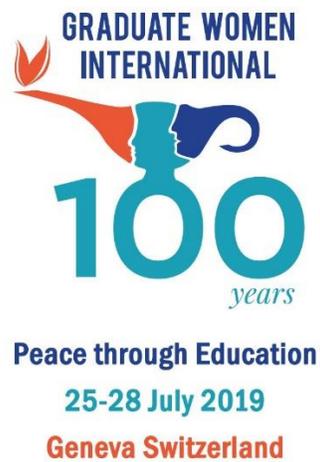


**Highlights of the 33rd Triennial GWI General Assembly and Peace through  
Education Conference  
Joy Hurst, VP International Relations  
August 13, 2019**



## Introduction

The purpose of this report is to share highlights, contextual information and observations of the 33rd GWI Triennial. CFUW's delegations have historically been very active participants in Triennial meetings and this delegation continued in that tradition. This report is intended to supplement the official GWI Triennial minutes, it is not a substitute for official GWI Triennial documents.

The four day Triennial General Assembly and Conference consisted of Business meetings of the General Assembly which serves the same function as the CFUW annual general meeting (AGM), an opportunity for deliberation, dialogue and decision making. Interspersed between business sessions was a very impressive lineup of presentations and panel discussions. A special program and reception was held for pre-registered attendees at the World Trade Organization.

The Peace through Education Conference was held during the last two days with over 60 choices of seminars, paper presentations or workshops to attend. Unique to a gathering such as this is the multinational, multigenerational and multidisciplinary environment and opportunities to socialize and network with a broad spectrum of women. Triennial attendees included 7 sets of Mothers and Daughters including CFUW member Godelieve De Koninck and her daughter Gabrielle Marceau, Counsellor, Legal Affairs Division, World Trade Organization. The Triennial included special meetings and presentations for the 40 young members who attended.

The CFUW delegation to the GWI 33rd Triennial was comprised of 10 voting delegates and 2 alternates. CFUW has 10 votes that are exercised by 10 different individuals, a different procedure than followed in CFUW's AGM where one delegate holds all of the votes for her club. Our delegation included those who have the historical context of having attended up to six previous Triennial events and first time Triennial attendees.

Three CFUW members accepted the role of CFUW Ambassadors. They were tasked with reaching out to as many delegates and attendees from different NFA's (National Federations and Associations) as possible. Some CFUW attendees attended pre assembly events on July 23rd and July 24th including meetings for first time attendees and for workshop/seminar presenters.



## **CFUW Delegation**

Delegation Leaders:

Joy Hurst, VP International Relations, CFUW Edmonton  
Grace Hollett, CFUW President, CFUW St. John's

Beryl Matthewson, CFUW South Delta  
Bev Rhodes, CFUW Scarborough  
Brenda Robertson, CFUW North Bay  
Carol Hare, CFUW Mississauga  
Hally Siddons, CFUW Ottawa  
Jo Swann, Vancouver and South Delta  
Lynne Kent, UWC Vancouver

Marianne Singh Waraich, CFUW Burlington  
Marlene Adam, UWC Vancouver  
Sandy Millen, UWC Winnipeg

Ambassadors:

- Susan Murphy, Nanaimo, BC, former CFUW President
- Godelieve De Koninck, QC, Québec, member of International Relations Committee
- Liette Michaud, St-Lambert, QC, President AFDU Montérégie

Other CFUW members in attendance:

- Phyllis Scott, West Vancouver & former CFUW President and one of CFUW's nominations for GWI notable women
- Marian Ennis, West Vancouver and longtime supporter of Hegg Hoffet Fund
- Jacqueline Jacques, Montreal, former CFUW President
- Gisele Picard, AFDU Montérégie
- Rahel Jalan, CFUW member now living in Italy, participant in the Young Women's Group

Countries represented at Triennial (51):

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Romania, Russia, Scotland, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, Zambia, Zimbabwe

6 new NFAs were announced:

Burkina Faso

Haiti

Paraguay

including the re-affiliation of:

Argentina

Bolivia

Pakistan

## General Assembly Business



### CFUW Preparation for General Assembly Business

Preparation for the business of the General Assembly included policy resolution proposals initiated by CFUW Advocacy and International Relations committees and approved by the CFUW Board. There are three types of resolutions in GWI, internal and constitutional resolutions which were proposed by either GWI Committees or the GWI Board and policy resolutions that were proposed by various NFA's. The resolutions were carefully reviewed by the CFUW Finance and International Relations committees and the CFUW Board with subsequent resolution amendments submitted to GWI. The preparation process included nationwide consultation through the Resolution Town Hall was held on July 15, 2019. Board approved CFUW delegate instructions were generated to guide delegation voting.

