

Inspiring a Vision: Pioneers and Other Women

Edited by
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100 years of IFUW
1919 - 2019

Inspiring a Vision: Pioneers and Other Women

In 1918, during the visit of a British universities mission to the United States, Dean Virginia Gildersleeve of Barnard College, USA, met Professor Caroline Spurgeon of the University of London, and Rose Sidgwick of the University of Birmingham, England. They discussed the need for a worldwide organization uniting university women as one way of preventing another catastrophe such as WW1. United globally, graduate women could work for understanding, friendship and foster peace.

On 11 July 1919, Caroline Spurgeon, Virginia Gildersleeve, Winnifred Cullis and other graduate women from Great Britain, Canada and the United States met in London and founded the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

The first conference was held in London in 1920. Representatives gathered from nine national federations of university women. Those present included the United States of America, Britain, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, The Netherlands, Italy and Spain. In addition there were delegations from Australia, Belgium, Denmark, India, Norway, South Africa and Sweden. Shortly after the conference, these delegates formed national associations in their own countries. The second conference took place in Paris, 1922. At the third IFUW conference in Christiania, (Oslo) in 1924 the 'Million Dollar Fellowship Fund' was started and received a significant donation from a group of men who had planned a scholarship for women in 1914! The design for the IFUW brooch was also presented there and adopted as the international logo.

In addition to promoting peace, the advancement of careers for women with academic qualifications formed a major objective for the organization. IFUW and its national associations created fellowships, and promoted the founding of women's club-

houses where women could stay during research visits overseas.

100 years later, GWI continues to advocate for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality secondary and tertiary education and training up to the highest levels. The goal is for 100% of girls and women worldwide to achieve an education beyond primary school.

From its founding in 1919 up to the new wave of feminism in the 1970s IFUW had many eminent members who were not only pioneers in their field, but also renowned for their contribution to knowledge and society. They are presented here as a historical cavalcade.

With the advent of new feminism in the 1970s and easier access for women of all social classes to take higher education, the leaders of IFUW were faced with new problems. In many parts of the world younger women regard the battle for equality won. This era is marked by a global widening of membership, increasing cooperation with the United Nations (UN), UNESCO and other NGOs, and the formation of regional groupings within IFUW.

IFUW was renamed Graduate Women International in April 2015.

Anne Holden Rønning

*The lamp of wisdom.
A burning lamp spreading light and
wisdom to all women, surrounded by a closed
chain symbolizing the bond of friendship*



IFUW brooch 1924

Each NFA was offered the opportunity to nominate two (2) members from their organization for inclusion in this document. Some appear in the Cavalcade but the majority appear in the section on New Feminism. There are many more people from NFAs who should / could have been mentioned, but were not proposed and unfortunately more proposals than were allowed that could not be used. This should not reflect unfairly on the proposals that could not be used. All proposals were more than worthy of inclusion.

Cavalcade of Women

The First 50 Years

1920 to 1970s

Headquarters London

Britain

Caroline Spurgeon (1869-1942)

In 1913 Caroline Frances Eleanor Spurgeon was the first woman to be appointed as professor at the University of London. She was an expert on English Literature, especially Chaucer and Shakespeare, and was instrumental, with counterparts in the USA, in restructuring English studies and getting English Literature into the university curriculum.

She was an active militant for women's education, access to degrees, and for more opportunities for foreign women at British Universities. Her militancy in this field took her as a member of the British Educational Mission to America where she met Virginia Gildersleeve and Rose Sidgwick and they formed plans to start IFUW. Their friendship and common aspiration for women's education as a key to bringing peace was a major inspiration in the creation of IFUW in London in 1919.

Caroline Spurgeon was elected as the first President of the Federation in 1920.



Literature



History

Britain

Rose Sidgwick (1877-1918)

Rose Sidgwick, born in Rugby in 1877, was a university lecturer and one of the founders of the International Federation of University Women. She received an honours degree in Modern History at Oxford and continued her career at the University of Birmingham, where she was appointed assistant lecturer in History. In addition she was involved in training programmes for social workers and supported the Workers Educational Association. During a trip to the USA in 1918, Rose, as a member of a British delegation, met several representatives of American universities and discussed the opportunities for closer cooperation between universities from the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States (USA).

Sadly, Rose Sidgwick fell victim to the influenza that claimed so many lives in 1918.



United States

Virginia Cocheron Gildersleeve (1887-1965)

Virginia Gildersleeve studied History, English and Comparative Literature at Barnard College, New York. She was Dean of the college from 1911-1947. Her aim was to advance women's rights to all forms of higher education, and even supported some students financially herself. She encouraged faculty and students to engage in the political movements of the day, and advocated for paid maternity leave of absence for female faculty members.

Her interest in international politics became evident in her support of the League of Nations. During WW2 she chaired WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). In 1945 she was appointed as the only woman in the seven-member delegation to the San Francisco Conference that drew up the Charter of the United Nations. She drafted the ECOSOC Charter (United Nations Economic and Social Council) and played an important role in the formulation of the aim of the United Nations.

In 1919 together with Caroline Spurgeon and Winifred Cullis she founded the International Federation of University Women. She drew up the organization's Constitution, describing IFUW as "a significant forerunner of the General Assembly of the United Nations."

She was President of IFUW, 1924-1926 and 1936-1939.

In 1969 several members of IFUW started the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund that now provides grants for women's grass-roots projects in developing countries.



*Of course, our great underlying purpose was world peace...
Virginia Gildersleeve*

*Education
International Politics*



IFUW Council 1922

Sweden

Karolina Widerström (1856-1949)

Karolina Widerström was a pioneer woman in medicine. She graduated as a doctor in 1888, but she was not allowed by the Constitution to practise medicine. So, a gynaecologist, she opened her own clinic for women though she was denied the right to perform operations. Karolina considered it important that women knew about their bodies and its functions, so she taught hygiene (sex education) in schools in Stockholm 1897-1929, extending her work to women of all ages. She started an association to reform women's clothing, especially corsets, and to have separate shoes made for each foot – previously there was only one type of shoe for both.

In the early nineteenth century she took a serious interest in politics, joined the Liberal Party, was a city council delegate and fought for women's suffrage (granted in 1919.) During WW2 she worked to help academic refugees in Sweden. Together with ten other graduate women she founded the Swedish Association of University Women (KAF) in 1904 to fight for equal rights for women to use their professional education.

The Karolinska Institute in Stockholm is named after her in honour of her seminal work.

Australia

Louisa MacDonald (1858-1949)

Louisa MacDonald was a classics scholar from University College, London, who arrived in Sydney in 1892 to take up a position as the first Principal of the Woman's College at the University of Sydney, a position she held until retiring to London in 1919. Louisa was active in championing women's interests both in the university and in the wider community, particularly with her links to the Womanhood Suffrage League of New South Wales, the Woman's Literary Society, the Woman's Club and Sydney University Woman's Settlement. In 1907 she stood, unsuccessfully, as the first woman for the University Senate.

On 19 May 1892 nineteen women met to form the Sydney University Women's Association (SUWA) to bring together university women for social and intellectual enterprises. Louisa was elected the first President of SUWA. In 1920 Louisa, accompanied by Mildred Muscio represented Australia at the first IFUW conference in London. Soon after, initiatives were taken to form the Sydney University Women Graduates Association, which became the Australian Federation of University Women (now AFGW) at a conference in Sydney in 1922.



Medicine



Education



South Africa

Bertha Stoneman (1866-1943)

Born an American she studied at Cornell University specializing for her doctorate in fungi. After graduating she went to South Africa and headed the Botany Department of Huguenot College, Wellington, Cape Province. She became President of the college in 1921. She taught zoology, psychology and logic, and developed Huguenot's herbarium. In the introduction to her textbook *Plants and their ways in South Africa* (1906) she wrote, "Every living thing has something to tell us if our eyes have been trained to see and we have learned to think about what we see." This book was a standard reference book for several decades. In 1920 she co-authored a dictionary of botanical terms in English and Dutch.

Stoneman was fiercely committed to the cause of women's education and provided several scholarships to allow girls from poor families to attend university. She was known as a "colourful personality, renowned for her wit and delight in jokes" writing in the textbook introduction "...the reader may skip any name in this book longer than Hermanuspetusfontein."

Bertha Stoneman was founder of the South African Association of University Women (now the South African Association of Women Graduates).

