



# Indian Federation of University Women's Associations

AFFILIATED TO GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL



## President's Address

Dear Sisters of the Indian Federation, IFUWA has successfully completed two and a half years of its functioning since August 2020. Braving the wrath of the Pandemic we have engaged ourselves in meaningful work, respecting our mission of education and empowerment leading to upliftment. Post CC meeting in August, October has been an eventful month where IFUWA presented an excellent cultural show at the 34th GWI Conference. The presentation won accolades from all over the world and I convey sincere thanks to all of you for your support in many different ways to make it happen. It is our pride to find 10 Indian ladies taking positions in the GWI Board and committees. Much appreciation goes to those for the paper presentations and workshop organisation at the GWI Conference. It speaks of an empowered women force. IFUWA members and Office Bearers participated in the Conference events and voted for the Resolutions and nominations. Congratulations to all the winners! The focal point of IFUWA being empowerment of women, the Project committee has taken strides to embark on a new project for 2023 – 2025 concerning the mental well-being of women in all stages of life and the impact of counselling. We have progressed well in our effort to renew SAARC ties and I am hopeful of reviving the same subsequently. UWAsia organized an excellent webinar on the 10th of December with the coming together of the NFAs of Bangladesh / Nepal and Thailand. I am happy that the Asian Region has found visibility in the global scenario by dealing with issues concerning the region.

IFUWA retained its scholarship announcement and disbursement, undertook important resolutions in their Central committee meetings and is working towards establishing new UWAs in future. To keep members posted of IFUWA activities, the website and social media has found a prominence. We have completed paying our capitation on time; however it is sad to note the dwindling of membership numbers. Over the year, IFUWA will work to host UWAsia / SAARC and International Conference in India, and for all this, I would need your support to make the effort a resounding success. I have faith in your capacity and commitment and I extend my heartfelt thanks to the members working in different capacities for their contributions helping IFUWA to progress in multiple ways. Let us make IFUWA an NFA to reckon with.

**Dr Ranjana Banerjee**

President – IFUWA / UWAsia



## Editor's Note

Dear friends,

We are embarking on the third year of our e-newsletter journey. Commencement of the digital newsletter became a necessity with the advent of COVID but it has stayed ever since. Apart from saving on costs, the e-newsletter is easy to store and is easily accessible as well. It

is uploaded on the IFUWA Website in the Downloads Section. Members access them at their convenience, read or use any item for reference purpose. It gives us more leeway in terms of space and the number of pages. Therefore, more content. Also, the images that we get are not up to the mark, most of the times, for paper printing. But for digital uploads, such images can be used.

With the petering out of COVID, physical interactions have increased. Hopefully there are more activities on ground, more activities to share and report. IFUWA is also breaking new grounds, out of India, which are reported in the International News section.

If any of you is willing to start a regular column, rich in content, on a subject of relevance to women empowerment, kindly write to me. We can commence with that column from the next issue of the e-newsletter.

I must also express my gratitude to all the contributing members who put in their time and efforts to collate, write and edit the content before mailing it to me. It is their efforts that reflect in the superior quality of the IFUWA e-newsletter. I hope to have their support all through the term.

You may be aware that Dr Mrs Purnima Kashyap, daughter of Dr Mrs Sushil Bhardwaj, ex-IFUWA President and ex-UWAD President, was a part of the team of the United Nations World Food Programme, that received the coveted 'Nobel Peace Prize 2020'. The team was awarded the Prize for its efforts to combat hunger, for its contributions to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas, etc. This was announced by the IFUWA President in the last CC Meeting. We plan to share Dr Kashyap's journey in the next issue of our Newsletter.

If you have such news to share that augment our Mission of Women Empowerment, do contribute alongwith interesting images. Please do not forget to mention the dates of the news items or events, which lends credence to the report.

At the end, allow me to share one quote of Swami Vivekananda on how important educating women is – 'We want the education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, the intellect is expanded, and by which one can stand on one's own feet.'

Many thanks for reading. It matters.

**Purobi Ghosh Mohan**

Convener - Communication

## International News

### Glimpses of the Fellowship Committee : 2019 - 2022

The GWI 2019-2022 Fellowship committee consisted of 6 members:

Professor Cynthia Burek (Convener) BFWG

Dr. Basak Ovacik (Board representative)

Dr. Fay Weber (WG-USA); Dr. Bettie Higgs (Minutes secretary) (Ireland independent);

Dr. Ranjana Banerjee (India)

Dr. Aquila Islam (Pakistan) who died in office in 2021

The main work of the Committee was to select the GWI Fellowship and Grant award winners. This year the Fellowship Committee of GWI was constrained in its work due to the Covid-19 Pandemic announced in March 2020. One of our committee members Dr. Aquila Islam, succumbed to the virus in the middle of her term on the Committee and died.

The applications forms, guidelines for applicants and referees were updated on the website. The selection process has taken 2 years from start to finish. All our work was done electronically via email or Zoom. There was excellent cooperation amongst all the members and the Convener though huge time adjustments were made.

We initially had over 60 applications from across the world but only 40 were acceptable for the awards that we were responsible for judging. We also had many enquiries and applications that were not acceptable as they did not fit the set criteria.

To clarify the distinction between Fellowships, Grants and Recognition awards the following explanation is given:

Fellowships are the equivalent of 5,000 to 10,000 Swiss francs

Grants are from 3,000 to 5,000 Swiss francs

GWI Recognition Awards are 1,000 Swiss francs [Plus 100 CHF to cover the admission fee].

