

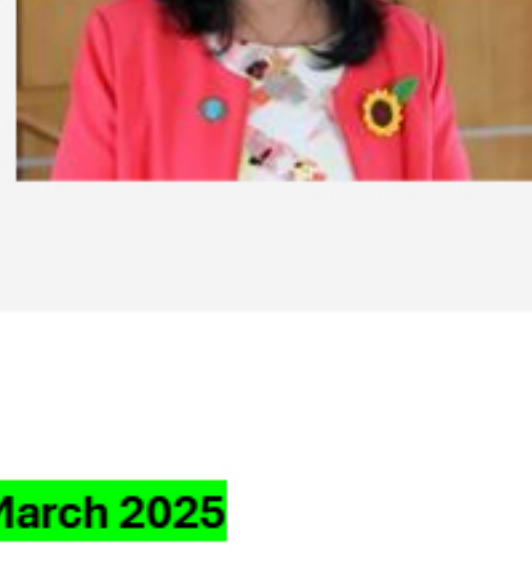
Australian Graduate Women Newsletter Spring 2025



Dear Members,

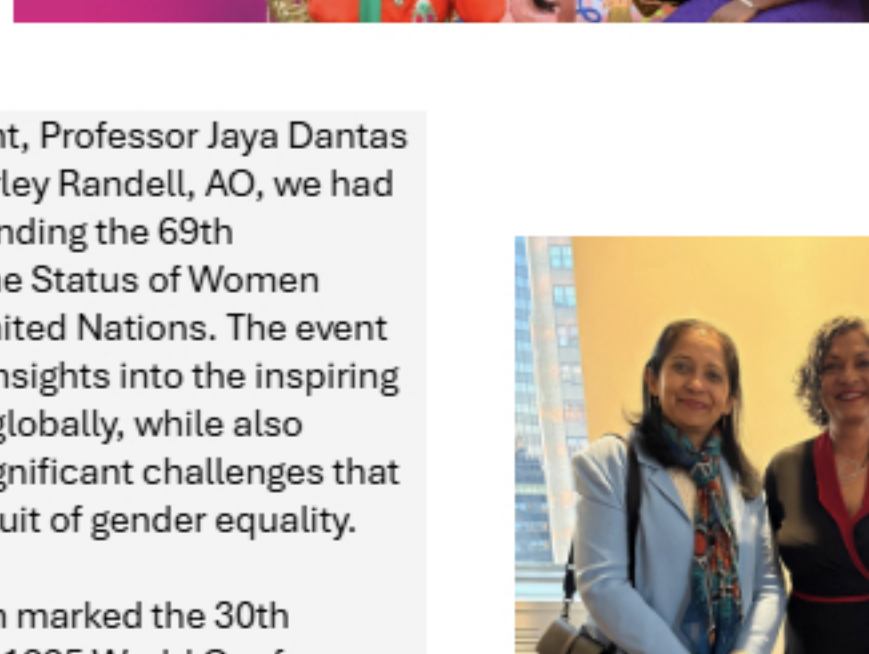
It is my pleasure to invite you to read our newsletter for 2025. It has been an intensely busy year for me in my final year as President of AGW. I had the pleasure of leading our largest delegation to CSW 69 at the UN in New York in March 2025. Please see some reflections below. In April 2025, we announced our fabulous fellowship winners – see below. In May 2025, I was invited by Past President of GWI – Retired Judge Patrice Wellesley-Cole to chair the Nominations Committee for the next GWI Board and Committees, this was a wonderful experience and a privilege as it showcased some committed and talented members from around the world who would lead GWI for the next Triennium. In September 2025, four AGW members represented us at the GWI GA and also presented at the GWI conference.

I continue my work on family and domestic violence, gender equality, present my research in various forums and was invited to join the board of the newly formed Australian Multicultural Women's Alliance. Please read below some of our reflections and I look forward to interacting with you all in the next few months. Watch this space as we have a webinar at end of October 2025.