This preparation was helpful in supporting articulation of the rationale informing CFUW policy resolutions and amendment proposals both at the resolution caucus meeting which is held at the Triennial and on the floor of the General Assembly. Grace and I did have an opportunity to speak with GWI Board members about CFUW concerns regarding internal and constitutional resolutions. During the resolution caucus meeting we also took that opportunity to ensure that CFUW's latest documents had been uploaded onto the computer. At that time we were advised that an amendment would be coming to the floor regarding constitutional resolution 3, which the GWI Board had accepted and this amendment would deal with the issues that CFUW had about this resolution.

The resolution caucus meeting was ably chaired by CFUW member Marianne Singh-Waraich and was an opportunity for anyone to speak to the proposers of resolutions with questions, suggestions or recommendations for amendment before the resolutions come to the floor for voting. Considerable discussion occurred regarding the language in resolutions regarding sexual health education and sexual harassment.

CFUW received no suggestions or recommendations for amendment regarding our policy resolutions which were well received. Policy resolutions are very important as the newly adopted policy resolutions define GWI's priorities for the next triennium. Given that the 25 year anniversary of the Beijing Platform for empowering women and girls (Beijing+25) is coming up in 2020, our CFUW's policy resolution regarding sustainable development goals also known as global goals is very timely. Policy related to Refugee issues is also timely. The importance of topic was reflected in the Triennial panel presentations.

### **General Assembly Discussion regarding CFUW and GWI Memorandum of Agreement**

Very early in the General Assembly proceedings, there was a challenge to the Rules of Procedure relative to the inclusion of NFA's who are in arrears but have payment plans in place for unpaid dues as the constitution as it stood prior to the Triennial did not make that allowance.

During the President's summary of progress on GWI's strategic plan through the triennium, she spoke to the fact that the current Board has concluded that there was inappropriate use of restricted funds in the previous triennium and she provided a detailed account of the kind of practices that the current Board found unacceptable. She indicated that this matter has been referred to GWI insurers. Of note, the Clinton Global and CHARGE initiatives have formally been annulled and "GWI bears zero legal responsibility", as documented in GWI's Executive Director's report.

In terms of an overview of GWI's financial situation Ms. Desai advised the Assembly that GWI had reached an agreement with its largest NFA, CFUW. She was questioned by delegates regarding the process including the Board's authority to enter into an agreement without the approval of the General Assembly. Among the questions posed were could other NFA's have a similar arrangement, why would Canada be entitled to a discount, what exactly were in-kind services, why would an NFA such that has the resources of Canada be given a discount when other countries for whom it has been a real struggle have had to pay the increase. They pointed out that other NFAs have members who also don't want to pay the increase or can't afford to pay the increase but they have had to manage. Latin American NFA's spoke about their frustration in belonging to an organization from which they don't benefit.

Some expressed the fear that despite concessions made, CFUW will leave anyway and the GWI will experience the same situation as with the loss of the American Association.

Grace was asked to speak to the votes that have occurred in CFUW relative to GWI. The Assembly was also informed about CFUW's upcoming Winnipeg motion. I spoke to the reasons CFUW members support international action but not necessarily GWI and the need that CFUW has for improved accountability structures which would be reflected in CFUW's amendments to internal and constitutional resolutions.

Discussion was spirited but respectful. The discussion closed with the GWI President speaking to the strategic value of GWI's partnership with CFUW, the important role CFUW has played in

GWI and the devastating loss it would be to GWI if CFUW leaves GWI. She spoke of GWI's loss of Finland who had 1000 members and the Board's determination not to let that happen with Canada.

## **Reports of the Treasurer, Executive Director and UN Representatives**

Other important information was given in the Treasurer, Executive Director and UN representative reports. The Treasurer reported that the current Board's first activity needed after assuming office in 2016 was to address financial obligations which had not been paid. Board members generously donated personal funds to the efforts. They undertook to deal with the outstanding obligations and to also restore the restricted funds that the Board believes may have been used inappropriately. New financial controls were put in place such as Board approval for all expenditures, the GWI credit card was discontinued, cash transactions were eliminated and having no paid staff to perform this task, the Treasurer herself assumed the role of managing the collection of NFA dues.

An austerity program which included staff downsizing, relocating office premises, replacing vendors in addition to donations from Board members contributed to stabilizing GWI's finances. The austerity program was evident during the Triennial in that a professional conference company was not used and husbands of Board members managed the Triennial registration function. The Triennial venue was the University of Geneva who graciously waived fees for use of the facility for this event. This will be a major cost savings to GWI.

The Executive Director's report outlined in detail the activity of the office and the strategic partnerships that support the activity of GWI. The office has an established program for interns in university programs and also local programs that support the upgrading of skills of employees. Through the government unemployment program, three professional women have had six month placements with the GWI office. 24 student interns have had placement during this Triennium. Interns were present and provided support during the Triennial event. The GWI team issues press releases, drafts advocacy letters and policy papers in support of emerging or emergency issues.

