

Queen's Women Graduates' Association

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 28th January 2023 – 10.30 am

AGENDA

1. President's welcome and report
2. Apologies
3. Minutes from the 2022 AGM
4. Matters arising from the 2022 AGM minutes
5. Correspondence
6. Finance Report
7. Adoption of Finance Report
8. Other Reports
 - 8.1 Scholarship Fund Committee Report
 - 8.2 University Women of Europe Report
 - 8.3 Graduate Women International Report
 - 8.4 Women's Forum Report
 - 8.5 Secretary's Report
 - 8.6 Irish Federation of University Women Report
9. Adoption of reports listed as items 8.1 to 8.6
10. Election and confirmation of Office Bearers: Vice President, Secretary, Finance and Committee members
11. President's concluding remarks
12. Any other notified business
13. Provisional date of next Annual General Meeting – 27th January 2024 (to be agreed).

Please note that all reports will be available online after the AGM on the QUB and IRFUW websites. The Finance report will be available and tabled at the AGM.

**Annual General Meeting of Full Members of the Association
Saturday 28th January 2023**

Dear Members,

It is with pleasure that I invite you to the Annual General Meeting of Queen's Women Graduates' Association in the Canada Room and Council Chamber at 10.30am on Saturday 28th January 2023, with tea, coffee and scones before the meeting and a light buffet lunch at 1.00pm after our guest speaker.

Our guest speaker, Professor Karen McCloskey, is the Director of the Queen's Gender Initiative (QGI) and the Academic Lead for Athena SWAN and has been advocating for gender inequality in academia since 2012. The QGI is a female-focused entity that is dedicated to advancing women's visibility, supporting leadership development, and providing bespoke mentoring. Athena SWAN enables change and improves the participation of women in universities, particularly in senior academic and leadership roles.

You are welcome to invite guests to join us after the close of the Annual General Meeting to hear our speaker and partake of lunch.

The agenda and reports will be sent to you before the meeting, please take the time to read them prior to the meeting.

I would like to express my thanks to the QWG committee for all their hard work and guidance during the previous two years of my presidency. Please note that while we considered changing the length of the presidential term last year, we have been unable to get a quorum to make these changes. Therefore we are declaring this two year term as an exceptional circumstance due to the Covid pandemic. After several years of virtual AGMs, I look forward to seeing you in person at this one.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Louise Wilkinson

President of QWGA

Queen's Women Graduates Scholarship 2022

The Queen's Women Graduates (QWG) is interested in promoting education, especially for women, at local, national and international level.

The scholarship should enhance the educational opportunities of women students, normally those who have had a gap of at least five years since attending school, who are enrolled and are attending a degree, diploma, or certificate award-bearing course at the University.

The scholarship may be helpful in assisting, for example, with the cost of fees, books, childcare or travel and is available for one academic year only.

The Scholarships panel for 2022

- Deirdre McCauley (Chair of Panel and Secretary of QWG),
- Anne Hunter (Former President of QWG and current Committee member),
- Oonagh Ferrity (Former President of QWG),
- David Capper (School of Law, Queen's University)

Applications for this scholarship opened in August 2022 and were advertised through the Queen's website and heavily via Queen's email communications with students. The applications closed in December 2022. We received a total of 17 applications.

Shortlisting

Shortlisting took place via e-mail and was completed by 16 December 2022. A total of four candidates were shortlisted.

Interviews

Interviews were held on 12 January 2023 at the Peter Froggatt Centre in Queen's. Two candidates were interviewed in person and two virtually via Microsoft Teams. The scholarship fund was £1000. Following some insightful and compelling interviewees, the panel decided to give the monetary award to two candidates. This was divided between Eleanor Corken (£600) and Karina Louise Smyth (£400). Additionally, this year a laptop has been donated to Queen's in order to give away in addition to the scholarship fund. The panel unanimously decided that the laptop would go to Niamh O'Meallaigh.

Deirdre McCauley (Secretary of QWG)

19 January 2023

CIR Report, JANUARY 2023

Grace O'Malley, CIR



CIR Report, JANUARY 2023

Grace O'Malley, CIR

Overview of GWI 2022

Just to update you on the highlights of the work of the GWI over the past year, who, with only two staff and seven Board members, along with a number of Interns, has served over 14,000 members from around the world, supported 52 international affiliates and gained 37 Independent Members from 22 countries.