With warm wishes
Professor Jaya Dantas
President – Australian Graduate Women

Reflections on CSW69 – March 2025

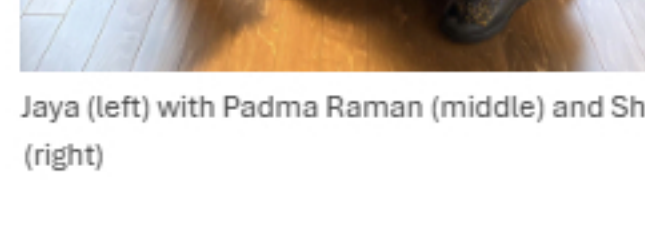


We, AGW President, Professor Jaya Dantas and Professor Shirley Randell, AO, we had the honour of attending the 69th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) at the United Nations. The event offered powerful insights into the inspiring efforts of women globally, while also highlighting the significant challenges that remain in the pursuit of gender equality.

This year's session marked the 30th anniversary of the 1995 World Conference on Women ("Beijing +30"). With five years remaining until the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals deadline, the international community convened this year to conduct an assessment of current challenges affecting the implementation of the Platform of Action and the achievement and acceleration of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

The Australian Delegation included:

- 1. Padma Raman PSM** - Executive Director, Office of Women, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- 2. Professor Anna Cody** - Sex Discrimination Commissioner on the Australian Human Rights Commission;
- 3. Stephanie Copus-Campbell AM** - Ambassador for Gender Equality, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 4. Joslyn Eades-Tass** - Chair, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance;
- 5. Claire Gibellini** - Chair, National Disability Research Partnership.



Jaya (left) with Padma Raman (middle) and Shirley (right)

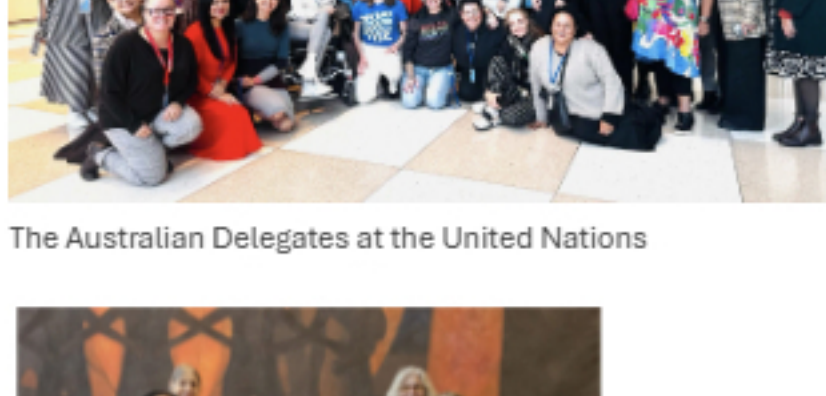


Shirley (left) with Professor Anna Cody (middle) and Jaya (right)

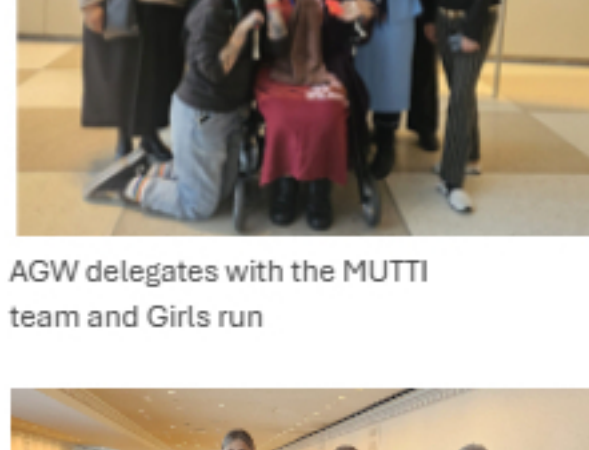
This year marked the 30th anniversary of the 1995 World Conference on Women ("Beijing +30"). With five years remaining until the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals deadline, the international community convened this year to conduct an assessment of current challenges affecting the implementation of the Platform of Action and the achievement and acceleration of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Governments, civil society organizations, experts, and activists from across the world came together to agree on actions and investments that could end women's poverty and advance gender equality. There were nearly 1,000 meetings along the margins of the governmental negotiations, including 230 official side events and some 700 parallel meetings organized by NGOs.

Among the most memorable aspects of the 10 days, was meeting remarkable individuals whose passion, knowledge, and expertise were truly inspiring. We were privileged to have them guiding the Australian civil society organisations' input, daily debriefs and expertise in the negotiations. AGW delegates are looking forward to taking this energy and enthusiasm back to Australia and returning next year.