With the support of GWI UN representatives in Geneva, New York, Paris and Vienna, 63 advocacy reports were submitted in addition to consultation at various UN agencies and committees. The New York UN representative gave her verbal report. For me the most significant takeaway was the extensive range of opportunities for collective action and advocacy within the UN system and the importance of participation in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and other points of civil society influence and networking in addition to the annual Commission on the Status of Women session.

The GWI office is active on social media and has now standardized their social media campaigns. 12 targeted campaigns are published annually. Fundraising is also managed through the GWI office through the online GlobalGiving, the Girls Education Champions fun run in Geneva and sale of Friendship through Education bracelets. Corporate sponsors have been engaged.

## **GWI Office Building**

The GWI office building is owned by the City of Geneva. The office space is priced to assist NGOs financially. The offices in the building are only rented to pre-qualified and approved NGOs. The Executive Director applied for acceptance and GWI was approved, on merit, to relocate to the building in August 2017.

Only NGOs can apply to lease office space in the building. No private companies or corporations are permitted, keeping lease rates cost-efficient for NGOs. Due to the preferred rental rate offered by the City of Geneva to qualifying NGOs, the new office is about CHF 25K less in rental charges per year than the previous GWI office.

The building is about a 10 minute drive to the United Nations where GWI does much of the organisation's advocacy work such as the Human Rights Council that meets three times per year for three weeks, all CEDAW sessions, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People held each July, and the Universal Periodic Review.

The previous office was situated in the middle of a residential building and farther from the United Nations and its agencies. Previously, staff and interns each had their own desks. Now, there is an Executive Director desk, a desk for the Junior Office Administrator, one table to accommodate three interns and a round meeting table all in the same space.

Front of the GWI Office Building



Office Interior



Building Entry



GWl Office Entry



Office Interior



Building common space shared by all tenants at no additional charge.





## Programs

The Executive Director reported that in collaboration with the Projects Development committee, 21 Bina Roy projects have been funded during this Triennial period. Triennial program documentation notes that the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund will no longer be funding short term projects as their funding strategy has changed. It was reported that the Hegg Hoffet Fund for displaced Refugees continued to grant funds to displaced university women refugees. If you went to the Hegg Hoffet gift shop during the Triennium, wonderful and well-priced treasures were available. Standardization of internal procedures for the Bina Roy and Hegg Hoffet programs have been introduced. The Teachers for Rural Futures programme has continued with the five students expected to graduate in January 2020.

**Link for Triennial Reports: <https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/GWI-33rd-GWI-VP-ED-Committee-Reports-FINAL-07.07.19-v1-1.pdf>**

## General Assembly Decisions

### The 2019-2022 GWI Board of Directors are:

- **President:** Terry OUDRAAD (Graduate Women Netherlands (GW-NL))
- **VP Membership:** Eileen FOCKE-BAKKER (GW-NL)
- **VP Advocacy and Education:** Louise MCLEOD (Women Graduates-USA (WG-USA))
- **VP Fundraising:** Basak OVACIK (Turkish Association of University Women)
- **Treasurer:** Katharina STRUB (Swiss Association of University Women (ASFUDU))

Alongside the new Board, new Committee Convenors and Members were elected. Their work and expertise will be invaluable to the next phase of GWI.

### Membership Committee:

- **Convenor:** Meera BONDRE (Indian Federation of University Women's Associations (IFUWA))
- **Members:** Nneka CHIEDOZIE (Nigeria Association of University Women), Perine WADGY (Egyptian Association of Graduate Women, (EAGW)), Pouya SAEEDI (Graduate Women New- Zealand (GW-NZ))

### Education Committee:

- **Convenor:** Shirley GILLETT (GW-NZ)
- **Members:** Shaila MISTRY (WG-USA), Gloria RAMIREZ (Federacion Mexicana de Universitarias), Confidence DIKGOLE (South African Association of Women Graduates), Alba Evelyn CORTEZ (Asociación de Mujeres Universitarias de El Salvador).

### Finance Committee:

- **Assistant Treasurer Canada:** Beverley RHODES, Canadian Federation of University Women
- **Assistant Treasurer Switzerland:** Karoline DORSCH (ASFUDU)
- **Members:** Kathryn B. HORVAT (WG-USA), Pat SIVERTSEN (GW-NZ), Abeda INAMDAR (IFUWA).

\*\* CFUW member **Kathryn Wilkson** was appointed by the GWI Board as a member of the Projects Committee. **Marianne Singh-Warairch** was asked to remain on as a member of the Resolutions Committee. She consulted with the CFUW president and delegation before agreeing to do so.

