

International Work of CFUW Clubs



Hosted by the International
Relations Committee

Moderators:

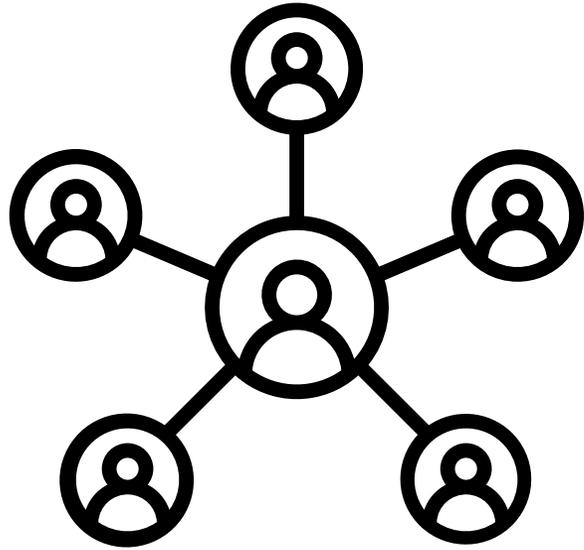
- ▶ Brenda Robertson, Member International Relations Committee
- ▶ Joy Hurst, VP International Relations

Land Acknowledgement

CFUW members participating in this meeting will be attending from locations from coast to coast to coast that are on the traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island. We acknowledge the enduring presence of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people on this land and thank them for sharing it with us.

As part of an on-going commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, you can find out whose land you are situated on by visiting: www.native-land.ca

Welcome to the International Advocacy Workshop with focus on CFUW Clubs





ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CHILDREN IN NORTHEASTERN NIGERIA READING BOOKS DONATED TO THEM BY CFUW, ST. JOHN'S, NL



***Welcome to our International Relations webinar
Initiatives, Projects, and Events***

CFUW Club Presentations

- ▶ CFUW Ottawa- Hally Siddons
- ▶ CFUW Kelowna- Nancy Longman
- ▶ CFUW Cambridge- Cheryl MacInnes
- ▶ CFUW Milton and District- Elaine Reid
- ▶ CFUW Aurora/Newmarket- Lynn Bird
- ▶ CFUW Moncton-Brenda Robertson on behalf of CFUW Moncton



Name of Initiative;

Afghan Peace Negotiations: Their Perilous Significance for Women in Afghanistan

Purpose or Goal of Initiative:

To learn of the issues involved, to raise awareness of such, and to act as we can, encouraging others to do so as well.

Partners and Collaborators:

A GWI NFA2NFA Partnership:
Joint Project with CFUW & GWI Netherlands

Project Co-Chairs:

Drs. Eileen Focke-Bakker, GWI VP Membership, GWI-NL
Hally Siddons, CFUW-Ottawa

CFUW Member Participants

CFUW-Ottawa

Leslie Baird
Lorna Bickerton
Fran Harding
Jill Moll
Barbara Newbegin
Norma Pike
Dianne Rummery
Lizz Wilfert

CFUW Burlington

Marianne Singh-Waraich

CFUW Mississauga

Carol Hare

CFUW North Bay

Brenda Robertson
Kaarina Tulisalo

CFUW Victoria

Jill Leslie

A sincere thank you to GWI-NL and CFUW members, and to GWI & CFUW office staff who together made this joint project possible.

WHAT DID WE DO? OUR SIX- MONTH PROJECT

- Shared extensive reading material & developed advocacy toolbox for CFUW website
- Held Joint Meetings with Speakers & Discussion
- “Standing on the Bridge”
- “Walk to Kabul” & Travelogues for Stopovers
- Social Media
- CTV Media Events
- 1000+ Post Cards urging action by MPs
- Letters & Letters to Editor throughout Project
- Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defender
 - Nominated & Seconded Fawzia Koofi
- April 24 Webinar
 - 3 remarkable Afghan speakers
 - Over 500 registrants from 27 countries
- Increased & energized our network

CULMINATION OF PROJECT APRIL 24 WEBINAR



Desperate for an education, these Afghan Girls are writing their university entrance exams in the snow. Candirahmani



Afghan Peace Negotiations: Their Perilous Significance for the Women in Afghanistan

A Graduate Women International (GWI) Membership Marketplace NFA-to-NFA Partnership Project
Organized by the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) and GWI-Netherlands (GWI-NL)

Distinguished Speakers

From these extraordinary Afghan women learn about the crucial issues facing them and how we as informed women can strengthen their voices at this critical time for them and for their country.