There were 2 new awards named this year - the Fay Weber Grant (to mark the end of her Presidency of the WG-USA) and the Cynthia Burek Environmental Recognition Award (given and named after the current Convener of the GWI Fellowship Committee who completed her 6 year term this year).

The Convener initially checked all applications to verify their eligibility and that the forms were duly completed, and that the payment had been received. Extension of time was granted for referees to respond within one week as many were suffering from the results of Covid. Eventually all the Committee members assessed 20 applications each according to the criteria set and advertised on the GWI website.

Committee allocated grades to the applications based on the criteria advertised and according to our own guidelines and Terms of Reference.

The successful candidates were asked for publicity photos which they submitted, and these were loaded up onto the GWI website to complete postcards of their work. They were also asked to provide a Press release.

It was decided to honour these women in a special session at the meeting as well as in their own countries and to acknowledge the awards to them in person. They have all also been asked to provide a short video of their work and what the awards mean to them.

Finally, Felcom thanks all the people who fund-raised for the awards so that we could honour these remarkable women and help them on their journeys to reach their full potential. Convener Felcom Dr Cynthia Burek thanked the Fellowship Committee for their hard work during difficult decision-making sessions. Felcom hoped that in the years to come we see these women achieve their goals.

## International News

**Table of Awards to be made 2022 GWI Fellowship Committee**

Award	Name	University	Topic	Financial
GW Winifred Cullis Fellowship	McMILLAN Caitlin	Chapel Hill North Carolina	Making space for the Displaced: Examining the Impact of Humanitarian practices on care and Wellbeing amongst Refugees in Cyprus	CHF5000
GW British Federation of Women Graduates: Ida Smedley Maclean Fellowship	GENOVESI Elisa	KCL	Development & pilot evaluation of a programme to help teachers support children with development disabilities in mainstream school settings in Ethiopia.	£5000
GW Funds for Women Graduates Crosby Hall Fellowship	NEWBY Samantha	University of Manchester	The Design of a Textile-Based, Wearable, Thin-Film System for Harvesting and Storing Body Thermal Energy	£6000

## International News

GWI New Zealand Daphne Purves Grant	DOS SANTOS Toronto Isabella	An Oasis of Peace in the Heart of Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Case of Wahat al-Salam/Neve Shalom	\$NZ 6000
Fay Weber Grant	MUNDILOVA Klara MIT	Curved crease origami design from theory to practice	\$3000
NazanMoroglu Young Members Recognition Award	NAIR Shalini Sussex	Exclusionary discourse of sexual violence in India	€1000
Cynthia Burek Environmental Recognition award	FITCHETT Hannah St. Andrews	The 'nature' of Climate Activism: an examination of Extinction Rebellion as a movement of conceptual and ethical reform in London and Madrid.	£1000
GWI Recognition Award	HIEPLER Sarah Aberdeen	Death's place in museum practices, displays, and interpretation: an ethnography examining death in university museums in the UK.	CHF1100

## International News

GWI Recognition Award	GOODPASTURE Eliza	York	Kindred Spirits: Friendship and Ambition Among Women Artists in England, 1870-1920	CHF1100
GWI Recognition Award	VOLPE Diana	Oxford	Legitimacy, discourse, and power: Italy-Libya relations, and the case of the Mediterranean	CHF1100
GWI Recognition Award	PFLUG Michele	Oregon	In pursuit of her butterflies-Madness, violence and science in the English Countryside 1650-1715	CHF1100
GWI Recognition Award	TOLBA Hebatallah	University of East London	A becoming: Materiality, affect and subjectivity in women's religious rituals practice in Egypt	CHF1100
GWI Recognition Award	YU Yurong	Imperial College London	Measuring biodiversity impacts with more precision, less bias and more influence	CHF1100



**Dr Mrs Ranjana Banerjee**  
President IFUWA/UWAsia  
Member – Fellowship Committee

## International News

### My experience with GWI

It was my pleasure to present the work done during my tenure as GWI Vice President Legal & Governance for the triennium 2019-22.

2019-22 triennium was the most challenging term for GWI. GWI faced challenges on several fronts caused by sharply falling membership numbers, inability, or unwillingness of members to pay their membership dues and the huge disruption caused by the Covid pandemic.

Building on the resilience that the world showed in overcoming the covid pandemic, GWI too embarked on its own renewal & revival with the Organisation Development initiative undertaken by the Board of 2019-22. It was good to see GWI and its membership rise to the occasion and focus on reinventing and rebuilding GWI and the National Federations and Associations (NFAs) for the future.

Special thanks to Geeta Desai (GWI Past President 2016-19) for her Organisational Development (OD) process proposal and her tremendous effort in its implementation, which will form the backbone for the next triennium 2022-25.

The GWI Board 2019-22, was clear on its view, that for GWI to be financially sustainable, renewing and rebuilding with Organisational Development process is the only way forward. It would position GWI for creating working relationships with UN agencies and to seek funding from external stakeholders and make sure that there are no structural and operational barriers to carry out the work that GWI intends to do in this next chapter of its organisational life.

This required higher level of focus and effort on two very crucial areas going ahead and led to my proposing, and acceptance by the Board of creating two new Vice President portfolios namely-

1. Vice President Education and
2. Vice President Projects

Having seen first-hand the heavy lifting that the Board & the VP Legal & Governance needs to do, and to support the Board in its work, I proposed the constitution of the Governance Committee, to provide structural support and guidance. The committee will encourage opportunities for Board development, conduct annual evaluations of the Board members, assist with succession planning and create good governance policies which serve as guidelines for the organization's standard of practice and accountability for Board members.