## **Constitutional Resolutions passed by the General Assembly**

### **Constitutional Resolution 1 Restricted Funds**

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee incorporating amendments proposed by AGW and CFUW.*

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves that the following words be inserted as clause 12 of Article X (Financial Resources and Dues) in the Constitution:**

**Restricted Funds cannot be used for any other purpose than that specified unless approved by a two thirds majority of the Board of Officers and the Finance Committee and a two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly. Changes may be made only where the financial viability is under threat and providing there are no legal restrictions or impediments to the use of said restricted fund.**

### **Constitutional Resolution 2 Joint Country Membership**

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers*

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves that the following changes to the wording be made to clause 3 of Article II (Membership) in the Constitution:**

**Graduate Women in two or more countries unable to meet the numbers requirement for membership may apply to join together for membership as a single federation or association. Such a federation or association shall comprise at least 20 members and shall have the same status, rights and obligations as all national federations and associations.**

## **Constitutional Resolution 3 Loss of Membership if Annual Dues Not Fully Paid Up**

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers and amended by AGW*

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves:**

- 1. That the following statement of principle be inserted as a new subclause (a) in Article II (Membership) clause 10 (2) of the constitution: Where circumstances affect the capacity of an NFA to meet all requirements for the payment of dues the Finance Committee shall have the power to negotiate arrangements to enable the NFA to retain membership. The plan must be approved by the Board of Officers because of its fiduciary responsibility.**
- 2. that the clause in Article II (Membership) (12) “loss of membership or non-payments of dues takes effect immediately at the end of the periods stated above” be amended by the addition of “except where the provision of Clause (10) (2) (a) above have been activated”**
- 3. that we refer to the Finance Committee the development of appropriate and flexible procedures & rules to handle the issue of special arrangements for unpaid dues. If these affect the rights of an NFA that is not fully paid up, these should be brought to the General Assembly with any necessary changes to the constitution specified.**

***Note: Clause 11(1) will require similar adjustment of a subclause (a) to cover individual members.***

## Internal Resolutions

### Internal Resolution 1 Approval of the Audited Accounts for 2016-2018

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee*

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves that:**

The members approve the audited accounts for 2016, 2017 and 2018 presented by auditors PKF Fiduciaire SA.

Adopted.

### Internal Resolution 2 Confirmation of Auditor and Audit Type

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee*

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves to:**

**Confirm PKF Fiduciaire SA as auditors for GWI for the period 2020-2022 for a voluntary limited statutory audit as the type of audit to be carried out.**

### **Amendment from CFUW**

### Internal Resolution 2 Confirmation of Auditor and Audit Type

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee and amended by CFUW:*

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves to:**

**(CFUW proposed that the following words (in bold and red) be inserted to the resolution)**

- a. Confirm PKF Fiduciaire SA as auditors for GWI for the period 2020-2022 for a voluntary limited statutory **examination as the type of audit to be carried out**

**and**

- b. **at a minimum, a full audit once per triennium starting with the upcoming triennium.**

**Each section a and b was voted on separately**

**Amendment a passed**

**Amendment b was lost**

**So final resolution reads**

### Internal Resolution 2 Confirmation of Auditor and Audit Type

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee*

The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves to:

- a. Confirm PKF Fiduciaire SA as auditors for GWI for the period 2020-2022  
and
- b. for a voluntary limited statutory audit as the type of audit to be carried out.

Carried.

### Internal Resolution 3

#### The Rate of Annual Dues Payable to GWI by the National Federations and Associations

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee*

The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves that:

- the current capitation fee/dues will not be changed at the General Assembly in 2019
- the need for a dues increase will be evaluated by the Finance Committee each year so that at least two years' notice of a likely increase can be given to NFAs and Individual Members
- a recommendation for an increase in dues, however small, should be made at least within each two triennia or 6-year period
- the current formula used to calculate the dues payable by each NFA and Individual members is to be re-evaluated and/or updated with the latest available World Bank GNI per capita and Human Development Index during the next Triennium and any recommendations for change brought forward to the GA for approval

### Internal Resolution 3 – **Amendment CFUW**

#### The Rate of Annual Dues Payable to GWI by the National Federations and Associations

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee*

The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves that:

**(CFUW proposes that the following words (in red) be inserted to the resolution)**  
**(CFUW proposes voting a and b together, c separately, d separately)**

- a. the current capitation fee/dues will not be changed at the General Assembly in 2019
- b. the need for a dues increase will be evaluated by the Finance Committee each year so that at least two years' notice of a likely increase can be given to NFAs and Individual Members

- c. a recommendation for an increase in dues, however small, should be made at least within each two triennia or 6-year period
- d. the current formula used to calculate the dues payable by each NFA and Individual members is to be re-evaluated and/or updated with the latest available World Bank GNI per capita **and other NGOS dues models** and Human Development Index during the next Triennium and any recommendations for change brought forward to the GA for approval.