Dr. Samar
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission Founder



Dr. Sarabi
1 of 4 women on 42 member negotiating team



Mary Akrami
Afghan Women's Network, Executive Director

Event Moderator: Patrick De Vries, European Institute of Peace, Senior Adviser

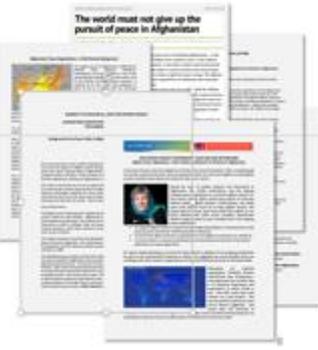
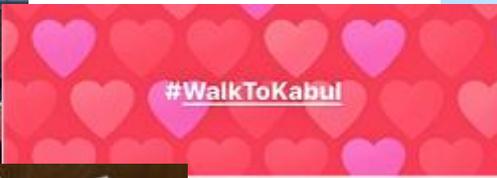
 **Saturday, 24 April 2021**

 8:00-9:30AM PDT 5:00-6:30PM CEST
11:00AM-12:30PM EDT 7:30-9:00PM AFT

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE WEBINAR](#)

Impact / Lessons Learned

1. Our Project lives on.
2. GWI offered easy, valuable, & immediate access to a known network.
3. A Webinar is a powerful tool but....
4. Use proven formula for success.
5. “Keep calm and carry on.”
6. A project can evoke different levels of interest.
7. Afghan speakers appreciate the support of the international community. Their message:
 - “Stay with us! The problems in Afghanistan will not stay in Afghanistan.”
 - “Stay with us! The women of Afghanistan are members of a global community.”
 - “Continue financial aid to educate women.”



Advocacy

Action



Learning



Standing on the Bridge

GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL (GWI) NFA2NFA PARTNERSHIP PROJECT 2021
Afghan Peace Negotiations: Their Perilous Significance for Women in Afghanistan

WALKING TO KABUL
 TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN AFGHAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
 March 8 to April 24, 2021

STAND ON THE BRIDGE – Suggested launch of Walk—International Women's Day March 8
[Click here for background and more information](#)

To focus on women's rights, this event has been part of some CFUW International Women's Day celebrations. To include the event in your Club, it is suggested two-five members stand on a local bridge with appropriate signs and have a picture taken for local press and your own newsletter.



Walking to Kabul—for anyone or group who counts kilometers on foot, skis, or skates.
 Starting on March 8, you can sign up for the Walk and we will track your group or your own kilometres travelled to make up a total on this Virtual Walk. The Netherlands NFA will also be participating.

The end of the Walk is April 24 when everyone is invited to a Webinar where Afghan women with close ties to the Afghan peace table will talk. Speakers are Dr. Sima Samar, activist and physician, former head of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Habiba Sarabi, one of only four women on the 42 member peace negotiating team, and Mary Akrima, Afghan Women's Network.

Travel with members from around the world as we combine our kilometres on our way to Kabul from Ottawa. Travel routes, photos and reports will be shared regularly.

Information: cfuwwalk@gmail.com (CFUW-Ottawa) uk186@hotmail.com (CFUW-North Bay)



Walk to Kabul
 Ottawa to Kabul, March 8- April 24, 2021





Uzbekistan - Kabul, Afghanistan, 1153 km, April 24, 2021.