More than 1000 GWI members from 45 different countries participated in the webinars that were held. Toolkits were developed to support International Menstrual Hygiene Day, International Day of the Girl, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and International Day of Education.

GWI remained an active participant in global affairs in 2021, engaging with the United Nations through written and oral statements, event attendance and communication and collaboration with other international NGOs. The GWI Young Member Network (YMN) is comprised of passionate **change makers and proactive young women from over 20 countries across the globe, advocating** for issues impacting youth.

Given the unprecedented and multidimensional challenges to education systems from COVID-19, GWI initiated an Organisational Development Process, lead by Geeta Desai, in support of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Newly Elected Board of Officers, 2022-25

President: Patrice Wellesley-Cole (BFWG), VP Advocacy: Shaila Rao Mistry (WG-USA), VP Legal & Governance: Ujwala Shinde (IFUWA), VP Membership: Meera Bondre (IFUWA), VP Marketing: Shrutti Sonthalia (IFUWA), VP Education: Shirley Gillett (GWNZ), VP Fundraising: Nneka Chiedozie-Udeh (NAUW), VP Projects: Mildred Asmah (GAUW), Treasurer: Sudha Srivastava (BFWG)

STAFF

Executive Director: Stacy Dry Lara, Programme Officer: Alexa Grace (Canada), Sonia Gomez Soria (Spain), Jaden Wong (USA)

January 2022

On 24 **January 2022**, GWI joined with the world in observing **International Day of Education**. GWI membership worldwide celebrated education and the positive role education plays building peaceful societies. GWI voiced deep concerns about the disturbing inequalities in education exacerbated globally by the COVID 19 pandemic, especially the digital divide affecting women and girls. GWI underscores the need for collaborative efforts to raise awareness about the crucial digital learning crisis continuing as pandemic fallout.

Statement by GWI on Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention.

GWI's international network of graduate women, jointly expressed concern for all Turkish women, and stand in special solidarity with our Turkish sisters of Türk Universiteli Kadınlar Dernegi, (Turkish Association of University Women). GWI and all her members urge the Government of the Republic of Turkey to reconsider its withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, which builds on the standards enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as its general recommendations.



Women rally in Ankara, Turkey against Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention

February 2022

In February, the world saw two important days of observance take place, International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and International Day of Women and Girls in Science. While the days have passed, it is important to continue to raise awareness about the critical barriers to girls' education throughout the year. It should be remembered, for example, that more than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone FGM. Furthermore, there are an estimated three million girls at risk of undergoing FGM every year. After FGM, girls are absent from school to heal and many suffer infections, trauma and lifelong health consequences such as depression, complications in childbirth and increased risk of newborn deaths, a violation of their human and education rights.

March 22

4 March 2022 Statement on War in Ukraine

GWI Russia to uphold the UN Declaration of Human Rights which both nations have signed. GWI therefore urges the respective parties to end this conflict peacefully and negotiate peace between the two nations; to involve women at the negotiating table and to promote the active participation of children and women in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction. GWI is deeply concerned that women (and girls) will again be the ones who will face violence and rape, as they are always disproportionately affected by armed conflict.

April 2022

Graduate Women International (GWI) Teachers for Rural Futures 2022 Student Teachers

In rural areas of Uganda, a huge number of girls are not enrolled in school or forced to drop out, in part due to a lack of women teachers. Through the Teachers for Rural Future Programme, GWI is committed to increasing the number of qualified and trained women teachers in rural Uganda by sponsoring the studies of young women teachers. Our goal is to increase the quality of secondary education for all, increase girls' access to and completion of secondary education, and provide important role models for girls and their communities.

May 22

Organisational Development (OD) Project

GWI has been carrying out an OD process focusing on SDG 4, Quality Education for all, initially identifying where NFA countries lie in relation to implementation and completion of this goal. Ireland has scored well on this one, placing in the top 4 countries - but still has a way to go, of course. The second phase of the OD process looked at the relationship between GWI, the NFA's and potential funders to partner with to achieve this goal (e.g. the UN,). While completing this phase, it was decided to focus on the relationship between GWI and NFA's, as concerns were expressed by most representatives that the relationship needs attention. For example, there was a feeling that communication seemed to be primarily one way - GWI to NFA's; that many NFA members were unaware of the advantages of being part of GWI and unclear on its work and operations; that some of the work of GWI might not be relevant to all NFA's. A pause was suggested to review these findings. As a result. GWI proposed a renewed and more robust relationship model which requires commitment from both parties (GWI and NFA's). In order to develop this successfully, GWI called on all NFA's to vote in favour (or against) on June 1 -2nd, who approved the model.