The Australian Delegates at the United Nations



AGW delegates with the MUTTI team and Girls run



AGW delegates with the Unseen Women Team

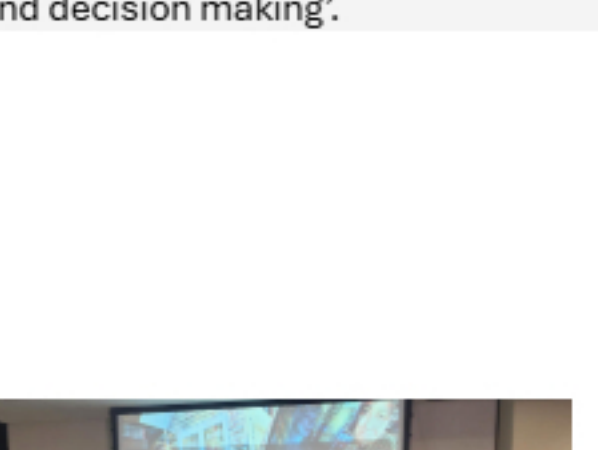
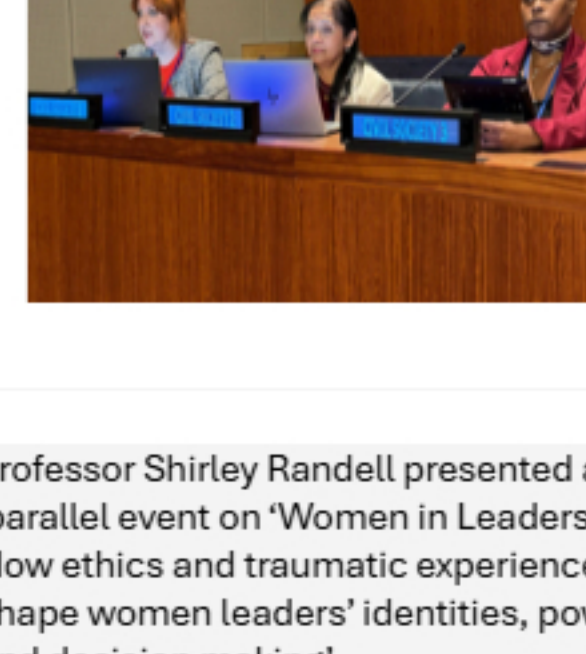


Breakfast with GWI delegates

President Jaya Dantas was selected to speak at the United Nations Headquarters on 18 March at the CSW69 High-Level Dialogue on Accelerating the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action: the Role of the Commission on the Status of Women.

She spoke on behalf of Australian Graduate Women, GWI and Women in Global Health Australia.

To view Jaya's speech in full click this [link](#).



Unseen women presented a powerful session which featured six Australian women panellists who identify as First Nations, LGBTQIA+, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse, and/or having a disability who have lived experience of homelessness and now work in the homeless sector.

The women are also members of the UNSEEN Women's Artist Group where they demonstrate their resilience and advocacy in creative ways.

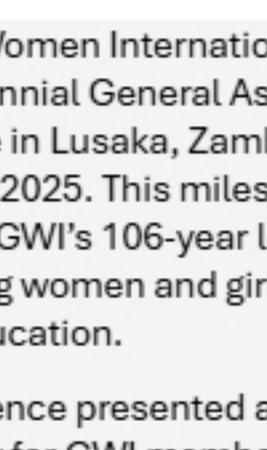


President Jaya Dantas was honoured to be part of a roundtable discussion organised by Settlement Services International as part of the CSW69.

The conversations were powerful, bringing together advocates, government, community & sector representatives to discuss the systemic barriers migrant and refugee women face, deeply embedded in our institutions and policies.

Jaya shared some of her research and reminded us that every woman's story is different, reinforcing the need for policies that are responsive to real lives.

AGW 35th Triennial General Assembly and Conference



Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education and Empowerment for Sustainability

11-13 September 2025
Lusaka, Zambia

Graduate Women International (GWI) had its 35th Triennial General Assembly and Conference in Lusaka, Zambia, from 11-13 September 2025. This milestone event celebrated GWI's 106-year legacy of empowering women and girls worldwide through education.