Tashkent, Uzbekistan- Kabul, Afghanistan, 1151 km, April 24, 2021



Because we shall be flying directly from Kabul to Ottawa after the Webinar, we shall not be spending the night in Kabul. However, we have time before and after the Webinar to visit a few sights before arriving at the airport for our flight back to Canada.

Kabul is the capital of Afghanistan and has a population of 4.2 million. It is known for its gardens, palaces and bazaars. Our first stop is Pul-e Khishti Bazaar. The sounds, the sights, smells and produce, carpets and so much more, will be a memory you will never forget. But there are many more bazaars as well. While in the neighbourhood, let us visit one of many mosques in the city, Pul-e Khishti Mosque. It is the largest mosque in Kabul. While erected in the late 18th century, it was rebuilt and then restored after 1990. Two major palaces lie outside the city so time does not permit us a visit; however, the Garden of Babur, is an historic park and the final resting place of the first Mughal emperor Babur. It is thought to have been developed around 1528 AD. It is a wonderful place to relax before visiting the National Museum of Afghanistan or the Kabul Museum. Seventy percent of the 100,000 objects on display were lost during the war of 1992. Thanks to the efforts of the international community, 8,000 artifacts have been recovered.

This is a good place to say goodbye to Kabul as we get ready for the Webinar, tomorrow at 11:00 EDT. See you there.



CFUW Kelowna

- The Malawi School Project
- To provide funding for students attending
- Bakihta Primary School in the town of Balaka, near the city of Lilongwe.
- This is an all girls school.

Description of Event

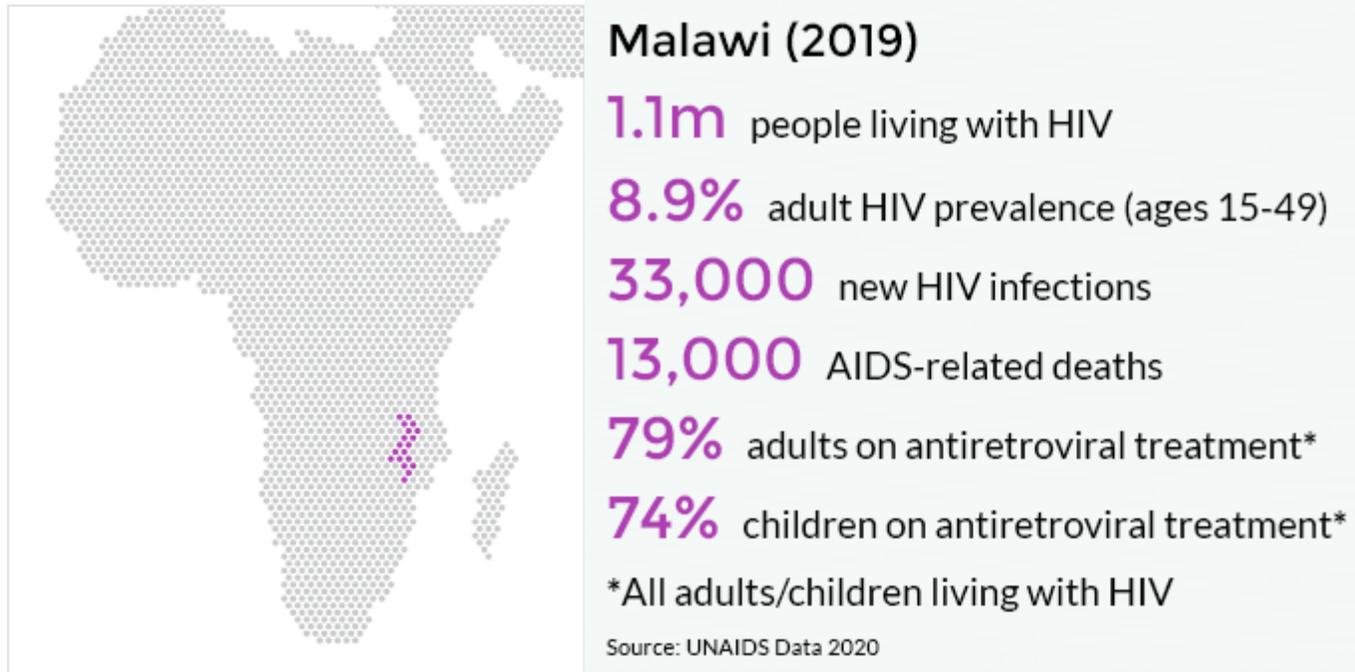
- Voluntary donations from club members annually from 2006 to the present.
- Money is sent by May 31 to support students entering the new school year.
- As of the present, US\$21,800 has been sent to the school.