Necessary constitutional amendments were made to the GWI Constitution to address changing circumstances and provide better representation to the NFAs for voting.

Other tasks performed by me during the triennium -

- The 34th being the first virtual General Assembly, worked on adapting rules of procedure for such meetings
- developed guidelines for GWI Board meetings and record keeping
- developed the Terms of References (ToR) for the new Governance Committee
- created and Maintained the Motions Register of Board Meeting Motions
- as Board Advisor, gave support to the Nominations Committee during the nomination process
- worked with the Treasurer in preparing membership trends document and in framing the INTERNAL RESOLUTION 3 on proposed NFA Dues Structure 2023-25.

## International News

- reviewed the ToR for NFA Re-affiliation, suggested re-affiliation fees in relation to the period of lapse of membership
- pursued donations from individual donors and was able to get a donor for creation of Sustainable Development Goals Seed Fund.

Special thanks to Dr. Vinaybala Mehta, Past President of IFUWA and Past Vice President and Trustee of UWA, Pune, for kickstarting the Dr. Vinaybala Mehta Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Fund of GWI by generously donating CHF 10,000- as 'seed money'. This fund will enable GWI to make a meaningful impact with well-chosen and executed SDG projects and training of women for such projects. GWI Headquarters will use all its internal and external platforms to promote this seed fund's SDG projects.

The seed fund will be used for –

- a. Implementing projects that help women and girls to access, receive and continue education
- b. Creating awareness about SDGs and the importance of education for women and girls
- c. Encouraging and engaging as many GWI NFA members in the development, implementation, and proliferation of funded projects
- d. Building working relationships with UN agencies and other global entities that are working on the implementation of SDGs in our NFA countries
- e. Multiplying these projects across the world
- f. Gather additional funds from Foundations, Impact investors, and donors; thereby sustaining the benefits of this initial grant over a number of years

The criteria for the project excellence is that the project must –

- a. Be outcome based
- b. Be useful for research and innovation in number of fields
- c. Make a measurable difference
- d. Be sustainable beyond the period of seed funding
- e. Be reliable possible scalable
- f. Engage as many young members as possible

I would like to thank my colleagues on the GWI Board 2019-22, Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, IFUWA, UWA, Pune and all the NFA members for their active and positive participation in steering and taking GWI through its most challenging term. I am sure that the new GWI Board 2022-25 and all members of the NFAs will rebuild GWI for the future to make a meaningful impact on the world in our own way.



### **Mrs Veena Bathe**

GWI Vice President, Legal and Governance 2019-22

Hon. Secretary, IFUWA 2011-14

President, UWA, Pune 2013-15

## International News

### Looking back-Looking Forward

The MemCom 2019- 2022

Convener: Dr Meera Bondre

Members: Nneka Chiedozie-Udeh, PouyaSaeedi, Perine Wagdi

The GWI Membership Committee (MemCom) has been very active despite the worldwide lockdowns, and a lot of online activities were conducted to keep our members interested, engaged, and connected. For the first time in the 100 years history of GWI, a series of 9 webinars (The Webinar Cycle, for knowledge and Friendships across borders) on varied relevant topics were conducted. The concluding webinar was the on Intergenerational Membership, in which I, as the Convener put forth my tried, tested and successful ideas. The other MemCom members also gave their views in short and the Young Members Network was given enough representation. YMN was established in Geneva at the Centenary Conference in 2019 largely because of the efforts of Eileen Focke-Bakker, VPMembership. The creation of YMN and constantly supporting them itself has been one of the first important MemCom's projects in 2019- 1922.

The idea of formation of the Regional Leadership Platform proved very successful, as the meetings from time-to-time increased interconnectedness and awareness among members about the conditions in all the six Regions of GWI.

Membership Marketplace was yet another novel idea. Its creation is essentially twinning in a new format. We designed the forms and the logo and decided to have two Streams under it-Peer to Peer, and NFA to NFA. In the latter Stream two or more NFAs come together to work on a project of common interest. Programs like Meet & Greet and Educational Tours also fall under this NFA to NFA stream.

Marketplace was officially launched on September 12, 2020 and on the same day the first NFA to NFA project between India and Egypt on 'Sexual Harassment at Workplace', based on the GWI Resolution 7 of the Triennium, was also announced. Neelam Jagdale from India, and PerineWagdi from Egypt led the three-member team from their respective countries. As a step forward, now a Policy Resolution 3 on the same theme has been proposed by India and seconded by Egypt. We expect countries like Japan, Mexico and Canada to join in the current Triennium.

Another NFA to NFA project between Canada and the Netherlands on the Perilous situation of the Afghan Women was conducted. One more ambitious project under this stream, 'Spanish Speaking Culture Bridge', was initiated by Spain Here NFAs from Argentina, Bolivia, Panama, Paraguay, and Mexico, surrounding the Atlantic are involved. This project is going on full swing and had its 10th successful webinar two months back.

MemCom helped in creating a database of the contact details of members, which is an on-going process. This is to reach out to the members directly through the Membership Letter. This was another new idea which is being implemented.

The UWAsia was revived, which has the NFAs in Bangladesh, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, and Singapore. India has been the headquarters from January 1, 2020. Dr Ranjana Banerjee is the current President. The Constitution has been revised and the Executive Committee is formed which has one member from each NFA, and is very active. So far four Programmes have been conducted. The Thai Association which is the 8th NFA in UWAsia, recently has got reaffiliated to GWI, after MemCom unanimously passed a motion to that effect. Thanks to Glenda Hecksher, VP Marketing, for designing the UWAsia logo. Another novel idea was to have Three North-South Regional Dialogues for interactive conversations on topics of concern within the GWI global space.

