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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Graduate Women International Celebrates International Women's Day 2025 and Reflects on 106 Years of Advocacy for Women's Equality

Geneva, Switzerland, 7 March 2025 – As we mark International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March, Graduate Women International (GWI) joins the global celebration of women's achievements while reaffirming its long-standing commitment to advancing gender equality. In 2025, under the IWD theme "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress", GWI underscores the urgent need for sustained investments in gender equity as essential for sustainable development and education rights.

This year, GWI also commemorates 106 years of advocacy for women's rights and education, focusing on policies that empower women and girls to reach their full potential personally and professionally. "As we celebrate IWD and 106 years of advocacy, GWI reaffirms its commitment to advancing diverse perspectives in education and leadership. Our work continues to challenge barriers, promote gender-equitable policies, and expand opportunities for women and girls of all backgrounds," says GWI President Patrice Wellesley-Cole.

In line with this mission, GWI has a delegation of some 100 graduate women from around the world including Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Scotland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, to attend the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) in New York from 10-21 March 2025, with hundreds more participating virtually. Throughout CSW69, GWI will host three pivotal parallel events to continue its advocacy for education and gender equity. These events will address systemic barriers and propose actionable solutions to advance gender equality for women and girls of all ages.

The first event, Antifeminism and Child Marriage, will take place on 12 March at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) at the Church Center for the United Nations. Hosted by GWI's Education Committee, the event will feature live testimonies from survivors of child marriage and explore the critical role of education in combatting this harmful practice.

On 19 March at 8:30 a.m. EST, GWI's Young Member Network will present Empowering Young Women for Sustainable Development: Progress and Future. This interactive session will showcase the progress made in gender equality, with a particular focus on leadership development, digital spaces, AI, period poverty, and environmental challenges, all within the framework of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The final event, Women in Power and Leadership: Accelerating Advancement Towards Gender Equality, will be held virtually on 20 March at 12:30 p.m. EST. This panel discussion will address the systemic barriers that prevent women from attaining leadership positions and propose policies to ensure greater gender equity in decision-making processes. For more information and to register for the events, please click [here](https://graduatewomen.org/csw69-parallel-events/).
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Graduate Women International (GWI) is a Geneva-based international NGO with a presence in over 60 countries. Founded in 1919, GWI advocates for women's rights, gender equality, and education. Holding special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947, GWI maintains official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

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