Impact / Lessons Learned

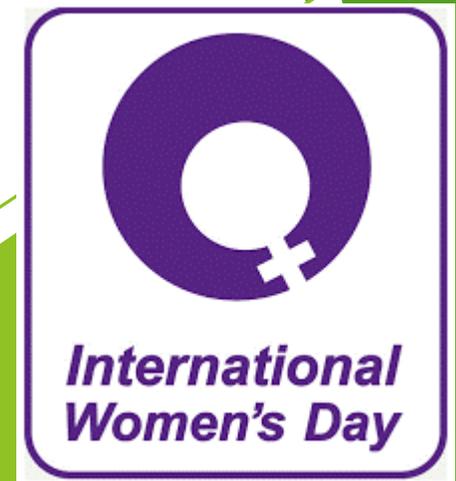
- ▶ It has allowed 20 - 25 students per year to start or continue education.
- ▶ Some money goes on to support students in secondary education.
- ▶ This school is one of the top schools in Malawi now. The students score very well on the national exams.
- ▶ The equivalent of CDN \$80 allows a student to remain in school.
- ▶ Family income in Malawi averaged its highest in many years in 2018 at US\$516 annually. It rose to Us\$520 in 2019.
- ▶ We have become aware of the barriers facing girls who wish to attend school. Students have to have uniforms, tuition, and books to be allowed to participate.
- ▶ When we started the project, most of the girls were living with grandparents because of the AIDS epidemic. There are approximately 500,000 orphans in Malawi aged 0 - 17 years as a result of AIDS.

► When we started the project, most of the girls were living with grandparents because of the AIDS epidemic. There are approximately 500,000 orphans in Malawi aged 0 - 17 years as a result of AIDS. More than one million people in Malawi have AIDS. The prevalence has dropped from 30% to 8%.



CFUW Cambridge

- **Cambridge Community Art Project of Remembrance**
- **Purpose:** Celebration of International Women's Day
 - Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world
 - A call to action for accelerating women's equality
 - Promotion of Cambridge Community Art Project
 - Raise funds for CFUW Cambridge Scholarship Fund
- **Partners and Collaborators**
 - City of Cambridge's Celebration of Women
 - Cambridge Poppy Project





CFUW Cambridge's 9th Annual INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2021

Virtual Breakfast March 8th, 2021 Via ZOOM

available to view March 8th – March 22nd 2021

#ChooseToChallenge #IWD2021



Sue Sturdy



Pam Wolf



Jayne Herring

These 3 community leaders will share their personal journey's in leadership. Learn about their involvement with the **Cambridge Community Art Project of Remembrance.**

A challenged world is an alert world and from challenge comes change.

Let's all **"Choose to Challenge!"**

Impact / Lessons Learned

- ▶ Virtual event reached more people than live event
- ▶ https://youtu.be/gUZ_wz61Fvw.
- ▶ Scholarship donations of over \$4,000 greater than previous years
- ▶ In person events have greater sense of community
- ▶ Our club can overcome challenges and adapt well to current environment





© Dave Vandermeulen

CFUW Milton and District

Initiative:

- International Women's Day Social Media Campaign
- 100 IWD Selfies Project
- Fighting Period Poverty

Goals:

- Raise awareness of IWD & its goals
- Support women & girls by providing feminine hygiene products in partnership with local foodbanks

