.

Amplify the voice of graduate women for women and girls' rights worldwide

Our 14,000-strong network of graduate women represent an independent, educated and powerful voice for change, whilst providing with access to an array of experts. Representing over 60 countries in all world regions and operating for more than a hundred years with a singular mission – to empower women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decisionmaking and peace – GWI is a strong advocacy voice to all international and national bodies.

GWI serves as a well-recognised source of credible, grassroot information about the impact barriers to women's and girls' education and the transformative power of education across all sectors. Our 14,000strong network of graduate women represent an

independent, educated and powerful voice for change, whilst providing with access to an array of experts and high-level contacts in virtually all fields of graduate studies. Our members inform, research, communicate and build awareness in their communities effectively and convincingly. The GWI office, in collaboration with our membership, regularly produces <u>reports</u> and <u>videos</u> amplifying and promoting the local, grassroot knowledge, experience and expertise of our multinational network.

In 2019, GWI submitted five written and oral statements to the HRC and hosted a successful side event on Women and Corruption at the 41st session of HRC. In 2019, more than 60 GWI and NFA delegates participated in the 63rd session of Commission on the Status of Women and submitted 17 advocacy reports.

As a well-respected international NGO with active

participation in multiple spheres of international development and advocacy, GWI is a trusted authority in the field of education and gender. Through our well-established relation with the UN, its agencies, and other key international organisations and agencies, GWI has been instrumental in influencing public policy agendas in favour of women and girls' right to education and involvement at the highest level.

GWI is represented at four key UN centres in Geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna. Our UN Representatives champion the GWI mission by participating at UN meetings and reporting back on various on-mission topics being discussed by international policy makers.

GWI is an active participant in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Human Rights Council (HRC), UNECE Beijing +25 Regional Review Meeting and the Civil Society Forum, Geneva Peace Week, Experts Mechanisms on the Rights of Indigenous People (EMRIP), Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and Girls (CEDAW), Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. GWI also actively collaborates with ILO and the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

GWI is an active participant in the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Geneva, Vienna and New-York, a strategic body for women's rights and advocacy. Since 2019, GWI holds two of the four NGO CSW Geneva Board positions. GWI is an active participant with the NGO Committee on Human Rights, NGO Committee on Ageing and gender networks to promote the protection of education and women's rights.

Overseeing the GWI Young Member Network

Through the creation of the GWI Young Member Network, GWI aims to integrate youth as frontrunners of GWI advocacy and sustainable development. The GWI Young Members Network is passionate, pro-active female change-makers who empower, inspire and mentor women through education. Our young members, in line with the GWI values, embrace diversity, inclusiveness, peace and international friendship as the first steps and pillars of effective strategic action towards the building of a more equal, just and sustainable for all.

Grass-root, gender sensitive development projects

GWI coordinates local projects that galvanise and empower women and girls through education, GBV education, skills, and leadership development. All projects are in line with GWI's mission towards lifelong learning, advancement and participation in leadership and decision-making for women and girls. Those projects are developed in close collaboration with our national affiliates, who, by their indispensable knowledge of local needs and potentials, develop life-changing, grassroots initiatives for the empowerment of women.

Since 2015, more than 6000 women and school-aged children, most of them young women and girls, in 14 countries, have been positively impacted by the GWI projects.

Coordinate an educational empowerment project in Community Schools in Nepal

Since 2018, GWI is coordinating and supporting, in collaboration with the Nepal Association of University Women (NAUW) a project aiming to lessen the gap between quality of education in private and public schools in the Nepalese municipality of Tokha, by increasing the quality of education in five community schools using a creative ICT-based education system (routers with internet access and preloaded educational resources). This project raised the quality of education in five community schools in the municipality of Tokha for 1500 students and their 50 teachers. Amongst the five target schools, two are all girls' schools. In the three others mixed-gender schools, about 60% of pupils are girls. This number is expected to grow exponentially to thousands through the positive impact it will have on the community as a whole and as the router will be used in the subsequent years for other cohorts of children

Oversee the production of a Girl Science Clinic in Ghana

In 2018, GWI oversaw the production of a girl's science clinic in Ghana, aiming to introduce girls to STEM discipline and encourage girls and young women to pursue science related programmes at the highest level. The project takes place at the University of Cape Coast and is run by members of the Ghana Association of University Women (GAUW), in partnership with official entities such as the Centre of Gender Rights and Advocacy of the University of Cape Coast and the Ghana Education Service of Cape Coast.