**Each amendment was voted on separately and carried so final Resolution reads:**

**The Rate of Annual Dues Payable to GWI by the National Federations and Associations**

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee and amended by CFUW*

- a. the current capitation fee/dues will not be changed at the General Assembly in 2019 and the need for a dues increase will be evaluated by the Finance Committee each year so that at least two years' notice of a likely increase can be given to NFAs and Individual Members

**Carried**

- b. a recommendation for an increase in dues, however small, should be made at least within each two triennia or 6-year period

**Carried**

- c. the current formula used to calculate the dues payable by each NFA and Individual members is to be re-evaluated and/or updated with the latest available World Bank GNI per capita **and other NGOS dues models** and Human Development Index during the next Triennium and any recommendations for change brought forward to the GA for approval.

**Carried**

**Internal Resolution 4 - Financial Budgets 2020-2022**

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee*

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves to:**

- **approve the triennial Financial Budgets 2020-2022**
- **approve the estimates as a triennial budget and not discrete annual budgets, so that money not spent in one year can be carried forward to the next**
- **approve that the 2020-2022 Board can adjust the budgets according to need and circumstances in consultation with the Finance Committee**

- approve the establishment of a General Reserve Fund, as funds permit, at no less than 33 % (thirty-three percent) of the triennial budget or one (1) year of GWI's expenditure whichever is the greater

**Internal Resolution 4 – Amendment CFUW  
Approval of Triennial Financial Budgets 2020-2022**

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers on the recommendation of the GWI Finance Committee*

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves to:**

**(CFUW proposes that the following words (in red) be inserted to the resolution)**

- approve the triennial Financial Budgets **including annual Functional Budgets 2020-2022 with quarterly reporting of actual to budget prepared within the next quarter and distributed to the NFAs.;**
- approve the estimates as a triennial budget and not discrete annual budgets, so that money not spent in one year can be carried forward to the next;
- approve that the 2020-2022 Board can adjust the budgets according to need and circumstances in consultation with the Finance Committee;
- approve the establishment of a General Reserve Fund, as funds permit, at no less than 33 % (thirty-three percent) of the triennial budget or one (1) year of GWI's expenditure whichever is the greater.

**Carried**

**Internal Resolution 5: Place and Dates of the 34th GWI General Assembly and Conference**

*Proposed by the GWI Board of Officers*

**The 33<sup>rd</sup> GWI General Assembly resolves to:**

**delegate to the Board of Officers the duty of deciding the time and place of the 34th General Assembly and Conference.**

**Carried**

## **GWI Policy Resolutions**

### **Resolutions in the following policy areas were passed.**

Policy Resolution 1: Diversity in Teacher Education as a Positive Contribution to an Equitable Education

Policy Resolution 2: Building Peace through Women's Education

Policy Resolution 3: Sexual and Reproductive Health Education as a Human Right for All

Policy Resolution 4: Women and Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Policy Resolution 5: Human Rights for Refugees and Migrant Women and Children (seconded by CFUW)

Policy Resolution 6: Fair and Non-Discriminatory Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (Proposed by CFUW)

Policy Resolution 7: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

Policy Resolution 8: Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Global Goals (Proposed by CFUW)

**Final language and related policy information will be available on the GWI website.**

## **Inspiration and Learning**

Each keynote speaker, panels and the special World Trade Organization keynote event were powerful and difficult to summarize in an effective manner but here are the titles and a few key messages.

### **“Education: A Tool Against Misogyny” Brigitte Mantilleri, Director Gender Equality, University of Geneva**

- Misogyny remains alive and well and is perpetuated in so many ways through the various avenues of mass communication such as advertising & entertainment
- Stereotypes begin at an early age therefore it is very important to intentionally educate at an early age
- Call to action given to close the gender gap by making women and the contribution of women more visible including and for example in Wikipedia

### **Keynote Panel Discussion: A Common Goal of Development in a Global Economy, Facilitator Gabrielle Marceau, Professor of Law, UNIGE & Senior Counsellor, World Trade Organization**

- There is an important intersection of trade, development, peace, education and gender
- “If goods don't cross borders, soldiers will” reflects the importance of trade and trade policy
- Trade and human rights are interlinked. Trade affects the everyday life of women through prices of goods and provision of public services by governments.