France

Marie Curie (1867-1934)

Marie Curie was an internationally renowned scientist and physicist and a pioneer of women in science. Born in Poland she moved to Paris where she worked on the theory of radioactivity, and discovered polonium and radium in 1898. She worked closely with her husband, Pierre Curie, and when he died suddenly she took over his professorship at the Sorbonne. She was the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris. In 1932 she founded the Radium Institute (now Maria Sklodowska-Curie Institute of Oncology) in Warsaw. In 1995 she became the first woman to be entombed on her own merits in the Panthéon in Paris. Ellen Gleditsch from Norway was one of the pioneers of IFUW who worked with Madame Curie.

She was the first woman to receive a Nobel Prize, in 1903 for physics and in 1911 for chemistry, and the only woman to be honoured with two Nobel Prizes.

She was Honorary President of l'Association des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU) from 1922 till her death in 1934. Her motto is still ours "In life, there is nothing to fear, all is to understand".



Botany



Physics



Britain

Winifred Cullis (1875-1956)

In 1919 she was the first British woman to hold a Chair in Medicine when she was elected Professor of Physiology at the University of London. Her main areas of research were on methods of determining oxygen and CO₂ in “gas metabolism of gut.” She insisted on the importance of preventative medicine, and that women should know about their body and its functions. To inform the general public she wrote *The Body and its Health* (1935) and *Your Body and the Way it Works* (1945). In 1915 she was one of the first women elected to membership of the Physiological Society of Great Britain.

She was an ardent feminist, promoting women’s right to higher and adult education, and toured the world lecturing on this subject. She also lectured on physiology and health to the troops in WW1 and in WW2.

Convinced that intellectual exchange served the cause of international understanding she was a founding member of IFUW, and President 1929-1932.

The *British Medical Journal* obituary notes: “That she was able to achieve so much for the position of women all over the world was due to her great charm and genial personality.”

There is an IFUW fellowship named in her honour.

Romania

Queen Mary of Romania (1875 - 1939)

Mary was a granddaughter of Queen Victoria, who married crown Prince Ferdinand and became a member of the Romanian royal family. She was the Queen of Romania when the Romanian Great Union was formed – 100 years ago, in 1918. During WW1 she devoted her energies to the war effort, setting up relief schemes, volunteer nursing, and raising money for wounded war prisoners and widows. She was the only woman who played an important role in the Versailles Peace conference in 1919, which led to the creation of the League of Nations.

Queen Marie of Romania was also the founder, in 1925, of the University Women’s Association in Romania. In the same year, she affiliated it to the International Federation of University Women.



Medicine



Nursing



Canada

Margaret McWilliams (1875-1952)

Margaret McWilliams was a historian and political analyst. In 1898 she graduated as the first woman with a degree in Political Economy at the University of Toronto, and worked afterwards in a newspaper for some years. She was an alderman in Winnipeg 1933-1940, only the second woman to hold such office.

She had a great interest in global political struggles, took leadership roles in many organizations, lectured on world affairs, and wrote several books. In 1910 she joined the Women's Movement.

“With her husband she advocated state intervention, government planning, some nationalization of resources and manufacturing, and a simplification of the existing federal system of government.” That must have been very radical at the time!

In 1992 she was the first President of the Canadian Federation of University Women, and later First Vice-President of IFUW.

There is a Canadian Fellowship is named in her honour.

Austria

Lise Meitner (1878-1968)

Lise Meitner was a physicist who did pioneering work on radio-physics and radioactive processes. In 1901 she was the first woman admitted to Vienna University's physics lectures and laboratories, and the second woman to receive a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Vienna in 1905. She went on to further research in Berlin, where in 1912 she was appointed assistant to Max Planck, the only woman allowed in the laboratory. She discovered the element 85 astatine, the rarest element on earth.

In 1938 she discovered nuclear fission – the splitting of the atom, and interpreted the processing of uranium. However, the credit for the discovery of fission and the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1944 went to Otto Hanh with whom she had researched since WW1.

Of Jewish origin she had to flee the Nazis in 1938 and with the help of the Danish physicist Niels Bohr fled to Sweden. After 1945 she was invited to Washington DC as “Woman of the Year” in recognition of her scientific achievements. The element Meitnerium is named after her.



Political Economy



Physics



Germany

Vibert Marie-Elizabeth Luders (1878-1966)

Vibert Marie-Elizabeth Luders was an important figure in the German women's rights movement. In 1912 she was the first woman in Germany to get a doctorate in Political Science. During her studies she founded, in 1909, a lobbying group in Berlin to promote equal education possibilities for women.

In 1917 she headed the Women's Central Work Office and the Women's Department in the German War Office recruiting as many women as possible. She worked to improve working conditions and provide childcare for working women. In 1933 the Nazis banned her lobbying group and writings, and in 1937 she was jailed, but released after pressure from international women's groups and diplomats. She was a member of DAB (the German NFA).

She was a member of the Reichstag 1920-1921 and 1924-1930, and later the Bundestag, 1953-1961. During her time in Parliament she worked on women's rights issues and the rights of foreign women married to German citizens.

Norway

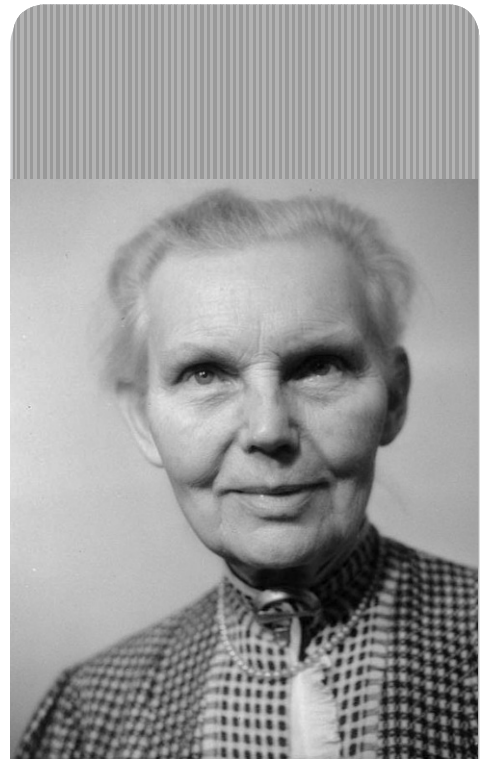
Ellen Gleditsch (1879-1968)

Ellen Gleditsch was one of the first women professors in Norway, and for many years the only woman in her field, radiochemistry. After studies at Christiania (Oslo) University she worked with Marie Curie in her laboratory in Paris from 1907-1912. She was also the first woman who was allowed to do laboratory research at Harvard University. She played an important role when Norway bought its first radium, and thereby started the Norwegian Radium Hospital Oslo. In 1963 as the first woman throughout its 700-year history Ellen Gleditsch was given an honorary doctorate at the Sorbonne.

In Norway she was politically active. She stood for Parliament in 1919 and was active in the women's rights movement, forming the Oslo Women's Party in 1929.

Ellen Gleditsch was Vice-President of IFUW 1924-1926 and President of IFUW 1926-1929. A prime interest of Ellen Gleditsch both in Norway and in IFUW was her campaign for international scholarships for women.

In 1965 the Ellen Gleditsch Stipendiefond for women researchers was established in her honour.



Political Science



Physics



Switzerland

Nelly Schreiber-Favre (1879-1972)

Nelly Schreiber-Favre was the first female law student at the University of Geneva, and the first woman to be admitted to the Bar in Western Switzerland. In Switzerland women won the right to practise law in Zürich in 1898, after a massive fight with the professional associations. In 1903 the Geneva Parliament approved an amendment to the law making it possible for women to practise law. Nelly Schreiber-Favre was not only committed to the professional acceptance of women who had studied, but also participated in the Swiss women's fight for the vote. She supported vocational schools for women, and took care of young criminals and prostitutes.

From 1920 she was a member of the legal studies and insurance commissions of the Union of Swiss Women's Organizations, and from 1939 to 1945 she was a member of the Commission for Intellectual Cooperation of the League of Nations.