More than 200 schoolgirls from four different junior high schools took part and directly benefited in the project, which exceeded by far the initial target of 80 school aged girls as set out by the project proposal. Fifty boys were also allowed to participate in the project as to not exclude them. The training is expected to impact several hundred other women and girls from the local community through participation in the open-day exhibition, the effect of word of mouth and leading by example within the community. The GAUW organized a Science Clinic on 19 September 2018 at the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences, University of Cape Coast, Ghana. The purpose was to build the interest of junior high school students, especially the girls, in mathematics and science subjects and encourage them to study science related programmes at the highest level. Around 90 students, accompanied by their teachers, attended this opening ceremony.

Coordinate training for the elimination of School GBV in Sierra Leone

In 2018 and 2019, GWI and the Sierra Leone Association of University Women collaborated on a project aiming to reduce GBV against girls rural communities of Sierra Leone through community sensitization and school training. The project was developed in partnership with the Sierra Leone Planned Parenthood Association and Family Support Unit of the Sierra Leone Police.

The training workshop successfully empowered the trainees to gain knowledge about GBV, how to better prevent it and protect women and girls in the school and the community. The project's committee has evaluated that the project reached more than 200 hundred pupils in two schools, mainly girls, and the same amount of community members, thus going beyond the 100 pupils and 100 community members anticipated.

Underwrite to the empowerment of rural women through capacity building and livelihood skills training in Kenya

In 2016 and 2018, GWI and the Kenya Association of University Women (KAUW) contributed to the reduction of poverty prevalence among rural women in Siaya County, Kenya by addressing gender inequality and improving girl child education at the primary and secondary level.

The project focused on the empowerment of mothers of girl's attending primary and secondary school knowledge through livelihood skills and income generation, to increase girl child school enrolment, attendance, retention and transition rates. The main objective of the project was to provide livelihood skills training for a start-up group of 30 women so that the women can engage in income-generating activities that can reduce poverty and contribute to women's socio-economic development and access to education for girl's within such households.

The final results of the project are more than positive and highlight the positive impact that the project had on girls' school attendance, food security, economic empowerment. As a result of the project over 20 girls in primary schools and six in secondary schools have not dropped out of school. According to the local schoolteachers, the project, by empowering the mothers to generate an income and produce their own food has allowed their girl's to stay in school since this reduces the risks of food insecurity and poverty in their households. The women indeed used part of their production for their own consumption as they did in the first project put in place by KAUW. The target mothers who regularly experienced food insecurity before participating in the project have become food secure, having at least two meals a day.

Increase girls' access to secondary education in rural Uganda through teachers training

The GWI Teachers for Rural Futures programme, created in 2015, aims to increase access to and completion of quality secondary education for girls in rural communities in Northern and Eastern Uganda through teacher training and development. The project aims to increase the number of qualified and trained women teachers in secondary schools in these rural communities. The project aims to produce local role models and mentors for younger girls.

In rural areas of Uganda, far too many girls are not enrolled in school or forced to drop out, in part due to a lack of women teachers. Thanks to generous donations from GWI members and supporters in the past four years, our project has already successfully supported five young women from rural Uganda to complete their secondary school teachers' degrees and to become ambassadors for girls' education. This degree will help provide access to quality education and vital role models to improve other girls' school enrolment.

Now that our five student teachers are graduating, our goal for the next three years is to scale up this successful programme to benefit more young women from more rural areas. GWI aims to train four new young women from rural areas to become qualified secondary school teachers by 2023.

become a teacher of science at Makerere University, Benadet has now graduated in January 2020 and will be able to return to inspire girls in her rural community as a financially independent, university-educated woman who is also breaking traditional stereotypes.

Teachers for Rural Futures student story: Benadet and Winfred

Winfred and Benadet were the first two girls accepted to the Teachers for Rural Futures pilot programme launched in 2015. They both come from Buyende District in Eastern Uganda, a rural area where many girls do not complete secondary school. Winfred and Benadet were amongst the few to complete school. Without the means to go to university, their studies were due to end there. Winfred and Benadet had ambitions to become schoolteachers and increase the number of children in Buyende, particularly girls, who go to secondary school.