- Trade is a tool that supports sustainable development goals such as access to food, gender equality and security
- Trade is also a tool for development and peace

**Keynote Event, Panel Discussion, World Trade Organization Leaders, Executive Director International Trade Centre, Executive Director Enhanced Integrated Framework and GWI President; Reception**

- Trade can foster education and peace, empower women; gender is now an integral part of the World Trade Organization (WTO) agenda
- Education transforms individuals, communities and societies
- Gender has moved out of being included only in the preamble of trade agreements to now being embedded within agreements
- Specific interventions such as SheTrades will bring millions of women business owners into greater participation in the economy with better working conditions and a greater share of export markets
- WTO follows the recommendations, actions and objectives set in the Buenos Aires Declaration on Trade and Women's Economic Empowerment, same is reflected in the WTO Trade and Gender Action plan 2017-19
- Of significance is the publication Women Shaping Global Economic Governance which has been written by a group of 28 women who are leading policymakers and thought leaders including Gabrielle Marceau and edited by Arancha Gonzalez and Marion Jansen



**Peace Through Education Conference Opening Speaker: Zamaswazi Dlamini-Mandela, Human Rights Activist and granddaughter of Nelson Mandela**

- “Education is the greatest engine of personal development.” quote from Nelson Mandela
- Bitterness is toxic.
- There is an urgent need for quality education; Swati as she likes to be called is committed to seeing a library in every school in South Africa and is involved in a charity that provides both books and the physical library structure
- She is an advocate for those living with disabilities
- We can be energized by knowing that someone is waiting on our courage
- South Africans have gained political freedom and now fight for economic freedom

**Panel Discussion: The Evolving Roles of Education and Education and Gender Equality in the Prevention and De-Escalation of Conflict and in Building Sustainable Societies, Facilitator: Geeta Desai**

- We heard the amazing and inspiring personal story of Adiba Qasim a refugee from a minority group in Mosul, Iraq, she is now a student at the University of Geneva at the Center for Integration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers program
- Refugees are victims of protracted displacement and disruption of education

- There are specific gender dimensions of social conflict, armed violence, peace building and conflict cycles
- Social emotional learning is very important and requires a bottom up and collaborative approach with those directly involved and is the way in which humanitarian interpreters can contribute
- University of Geneva includes research, teaching and civil service as priorities. Although refugees do not choose to live together, refugee camps are communities and education although challenging must be provided in these environments, space must be created for learning and if women don't take leadership in this area, it will not be done

**Panel Discussion: Global Awareness and engagement: Understanding our Global Economic, Social and Environmental Connectedness as a path to Education and development rather than as a Driver of Conflict Facilitator: Dr. Katia Vladimirova, International Researcher on Sustainable Development, Politics and Ethics**

- Human development is not just economic development but social, political and environmental
- A lack of education is one of the main characteristics of the refugee crisis
- Education cannot wait until after conflict
- Education is vital to refugees
- Having more women in government improves the peace process. although unacceptable to many, quota systems and affirmative action are proven to be effective in increasing participation of women
- There is tremendous opportunity in our collective connectedness

**Looking Forward: Futurist, Aarathi Krishnan, Futures Team, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**



- Compare 2005 to 2013 where a crowd waits patiently for a big event, no cell phones in 2005 but in 2013 everyone has a cell phone raised
- The environment in which we do good is rapidly changing
- Data point, it took 7 years to get 50 Million internet users but only 7 days to get 50 million Pokemon users
  - Ms Krishman poses some provocative questions
- Who will be vulnerable in the future? Will they stay vulnerable?
- What transformations do we need to make?
- What type of transformational leadership is needed for the 21st century?
- Do we need to re-think women's leadership in the 21st century?
- What skills, values, behaviours are needed for women to lead in the 21st century?
  - Recommendations
- Rapid cycle experimentation
- Radical inclusion
  - Call to action
- **Speak up and push back, even if your voice shakes**

## **Sustainable Development Goals and Beijing +25 Presentation by Louise McLeod and Rae Duff**

Given the cross cutting impact of Education on development goals, there was an urgent call for action by all countries, developed and developing countries working in global partnership. 2020 will be a significant year of focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. It is an ideal time for strategic advocacy with our respective governments and with the United Nations. All were encouraged to participate in preparation for the Commission on the Status of Women in 2020.