June 22

12 June 2022 marked the 20th anniversary of **World Day Against Child Labour**. Under the theme "Universal Social Protection to End Child Labour" GWI, together with the International Labour Organisation (ILO), called for increased investment in child-sensitive social protection systems to protect children from falling prey to forced child labour and remaining in the labour activities in lieu of school. "Education is key to tackling child labour, especially the education

of women and girls”, said GWI President Terry Oudraad. “When women are educated, their children are far less likely to be involved in child labour”.

Investing in girls is the right thing to do; investing in their education yields significant returns. Women and girls, everywhere, must have equal rights and opportunity, and be able to live free of violence and discrimination.

July 22

On World Youth Skills Day, Graduate Women International urged states to invest in quality education and training for young women and girls.

Globally, young people make up 18% of the population but 40% of the unemployed (UNESCO). On top of these numbers, in low-income countries, only 85 young women are literate per 100 literate young men (UNESCO). “Education is the most impactful strategy for change. Educating young women and girls significantly increases their access to formal jobs in the long term”. Currently 43.2% of the world's working-age women are employed, compared to 68.6% of working-age men (ILO). Action is clearly needed and GWI is committed to empowering young women and girls through the acquisition of new skills.

GWI welcomed a new association in Spain

With the founding of the Spanish Association of University Women (SAUW) of Murcia. SAUW Murcia is comprised of 22 women whose president is Francisca Liaño. Francisca has been following GWI activities for years and was able to create the Association in Murcia, a city with a well-known University, with the support of NFA's in Bilbao, Madrid, and Marbella.

GWI also welcomed the Thailand Association of University Women (TAUW).

Being an active member again will provide several opportunities to learn, share, and support each other on many essential issues of women and girls. GWI congratulated TAUW and sent a warm welcome for re-affiliating.

September 22

Young Member Network President Letter. In her latest monthly letter GWI YMN President, Srivastava warmly welcomed three new members to the YMN in July, Deborah Adeyemo from Nigerian Association of University Women, Eveline van Eerd from GWI Netherlands, **and Gisele Scanlon from Irish Federation of University Women.** More new members from Spanish Federation of University Women and one from Argentina are in process. Additionally, Srivastava announced the YMN workshop, “Graduate women at the

grassroots level: Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through capacity building, awareness raising, outreach, community dialogue, data collection, training, and support”, to be held as part of the [GWI General Assembly and conference](#). In her newsletter Srivastava shares August’s motto, “Intergenerational Solidarity: creating a world for all ages! Solidarity across generations is key for sustainable development”.

NOVEMBER 2022




Graduate Women International

*From Growth to
Sustainability*

**34th Triennial
General Assembly and Conference**

(to be held virtually)

11 November - 13 November 2022

General Assembly 2022

Graduate Women International hosted the 34th triennial General Assembly and Conference virtually on 11-13 November 2022 in collaboration with the Indian Federation of University Women’s Associations.

Under the theme, From Growth to Sustainability, the event examined education and prepared participants to renew and rebuild Graduate Women International as a substantial contributor to the global, national and local acceleration and implementation of the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 4.

Over 300 GWI members from 40 GWI national federation and association countries registered for the event. The General Assembly voting delegates elected new GWI 2023-2025 Board of Officers and Committee members, adopted [10 new policy resolutions](#), and IFUWA shared a beautiful [cultural experience video](#). Participants heard from several [2022 GWI fellowship awardees](#) and two of the [GWI Teachers for Rural Futures](#) students. On the

third day of the event, the from [Growth to Sustainability Conference](#) offered 14 workshops and 11 seminars on various topics in line with the theme and five subthemes of the 34th triennial General Assembly and Conference.

GWI offers its warmest thank you to members who participated in the event, send appreciation to the outgoing 2019-2022 Board of Officers and Committees, and congratulations to all newly elected 2023-2025 Board of Officers and Committee members.

Ends

Women's Forum Northern Ireland

Report 2022

With life now slowly returning to 'normal', at the Annual General Meeting in February 2022 it was unanimously agreed that due to the exceptional circumstances of the past few years, the office bearers and committee would remain in post until the next AGM in 2023.