Social Media Campaign

- Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn
- Planned roll-out of daily posts
- March 1 - 8, 2021
- Results:

- Reach of 10,570 people
- 11,473 Impressions
- Increased Facebook & Instagram followers

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Date	Post #	Topic	Image	Links	Hashtags	Commentary
4-Mar	Post #1	Celebrating Women's Achievements		https://www.cbc.ca/books/15-canadian-books-to-read-on-international-womens-day-1.505449 https://visitotaville.com/events/offa-international-womens-day-film-series-little-six-minutes-to-midnight/ https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/the-read-down/books-about-women-who-changed-the-world	#ChooseToChallenge #IWD2021 #MiltonPublicLibrary	Educate yourself about women's issues and some trailblazing women who have changed the world. J.K. Rowling says the ball is in our court. "It is our choices that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."
5-Mar		100WON		https://cfwmilton.ca/100-years-100-women/	#IWD2021 #CountryHeritagePark #CFUWMilton #FASM	Milton has many women who have changed our town. #cfwmilton and #fasm partnered to create 100 Years/100 Women to showcase these inspiring leaders. The exhibit will be permanently housed at Country Heritage Park. "I am a firm believer in women in their ability to do things & in their influence & power. Women set the standards for the world, and it is for us, women of Canada, to set the standards high" -Nellie L. McClung
6-Mar		Town Proclamation & Flag			#IWD2021 #MiltonOntario	In just two days, the IWD flag will fly proudly at Town Hall and as in the past four years, Mayor Gord Krantz will proclaim March 8th International Women's Day in Milton.
7-Mar	Post #1	Period Poverty Donations			#EndPeriodPoverty	Fight period poverty! Tomorrow, all donations will go directly to the purchase of feminine hygiene products for distribution to Milton women at our local food banks. On International Women's Day, donate so no girl or woman will miss school or work because of period poverty! khicommunity.com/donate
7-Mar	Post #2	Promote Selfies		show a few of our selfies - no link	#IWD2021 #ChooseToChallenge	Raise your hand assertively and show you choose to challenge inequity. Tomorrow, March 8, post your selfie of the #IWD2021 pose. Share your pledge to #ChooseToChallenge.
8-Mar	Post #1	Montage		https://cfwmilton.ca/www.internationalwomensday.com	#ChooseToChallenge #IWD2021 #CFUWMilton	We can choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. We can choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. From challenge comes change. Watch as over 100 Miltonians and friends #ChooseToChallenge.
8-Mar	Post #2	Feminine Hygiene				Don't forget to fight period poverty by donating to khicommunity.com/donate

#ChooseToChallenge Selfies

- 134 selfies submitted
- Community organizations
- Local politicians
- Secondary schools
- Club members, family & friends
- 90-second video



Video

<https://www.cfuwmilton.ca/iwd-2021-selfies/>

Period Poverty Fund-raising

- Partnered with:
 - ❖ The Salvation Army Food Bank
 - ❖ Milton Halal Food Bank
- Donations made on IWD
- \$3,540 raised in one day
- Feminine hygiene products distributed through local foodbanks



INTERNATIONAL
**WOMEN'S
DAY** | MARCH 8

Fundraising sponsored by:



CFUW-FCFDU

Fighting Period Poverty one donation at a time!
Every online donation made on March 8th will go directly to the purchase of feminine hygiene products for distribution to Milton women at two food bank locations.
Visit KhiCommunity.com/donate on Monday March 8th to contribute!



