

# GWI 201 A Brief Look at **Programmes (Projects) and Advocacy**

GWI website: Graduatewomen.org

Prepared by CFUW-Ottawa March 8, 2021

Graduate Women International Empowering women & girls through lifelong education







A PROUD MEMBER OF GW

### What is GWI



Graduate Women International: 15000 members in 75 countries

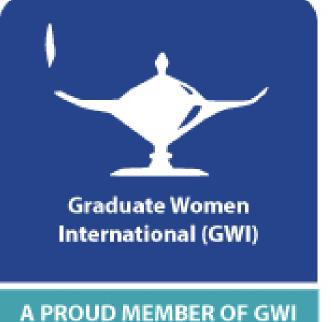
National Federations or Associations (NFAs) in 52 countries

Independent members in 23 more countries

Women we can work with on projects and advocacy

Part of Civil Society





# GWI is Unique Among INGOs

### • GWI focuses on education - especially tertiary education for girls and women

- GWI is concerned about BARRIERS to education
- Other INGOs concerned with education focus on primary education

### In GWI, advocacy of an issue can move from Local concern to International

- Members can bring forward issues, make them a local concern
- Issue can then go to National and to International UN and other forums
- We believe this is unique to GWI

- Two things that distinguish GWI

# Projects and Advocacy in GWI

All Project are Advocacy



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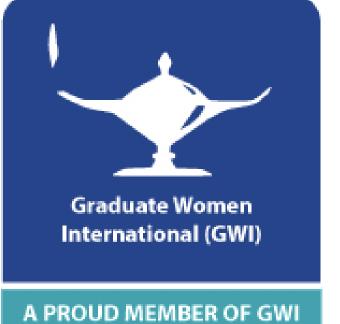
**Advocacy:** an activity that aims to influence decisions

- Within political, economic and social institutions of society
  - Includes communicating, raising awareness
  - - Change ideas in relevant audiences over time

**Projects** are one form of advocacy

• Realistic, visual, boots on the ground

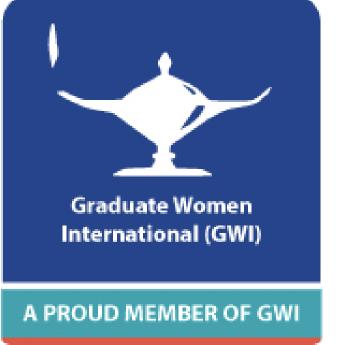
# • Goals to promote actions and change in institutions, and



## History

### IFUW from 1919, the beginning of the Women's Movement

- 1935 Assistance for women graduates in trouble, war, political upheaval, disasters
  - Became the Hegg Hoffett fund for Displaced Women Graduates still at work
- 1939-1946 Wartime management out of UK and US Women courageously crossed the treacherous Atlantic to keep the organization alive.
- 1946 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) started
  - IFUW and GWI active in annual meetings of CSW
- 1947-48 IFUW obtained Special Consultative Status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- 1995 Beijing Platform for Action Women's rights -
  - IFUW worked on The Girl Child, one of 12 areas of concern in Beijing Platform • 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by 196 countries, But not the US



# The Story of Poland

### **Cut off during WW2**

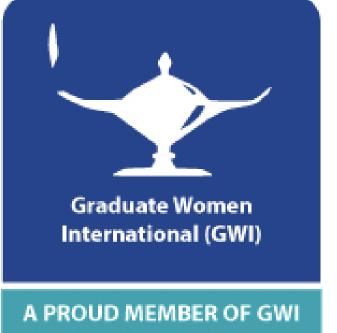
1939 Elected President: Lektor S. Adamowicz of Poland

- within a month of the conference, she was out of touch,
- living in Nazi-occupied Poland, hungry but coping, some food parcels reached her
- After the war, board member brought her to Stockholm to recover
- 1947 she went back for her country she believed in freedom

Behind the Iron Curtain, Polish women were not allowed to organize

- 1990s, after the fall of the Soviet Union
  - Polish women had been IFUW members 50 years before
- Young President of the new Polish federation appeared at Geneva office of IFUW
- Brought a cake with candles, tears pouring down her face, to celebrate that they could organize





Action with Advocacy

- Education on How to Overcome Barriers to Education
  - girls explore possibilities to overcome barriers
    - early marriage, teenage pregnancy, gender stereotypes, cultural prejudice,
    - responsibility for domestic duties and caregiving
  - GWI partnership with Orange Device Group
    - Orange provides network, content by GWI
      - teenage girls in Rwanda, immediate, easy access to material smart phone and mobile signal
        - inspired to complete school, transition to tertiary education or professional work
  - Applicable to other countries, now in Kenya and Uganda
    - In Africa and South Asia, boys reman 1.55 times as likely to complete secondary school as girls.

### Projects: Girls Choices

### **Teachers for Rural Futures**



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- Lack of women teachers in rural Uganda
- Become qualified secondary school teachers and

January 2020, the first five graduates

- Women teachers in Rural Uganda
  - Many girls in Uganda not in school

- Advocates:
  - Ambassadors for girls education
  - Role models for young women
- Now sponsoring 4 new young women
- Funded by City of Geneva and donations from us



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# **UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030**



### sdgs.un.org

### SUSTAINABLE G ALS



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### University Women Helping Afghan Women

### GWI a Forum for NFA Projects to be Expanded

LOCAL: UWHAW: A CFUW-Ottawa initiative aims:

- To inspire women to learn about the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan
- To raise awareness locally, nationally and internationally and
- To support them to achieve an education by raising funds for girls scholarships at Gawharshad University in Kabul

### **NATIONAL** Expansion:

•Interest in the topic expanded nationally and resulted in the formation of the CFUW National Afghanistan Study Group

### **INTERNATIONAL** Expansion

- At GWI Triennials shared and discussed through NFA seminars and workshops in Istanbul and Cape Town Other NFAs developed programs in their own countries ie. Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand
- •GWI NFA-to-NFA Partnership

CFUW is working with GWI-NL on a joint project on the significance of the Afghanistan peace negotiations for women

•NFA to World Network of GWI NFAs

Through GWI, CFUW and GWI-NL will take this issue to NFAs around the world in a world-wide webinar in April 24, 2021

### **REPLICATION** and improvisation:

Any different but significant issue can use the same process:

- learning about an issue, raising awareness about it, providing support
- replicate by other GWI members anywhere in the world

### GWI WEBINAR: CFUW & GWI-NL



cfuw fcfdu THE POWER OF WOMEN WORKING TOGETHER

Saturday, April 24, 10:00 am – 11:30





Dr. Sima Samar Physician & Human Rights Activist Founder of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission

Dr. Habibi Sarabi 1 of 4 Women On the 42 Member Negotiating Team in Doha



Afghanistan Peace Negotiations: Their Perilous Significance for Women in Afghanistan



Mary Akrami **Executive Director of** Afghan Women Network & Member of Afghanistan's High Peace Council