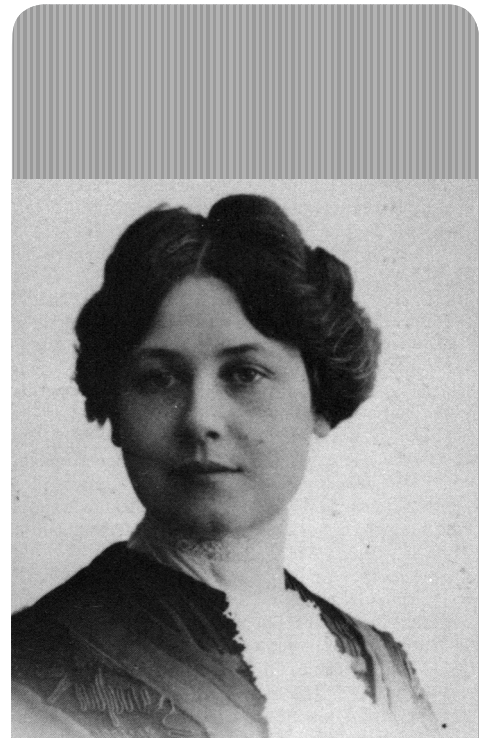
As President of the Geneva Association of University Women in 1924, she helped found the Swiss Association of University Women. She became its first President and operative in SVA/ASFUDU joining IFUW. From 1926-1929 she was second Vice-President of IFUW and from 1929-1932 first Vice-President.

Britain

Theodora Bosanquet (1881-1981)

Theodora worked as an indexer of Encyclopedia Britannica, but most of her early life she worked as an amanuensis for Henry James, the novelist, from 1907-1916. Later she worked as literary editor, and later director, of *Time and Tide* from 1935-1958.

An active suffragist she joined IFUW in 1920 and was Executive Secretary of IFUW during the pioneering years from 1920-1935.



Law



Literature



The Netherlands

Johanna Westerdijk (1883-1961)

Johanna Westerdijk was a specialist in plant diseases and fungi, and in 1906 was appointed director of the Phytopathological Laboratory Willie Commelin Scholten, supposedly because she was cheaper than the male candidates! She held this position for almost 50 years. A collection of live fungi given to her in 1907 formed the basis for Centraal Bureau voor Schimmelcultures (CBS), which has the largest collection of fungi in the world.



Appointed Professor in Phytopathology in 1917 she was the first female professor in the Netherlands, and a great inspiration and role model for female students in biology. In 1930 she became Extraordinary Professor in Phytopathology in Amsterdam and in 1951 the second woman member of the Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences. Johanna Westerdijk was also known for being hospitable and liked parties. Above the door of the laboratory you could read the words 'work and parties are beautiful spirits'.

A founding member of the Netherlands Federation (VVAO) from 1918 to 1932 she was a board member during which time she wrote the brochure 'What has Feminism brought the Dutch woman? So what can we expect from her?' intended to encourage girls with a secondary school education to work as professionals and to abandon their work as a traditional housewife. She was President of IFUW 1932-1937.

Britain

Sybil Campbell (1889-1977)

Sybil Campbell studied Natural Sciences and Economics at Cambridge from 1908.

She worked as an enforcement officer for the Ministry of Food during WW1 and WW2. After studying Law she joined the Middle Temple in 1920, and was one of ten women called to the Bar at Middle Temple in November 1922. She practised as a barrister and was the first woman appointed a full-time judge and stipendiary magistrate in 1945, a position she retained until 1962.

She was honorary Secretary of the British Federation of University Women from 1921-1933, and Vice-President 1947-1977.

She was one of the initiators in the establishment of Crosby Hall in Chelsea, London, as a hall of residence for international postgraduate students. During WW2 it was a place of academic freedom for refugees from Europe. The Sybil Campbell Library is named after her.



Phytopathology



Natural Sciences

Canada

Alice Vibert Douglas (1894-1988)

Astronomer Alice Vibert Douglas was the first Canadian woman to become an astrophysicist. During WW1 she worked as a statistician in the War Office, and took up Astronomy again afterwards. She did research both in Britain and Canada, researching, among other areas, the spectra of A and B type stars and the Stark effect. She became a Professor of Astronomy in 1946 – a seldom honour for a woman. She was also a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and President of RASC. She was Dean of Women at McGill University and was instrumental in having women accepted into engineering and medicine studies. In 1947 she became the first Canadian President of the International Astronomical Union.

In 1988 the asteroid 3269 was named Vibert Douglas in her honour. She also has a patera (an irregular or complex crater) on Venus named after her. The Vibert Douglas is located at 11.6° South latitude 194.3° East longitude. It is almost circular and 45 km in diameter.

She was President of the IFUW 1947-1950. The Canadian Federation of University Women established a Fellowship in her name in 1947.

Romania

Ana Aslan (1897-1988)

Ana Aslan was a biologist, physician and a pioneer in social medicine, gerontology and geriatrics. She coined the term 'gerontology', and in her research focused on physiology and the effects of ageing. She discovered the anti-ageing affects of Procaine, based on the drugs Gerovital H3 and Aslavital, which she developed. In 1952 she founded the Geriatric Institute of Bucharest, the first of its kind in the world and recognized by the World Trade Organization.



Astrophysics



Biology / Medicine



France

Jeanne Chaton (1899-1989)

Jeanne Henriette Chaton had a doctorate in International Law. She was a French diplomat and held several positions in the United Nations such as an official member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. She was consultant to UNESCO on women's education 1947-1949, and professor and consultant for the French education system 1922-1965.

During WW1 she was deported to Germany at the age of sixteen, but was rescued by the Red Cross. In WW2 she took part in the Resistance movement for which she was awarded the Légion d'Honneur in 1946.

She received several honours for her work. In 1965 she retired from teaching and joined the UN Committee on the Status of Women. She was one of those who wrote the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, November 7, 1967.

Jeanne Chaton was President of IFUW (1956-1959). Within AFFDU (French Association) she was particularly concerned with the problems of education in Africa, especially for women and girls.

Egypt

Asma Fahmy (1906-1956)

Asma Fahmy, a staunch believer in the emancipation, education and empowerment of women, dedicated her life to these causes. She had a Ph.D. in History from London University, and on her return to Egypt, became a distinguished Professor of History. To enable girls deprived of higher education by families who refused co-education, Asma donated land and founded the first Girls College in Ain Shams University, and became its first Dean. She was also the first Egyptian woman to hold the title of Dean of the Institute of Women Teachers.

To help eradicate prevalent illiteracy, she established literacy classes. Asma published numerous studies on education, the best known being *Principles of Islamic Education and Education of Women in Islam*. She was advisor and consultant to ministries and official bodies, and represented Egypt in numerous international and academic institutions.

In 1953, she founded and became the first President of the Egyptian Women Graduates Association. In honour and recognition of her contributions to education, community and culture, a road and school in central Cairo are named after her, as well as the Asma Fahmy Foundation for the Development of Rural Women.



International Law



Education



Austria

Dora Lauffer (1908–2000)

Dora Lauffer studied Romance Languages and Literature at the Karl-Franzens University in Graz. In February 1938 she got her doctorate just before Hitler's troops marched into Austria and the University closed down. She became a Professor of Romance languages and literature, philosophy and music at a grammar school for girls. She dedicated her life to encouraging and supporting young people, and was a woman with visions and ideas such as building a students' residence for young talented academic women to give them the opportunity to have a "home" during their studies. This residence, run by the Austrian Association of University Women, VAÖ, is named after her, and is also open to international students. She was the author of several books.

She became President of the Styrian branch of the "Verband der Akademikerinnen Österreichs" and Vice-President of the VAÖ. She received several honours and was awarded the "Goldene Ehrenzeichen der Republik Österreich".

New Zealand

Dorothy Winstone (1909-2014)

Dame Dorothy Winstone was an educationist and an academic. She was a member of New Zealand's Royal Commission on Contraception, Sterilization and Abortion from 1975 to 1977. She served on the Council of the University of Auckland, and was awarded an honorary degree in Laws from the University of Auckland. During her Presidency she worked with the (male) legal fraternity to update the regulations governing the granting of Fellowships by the New Zealand Federation of University Women (NZFUW) Fellowship Trust Board. Dame Dorothy encouraged and supported NZFUW women to work alongside other women's organizations. She was responsible for starting Auckland Branch's fundraising by the hiring-out of regalia at capping and prize-giving ceremonies. Later she worked hard to establish the Kate Edger Trust.

She was National Treasurer of the NZFUW 1953-1956, President 1964-1967, and attended many IFUW conferences and Council meetings all over the world.

Dame Dorothy received several honours, national and international including the New Zealand Suffrage Centennial Medal in 1993. The Dorothy Winstone Centre Theatre at the Auckland Girls' Grammar School is named in her honour.