Benadet is the second child from a family of five children. Her mother is a primary teacher and her father is a tailor, and resources at home are stretched. As one of the few girls to complete secondary education in her area, Benadet's dream was to go on to university to qualify as a muchneeded woman secondary school teacher, but it looked like her dream would end there. Providing for Benadet to study at the top university in Uganda, Makerere University, and the additional expenses of accommodation, travel, and study materials would be impossible without help. After submitting her training at Uganda's Makerere University, Benadet waited patiently. In July 2015, she was contacted by (UAUW) with the good news that she was a successful applicant. Earning a Bachelor's of Science in Teaching degree at Makerere University, Benadet graduated in January 2020 and will be able to return to inspire girls in her rural community as a financially independent, university-educated woman who is also breaking traditional stereotypes.

Catalysing global support and awareness through Communication and Advocacy

GWI Advocacy priorities

GWI's advocacy priorities are to ensure that adequate resources, policy and practice are put into girls' and women's secondary, tertiary, continuing and non-traditional education by governments across the world.

GWI advocacy currently focusses on calling on all countries to provide universal access to secondary education, and to ensure gender parity and gender equality in access to and completion of a quality secondary education. GWI advocates for reducing girls' and women's barriers to access secondary education and transition to tertiary education, including the continued support, payment and training of women teachers, particularly in rural areas.

GWI advocates at the international level through UN agencies and at national level through its global network of member federations and associations to promote core objectives to policymakers and decision makers. GWI uses all its communications tools – website, social media, events and newsletters – to extend its outreach, as well as collaborating with other partners to create a strong voice.

GWI Recent Advocacy Successes

- Since 2018, GWI created 25 impactful advocacy toolkits offering gripping information, advocacy ideas and comprehensive social media campaigns.
- Partnership with and regular features of our advocacy content by Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN). WUNRN is a vital, highly respected global gender resource network.
- In 2019, GWI published 24 Update Newsletters and five special editions, totalling 232 write-ups.
- In 2019, issued 22 press releases and NFA templates
- In 2019, GWI published more than 2000 posts on four different social media platforms. Those posts include daily link to relevant articles and resources, impactful infographics, facts, advocacy ideas.
- In 2020, GWI published more than 3000 social media posts through its awareness-raising campaigns.
- In 2020, GWI Menstrual Hygiene Day, International Day of the Girl and the 16 Days of Activism against GBV toolkits were published on the Women's United Nations Report Network of more than 200'000 readership.
- In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic GWI quickly development and hosted 24 webinar to engage members during the lockdown measures. These webinars achieved an average of 94% excellent rating.

Capacity building through workshops and training courses

GWI regularly runs capacity building workshops and training courses online, bringing specific skills and know-hows to women working in-country and consolidating grass-root movements and initiatives that empower many women each year. These workshops, webinars and training courses bring practical, hands-on, impactful and tailored knowledge to our community advocates, who then work in their communities to further educational and vocational goals. The target participants com from diversified professional background and are credible and recognized voices in their local communities.

This year, GWI ran the "GWI 2020 Spring Webinar Cycle: connecting across borders for growth of knowledge and friendship". These online meetings provided a timely avenue for international connection

and exchange of knowledge, providing national member associations and federations as well as GWI independent members with skills and tools to increase their membership and member engagement and build intergenerational and multicultural connections for peace and education and create new initiatives based on the advocacy lines of actions defined by the GWI Policy Resolutions, thus positively impacting the lives of many girls and women in over 48 countries.

Another series, centered on building and achieving an effective advocacy strategy in the new world of advocacy, is currently in the making and will be conducted in the coming weeks.

Unleashing the potential of graduate women through fellowships

Since 1925, GWI fellowships and international awards have supported women in their post graduate study in a variety of fields.

International and National Awards

The fellowships and grants offered by GWI and its national affiliates support the research, study and training needed to open doors to quality higher and continuing education for women and girls throughout the world. <u>Read stories from past winners</u> to learn what a difference educational funding can make to women.