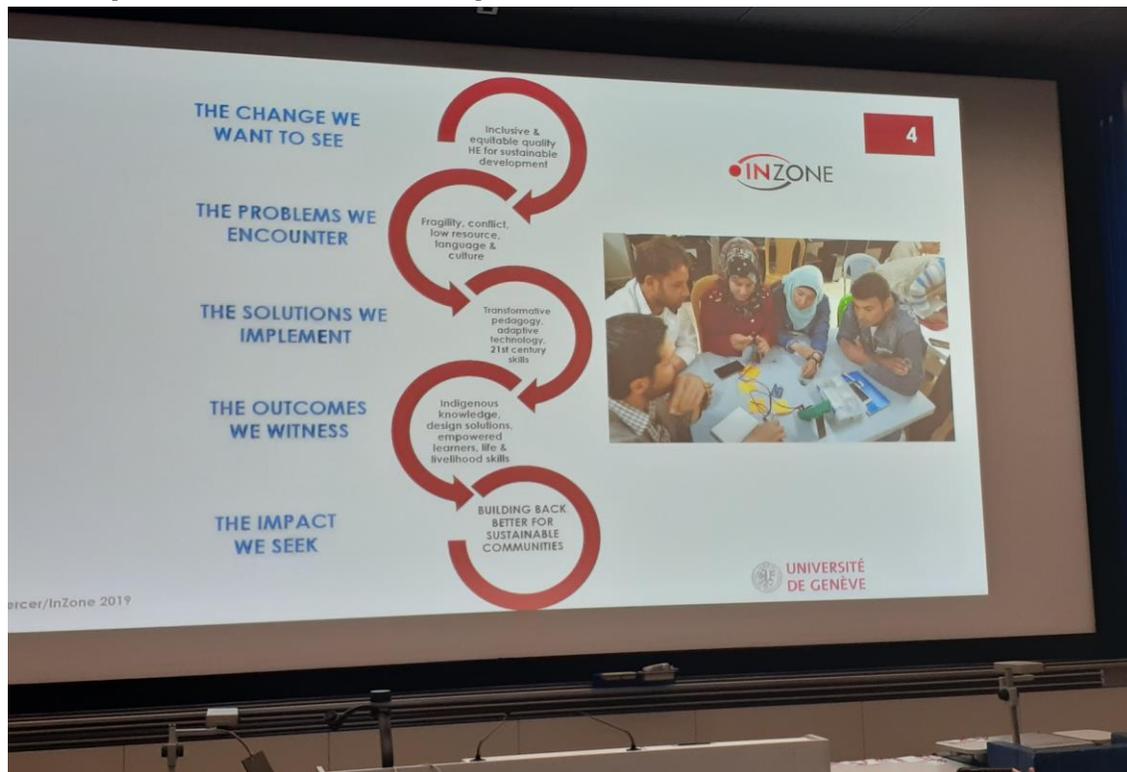
### **Using History to positively impact on the 21st Century**

We were kept in suspense till the end of the program for the presentation which unveiled the GWI 100 notable women which includes CFUW presidents Linda Souter and Phyllis Scott who had the pleasure of being present during this historic triennial. See page 21 in Inspiring a Vision: Pioneers and other Women 100 Years of IFUW 1919-2019 by Anne Holden Ronning. This document can be found online in pdf format, see page 21 for Linda and Phyllis.

Discussion of the contribution of notable women reinforced the importance of historical context and just how much dedicated and passionate women can accomplish.

[http://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-IFUW-GWI-Pioneers\\_FINAL.pdf](http://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-IFUW-GWI-Pioneers_FINAL.pdf)

## Workshops, Seminars and Papers



Triennial attendees had over 60 different workshops, seminars and papers to choose from. CFUW presented a workshop titled Building Peace through the Education of Heart and Mind. Godelieve De Koninck, Brenda Robertson and Joy Hurst presented. Grace Hollett was the moderator. This interactive session facilitated discussion about the value of formal and experiential education and highlighted the contribution of education to peace. The session was well received.

CFUW, WG-USA and FEMU (Mexico) presented a workshop on Collaborations: How to create collaborations across NFA's and leverage resources to address mutual concerns. As an example, the issue of migration through Mexico, the United States and Canada was given to demonstrate the opportunity that exists for NFA's to collaborate together. This must be a topic of great interest as the room was filled to capacity with over 80 attendees. As an outcome of the discussion, a number of individuals expressed an interest in forming a network that would focus on evidence based best practices as there is a desire to ensure that in our efforts of advocacy and intervention we are effective. The presenters were Joy Hurst CFUW, Lucia Guzman FEMU (Mexico), Elise Russo (USA) and Grace Hollett CFUW moderator.

## Networking and Social Events

As good fortune would have it, the regional lunches occurred right after our workshop on Collaboration! All other regions within GWI have formal structures for their regions but North America does not have a structure, that however was not a barrier to a great meeting which was well attended. The North American region includes Canada, United States and Mexico. Latin America has its own region. There was a robust discussion about opportunities for closer collaboration. The consensus was that we will discuss in further detail how we can collaborate collectively to have impact during the upcoming UNCSW 64. Notes were taken by a member of the American contingent. A sign-up sheet was generated for those who want to receive the notes or be involved in further discussion and planning.