## International News

Participation in the CSW 65 was another landmark. MemCom took a lead to design an innovative program in the form of a Mock Trial, which was presented at the Parallel Event at CSW 65. In this a large number of members coming from all the GWI Regions participated. It involved 12 debaters who spoke for, and against two statements on Education, 3 judges, and a moderator. Importantly, members from countries like Britain, Russia, Egypt, Ghana, India, Nigeria, New Zealand, Senegal, Scotland, South Africa, Switzerland, The Netherlands, and USA were brought on the same platform. I was a speaker representing India in the Commission on Status of Women (CSW 66) parallel Event in New York in 2021.

After Eileen resigned, Glenda took up the additional responsibility of VP Membership. In addition to designing the UWAsia logo as mentioned earlier, she now helped in resolving the issues in the Spanish speaking countries and conducted the Third North-South Dialogue between the Americas. Thus, a lot of effort was put in to retain and recruit members. This would act as a solid platform for the new team to take the mission forward.

During the 34th Triennial Conference as the MemCom Convener I played my crucial role of announcing the quorum before the business session started, checking the credentials of the voting members, and also officially announcing the beginning and end of the voting process, in my capacity as the Chair.

As Convener I participated in the OD Process and updated my committee members. Now as the VP Membership in the current term, I will continue to work with the new MemCom team and help in the Renew and Rebuild program for the bright future of GWI.



**Dr Mrs Meera Bondre**

GWI Vice President Membership (2022- 2025)

Vice President UWAsia (from January,1,2020)

Convener GWI Membership Committee (2019- 2022)

Convener NFA to NFA Stream of Membership Marketplace  
(from September, 2020)

I'm not going to limit myself just because people won't accept the fact that I can do something else.

Dolly Parton

## Happenings

### UWA Calcutta

#### Talk on Netaji and Emancipation of Indian Women

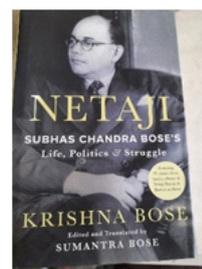
On October 19, 2022, UWAC was privileged and honoured to jointly host with Netaji Research Bureau a talk on Netaji and emancipation of Indian Women by Dr Sumantra Bose, Prof of International and Comparative politics at the London School of Economics and also Director of Netaji Research Bureau. It also gave a sneak peek into Krishna Bose's writings on the Life, Politics & Struggle of Subhas Bose.



Members at the Netaji Bhavan Program



Glimpses of Program



Book on Netaji by Krishna Bose

#### Society 5 O

UWAC participated in the annual Christmas Carnival of Society 5 O with goodies to bring smiles on the faces of children of Sishu Tirtha Primary School on December 09, 2022.



Winter Carnival At Society 5 O

Society 5 O was founded by Prof Chitra Ghosh in 2011. Earlier it was Project 5 O, conceptualised in 1981 at the time of Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Federation of University Women. The Society 5 O formed is run on donations.

Their Sishu Tirtha Primary School gives quality education till class 4 to the children from the marginalised section of the semi urban region of Thakurpukur, Kolkata. UWAC gives Annual salary of one teacher.



Students and teachers of Sishu Tirtha School

#### Shukti - The Power to Empower

On December 20, 2022 UWAC organised 'Shukti – The Power to Empower', an exhibition towards a noble cause with the mission to Empower. The exhibition featured around 50 stalls showcasing the talented and innovative creations of independent women entrepreneurs. These ladies in turn are empowering another 20 ladies, by providing job opportunities and financial security.



President Sumita Roy introducing IFUWA President Ranjana Banerjee



UWAC members at Shukti



Felicitation Of IFUWA President by UWAC President Sumita Roy



IFUWA President Ranjana Banerjee at Shukti



A glimpse at Shukti



Address by Chief Guest Supriya Roy at Shukti

## Happenings

### UWA Dehradun



Inaugurating of the second vocational training Center for teaching cutting and tailoring

#### Vocational Training Centres

UWA Dehradun inaugurated its second Vocational Training Centre at Village Ajabpur Kalan, Mothrowala. Mrs Deepmala was hired to teach cutting, stitching and tailoring to the students, after the school got over.

A third Vocational Training Center was inaugurated in 2023 for needy girls to impart professional training in Beauty Culture to help them earn a livelihood.



Starting a third Vocational Training Center in beauty culture

#### Assistance to the needy

Flash floods in the vicinity of Dehradun in the Raipur area have left some daily wagers with little or no income. Daughter of a labourer and a student of class VII, studying in one of the schools adopted by UWA Dehradun, was seriously ill with jaundice and required funds for blood transfusion. UWA provided financial, medical assistance and guidance to the patient and her family.



Assistance given to a needy student

A sum of Rupees ten thousand was given from the 'Noorjahan Sarokar Yojna Funds' as immediate relief to the daughter of our late member, Mrs Ruchi, who had lost her husband to cancer after a long struggle which led to a financial drain for the family. Assistance in establishing a beauty parlour was also provided to her.

#### Children's Day Celebrations



Children's Day was celebrated at Araghar Prathamik Vidyalaya, a government run primary and middle school. 235 pairs of woollen socks along with eatables were distributed to the children. The children presented a cultural program and gave speeches on the patriotic theme.

#### All-Religion Prayer Meet

An All-Religion Prayer Meet was conducted by the UWA members in remembrance of Mrs Uma Tyagi, at her residence. Sharmada Tyagi Vocational Training Center had been running there and needy girls benefitted and learned various skills like computers, beauty culture, embroidery and block printing from Master Crafts Person of India.