Hegg Hoffet Fund for Displaced Women Graduates

The Hegg Hoffet Fund assists graduate women (and in special cases tertiary women students) who have been displaced as a result of war, political upheaval or other serious emergencies. Some are fleeing genderrelated atrocities in their home countries, such as rape, honour crimes, forced marriage and female mutilation. Others fear for their lives because of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group. Arriving in a new country, most face complex challenges to integration, among them language difficulties, unemployment, rejection of foreign qualifications and the need for retraining.

GWI's Hegg Hoffet Fund provides short-term grants for refresher courses for re-entry into the candidates' professional field (or if that is not possible, training courses leading to some other employment), and for language training and other courses to assist with integration into their new countries. In addition to financial assistance, GWI's national and local groups also provide the graduate refugees with moral support to help them to adjust to life in a different country.

The Fund was established in 1936 as the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) Emergency Fund (later called the Relief Fund) to help university women who had been deprived of the right to work, and in many cases, the right to live in their native countries. In honour of many years of service given by long term convener Mme Blanche Hegg Hoffet of Switzerland, who was particularly responsible for raising money and distributing assistance during and after the Second World War, the Fund adopted her name in 1968. Learn more about the grant and its beneficiaries here.

Who is GWI?

Our history

When Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, Professor Caroline Spurgeon and Rose Sidgewick sat together in 1918 and conceived the idea of a worldwide organisation uniting university women, they were convinced that by fostering friendship and understanding, women graduates could help prevent another catastrophe such as the World War that had just ended. Their dream became reality the next year when university women from Great Britain, Canada and the United States met to lay the foundation for IFUW. Over ninety years later, and under the new title of GWI, thousands of women graduates throughout the world share the same principles and vision that inspired those early leaders. GWI continues to advocate in favour of secondary, higher and continuing education for women all over the world.

GWI, founded in 1919 as the International Federation of University, is a worldwide, non-governmental organisation of women graduates, whose purpose is to:

- Promote lifelong education for women and girls;
- Promote international cooperation, friendship, peace and respect for human rights for all, irrespective of their age, race, nationality, religion, political opinion, gender and sexual orientation or other status;
- 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.

Our membership

GWI has National Federations and Associations (NFAs) in 54 countries and a worldwide membership of approximately 15'000 who work towards implementing GWI's mission to advocate for the advancement of women and girls' rights, equality and empowerment through the safe access to quality education and lifelong training up to the highest levels; to demonstrate leadership in the advancement of human rights and to collaborate internationally in the implementation of its mission.

Of these 54 NFAs, 24 are located in countries benefitting from Official Development Assistance according the list established by the Development Cooperation Directorate of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.

An overview of all 54 shows that:

- Nine are located in least developed countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Nepal, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Zambia
- One in a low- income country: Zimbabwe
- Nine in lower middle-income countries and Territories: Bolivia, Ghana, Cameroon, India, Egypt, Salvador, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan
- Seven in upper middle-income countries and Territories: South Africa, Fiji, Lebanon, Argentina, Mexico, Panama, Turkey.

Additionally, many of our NFAs are located in countries that are currently at war or are entrenched in internecine conflicts or have been devastated by wars or are in countries that receive refugees and displaced persons.

National Federations and Associations



Argentina	Hong Kong	Panama
Australia	Iceland	Paraguay
Austria	India	Russia
Bangladesh	Ireland & Northern Ireland	Rwanda
Bolivia	Israel	Scotland
Bulgaria	Japan	Senegal
Burkina Faso	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Canada	Korea	Singapore
Cyprus	Lebanon	Slovenia
Democratic Republic of Congo	Lithuania	Somalia
	Mexico	South Africa
Egypt	Nepal	Spain
El Salvador	Netherlands	Switzerland
Fiji	New Zealand	Turkey
France	Nigeria	Uganda
Ghana	Norway	USA
Great Britain	Pakistan	Zambia
Haiti	Zimbabwe	
	ZIIIIDADWE	

Independent Members

Independent membership opens GWI's international network to women graduates from countries where there is not yet a GWI affiliate and to women graduates who do not wish to join a national group. In 2020 GWI celebrates Independent Members from around the globe including Iran, United States, France, Dominican Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Brazil, Colombia, Italy, Finland, Egypt, Malawi, China, Uganda, India, Peru, Sudan, Australia and Costa Rica.