Khi Community



MILTON HALAL
FOOD BANK



THE
SALVATION
ARMY

Giving
Hope
Today

Impact

- Increased awareness of:
 - ❖ Period Poverty
 - ❖ International Women's Day
 - ❖ CFUW Milton and District
- Women and girls enabled to attend work and school
- Media coverage including Inside Halton, MiltonNow, & myMilton.fm
- Asked to speak to local Rotary Club

"Great campaign"

"Thank you for the incredible work you are doing to help fight period poverty"

"It offered me a chance to reflect on matters that have always been important to me, that of equality, diversity and inclusion"

"Thank you for your time & effort to create this campaign for gender equality"

Lessons learned

- Consider social media boosts to increase reach
- Potential for future community partnerships on IWD
- Period poverty needs greater awareness
- Selfies Project forged new alliances with community groups

CFUW Aurora/Newmarket

- **Name of Initiative:** “Choose to Include”
- **Purpose or Goal of Initiative:**

To celebrate and showcase during the week of International Women’s Day the wisdom of our Indigenous community leaders and to celebrate the accomplishments of women in film
- **Partners and Collaborators:**

Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, the Soroptimists of York Region and CFUW Aurora/Newmarket Charitable Trust

Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux

1st Indigenous Chair for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada, Lakehead University

Considering the seven sacred teachings to leadership



LUNAFEST

Discovering ground breaking women



strong women, powerful images, and impactful language

Impact / Lessons Learned

We can choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements

.... “we know we are leaders, we are carriers of culture, of song, of hope, and of incredible persistence”. Dr. Cynthia

.... “we are becoming all those things we were once denied; teachers, academics, chiefs, engineers, architects, and doctors” Dr. Cynthia

Q. Do we need more public education and active youth engagement from all cultures and backgrounds to support the implementation of outstanding actions recommended in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission?

Q. Are there opportunities for collaborating with service clubs in our community in support of Indigenous collaborative initiatives?



Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux



The celebration of women in film raises over \$1100 for scholarship awards. Valerie Hume (L), Lisa Walker (R)



THERE ARE MANY GIRLS AND WOMEN WHO HAVE CHANGED THE STATE OF THEIR LIVES AND THAT OF THE LARGER WORLD...

WHO ARE WE TO DOUBT THAT THE IMPOSSIBLE CAN BE ACHIEVED?

...WHEN WE HAVE WOMEN'S GROUPS LIKE CFUW AND THE SOROPTIMISTS! ..



“A Line Birds Cannot See” by Amy Bench

Separated from her mother at the border, a 12 year old sets out on a harrowing journey to find her.

CFUW Moncton

➤ **Name of Initiative:** **Expressing gratitude to Women in Leadership**

➤ **Purpose or Goal of Initiative:**

UN Women's theme for IWD 2021 is "Women in Leadership". With a view to spreading female positivity, CFUW Moncton chose to express our gratitude to many women who have been or are still leaders in their field - be it locally in the Moncton area, in NB, in the Atlantic provinces, and across the country. All members were invited to nominate as many women as they wished to build the "Thank You" list. Members participated in hand-writing the Thank You cards. For cards destined for women leaders who were not aware of CFUW, we included a CFUW information insert.

➤ **Partners and Collaborators:**

Women who are part of local community groups in Moncton were the recipients of the Thank You notes

CFUW Moncton

IWD 2021 -- THANK YOU CARD TO WONDERFUL WOMEN

WORDS ON CARDS – GENERIC SAMPLE

Happy International Women's Day !

As we celebrate Women in Leadership, CFUW Moncton would like to thank you for all that you do for us in Greater Moncton. (or NB or Canada).

We appreciate the years of dedication and leadership you have given to NB Coalition for Pay Equity, and the mentorship you provided to the young women interested in learning how to advocate for women's rights.

Thank you for your commitment, thank you for being a role model for young women, and thank you for making a difference in our world.