#### Support to Mahatma Khushi Ram Library

Mahatma Khushi Ram Library, the iconic library of Dehradun, which is over 100 years old, celebrated its Shatabdi Samaroh. UWA Dehradun which is already associated with the library, actively participated in it. A painting competition for the students on the theme of the State of Uttarakhand was also held on the occasion. UWA Dehradun had also extended financial support for constructing a room and buying furniture for students studying at the library.



**Shevata Rai Talwar**  
AR, UWA Dehradun  
Secretary UWAsia

## Happenings

### UWA Madras

#### Centenary Celebrations

The University Women's Association, Madras celebrated its centenary with yet another event on August 20, 2022. The theme of the event was 'Women Power: Changing Dynamics'. The event included talks and discussions by eminent personalities from various fields across India, inter college competitions and cultural program.

The program began with the lighting of the traditional Kuthuvilakku. Dr. Latha Rajendran, President UWAM welcomed the gathering and introduced the Chief Guest Dr. Vaidehi Vijayakumar, Vice Chancellor, Mother Teresa Women's University, Kodaikanal. Dr. Vijayakumar, in her inaugural address, called for the greater enrolment of women in higher education and higher participation in industry. Hon'ble Ms. Bhamathi Balasubramaniam, IAS (Retd), Secretary to Government of India & Former Member, Central Administrative Tribunal was the Guest of Honour. Ms. Balasubramaniam spoke about how women sustained the patriarchy by co-opting themselves into the system controlled by men. Hon'ble Justice Prabha Sreedevan, Retd. Judge, Madras High Court, in her keynote address said the transition of the women from victim to survivor was a 'work in progress'.

Dr. Ranjana Banerjee, President, The Indian Federation of University Women's Association, released the newsletter commemorating the 100 years of service of University Women's Association Madras. Services of the Patrons like Kumararani of Chettinad, Dr. Meena Muthai, Dr. Mano Baktavatsalam, Dr. Malathi Rangaswami, Mrs. Sheelavati Ranganathan and Dr. Sarasa Bharathi was acknowledged by honoring them on the occasion. Ms. Kamala Manne, Joint Secretary UWAM, gave the vote of thanks.

An interactive Seminar, which followed the tea break comprised of eminent speakers from different walks of life. Dr. Vasanthi Ranganathan, Resource Head, Lake View L & D Centre, Dr. V. R. Devika, Writer & Historian, Ms. Kavitha Muralidaran, Independent Journalist participated.

As part of the centenary celebrations, UWAM, along with Dr. MGR Janaki College for Women, organized several competitions for college students in and around, dance and music of semi classical renditions. 14 colleges participated. Cash prize and certificates were awarded to the winners during the centenary celebrations. A grand cultural program followed the high tea. The students of Dr. MGR Janaki College for Women performed different classical dance forms from various regions of India. The celebrations concluded with a dinner organised by the University Women's Association Madras at Hotel Raj Palace.



Lighting of Kuthuvilaku



Centenary celebration with past Presidents



With all dignitaries

#### Human Rights Day 2022

December 10 has been marked and celebrated worldwide, every year, as Human Rights Day. This day ensures that Human Rights is respected and remembered as a common standard for all nations.

The University Women's Association Madras organised a Talk to observe and commemorate the Human Rights Day 2022 in association with Dr. MGR-Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women at Director K. Subrahmanyam Hall, Dr. MGR-Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women.



Session 1 on 'UNHCR and the refugee protection' was handled by Ms. Ragini Trakroo Zutshi, Associate Protection Officer, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR India. She highlighted the working mandate of UNHCR and refugee protection. She also emphasised the importance of protecting the rights of refugees.

## Happenings

Session 2 on Human Rights and Vulnerable communities was handled by Prof. Dr. S. Sumathi, Former Head, Department of Anthropology, University of Madras. She emphasized the vulnerable communities and the importance of safeguarding the rights of vulnerable communities in Tamil Nadu and also highlighted the significance of protecting the human rights.



Session 3 on 'Right to be born and live in Dignity' was handled by Dr. Selvi Ganesh, Legal Consultant. She highlighted the fundamental rights of the constitution and emphasized on the right to equality and the right to life. She also laid special emphasis on living life with dignity.

The event was filled with a ray of wisdom expounding on the main theme and the audience gained valuable insights from the perspective of the successful speakers.



### UN day for Advocacy on Violence against Women

One in three women, worldwide, experience physical or sexual violence. Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation. Heightened awareness is a first step in changing attitudes and behaviour that perpetuate or condone the various forms of violence against women.

University Women's Association, Madras organised a Workshop for college students on 'Violence against Women & Immediate Response' on November 25, 2022 to mark the UN day for Advocacy on Violence against Women. Ms. Datchyaayane, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Dr. MGR-Janaki College of Arts and Science for Women was the Resource person.

UWAM conducted competitions such as poster designing, face painting, slogan writing, wherein several college students participated. A street play was performed by the students to create an awareness about the abuses against women.



**Vaijyanthi Mukkala**  
AR, UWA Madras

## Happenings

### UWA Pune

Mrs Padmaja Jalihal, Director of Indic Inspirations, Pune-based Culture Startup, receives the Maharashtra Startup Award 2022 as the best Start up during the Maharashtra Startup Week. Indic Inspirations was selected as a winner from the top 100 finalists amongst 1100 startup applications from around the country.