Literature



Education



Egypt

Doha Ghoneim (1914-1996)

Doha Ghoneim was a pioneer woman in Medicine at Cairo University in 1940, specializing in Pediatrics, Neurology and Psychiatry. She became the first Pediatric Neurologist in Egypt, dedicating her career to the treatment and prevention of Poliomyelitis. She was involved in the earliest trials of childhood polio vaccination in Egypt, and introduced the first artificial respirator to Egypt. In the mid-sixties Ghoneim was appointed Founding Director of the Polio Institute in Cairo, which brought together specialists in Pediatrics, physical medicine, orthopedic surgery, and rehabilitation to provide free care for children suffering from polio, and left with long-term disability. Ghoneim later expanded the services to provide for cases of cerebral palsy.

In 1995 Ghoneim was recognized by UNICEF for her national vaccination campaign that resulted in the total eradication of the disease by 1994. For her pioneer achievements she was elected a member of the Egyptian Medical Syndicate.

Dr. Ghoneim was active in several community based NGOs, focusing on fighting illiteracy among women and children in impoverished and marginalized communities, and providing vocational training.

India

Bina Roy (1914-1994)

Bina Roy spent her life promoting education for women and girls. With a degree in History and English, and a Ph.D. from Harvard she worked at Lucknow University from 1949-1953 when she went to Delhi and worked on the Fulbright Programme at the United States Educational Foundation.

Bina Roy was involved in several women's development schemes and committees. She was a consultant to UNICEF on programmes for women and children in India, and maintained a survey record of all UNICEF's work in India. She edited for ILO, especially studies on Women's Work and Labour in rural areas, and the booklets for their programmes, including the Family Planning Foundation. She worked tirelessly for the eradication of illiteracy, and raising the status of women.

In the early 1950s she joined the University Women's Association of Delhi.

As the first Asian and Indian Bina Roy was elected President of IFUW 1971-1974 and afterwards was President of IFUWA 1975-1979. The Bina Roy Partners in Development programme in IFUW is named in her honour.



Medicine



Education



Japan

Fumi Takano (1914-1988)

Fumi Takano dedicated herself to studying women's liberation as well as to educating women and girls, while working in her own special field of English Literature at Tsuda College for Women, in Tokyo, Japan from 1937 to 1983. She exerted a considerable influence on her students by advocating the need for women to gain independence through higher education.

Fumi Takano is distinguished as a pioneer in developing the activities of Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW) to a national and international level. With her calm and broad-minded personality traits, no one but Fumi Takano could have overcome such turbulent and changing social conditions characteristic of the 1970s and the 1980s through which JAUW as well as IFUW eventually developed.

She was the first Japanese President of IFUW 1980-1983, after having served two terms of six years (1974-1980) as its Vice-President, during the so-called second-wave of feminism in Japan. She chaired the organizing committee for 18th General Assembly of IFUW in Kyoto in 1974, the first one in Asia.

Finland

Helvi Sipilä (1915-2009)

Helvi Sipilä was a Finnish lawyer and diplomat, and a well-known advocate for equality and women's rights. Sipilä was only the second woman in Finnish history to practise as a lawyer. Starting in 1943 she ran her own law firm for thirty years.

She was the first female Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) and was appointed Secretary-General of the first UN World Conference on Women in Mexico 1975. She worked as a consultant for the UN until 1981 to promote the UN Voluntary Fund for the Advancement of Women, UNIFEM, set up for the UN Decade for Women 1976-1985.

Sipilä received numerous national and international awards including twelve honorary doctorates, and was granted the honorary title of Minister in 2001. Sipilä also held leadership positions in several associations, including the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the International Federation of Women Lawyers and the International Council of Women.

Together with Blanche Hegg Hoffet she was instrumental in establishing the IFUW Hegg Hoffet Fund. The first International Helvi Sipilä Seminar was organized at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2006 by the Finnish Federation of University Women.



Education



Law / Diplomacy



Poland

Stanislawa Adamowicz

Stanislawa Adamowicz was a graduate in Medicine attached to the State Institute of Hygiene in Warsaw. From 1908-1918 she worked as a research bacteriologist in Russia, and was later head of the Epidemiological State Institute of Warsaw. 1919-1921 she was a representative to the League of Nations.

She is said to have helped Jews escape the Nazis in WW2.

She became First Vice President and then President of IFUW 1939-1942.

“Our hands, accustomed to using weapons, are very clumsy in their attempts to collect the delicate threads of peace. Our minds, concentrated for such a long time on destruction, have lost their flexibility and are moving at a very slow rate towards constructive ideas.”

These were the last words that Dr Adamowicz spoke to IFUW at the Toronto Conference in 1947, before the Iron Curtain fell after she returned to Poland and she could no longer function within IFUW.



Medicine



Education

Egypt

Enayat Elhakim (1915-2001)

Enayat Elhakim was a graduate of Cairo University, had a Diploma of Education from the UK and a special diploma in Psychology from Einshams University. She was a visiting professor there, as well as at Alazhar University when it first opened its doors to girls. She founded the department of young women's service in the Ministry of Education.

Enayat was involved in several community development projects such as the educational social plough (cultural caravans); turning cafés into cultural clubs and using them for abolishing illiteracy in the broader sense (life illiteracy not just alphabetical illiteracy); preparing people for family life, and bureaus for family counseling. She was given the title of “the sister of architects” even though she was not an architect, for her work in conferences dealing with architecture and urban and regional planning.

Enayat Elhakim initiated several NGOs including the founding of the Egyptian Graduate Women Association in the 1950s. She was the first woman in several organizations dealing with aspects of community development, and one of the first Egyptian women to run for election in 1959.



New Feminism and thereafter

1970s to 2019

Headquarters Geneva

With the advent of new feminism in the 1970s and easier access for women of all social classes to take higher education, the leaders of IFUW faced new problems; not least as in many parts of the developed world younger women regard the battle for equality won. With increasing globalization came a widening of membership, and the establishment of regional groups. In 1978 Gisela Kessel from Germany and Jans Gremm e from the Netherlands took the initiative to establish University Women of Europe (UWE) bringing together some of the European NFAs in 1981. UWE was given consultative status with the European Women's Lobby in EU. Daphne Buckley and Beverley Turner are, together with Lily Vesikula in Fiji, prime movers in the Pacific Graduate Women's Net (PGWNet). In Africa the South African Association was central in the establishment of the African group; there were also groups in Asia (UWA), and Latin America, Federaci n Latin Americana des Mujeres. The formation of these groups was a natural development for IFUW/GWI in a more globalized world where diversity of problems and issues cannot be standardised, and a need was felt to influence regional thinking and politics on women's issues. In Africa Shirley Randell played an important role in increasing membership. However this period is also marked by several of the older organizations leaving GWI.

One seminal change in this period has been IFUW/GWI involvement in UN organizations. In Paris Marianne Bernheim and Francoise Sauvage have chaired the NGO Caucus at UNESCO, and

were very active during the NGO consultations on Higher Education prior to the World Conference on Higher Education 1998 and World Conference on Science in 1999. An IFUW team was present at the NGO consultations as well as at World Conference on Higher Education and played a significant role, with Linda Souter and Elizabeth Poskitt chairing two sessions. In Vienna, Ilona Graenitz, Eva Tongue and Inge Luxon built up the IFUW representation at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Mary Purcell was at one time chair of the NGO Caucus at the UN in New York and was seminal in getting the girl child included in the Beijing Platform for Action for Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, 1995. In Geneva Conchita Poncini presented many statements and worked actively with ILO and other NGOs with headquarters in Geneva.

IFUW/GWI members have given papers and led panels, not only at the Beijing Conference, in cooperation with UNESCO, but have also been active in the triennial Women's Worlds conferences since 1999. IFUW Presidents Louise Croot and Reiko Aoki led panels in Uganda 2001, Seoul 2005, Madrid 2008 and Ottawa 2011. One of the topics was the situation for widows worldwide. This resulted in a statement to the United Nations.

In this section we present people involved in the development of IFUW/GWI and the attempts to bring the organization into the 21st century and the cyber world.

Europe

Ritva-Liisa Karvetti (1929-2016), Finland

Ritva-Liisa Karvetti was a prominent nutrition scientist at various institutions and Adjunct Professor in Clinical Nutrition at Turku University in Finland 1985-1996. She published several books.



She held different offices within IFUW over a period of 16 years.

She was President of the Finnish Federation of University Women 1974-1977 and Honorary President since 1997. Ritva-Liisa Karvetti was Vice-President of IFUW 1980-1986, was the first Finnish woman to serve as President of IFUW from 1986-1989.