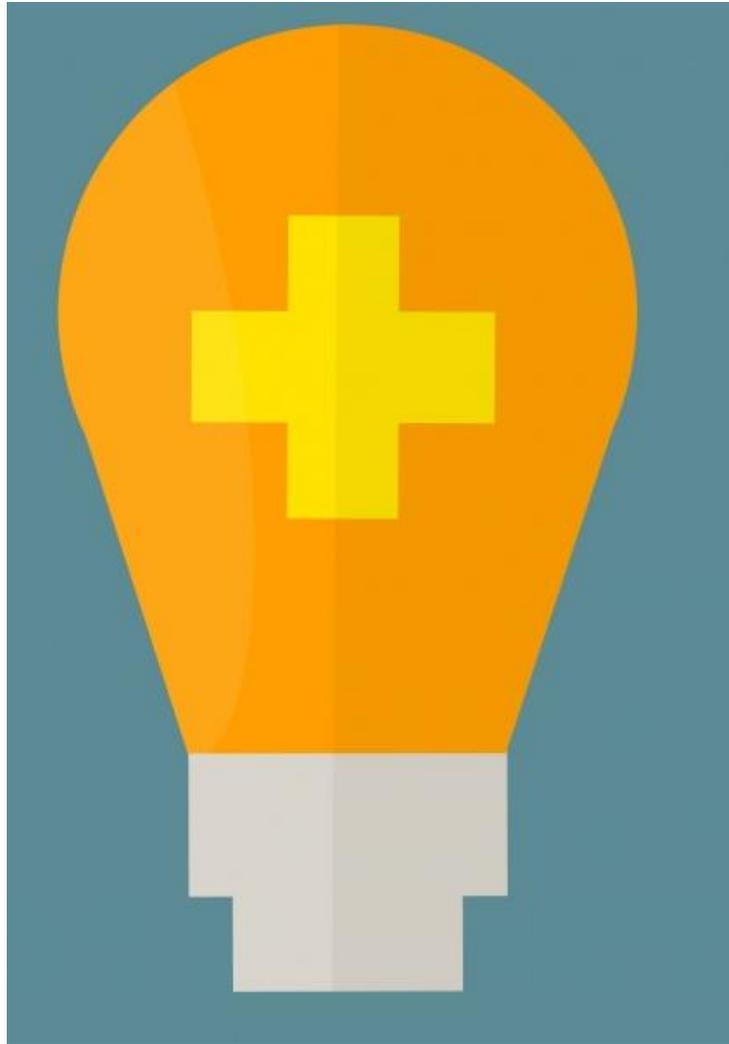
CFUW Moncton is one of the 95 clubs that belong to the Canadian Federation of University Women, a voluntary non-profit, self-funded organization of some 8,000 women, which champions education and is recognized for promoting the empowerment of women and girls. www.cfuw.org

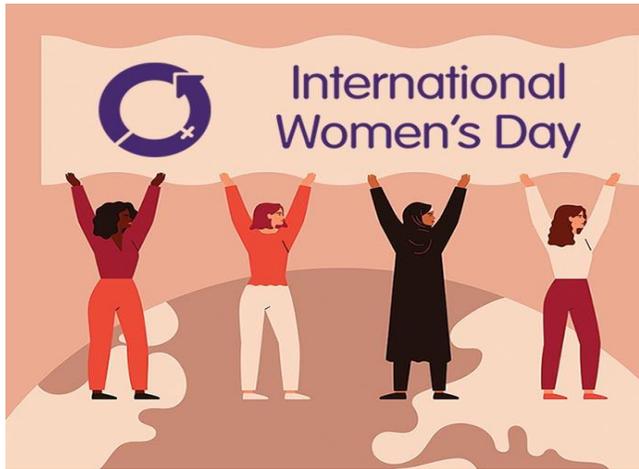
CFUW holds consultative status with the United Nations (ECOSOC), belongs to the Education Committee of the Canadian Commission for UNESCO and is the largest affiliate of Graduate Women International www.graduatemen.org

cfuwmoncton@gmail.com

<https://sites.google.com/site/cfuwmoncton/>

Questions & Feedback





<https://cfuwadmin.org/take-action/international/>

<https://cfuwadmin.org/club-awards-grants/international-relations-committee-award/>



Be proud. Stand tall. Share your international efforts.

Thank you for joining this webinar today and for your participation.

Please consider submitting your club's international initiative, project, event.

Send your submission for an IR Award and IWD Award for 2022

Thank you!