Mrs. Madhuri Sahasrabudhe the Founder-Director of Balranjan Kendra bagged the Prestigious Award for her work in the field of Child Development from Scout & Guide World Organization from their branch in Pune called Shivaji Kul. Award is named as बालकार्य सन्मान पुरस्कार (Balkarya Sanman Puraskar). The work of an organisation for children special reference to the ground activity for Physical & Mental fitness of Children.



**Veena Raman**  
AR, UWA Pune

### UWA Delhi

#### Scholarship distribution

A sum of Rs.16000/-, vide cheques, were disbursed to four undergraduate students pursuing courses and one postgraduate student who is visually impaired. Most of the candidates were from the non-formal education streams. UWAD plans to increase, both, the amount and the number of scholarships reaching out to vocational course enrolments.



Scholarship distribution

#### Meets



Suman Jain, AR UWA Delhi with UWA Chidambaram President Dr. Poongothai, AR Praveena and Secretary Rajeshwari

Mrs Suman Jain during her visit to Chidambaram met President of UWA Chidambaram Dr. Poongothai who invited her to the Annamalai University. AR Praveena and Secretary Rajeshwari also joined. There was a fruitful discussion over lunch about membership, activities and a collaboration between two UWAs in the form of lectures on a variety of topics.

#### UWAD members on women empowerment

UWAD General secretary Manjushree Singh gave a talk on 'Women's Role in the Freedom Movement' in Indraprastha College for Women and Gargi College, in August 2022. UWAD member Alka Saikia presented papers on Sustainable Development and Ecological conservation at national level seminars. UWAD member Sapna Prasad acted in plays relating to sexual violence and child sexual abuse.



Shashi Khurana, Manjushree Singh and Vandana Parashar with Gauri Chhabria, President WGU

President Shashi Khurana, Secretary Manjushree Singh and Jt Treasurer Vandana Parashar had a meeting with Advocate Gauri Chhabria, President WGU, during her visit to Delhi as part of an interface organised by the National Commission for Women. Gauri shared some helpful tips on projects and measures for funding.



**Suman Jain**  
AR, UWA Delhi

## Happenings

### WGU Bombay

#### Study Centre Prize Distribution

The Study Centre Prize Distribution for 2022 - 2023 was held on January 20, 2023, with games and special prizes for the winners in the games, and the children participating were happy and excited with prizes and delicious snacks.

#### Awakening

Counselling and Guidance Centre presented a session titled 'Awakening to Self Realisation' on 14th October, 2022 at Amy Rustomjee Hall at WGU. Maitreyi Padmagandha from Maitri Bodh Parivar was the speaker for the event.

#### Balwadi celebrations

Balwadi celebrated Dahi Handi and Ganesh Utsav on August 25, 2022, when the children had a wonderful time dressed up in colourful traditional costumes.



WGU celebrated Children's Day with the Balwadi children on November 14, 2022, with distribution of chocolates and gifts amidst great fanfare.



WGU in collaboration with Finolex Pipes, through its CSR initiative Mukul Madhav Foundation, called 'Give with Dignity', organised distribution of ration kits on October 20, 2022.



#### Dandiya Raas

Dandiya Raas was held on Saturday, September 24, 2022 in the presence of the Chief Guest Ms Nadarshani Gokani, a well known philanthropist and social worker.

Ila Dalal, dance teacher and member of WGU, gracefully taught the adults and the children, beautiful steps for Dandiya and Garba.



#### Annual Get-together

The Annual Get-together was held on February 18, 2022 at the Hotel Diplomat, Colaba. A live entertainment program has been organised for this occasion.

## Happenings

### Christmas Celebrations

The Christmas celebrations of WGU was held on December 26, 2022. The 15 member team of the Interfaith Colaba Carollers from various faiths united through the common love of music regaled the audience with carols, music and dancing with audience active participation, houseie and prizes with lots of fun, joy, cheer and festivities.



### Annual Scholarship Function

WGU Annual Scholarship Function was held on January 6, 2023. Scholarships upto Rs.14,55,000/- on need-cum-merit basis were distributed to deserving 79 young women students pursuing higher studies in various fields.

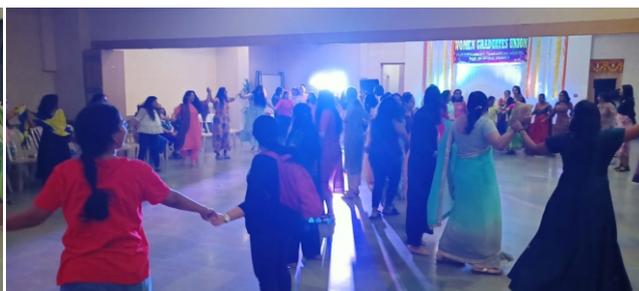
Chief Guest Mrs. Shernaz Engineer, Editor of Jam-e-Jamshed Communications Pvt Ltd. laid emphasis and said Women must focus on their inner light, not on their looks. Make the most of your strength and do not excessively obsess over your weaknesses.

Inspiring thoughts were shared by the previous Scholarship Awardees while motivating the members, guests and students.



### Hostel Anniversary Celebrations

The Hostel Anniversary was celebrated on December 2, 2022, with decorations for a bright and festive look, and artistic rangoli, D.J. Music, Games and a sumptuous dinner were enjoyed by all.



### Activities

WGU is running a special basic computer course for Senior Citizens to learn basic computer applications. Other computer courses like Smart Kids course and Microsoft Office Package.

The Consumer and Civic Affairs Committee has been conducting several online workshops / physical Seminars on Consumerism, Rights and Privileges. There is active participation by the public at the Grievances Cell, WGU.



