



GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

MEMBERSHIP LETTER

Knowledge and Friendship

March 2022



MARCH 2022 MEMBERSHIP LETTER



Dear GWI Members and Potential Members,

"As President of Graduate Women International (GWI) I can say that we are living in extraordinary times of conflict and tensions, alas, on top of the pandemic which every nation in the world has had to come to grip with. We must therefore support our sisters in any way or form we can".

**Terry Oudraad
GWI President**

During the difficult times of the pandemic the Membership Committee (MemCom), under the previous leadership of Eileen Focke-Bakker (Immediate-past GWI Vice President, Membership), has been producing novel ideas and working hard to make them successful. This has been with the purpose of keeping our members engaged and connected.

After the positive impact of the webinar cycle on nine different topics and the following advocacy webinars, we came out with the new idea of the Membership Marketplace. This has increase the members' involvement further. The other ideas which were subsequently incorporated were the membership letter and the planning of the three North-South Dialogues among the GWI's six regions. The first one between the Asian and the Pacific NFAs, and the second between the European and African NFAs were successfully conducted in 2021. Now the third dialogue among the CAMEUS (Canada, Mexico and the USA) countries is being planned and will take place after the CSW66.

You will receive communication from the new GWI Vice President Membership, Glenda Hecksher, about the series and also about the next meeting of regional leaders'. As a further means to strengthen the engagement and relationship with Conveners of International Relations (CIRs), MemCom is also planning to revive the CIRs' Forum which was formed in 2013 during the Triennial in Istanbul, Turkey.

The GWI Membership Marketplace was officially launched 12 September 2020, through a webinar to explain its working.

This virtual platform gives a wonderful chance to members from different NFAs to interact, share their knowledge and skills with others and take-up joint projects of common interests.

MemCom urges members to make maximum use of this platform. It has two streams:

1) **Peer-to-Peer** where one person teaches and several others from across the world can join to learn. Spanish Speaking Classes and Training of IT are a couple of successful examples and many more are in the pipeline. Nezihe Bilhan is the Convener.

2) **NFA-to-NFA** where programmes between two or more NFAs are conducted. The members learn from each other and get to know how different problems are tackled in their respective countries and find solutions. They can be in the form of:

a) Projects like 'Sexual Harassment at Workplace' between India and Egypt, and 'Afghan Peace Negotiations: Their Perilous significance for Women in Afghanistan', between Canada and The Netherlands have been completed. 'The Spanish Speaking Cultural Bridge' between NFAs from both sides of the Atlantic Ocean like Spain, Bolivia, Paraguay, Panama, and Mexico is ongoing.

The **Resolution Committee** is planning a programme between India, Scotland, Canada, and Mexico.

b) **Meet and Greet sessions** are the most popular events and many more are being planned.

c) **Study Tours** can be conducted only virtually in the current situation which can be with the help of colourful videos, photographs, interesting charts, and lively descriptions. This really is a creative challenge. Dr Meera Bondre is the Convener of NFA-to-NFA stream.

Membership Marketplace forms are available on the GWI website, Members Corner.

**Dr. Meera Bondre
Membership Committee Convener**

VP MEMBERSHIP: Glenda Hecksher (Glenda Heckshrer (glenda.hecksher@gmail.com))

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CONVENER: Meera Bondre (meera.bondre@gmail.com)

YOUNG MEMBERS NETWORK PRESIDENT: Sudha Srivastava (sudha.bfwg@gmail.com)

GWI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: Stacy Dry Lara (gwi@graduatewomen.org)





"GWI Memcom had many ideas and suggestions, trying to bring and respect all diversity of the members and trying to attract new members, our goal is to become bigger and having new generations of girls and young women well educated, well cultured from all the globe, believing in the importance of having a principal role in the societies. I am glad to be a part of that committee of GWI as we had an extraordinary leader who guided us a lot, Eileen Focke-Bakker, and the amazing team that encourages me to work, Dr. Meera, Pouya and Nneka, from here let me welcome our new Vice President Membership Glenda Hecksher to be with us, thank you".

**Perine Wagdy and Pouya Saeedi
MemCom**

Their thought-provoking, brilliant insights and suggestions have been invaluable in helping GWI begin its next chapter of commitment to the education of women and girls. If your NFA would like to participate in this exciting, impactful work, please let us know.

**Geeta Desai, Organizational Development
Consultant and GWI Immediate Past President**

"The Board of Federation of University Women Africa (FUWA) encourages and welcomes collaboration with other regions to improve the lives of GWI members and present them as the agents of positive change in their communities".

**Nneka Chiedozie-Udeh
CIR, FUWA**

GWI Organisational Development Process

In the aftermath of the pandemic, GWI is responding to the United Nation's (UN) call to accelerate the accomplishment of SDG 4 – inclusive, equal and quality education. GWI believes that all graduate women, by dint of their academic experiences, diversity of skills and competencies, have an important role to play in making a measurable difference in the implementation of SDG 4 in communities around the world. Furthermore, GWI believes that such an impact is only possible by joining forces with UN agencies and government focal points to expand ongoing implementation efforts.

To this end, in October 2021, GWI convened a Steering Committee of NFA representatives, who are working diligently towards this goal. Having researched SDG 4 implementation in their respective countries, they are now participating in the organizational development and resilience of GWI and its participating NFAs.

GWI Young Members Network (YMN)

Young Members Network (YMN) is growing rapidly. YMN was very active in 2021 and some of its activities included: YMN webinar series, Meet & Greet sessions, presentations at CSW65 events, UN Youth Forums, NFA events and many more impactful presentations.

Interesting events and activities have been organised for 2022, the GWI Triennial Year:

YMN released two videos to celebrate UN special days:

January 24, **International Day of Education** (watch [here](#)).

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GWY Young Members Network (YMN) cont.

February 11, International Day of Women and Girls in Science (watch [here](#))

In February, YMN launched "YMN Monthly Conversation Series 2022 – Professions, Cultures, Friendships". This is a relaxed one-hour themed session between young members who share their professions, cultures and work in their NFAs. Conversations take place the first Saturday of each month. See details [here](#).

YMN is organising a parallel event at CSW66 titled "Young Women and Climate Action: Educating a Climate Conscious Generation" on 24 March, 1pm CET. Register [here](#).

YMN is working on GWI Organisational Development Process and will be **organising SDG Ambassadors Workshop for young members in spring/summer 2022.**

YMN has an active WhatsApp group for informal chat. Details of events/workshops, jobs/funding/awards opportunities and other relevant information is shared with young members via YMN President's Monthly Letter.

All members (in their 40s and under) in GWI NFAs are welcome to join GWI YMN. Here is the online sign-up link [here](#). Please share in your NFA.

Sudha Srivastava
President YMN



GWY was founded in 1919 as worldwide organisation uniting university women, fostering friendship, and understanding to help prevent another catastrophe such as World War I that had just ended.

GWY has been promoting peace between all nations in the world. GWY would like to reiterate the words of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres to the General Assembly on the Ukraine-Russia conflict: "President Putin, stop your troops from attacking Ukraine. Give peace a chance. Too many people have already died".

Please contact GWY [HERE](#) for more information.

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