Ritva-Liisa Karvetti with her quiet and serene authority together with her sense of justice and integrity was very respected both in Finland and internationally.



Berit Aas (1928-), Norway

Berit Aas is Professor Emerita in Social Psychology at the University of Oslo, and a well-known feminist in Norway and globally. Several books have been written about her. She is best known for her research on the five suppression techniques used against women: making invisible, ridiculing, withholding information, double binding, and blaming and shaming.



In 1983 she founded Kvinneuniversitetet (Women's University) an independent institution for research and interdisciplinary courses based on feminist values and pedagogy for women of all ages, nationality and background.

She was also an active politician and led the "women's coup" in 1971 when there was a drive to get women into local government. From 1973-1977 she was a member of Stortinget (Parliament). As leader of the Socialist Left Party she was the first woman in Norway to be a Party Leader. Her experiences there led to her research on suppression techniques. She has also been an active participant in the triennial Women's Worlds conferences from 1975 onwards.

She was active in the Norwegian Association of University Women (then NKAL now GW-N) and President from 1982-1985.

Verena Welti, Switzerland

Verena studied German and French at the University of Berne and became a high school teacher at the Kantonsschule in Solothurn. She realized in the 1990s that many of the girls in her classes lacked role models of working women. So for 15 years she organized annual meetings between girls and professional women representing a large variety of careers and life patterns.



The underrepresentation of girls in STEM led her to cooperate with other associations of women engineers, architects and scientists in developing the project "Techno-Girls". This gave three groups of girls in Zurich, Basel and Berne first hand insight into the work of specialists.

Verena Welti has been an active member of the Swiss Association of University Women. In 1995 she joined the Board as a representative for the local branch, Solothurn, where she was President 1993-2014. At the national level she was Coordinator for International Relations, Vice-President, 2003 and President of the Swiss Association, 2008-2014. One of her main goals was to create a network of friendship and solidarity among women of different languages and cultures such as establishing contact with UWE. Through her the Swiss Association joined the DACH (Germany, Austria and Switzerland) friendship meetings. She initiated similar events for French-speaking countries.



The Americas

Claire Fulcher (1925-2012), USA

Claire Fulcher had a B.A. from Pomona College (1946), an M.A. from Stanford University (1950), and a doctorate in student personnel administration from Columbia University (1955). She was Dean of Women, Assistant Dean of Graduate Students, and Professor of Education from 1954-1973 at the University of Bridgeport. Fulcher served in many capacities



for a variety of women's organizations, including IFUW. She represented IFUW on the Executive Committee of NY NGO Committee on the Status of Women, and was a delegate and committee member. In 1980 Fulcher was elected Second Vice-President of IFUW. She was

also IFUW's representative to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

In addition to her work for IFUW, Fulcher was an active member of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF), the permanent representative to the UN for Business and Professional Women International (BPW), and a founding convener and chair of the NGO Committee on UNIFEM (now UN Women). She was also an active member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and held various leadership positions including First Vice-President, and served on the AAUW Educational Board of Directors. She acted as liaison representative between IFUW and AAUW. Claire Fulcher passed away in 2010, leaving behind her a legacy of volunteerism and advocacy within GWI and beyond.



Mary Purcell (1926-), USA

Mary Purcell's work was not limited to the domestic stage. She was also passionate about global issues affecting women and girls. Her leadership in IFUW and other international organizations reflects that passion. In the early 1990s Mary Purcell, serving as the IFUW UN representative in New York was responsible for forming the UN Working Group on Girls (WGG) and acted as its first chair. The goal of the working group was to raise attention to the plight of girls around the world and to advocate for girls' human rights. This resulted in this issue being included in the *Beijing Platform for Action* adopted by the Fourth World Conference on women held in Beijing in 1995 of which Purcell was a part. Today, thanks to Mary Purcell, the Working Group on Girls is an active coalition of over 80 NGOs working to advocate for issues affecting girls, for girls' rights to be included in the UN agenda, and to insure their rights are protected around the globe.

Mary Purcell held multiple leadership positions within IFUW (GWI) and AAUW. She was AAUW President 1981-1985. In 1983 she was elected Second Vice-President of IFUW, and then IFUW President in 1989-1992. It was during her Presidency that professional interdisciplinary seminars were introduced and became an integral part of IFUW conferences.



Louise McLeod (1946-), USA

Born and raised in Canada, Louise earned degrees both in Pharmacy and Computer Science. She has over 30 years' experience in the non-profit sector dealing with women's issues at the local, national and international level with particular emphasis on Human Trafficking and Women, Peace and Security.



Louise McLeod embodies the mission and vision of Graduate Women International (GWI). She is the current GWI Vice-President of Marketing and the WG-USA representative to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). As a founding board member and immediate Past President of Women Graduates-USA her expertise in creating online database software helped WG-USA to become one of the first online national women's membership organizations when it was formed in 2008.



Leticia Calles Viuda de Romero, El Salvador

Leticia de Romero has a Ph.D. in Chemistry and Pharmacy from the University of El Salvador where she worked as a teacher and researcher. She represented the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of the University of El Salvador on several boards of directors of chemical and pharmaceutical associations. She was president of the College of Chemicals and Pharmacy, the Women's Association of Chemists and Pharmacists, and a member of the Higher Public Council of El Salvador in the branch of Chemistry and Pharmacy. She also took part in the reform of the Law of Professional Practice in this field.

She is the founder of the Salvadoran pharmaceutical cooperative association of limited liability CORFASAL and the Sacred Family Pharmacy of which she is the current owner. In 2014 she was given the pharmaceutical chemist of the year award by the College of Pharmaceutical Chemists.

As a founding member of the El Salvador Association of University Women (AMUS), she was a member of the board of directors that bought the land and built our headquarters, and is the only one still alive of those who founded AMUS. She was President of AMUS 1973-1975, organized the First Congress of FECAMU in 1975 and represented AMUS at the 19th IFUW conference in Stirling 1977. She was named distinguished President of AMUS in 2017 and 2018.

Alba Evelyn Cortez, El Salvador

Alba Evelyn Cortez is a lawyer, with Masters degrees in Family Violence, Human Rights and Education for Peace. She has given papers, published and organized several seminars on the legal aspects of women's issues. These have gained her national and international recognition. She has had a great impact on Salvadoran society, and was the driving force behind the entire legal framework in defense of women's rights. El Salvador right now has one of the most modern regulatory frameworks for the guarantee of women's rights in specialized courts at the regional level. She was appointed judge at the special Court of Justice for Women, 2013, and in 2014 "Case Presenter" in the Court of Conscience of Justice for Women. She was a member of the Commission drafting the new Criminal Code 1993.

She was designated "Millennium Woman for her investigative work and her projection of the theory of gender", by the Salvadoran Delegation of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States (CIM / OAS), on 13 December 1999. She has also been recognized at the national level by various Salvadoran organizations. In addition, she has been an active member, and has contributed to generational change in AMUS.



Linda Souter, Canada

Linda, with clear vision, energy, and inspired leadership as CFUW's 23rd President gave thousands of Canadian women an articulate voice. One of her first duties as President was to lead the Canadian delegation to the 22nd IFUW conference in New Zealand in 1986 where, in "an electric atmosphere", a CFUW resolution opposing child pornography was ratified unanimously. In this position, Linda also helped initiate, plan, and implement the Africa-Canada Workshop for Women in Management, Marketing and Development held in Accra, Ghana, 16-27 January 1989. After her CFUW presidency, Linda served CFUW as CIR from 1988-1990. Under Linda's watch, CFUW members continued advocacy on such issues as violence against women and children, pornography, pay equity, pensions, day care, and access to generic drugs. The list is still with us.

She served on the Board of IFUW as Vice-President and later she became the second Canadian to become



IFUW President 1998-2001, giving her voice to women of the 71 national affiliated associations that then comprised IFUW. She is the only Canadian to hold both the national and international presidencies. During her time as President of IFUW she organised, with funding from NORAD, organizational seminars in Africa to help African NFAs develop their associations.



Phyllis Scott, Canada

Following the 2006 Stockholm Declaration regarding child exploitation, Phyllis became a member of the Canadian Federal Government's National Steering Committee on Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Youth. During her term she says "relations with the Federal Government were excellent and encouraging, with Ministers, Deputy Ministers and staff often seeking the opinion of CFUW (...) on their draft legislation regarding" issues of importance to women." Furthermore, Phyllis adds: "Government listened. Through various means we hoped we made a difference federally – on women's health, pensions, human rights, the unity question, social transfer cuts, children in poverty, and employment equity and more." CFUW was also consulted regarding the women's and human rights issue of sex tourism.