**Merlyn Vasudev Monteiro**  
AR, WGU Bombay

## EVENTS

### Understanding social media

The Speaker started the Session with an overview of the digital space. Social media is a collective term for websites and applications that focus on communication, community-based input, interaction, content-sharing and joint efforts. He opined that the 79th organ in our body is the mobile phone which can feel touch and listen to us. It also has a mind of its own. The mobile phone is one of the active devices for using social media, other than the internet. He explained that the internet and the mobile are vehicles for accelerated growth of social media.

When Gmail was launched in 2004, the advertising medium started observing social media as it looked promising for business growth. As soon as the domain shifted to business, the digital solutions space started evolving fast. From Search based methodology, advertising moved to Preference based methodology and then went evolved into AI (artificial intelligence) based advertising. Between 2005 and 2011, several platforms were launched. While LinkedIn was launched in 2002, Facebook was launched in 2004, YouTube was launched in 2005, Twitter was launched in 2006 and Instagram was launched in 2010, apart from many others.

Since social media is an application-based terminology, people use social media mainly as organic communication, to stay in touch and interact with friends, family and various communities.

Therefore, social media is not built around platforms but around people and bondings.

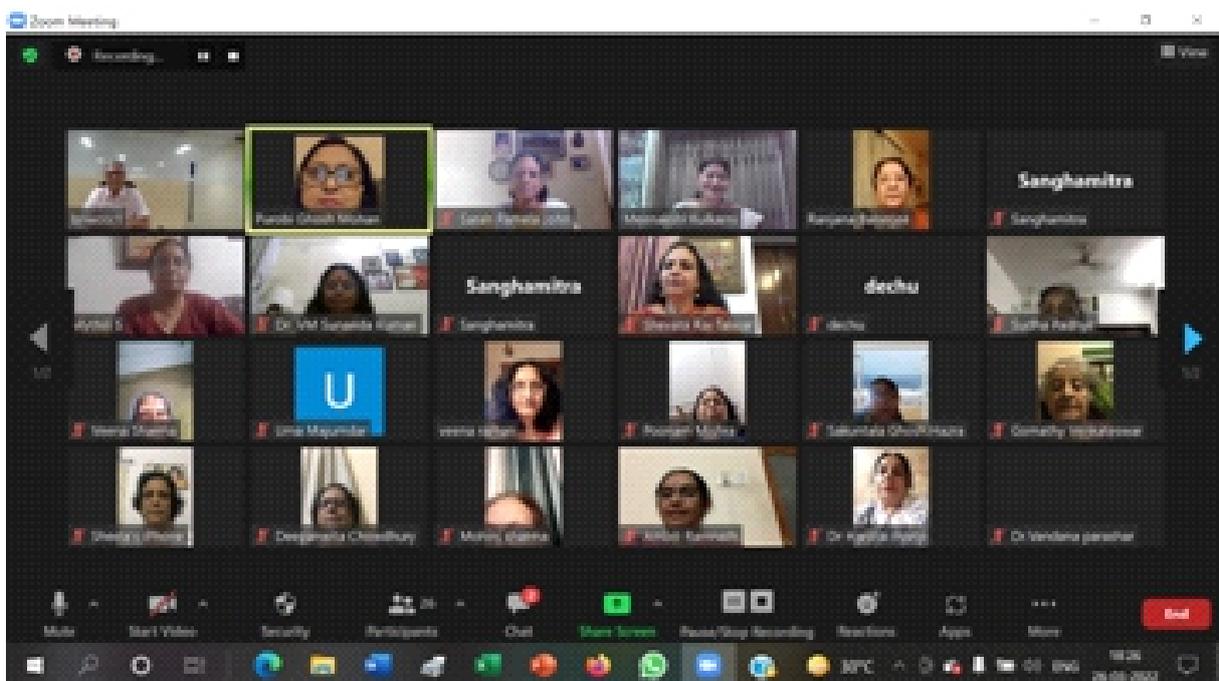
However, when the business community realised that social media applications were a potential networking channels for marketing products and services, organic communication started getting dominated by business communication.

NGOs also use social media for their activities with, both, organic and business communication. They use social media for creating awareness of their cause, building communities and inspiring action.

They connect with the right people and motivate them to support the cause. For building communities, NGOs communicate with potential volunteers, speakers, advocates and mentors through social media. Communities help create groups that can engage people, share resources and stay informed about issues that matter.

To inspire action, the mission, including its cause and the activities of the NGOs need to be explained thoroughly. The organisation and its volunteers may then participate in and initiate events, share well written success stories, host an online event, run a hashtag campaign, etc.

Presently, social media is a set of premier communication internet-based applications that are being actively used by profit as well as non-profit organisations.

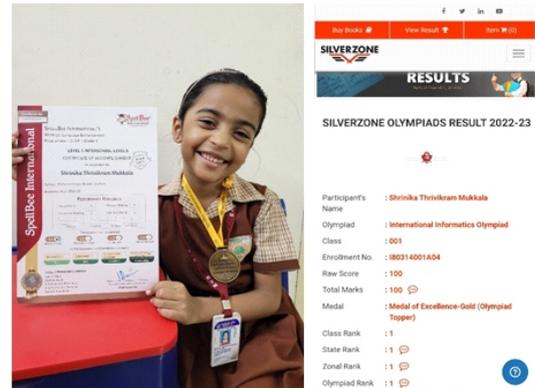


## Members' Corner

### Congratulations Shrinika!

Shrinika Thrivikram Mukkala, 6-year-old granddaughter of Mrs. Mukkala Vijayanthi Bashyakarlu, AR UWAM, has won the Gold Medal of Excellence and declared the Olympiad Topper in International Informatics Olympiad by securing Olympiad Rank number 1. She thereby is also the Class, State and Zonal topper. She is also the School Topper in the Interschool Level for Grade 1 from Spell Bee International.