The guest speaker at the AGM was Justice Teresa Doherty CBE. Teresa was the 2018 Overall Winner of the Iris Colvin Lifetime Achievement Award.

Teresa was the first woman to be appointed a provincial legal officer, a Principal Magistrate, and a Judge in the South Pacific region. She used her position to promote women's rights also to ensure prisoners were held in humane conditions. Teresa has made an enormous contribution to society, locally and internationally.

For the April meeting, we were fortunate to secure a speaker from the charity Hearing Dogs. Sue Benham accompanied by her dog Kristo gave an inspirational talk on auditory impairment. Sue had hearing (although limited) as a child but was diagnosed as being profoundly deaf at the age of 28 years. Describing hearing loss as virtually a hidden disability, Sue recalled how frightened she had felt when, during 'the troubles' while working in an office in Belfast city centre there was a bomb scare, the office was evacuated but no one knew to alert Sue as she hadn't heard the warning alarm. Sue emphasised the fact that hearing/loss of hearing doesn't just affect the one person BUT the family as a whole. Sue demonstrated a range of aids designed to enhance the quality of life for a person living with hearing loss. Kristo (the dog) wears a uniform, a smart burgundy coat with the charity name Hearing Dogs embroidered on it and he knows he's working once he gets his 'uniform'on. Kristo, I think, stole the show!

With the days getting longer and somewhat warmer and the restrictions enforced on everyone as a result the pandemic slowly easing, our guest speaker at the June meeting of Women's Forum NI, Evelyn Hoy attracted a good audience.

Evelyn Hoy was appointed Chief Executive of COPNI (Commissioner for Older People Northern Ireland) in September 2013 after joining the office in June 2012 as Head of Operations. Formerly a civil servant, Evelyn headed up the Good Relations Policy Unit in the Office of the First and Deputy First Minister after previously having worked with the Victims and Survivors Commission and the Gender and Equality Unit.

Evelyn told us that COPNI was established by law in 2011. Its task was to ensure the adequacy and effectiveness of legislation for older people and to give an independent voice to people over the age of 60 years.

Evelyn gave a detailed account of the work of the office of COPNI – they conduct formal investigations into nursing homes where concerns have been raised; guidance and intervention on behalf of individuals in areas of social care, housing and pension rights; the many challenges people have faced/are facing as a result of Coronavirus; ageist discrimination and scammers. COPNI have been working very closely with the Scamming Partnership to publicise the many scams both romantic and financial that have escalated during the pandemic.

Each year a new work plan for the year is published. In the new plan for government, older people are classed in the high priority category.

One of the objectives of Women's Forum states that through fund-raising and the effective management of finances this will enable action to be taken to further the aims of Women's Forum; it was unanimously agreed that we should hold a Car Boot Sale. Saturday 30th July 2022 was the date best suited to the majority of members. We were so fortunate not just with the weather but also with the generosity of family and friends. The amount of hard work that

had gone on behind the scenes was reflected in the takings when at 'closing time' we were able to bank a handsome sum of £305. It was anticipated that some of the remaining unsold stock may sell at a later stage, pushing up the final total. A great day was enjoyed by all!

A further £90.24 was able to be banked a couple of months later making the whole event so worthwhile.

At our meeting in September 2022 we were delighted to welcome as our guest speaker Joanne Bunting MLA. Joanne is a Unionist politician representing the DUP and has been an MLA for East Belfast since 2016/Assembly Chief Whip/Member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board. Joanne gave us some insight into the broad spectrum of her work on a day to day basis working for ALL residents within East Belfast. Joanne then 'opened' the floor for a question and answer session on whatever topic anyone had issues with/concerns about. This proved very popular as the range of topics included hospital waiting times; integrated education; roads policing; the facing back of trees in public areas; crime statistics.

Joanne then shared with us the most recent public event to which she'd been invited – the honour of attending the arrival of Her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth 11's Funeral Cortège at Westminster Hall. Joanne said "It was a beautiful and moving ceremony in the presence of the King and the Royal Family. I will never forget this day as long as I live".

The final meeting of this year was 24 November 2022 when the guest speaker was Ms Betty Brown, Past President of Royal Ulster Academy

When the pandemic hit at the start of 2020, Betty found herself working full-time as the Director of RUA.