As CFUW President, Phyllis was proactive in implementing policies and actions on issues of national importance, and encouraged all clubs to be equally proactive on resolutions. As National President, she led the CFUW delegation at the IFUW conference in Yokohama, Japan. She co-chaired/chaired the IFUW Way Forward network from 1998 to 2004, led the IFUW delegation to the UN Habitat meeting in Vancouver in 2006, and attended a number of UNCSW sessions. During a time of crisis, austerity and restructuring, she was twice elected Vice-President of IFUW: 2004-2007 and 2007-2010.



Africa

Petronella Chisanga, Zambia

In 1972 Petronella Chisanga received an AAUW fellowship offered to the Zambian Government to study Administration in girls schools at University College, Los Angeles.

Since there were no graduate women in the rural area from which Petronella came, it was not possible to start an organization immediately. But when she moved to Lusaka, she, with 10 other women, set up an NGO that would specifically tackle inequalities in education, advocate for affirmative action, and question the non-inclusiveness in our governance system. This was the founding of the Zambia Association of University Women.

Despite criticism of being elite and requests to drop the word “university” the Zambia Association of University Women was registered as a NGO in 1985 with Chisanga as the first President. ZAUW’s main project was to reform the stereotyped Reading Books *JELITA and MULENGA* in the primary school curriculum, which were typically gender biased, boys doing science and girls domestic chores. The second strategy was to include women in governance institutions. Evidence of non-inclusion was presented by ZAUW to the Prime Minister’s Office, accepted and corrected, and the first eight female Permanent Secretaries were appointed in the country soon after.

The Association held biannual academic workshops on issues that affect women. ZAUW has established a Scholarship fund at the University of Zambia for girls who did exceptionally well.



Mutumba Lucy Muyoyeta, Zambia

Graduate Women Zambia (GWZ), formerly Zambia Association of University Women (ZAUW) was established in Zambia in 1982 as an affiliate of IFUW. It started important projects for the promotion of girls and women. Due to challenges faced in the late 1990s the organisation discontinued its activities. In 2004, efforts to revive the association began.

In 2009 a board was elected led by Mutuba Muyoyeta, who was President until 2016. During her presidency ZAUW re-established itself as an important stakeholder in girls and women’s education. A scholarship fund was established for girls in secondary schools and girls in non-traditional areas – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), and an annual International Women’s Day award was given for women

achievers in male dominated fields. Career guidance and mentorship programmes were established. With Muyoyeta at the helm of ZAUW, the organisation was able to attract women from different professions who contributed positively to various programs the organisation undertook such as career talks and mentorship. Partnerships were forged with corporate sponsors for these activities. To date, GWZ (formerly ZAUW) has a fruitful and enduring relationship with some corporate partners identified during Muyoyeta's reign. All this was done on a voluntary basis without any significant injection of donor funds.

Because of Muyoyeta not only was the Association revived but also it has continued on a growth path under new leadership.



Marie-Pierre Rokhayatou Sarr, Senegal

Marie-Pierre Sarr is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Juridical and Political Sciences of the Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar. She is a research-teacher, a graduate of the University of Bourgogne, Faculty of Law of Dijon. She was Minister, Counselor to the President of the Republic of Senegal, and Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises, Women Entrepreneurship and Micro-Finance.



She is a member of several Associations linked to the Social Women’s Movement, where she held and holds strategic positions; among others she is Honorary President of ASFDU (Senegal Association of University Women) after having been Assistant Secretary for Legal Affairs, Secretary General and President. She is and active member of the Steering Committee and the Board of Directors of the Senegalese Women's Council (COSEF), the International Federation of Women Leaders for Peace (FIFL) and the National Observatory of Parity (ONP). In 2017 she was President of the 2017 national jury of the Grand Prix of the Head of State for the Promotion of Women.

Sarr has led several conferences on the Women / Peace and Development Trilogy, and on the Rights of Women. She has also been the godmother of several donations for the empowerment of girls and women, food donations, financial help, scholarships, awards (books, computers ..). ASFDU appreciates Marie-Pierre Rokhayatou Saar’s various actions, in particular her work to get ASFDU a member of IFUW and GWI, as well as for her active participation in the meetings, and her valuable advice at national and international level.

Madeleine Marie Henriette Deves Senghor, Senegal

Madeleine Marie Henriette Deves Senghor graduated in Public Law, and was the first woman to hold several positions in the Senegalese administration, including Chief of Staff (Cabinet Director) to the President of the Economic and Social Council, and Technical adviser to the President of the Republic on social and diplomatic issues.

She was President of the ASFDU from 1996 to 2001, Secretary General of the Senegalese Association for Family Welfare (ASBEF) from 1990 to 2000, Treasurer of the Senegalese Association of Children's Villages SOS and Secretary General of the Senegalese Association of Social Actions. She appears in the *Dictionary of Contemporary African Art* as a visual artist since 1972. Suspending her professional work as labor inspector in order to accompany her husband nominated Senegalese Ambassador to Brazil from 1975 to 1985, she was elected "woman of the year" in 1982, to crown her volunteer, socio-cultural and women's empowerment activities between the two countries. She has contributed a lot to building the "African Model Woman" through the promotion of schooling and education; her lecture-advocacy at the "Forum for African Women Educationalist" (FAWE) remains memorable.



Genevieve Etonam Adukpo, Ghana

Genevieve Etonam Adukpo is Director of the Centre for Gender Research, Advocacy and Documentation (CEGRAD), University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana, and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, UCC. She has an MPhil and BSc. in Chemistry from UCC, and has taught courses in Organic Chemistry for the past 13 years. Her current research is on medicinal plants and food chemistry and she has published widely in this field. She is a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), and has been facilitating the PACN-RSC GC-MS (Pan Africa Chemistry Network) trainings in Ghana.

Adukpo organizes and coordinates gender related activities such as Gender Awareness and Gender Analysis workshops, and Sexual Harassment Training workshops. She has a keen interest in Gender & STEM, promoting and empowering women and girls in lifelong education. Under Adukpo's directorship at CEGRAD, GAUW has received support in organizing and facilitating activities such as the Girls' Science Clinic, and Mathematics and Science Quiz competitions for Junior High Schools.

Adukpo is an active founding member of the Ghana Association of University Women (GAUW), and also active in IFUW, participating in GWI workshops and conferences since 2006. She is a past President of the Ghana Association of Science, Cape Coast branch. In 2016-2017 she was part of the core team that drafted the proposal for the Girls' Choices Projects funded by the Bina Roy Partners in Development Programme (BRPID).



Mildred Asmah, Ghana

Mildred Asmah had been an independent member of IFUW for several years and was instrumental in the establishment of the Ghana chapter with other team members in May 2016.

Under her leadership, the Ghana branch successfully conducted two GWI Bina Roy Partners In Development (BRPID) projects - Girls' Choices, a workshop for selected Basic Schools on gender and leadership and mentoring, and a Girls' Science Clinic to encourage girls to develop their interests in the natural sciences. She has conducted reading, public speaking and creative writing competitions in selected Basic Schools in the municipality.

Asmah mentors women in Inspired Women Lead a Geneva based NGO interested in mentoring others in the area of authentic feminine leadership, life harmony, communicating as a leader, developing leadership and personal values and ethics as a leader.

She has also presented papers at IFUW and GWI conferences in Perth, Manchester, Mexico, Cape Town and Geneva on local concerns of Ghanaian women and how they were solved.



*Members of the Ghana Association
of University Women*

Aziza Elhamamsy, Egypt

Aziza Elhamamsy studied Arabic in the Faculty of Literature at Cairo University and graduated in 1948. She joined the Association of Egyptian University Women Graduates in 1959, and has been President since 1996. She is also a member of several other NGOs such as the Hoda Sharawy Association, the United Nation Association, and friends of scholars abroad.



Aziza Elhamamsy writes articles in *al-Ahram* newspaper.

Aziza has received several awards and medals for her efforts in serving the community. She prepared and executed several programs, and a variety of activities for the Egyptian Association such as introducing environmental awareness in schools, abolishing illiteracy and preparing young graduates to be sitters caring for the elderly in their homes, until those graduates found regular jobs. She also travelled extensively to see the activities of other NGOs and their contribution to society. During her presidency, several members of IFUW visited the Egyptian Association. Aziza also encouraged Egyptian women graduates to travel abroad and benefit from international scholarships. During 2018, the Egyptian Association hosted the African Federation of Graduate Women.