The prestigious IIO examination is centred on computer science, which gives students a chance to not only test their abilities but also refine them and gain knowledge about international standards of computer science.



### Sone Ki Chidiya Ko Jagao (Awakening The Golden Bird) Vol. 1

#### The Concept and our Vision

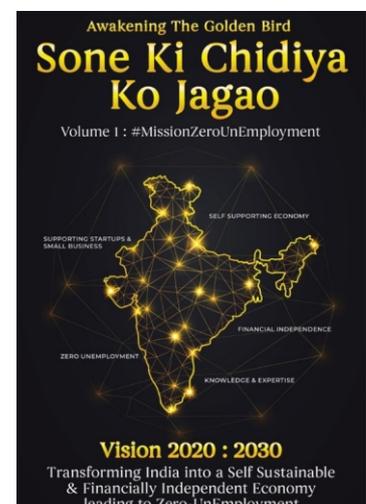
India was called the Sone Ki Chidiya at one point in time in History. And today we are a rising economic power again. As a cofounder at Bringle Excellence LLP and heading up Vardaan (an NGO) I have an excellent opportunity to help Transform India into a Self-Sustainable, Environment Friendly and Financially Independent Economy leading to Zero-UnEmployment and creating a Net-Zero environment.

#### Sone Ki Chidiya Ko Jagao Centres

We are setting up Sone Ki Chidiya Ko Jagao Centres across the country. These centres are based on an entire model through which we leverage the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals with support of state governments and state level partnerships. A concept called #HeroForZero to enhance the employability skills and developing entrepreneurial mindset among 500M+ children and 260M+ youth and making them future ready in the next 3 to 15 years, who will work for the next 30-50 years for our country. We look to transforming businesses to be sustainable, scalable and profitable so that they can generate more employment, revenues and investments for our country, creating a circular economy along with the framework for transforming India into a Net Zero country by 2050.

Available on Amazon worldwide including Kindle. Details on: <https://www.sonekichidiya.org>

Volume 2 is in the works and will be published this year.



**Sharmila Divatia**  
University Women's Association Vadodara

## Members' Corner

### A Brief but lasting encounter with Sarojini Naidu, the Feminist

New Delhi 1944. As a young 5 year old child, studying in the Kindergarten class of the Jesus and Mary Convent near the Gole Dakkhana, I had been admitted into the newly opened Balkan-Ji-Bari, the institution for child welfare. As its Annual Day approached, and the little ones from among the total group of about 25 children of all ages under 10, were rounded up to sing nursery rhymes and perform dance items that they learnt or were taught at school. The Convent school with European Nuns had taught us tuneful nursery rhymes which I would sing at home throughout the day loud and clear. "A Bunch of Blue Ribbons" was my favourite as it was so likeable in its tune and the words were easy to sing. The Volunteer Aunties at the Balkanji Bari loved the way I sang the ditty with accompanying action of moving about with my hand over my eyes as if searching for someone.

The Big Day arrived, my parents were quite excited asking me over and over again if I remembered my lines, and I would sing it before them to reassure them. My father was told as he left for office at the Secretariat that he should try to come to the venue in time for the concert that was to commence at 4:30pm.

I was taken away from home by 3pm in the afternoon by the organisers to dress me up, as the little ones' items would be the first to go on stage. The venue was the YWCA Hall on Parliament Street (as it was known then) now the YWCA International Women's Guest House on Sansad Marg.

Sarojini Naidu the great Nationalist leader, the 'Nightingale of India', the lady who accompanied Gandhiji on the Dandi March, was to be the Guest of Honour. She would be speaking to the audience and my parents who sat in the second row, quite close to the stage, were in a state of awe.

As my turn came, I stepped on to the stage wearing a pretty frock with a big blue sash. The piano was playing and I sang as I walked the length of the stage with my right palm over my eyes searching for Johnny.

"Oh Dear, what can the matter be, Oh Dear, what can the matter be, Johnny so long at the Fair. He promised to buy me a bunch of Blue Ribbons to tie up my Bonnie Brown Hair".

The curtains came down with a lot of applause from the audience. As I finished, I was led down from the stage and was asked to sit next to my parents. The time came when the Chief Guest was invited on stage to give away mementos to the participants and to say a few words to the eagerly waiting audience.

She came up the stage slowly and looked at the audience sitting to packed capacity, smiled and did Namaste. She said that she would be speaking in English as she was more fluent in that language and looked down at the front few rows where the children who had participated were sitting on the laps of their parents. She said, "Where is that little girl who sang about waiting for her Blue Ribbons to be brought to her by Johnny?"

My father held me up, and Sarojini Naidu said, "Oh do bring her up on the stage, please." I climbed up the stage, a bit frightened that I might have done something wrong. She drew me by the hand close to her and held my face up by the chin and as I looked up into her eyes said, "little girls of modern India will not wait for any Johnny to buy them things. They will go and get it themselves." There was a silence for a few seconds after she said these momentous words, and then the audience burst into loud and long applause.

I may not have understood the solemnity of those words then, but I think in retrospect of my life's journey, the depth of those words has been with me since then and I have led my life with those very guiding sentences.



**Gomathy Venkateswar**  
Vice President, IFUWA



## Members' Corner

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