Our leadership GWI Board of Officers

The GWI Board of officers is elected by the national federations and associations (NFAs) of GWI for a period of three years.

- President: Terry Oudraad, Netherlands
- VP Advocacy and Education: Louise McLeod, United States
- VP Legal and Governance: Veena Bathe, India
- VP Membership: Eileen Focke-Bakker, Netherlands
- VP Fundraising: Basak Ovacik, Turkey
- VP Marketing: Glenda Hecksher, Mexico
- Treasurer: Katharina Strub, Switzerland

Our Staff

GWI operates with a small yet dedicated staff consisting of an Executive Director, a Programme Officer, and a host of committed interns and volunteers.

- Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara
- Programme Officer, Clémence Mathiaud

GWI General Assembly

The GWI General Assembly is held every three years. It is the governing body of GWI, and elects GWI's Board of Officers and Committee Conveners and members. The triennial conference, which is held around the same time, offers interdisciplinary seminars and workshops, opportunities for networking and international friendship.

GWI Committees

GWI Committees play a vital role within the organisation. To learn more, please visit the GWI website.

Sponsor relations

Building financial stability in a post COVID-19 world of advocacy and development

In these unprecedented times, when COVID-19 continues to spread and to impact almost every individual and organization across the world, NGOS such as GWI, are also deeply affected now and in the times to come. The impact of COVID-19 on GWI and other NGOs vulnerable populations is devastating: reduction of activities, cash-flow problems, difficulty in maintaining employees, risk of closure, in addition to new vital needs of millions of women and girls around the world. Every general contribution, big and small, will play a vital role in ensuring GWI's financial stability, continuity of actions and overall ability to continue empowering women and girls through education in a post COVID-19 world. With your support.

By supporting GWI, the leading graduate women's organisation at the global level, you are directly contributing to the advancement of the status of women and girls through safe and equal access to education.

As we are all watching our world face an unprecedented public health challenge, GWI stands in solidarity with those who are most vulnerable during uncertain circumstances like this. Although the safety and wellbeing of everyone requires us to physically separate from one another, the GWI Board, Committees, and Office remain committed to our global membership community of graduate women. Through this unprecedented period, GWI continues doing what it knows best: raising the voice of graduate women around the world and working for the preservation and improvement of women's and girls' fundamental right to education.

GWI knows that in crises, pre-existing social inequalities and injustice are often deepened. We are concerned that girls will be impacted the most by school closings in many countries. They are least likely to return to school and in many areas most vulnerable to drop out. For this reason, GWI is resolutely focused on continuing to pursue its mission as routinely as possible in support of our almost 15,000 members across the world and to remain engaged and energized through this evolving global challenge.

The unfolding crisis is already affecting women and girls' education in unprecedented manner. Now is time to build synergies and partnerships between all spheres of public and private life to mitigate the impact of the crisis on women's empowerment globally.

Flexible, tailored, and impactful collaboration opportunities and benefits

As a girls' education champion and supporter of GWI, you will join the effort of one of the longest standing and respected women's organization involved in changing the world through education. We offer to our partners flexible, tailored and impactful collaboration opportunities and benefits, including but not limited to:

• Supporting leading advocacy voices and campaigns to provide girls and women with access to education

- Recognition as a leading company/brand/institution in support of girls' and women's education
- Recognition in GWI's annual report, website, meetings and communication
- Opportunity for joint project and promotional events.
- Opportunity to meet with like-minded corporations, foundations, GWI executives, members and affiliates.
- Opportunities for volunteering and philanthropic action as part of staff motivation schemes.

The GWI Partners in Education

GWI has been and/or is supported and recognised by the City of Geneva through its International Solidarity Service, the Women Have Wings Foundation, the University of Geneva, Swiss Air, the World Trade Organisation, Girls Not Brides, The Menstrual Hygiene Day Organisation and Idloom.

AVEC · LE · SOUTIEN · · · · · · · · · DE · LA VILLE · DE · GENÈVE



Contact us to learn more

If you have ideas, needs or proposals which may be aligned with GWI's vision and mission, we would be happy to discuss these with you.

Contact point: Stacy Dry Lara, Executive Director, sdl@graduatewomen.org