During the Cairo University centennial festivities in 2008, the Association planned a special event, and prepared a PowerPoint presentation and booklet about the pioneering Egyptian women who first enrolled in Cairo University and served the nation and the Arab world.



Jolie Massay, Congo

After being an independent member of IFUW for two years Jolie Massay took the initiative to found the Association Congolaise des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (ACOFDU). Jolie Massay is very involved in Congolese girl's issues; she invests her own money organizing training, sensitization sessions and mentoring sessions for young girls in Kinshasa.



She attended the girls training workshop in Nairobi in 2015 and got, from GWI (IFUW), the green light to

start an NFA in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She organized several meetings and brought together more than 30 women. During the 60th session of UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York she shared the experiences of Congolese women, and demonstrated to the audience the challenges facing Congolese women and girls. GWI (IFUW) found in her the capacity to lead a NFA and to defend GWI values.



Jocelyn Adeline Bell 1931-2014, South Africa

Jocelyn Bell, born in Canada, obtained a B.A. in Economics at Rhodes University, and immediately started work as a statistician in the mining industry. As a mature student she completed her B.A. (Hons.) and M.A. while working. She spent most of her adult life working, holding such senior positions as Chief Economist for Gold Fields Limited, but she never ceased to work for the community through various volunteer positions, including Chairman of the Board of a number of organisations among others Ekutuleni Anglican Mission, and Parktown High School for Girls (her alma mater).



She joined the South African Association of Women Graduates (SAAWG) in 1980, and was President of the Johannesburg Branch 1986 to 1988, and again in 1998. Jocelyn was National President of SAAWG 1994-1997. During her term in office, Jocelyn, together with Margaret Edwards, conceived the Aurora Project. The project's objective is to give schoolgirls from disadvantaged backgrounds in Johannesburg life skills training, and to raise their self-esteem so that they can become more assured members of the community and aspire to greater heights. She and Margaret worked tirelessly for the Aurora Project, which is now being copied elsewhere in South Africa and beyond.

Jocelyn was the first South African to be elected to an IFUW position, and spent six years on the GWI Finance Committee and another six on the Status of Women Committee.



Catherine Adeline Bell (1964-), South Africa

Catherine Bell holds a BSc in Mathematics and a certificate in financial management. Catherine's professional life includes working as a project manager in the Information technology (IT) field, where she has delivered business solutions across multiple, diverse cultures and working styles, and led global/non-co-located teams.



She has been a member of the South African Association of Women Graduates (SAAWG) since she was a student in the early 1980s. As Treasurer of IFUW Catherine developed a dues model for GWI to assist the organisation to collect membership subscriptions on a sliding, logarithmic scale. She is the first African to be President of GWI, and her stated objective as President was to reinvigorate the organisation through the implementation of a strategy approved at the Istanbul IFUW conference. Under her Leadership GWI developed the Teachers for Rural Futures and Girls' Choices projects which support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 and 5.



Margaret Isobel Edwards 1937-2018, South Africa

Margaret received a B.Sc. in Botany, Zoology and Microbiology from the University of Natal, and a post-graduate Bachelor of Education from the University of Cape Town in 1982. Her teaching career took her to Cape Town, Pietermaritzburg and Johannesburg in South Africa, Harare in Zimbabwe, Alloa in Scotland and North London in England. She spent sabbaticals in the UK and Australia learning new education methodologies and thinking to employ in South Africa.



After retirement, Margaret qualified as an Education Quality Assurer and was a supportive quality assurer and mentor for the Independent Quality Assurance Association (IQAA), a volunteer and representative for the Independent Schools Association of South Africa (ISASA) and board member for a number of independent schools.

As Headmistress of two eminent private girls' schools in South Africa, Margaret fought apartheid policy to

ensure that all girls in her care, irrespective of race, religion or creed, received a quality education and joined the community as responsible and concerned citizens.

Margaret Edwards and Jocelyn Bell conceived of, developed and managed the Aurora project that aims to increase the self-esteem of young girls from disadvantaged backgrounds in Johannesburg. This project is being copied elsewhere in South Africa and beyond.

Margaret was given the GWI Chita Ghosh Award for her contribution to SAAWG, GWI and the Aurora Project in 2016.



Asia

Reiko Aoki (1935–) Japan

A professor of Literature Reiko Aoki has been a most dedicated member of the Japan Association of University Women (JAUW), serving twice as the president of the NFA during its hard and challenging periods of 1992 to 1995 and 2010 to 2011. She currently takes an active interest in JAUW's annual as well as special events and activities. Her insight and suggestions make a vital contribution to regenerating the association, which is gradually declining in the aging society of Japan.



Internationally, she served two consecutive terms as Vice-President of IFUW (1995–2001), and was IFUW President, 2001–2004. Her most remarkable achievement at an international level is as chair of the organizing committee of the 25th Triennial of IFUW in Yokohama, Japan in 1995. Without her determination and close friendship with numerous women including the Empress Michiko, the Assembly would not have become memorable for the 879 participants from 52 countries. Reiko is the symbolic representative of JAUW and Japan, and internationally known among IFUW members.

She has shown initiative in the Hegg Hoffet project and the JAUW's five-year special project, "Scholarship for Senior-High-Students Orphaned by 3-11-Tsunami". In both projects, she has exerted her incomparable power and charisma to gain support from inside and outside of Japan. Nevertheless, the key to her fine character lies simply in that she always values friendship with women and girls regardless of race, age, and nationality.



Chitra Ghosh, India

Chitra is chairperson of All India Forward Block's (AIFB) AgragamaniMahila Samiti, and a member of the central committee of the party, which was formed by Netaji in 1939. She is founder of the Women Volunteers Service (WVS), which works with village groups across West Bengal to empower women economically and socially. In 1981 an International Seminar was held in Calcutta on the theme "The Image of Women In the Media". It was a great success. A follow up to it was a vigilant lobby group of women was formed to monitor the image of women displayed by the media. Any distortion to the image of women is challenged.



She was President of the University Women's Association of Calcutta from 1975-1978. She was elected as President of the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations with its headquarters in Calcutta in 1979, (taking over the post from her mentor the legendary Dr. Bina Roy.) During her tenure Chitra Ghosh achieved a great many firsts such as the 1980 meeting with several women's NGO leaders at the Copenhagen Women's Summit that resulted in five International Women's Organizations joining hands, Project Five-O, in 1981.

She describes her stint as President of IFUW from 1992-1995 as the "most fulfilling period." The GWI Chitra Gosh award is named after her.



Meena Muthiah, India

Meena Muthiah, the Kumara Rani of Chettinad is a woman of diverse talents and interests. Hailing from a family of philanthropists and educationists, she has committed herself to the cause of shaping the young minds of our nation, by starting ChettinadVidyashram – a school that aims at holistic development of its wards. Muthiah is not only the Correspondent and Senior Principal of the institution; she is a role model for the staff and the students. Her untiring effort and able guidance has ranked ChettinadVidyashram 13th in the South Zone League of Day Schools, and third in the city by Education World, an annual publication.



She was the first woman from Chettinad to enter the Convocation hall to get not one, but five degrees. She is trained in traditional Tanjore art, and to keep Tanjore art thriving, the Kumara Rajah Muthiah School of Arts and Crafts provides training. Meena heads several voluntary organizations involving underprivileged children in community services under Season of Sharing. She has promoted computer literacy in rural districts and set up Kumara Rani Meena Muthiah Mother and Child Hospital, Kanadukathan.

She became president of UWA, Madras, in 1966 and was Vice-President, Indian Federation of University Women's Associations, 1971-1974. She was chairperson of the adhoc committee to raise funds for a permanent headquarters when Dr. Chitra Ghosh was national president in 1981 during the diamond jubilee year celebrations of the Indian Federation (IFUWA) in Calcutta. She was President of IFUWA 2014-2017.

Middle East

Nazan Moroğlu, Turkey

Born in İstanbul in 1947, Nazan graduated from Istanbul German College, and the Law Faculty of Istanbul University specializing in gender law. Her Masters thesis was “Surname of the Woman”.