Betty is a very gifted and talented artist and sculptor. Betty's artistic talents have been to the fore from a very early age. She has been a practising visual artist since 1976 beginning as a painter followed by a significant change in direction to making large sculpture works in the mid 1980's.

Betty gave a power point presentation of some of her paintings and sculptures from over the years. A recurring theme in Betty's work has been the exploration of the human/animal relationship in sculptural form, using animals to convey characteristics from predatory and violent to vulnerable and fragile.

Not only has Betty had works exhibited at many exhibitions throughout Ireland and mainland Britain since early 1980's but she has lifted several prestigious awards and prizes and also has had work exhibited in public collections. Such a talent!

Betty currently has work exhibited in the Ulster Museum Belfast.

As the Biennial Luncheon and Presentation of the Iris Colvin Lifetime Achievement Award planned for 2022 had to be deferred – this event will now be held on Saturday 22 April 2023.

Carolyn Forster

Women's Forum Northern Ireland

QWG Secretary's Report

I will begin with our annual dinner, which we were able to hold this year for the first time since May 2019. This was held on 27 May 2022 in the Great Hall at Queen's. Our speaker was Naomi McGregor, founder and CEO of MoveTru, who delivered an inspiring talk. The food was delicious as usual, and it was wonderful to be able to come together and for those who hadn't met each other in person for some time to be able to reconnect. This was closely followed by the Triennial on 28 May which took place in Dublin.

After this, planning began in earnest for our turn to host the annual IRFUW conference, which was held on 15 October with a dinner the night before in the Great Hall at Queen's. The theme of the conference was 'Disruptors: Women who Change the World' and it was a most interesting and informative day. The speakers at the dinner and conference included an author, an historian and the owner of the Feminist Shop and their presentations were extremely well received.

The next event planned was an online talk by Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, renowned astrophysicist from Northern Ireland. This unfortunately did not take place due to unforeseen circumstances, however the good news is that she has agreed to deliver a talk in person in February as part of NI Science Week. This will be a most interesting and eagerly anticipated event.

The year ended with our Christmas coffee and mince pie event on 3 December 2022, which was a great success and a very warm and festive way to end the year. Plans are now in full swing for our AGM on 28 January 2023 shortly followed by our public speaking competition in February. I have found 2022 to be a most enjoyable year for the QWG and it only remains for me to wish you all, on behalf of the QWG Committee, a very happy and prosperous 2023.

Deirdre McCauley
Secretary, QWG

02.01.2023

IrFUW Report

On 28th May 2022 I was honoured to be elected President of the IrFUW at the Triennial Meeting held in the United Arts Club, Dublin. Following the Business meeting and a light lunch, members and guests had the pleasure of two fascinating speakers; Anne Ingle, and Irish film maker Deborah Grimes

In September the UWE conference took place in Kyrenia, Cyprus. Unfortunately, circumstances made it impossible for us to be there in person. Fortunately, the event has been recorded and is available on YouTube.

The 2022 Annual Conference was hosted by Queen's University Women Graduates, and the theme was 'Disruptors: Women who change the world'. On the Friday evening a dinner was held in the Great Hall in QUB. Music was provided by pianist Celine Regan, an exquisite dinner was served, and our speaker was Hilary McCollum, Publishing Fellow at the Seamus Heaney Centre.

On the Saturday we enjoyed 4 excellent talks. Lori Gatsby-Barnett began with 'Entrepreneur – Born or Made?'. Our afternoon speakers, Dr Leanne McCormick, Mary Alice Clancy, and Virginia Mendez were enlightening and entertaining, resulting in a most enjoyable day.

The GWI Triennial Conference took place from 11-13 November. Thanks to Zoom the IrFUW was represented by Annette, Maire, and myself. The Business took place on the Friday and Saturday with all motions being passed. On the Sunday there was a wide variety of workshops and talks, together with videos from the GWI awardees.

As we move into 2023, we can look forward to a variety of events; one of our most prestigious being the IrFUW Public Speaking Final which will be held on Saturday 4th March in Trinity College, Dublin.

Having survived the problems created by Covid, we should be optimistic about the future for the Irish Federation of University Women. Please log on to the IrFUW website and go to the Members area to find out more about what our university groups have been doing and plan to do.

The password for the Members area is 2022 **IrFUW!** (don't forget the!).

Anne Hunter (President)