There was a short meeting for CIR's, National Presidents and GWI committee members. A central theme was the need for improvement in communicating vital information for those in NFA leadership roles or communication among NFA leaders. Current modes of communication do not adequately meet the needs of many in attendance and there was a commitment made by GWI leadership to explore new ways of communicating. Given the language diversity of GWI's membership, an English only speaking organization was identified as a barrier to participation for some NFA's. It was evident during this session that translation into Spanish would have been very helpful to attendees.

Young members were very engaged during this triennial event and expressed commitment to continued participation and interest in leadership roles within GWI in the future. There was some disappointment that some young members who had been involved in proposing policy resolutions missed the policy resolution discussions because the business sessions were in conflict with session times dedicated to young members, nevertheless they reported that their discussions and dialogue was very fruitful.

Swiss Culture Night Lake Cruise was enjoyed by all who attended. Other opportunities to socialize and network included the pre-event reception for NFA Presidents, Coordinators of International Relations, GWI Board members and other guests and reception given by the Government of the Netherlands Dutch. NFAs that CFUW members were able to engage with included France, Mexico, Egypt, USA, Bolivia, Israel, Russia, Ireland, Netherlands, Australia, British Federation, Turkey, Nigeria, Ghana and New Zealand. Attendees from Germany and Sweden were also purposefully engaged.

## Centenary Celebration



The main hall and atrium of the venue was transformed in the evening for a wonderful celebration, marked by lots of photo taking, mingling with old friends and making new friends. Honorary chairs of the event, so designated because their countries were founding members of IFUW/GWI. NFA presidents Fay Weber of the United States, Grace Hollett from Canada and Patrice Wellsely-Cole of England participated in a GWI Lamp Lighting Ceremony and each addressed the approximately 400 people in attendance. Fellowships and awards in the amounts of 14,000 CHF and 11,000 British Pounds were announced and presented to those individuals who were present. The centenary cake presentation was dazzling. It was indeed a memorable occasion.

Link to special update:

<https://graduatewomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/7-August-Update-33rd-Triennial-Conference-and-Centenary-Special-v2.pdf>



### **Personal reflection**

As with every international gathering I have been privileged to attend, I returned home humbled by the resourcefulness, creativity and strength of women from other parts of the globe. Again, I was reminded of how little one can know in the midst of a sea of information. Personally, I had never heard of the mineral Coltan, a mineral used in cell phones and almost all electronic devices. This mineral is mined in the Congo, often by children whose education is neglected to support mining operations. Children and women in the region are significantly impacted by the conflict related to mining. In this environment, they are also vulnerable to human trafficking and loss of other human rights. I learned about this issue in one of the seminar presentations. There is so much to learn and also share with others. One of the ironic things about an occasion like this is that there is an opportunity to talk with and learn from other CFUW members in a way that one doesn't normally have.

I was interested in how other NFAs approach initiatives like mentorship, and what kind of activity small NFAs have. Turkey has a very successful mentorship and friendship program between university students and girls ages 9-14. WG-USA, with only 200 virtual members manages to be very active in the Advocacy space and 29 women from WG-USA attended this Triennial event. When the Russian delegation had to step away, CFUW held their one vote. This piqued my interest in the aspirations and challenges of the empowerment of these young women in Russia

but time didn't permit as much conversation as I would have liked. What we learned about trade policy and practices opens up an area of intervention that has a lot of potential for the empowerment of women and girls. I have returned home motivated in this area. A tour of the UN Geneva Headquarters was very helpful in enhancing my understanding of the UN system and the different agencies located at the different UN Headquarter sites. Of course as a healthcare professional, I was very interested in the World Health Organization which is located in Geneva. Peace activists will be following the various Peace Conferences and events that occur at the UN Geneva site.

Quite by accident, we meet a new member for the Winnipeg club. Grace Oluwadebi, PhD is a geologist from Nigeria who will be relocating to Winnipeg. She is the mother of 4 children including twins that were born during her studies and she is the founder of Success Waymarks Foundation, promoting STEM and making a positive impact.

Truly we are one humanity connected in unexpected ways.



## **Vote of Thanks**

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Robin Jackson, CFUW's Executive Director and Yasmin Strautins, Advocacy Coordinator for their support in the preparations for this Triennial. Appreciation must also be expressed to each delegate and the ambassadors for their able discharge of responsibilities. CFUW Board initiated new processes which facilitated clarity of CFUW's intention with regards to CFUW initiated resolution amendments which proved to be very helpful. In terms of communication and coordination regarding resolution related information, thank you Marianne Singh-Waraich and the GWI team. My thanks to Hally Siddons, whose superb notes were a point of reference for areas of this report.

Grace, a hearty thank-you for your support and collaboration in leadership of this delegation and representation of CFUW.

Joy Hurst, VP International Relations  
CFUW  
August 12, 2019