As the first gender law expert in Turkey, she has taught “gender law” and family law, first at Istanbul University then from 2001 at Yeditepe University, and since 2014 in the MEF Law Faculty. She is founder of the Women’s Rights Commission of Turkish Bar Associations Union, and the President of the (TÜBAKKOM) - Commission. She has been a member of the Board and President of the Turkish Jurist Women’s Association (which is a member of “Des Femmes Des Carrières Juridiques”, FICJ); and of the Women’s Studies Association.

She is the President of the Union of Istanbul Women’s Organizations - IKKB. She was a member of the Turkish Parliamentary Union – Advisory Committee on Gender Equality, and a member of the Women’s Initiative for Turkey in the European Union. She is a founding member of the European Women Lawyers Association (EWLA). From 2004-2006 she was an executive member of the Board of Istanbul Bar Association, and from 2016-2018 the delegate to Turkish Bar Association Union.

She has been member of the Turkish Association of University Women and from 2010-2014 she was the President. There is an award in her name.



Fayge Cohen, Israel

Fayge Cohen was born in Canada and graduated from McGill University in 1949 majoring in Sciences, and then moved to Jerusalem. Cohen was the long-term managing editor of the Israel Law Review, an English language quarterly publication sponsored by the Law Faculty of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.



Cohen served as President of the IAUW 1992 -2001, and has chaired the Scholarship Committee of the Jerusalem branch since 2001. In its 48-year history, the Scholarship Committee has enabled 700 women graduate students to complete their MA and PhD degrees at the Hebrew University.

Under her leadership the Israel Association became more integrated into the work of IFUW. Some of the projects initiated under Fayge’s leadership include tutoring programs and seminars for young women of the Ethiopian community to further their higher education and their integration into Israeli society. Examples are: assisting university women immigrants to receive grants from the GWI Hegg Hoffet Fund, thus enabling them to pass licensing exams and to work in their professions in Israel; chairing workshops in Jerusalem, and then later in Yokohama and Beijing, comparing the impact of various religions on the education and development of girls; developing a model project, funded by the international organization, to examine the use of the internet (in 1996) by Jewish and Arab high school students, to research and propose solutions for political conflicts.



Pnina Herzog (1928-2005), Israel

Pnina Herzog, a pharmacist by training, held senior positions in the Israel Ministry of Health and was a member of the Executive of the World Health Organization. She is an exemplar of all that can be done to advance the causes championed by our affiliate and by GWI. She was President of the Israel affiliate of GWI for seven years in the 1980s. She was also President of the World Council of Jewish Women.



Pacific

Daphne Elliott AM, Australia

Daphne Elliott's involvement with the Australian Federation of University Women (AFUW now AFGW) was a long one, having been a member since graduating in Sydney in 1947. She was an active member of AFUW and IFUW and served on many committees and conferences from 1983 onwards. She was President of AFUW for the Triennium beginning November 1997. Her term of office was marked by two successful public seminars. In 2002, Daphne received an Order of Australia (AM) 'for service to the promotion of women's education, particularly in the field of science, and as an advocate for improving the status and human rights of women'.



She served as South Australian President, as a member of four National Councils (in one of them as Coordinator for International Relations), and as a Convener of the Status of Women Committee during three Councils. From 1986-1989, she was a member of the IFUW Status of Women and Cultural Relations Committee. She took part in several IFUW and GWI Conferences, in 1983 at Groningen as leader of the Australian Delegation, discussion group leader in 1986 at Christchurch, Helsinki in 1989, Stanford in 1992, and again as leader of the Australian Delegation in Graz in 1998. Daphne attended her last GWI Conference in Mexico in 2010.



Jennifer Strauss, (1933 -), Australia

Jennifer Strauss is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow in the Department of English at Monash University. A poet herself she is a pioneer in feminist literary criticism in Australia, and has published widely, especially on women's poetry and poetics. She has published several books of criticism and literary autobiography as well as editing anthologies and several volumes of her own poetry. In 2008 Jennifer Strauss was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia, 'for services to education as an academic and scholar in the field of Australian



literature and poetry, and to a range of organisations involved in women's issues and industrial relations'

She served three times as President of Graduate Women Victoria and twice as National President of AFGW, and was seminal in the name change to the Australian Federation of Graduate Women. AFGW recognised her contribution by bestowing on her its highest award of Member Emerita in March 2011. Jenny is currently the Fellowships Officer for AFGW, a position she developed. She has made a major contribution to the AFGW constitution and its current revision, and contributed substantially to the new GWI Constitution approved by the General Assembly in Capetown in 2016.

She was Vice-President of the Board of GWI from 2010-2016 and has also served on several IFUW committees. She is currently an appointed member of the GWI International Fellowships Committee.



Rae Duff, New Zealand

Rae has a B.Sc and Dip. Ed. Her over 40 years of engagement in the education sector includes 13 years as Deputy Principal of St Catherine's College in Wellington, and a lecturing position at Victoria University of Wellington College of Education. In 2017 she was awarded the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to women and education.



Rae has been an international advocate for women's rights and gender equality for many years, advocating the importance of educating women to achieve improved living standards and implement the millennium goals. Rae has also supported Graduate Women in the Pacific, including fundraising ventures to support and improve their access to education (such as scholarships and books), and the rebuilding of houses for members of the Sri Lanka Federation of University Women following the 2004 Banda Aceh earthquake.

Rae was President of the Wellington Branch in 1992 and 1993, and President of NZFGW 2003-2006. She has organised several national conferences focusing on women's education and equal rights. In addition to managing the finances of the GWW Charitable Trust, Rae has been Academic Dress Convenor since 2008. In 2012 Rae was made Member Emerita of NZFGW in recognition of her services to the Wellington Branch, the national organisation and her work at the international level.

IFUW / GWI Presidents and Conferences

London 1920 Paris 1922	Professor Caroline Spurgeon (Great Britain) 1920 - 1924	Kyoto 1974	Dr Elizabeth S. May (USA) 1974 - 1977
Christiania (Oslo) 1924	Dean Virginia Gildersleeve (USA) 1924 - 1926	Stirling 1977	Dame Daphne Purves (New Zealand) 1977 - 1980
Amsterdam 1926	Professor Ellen Gleditsch (Norway) 1926 - 1929	Vancouver 1980	Professor Fumi Takano (Japan) 1980 - 1983
Geneva 1929	Professor Winifred C. Cullis (Great Britain) 1929 - 1932	Groningen 1983	Dr Helen S. Dunsmore (Great Britain) 1983 - 1986
Edinburgh 1932	Professor Johanna Westerdyk (Netherlands) 1932 - 1936	Christchurch 1986	Dr Ritva Liisa Karvetti (Finland) 1986 - 1989
Cracow 1936	Dean Virginia Gildersleeve (USA) 1936 - 1939	Helsinki 1989	Dr Mary H. Purcell (USA) 1989 - 1992
* World War 2		Palo Alto 1992	Professor Chitra Ghosh (India) 1992 - 1995
Toronto 1947	Stanislawa Adamowicz (Poland) 1939 - 1942	Yokohama 1995	Dr Elizabeth M. E. Poskitt (Great Britain) 1995 - 1998
Zurich 1950	Professor A. Vibert Douglas (Canada) 1947 - 1950	Gratz 1998	Linda Souter (Canada) 1998 - 2001
London 1953	Professor F. E. Moran (Ireland) 1950 - 1953	Ottawa 2001	Professor Reiko Aoki (Japan) 2001 - 2004
Paris 1956	Dr Dorothy Flagg Leet (USA) 1953 - 1956	Perth 2004	Griselda Kenyon (Great Britain) 2004 - 2007
Helsinki 1959	Dr Jeanne H. Chaton (France) 1956 - 1959	Manchester 2007	Louise Croot (New Zealand) 2007 - 2010
Mexico City 1962	Professor M. E. Cameron (USA) 1959 - 1962	Mexico City 2010	Marianne Haslegrave (Great Britain) 2010 - 2013
Brisbane 1965	Miss Irene F. Hilton (Great Britain) 1962 - 1965	Istanbul 2013	Catherine Bell (South Africa) 2013 - 2016
Karlsruhe 1968	Dr Althea K. Hottel (USA) 1965 - 1968	Capetown 2016	Geeta Desai (United States) 2016 - 2019
Philadelphia 1971	Professor P. Hulst-Steyn Parvé (Netherlands) 1968 - 1971		
	Dr Bina Roy (India) 1971 - 1974		

* IFUW First Vice President Karin Kock of Sweden served as Acting IFUW President during WW II