The conference presented a valuable opportunity for GWI members and global speakers to come together for meaningful dialogue, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas – focusing on innovative policies and strategies to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

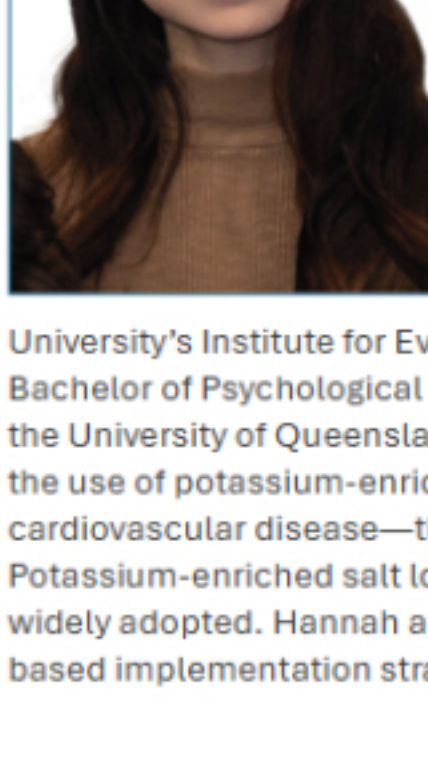
AGW was proud to have 4 delegates attend the GWI GA and Conference and they also presented at the conference. Details will follow in our annual report.

The priority theme was **'Building the Future: Integrating Culture, Education, and Empowerment for Sustainability. With a focus on strengthening education systems through the lens of integrated cultural education relevance'**.

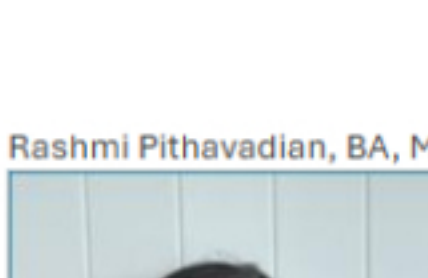
Sub-themes include:

- Education and empowerment for women in diverse contexts: Pathways to a sustainable future.
- What is a future context in which education, culture, gender and the economy will operate?
- Gender-based cultural issues and barriers in education in relation to gender equity.
- How relationships including intergenerational and community enable growth and sustainability.
- Technology, AI, and Innovation: Relevance to Empowering Women for the Future.

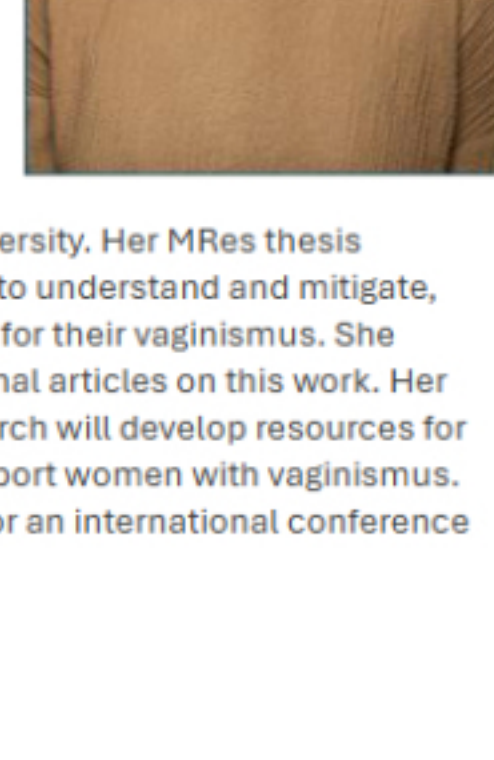
AGW 2025 Fellowship Winners



Hanadi Hoblos is a PhD candidate in Medical Biology at The University of Melbourne and Walter Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI), specializing in understanding the molecular mechanisms and structures underlying biological cells. Hanadi has worked at leading microscopy facilities, including the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Germany and WEHI's Center for Dynamic Imaging, developing expertise at imaging cellular processes at various scales.



Hannah is a PhD candidate at Bond University's Institute for Evidence-Based Healthcare. She holds a Bachelor of Psychological Science with first-class Honours from the University of Queensland. Her research focuses on improving the use of potassium-enriched salt in primary care for cardiovascular disease—the leading cause of death worldwide. Potassium-enriched salt lowers cardiovascular risks, but it is not widely adopted. Hannah aims to co-design and test evidence-based implementation strategies to bridge this gap.



Rashmi Pithavadian, BA, MRes, FHEA, is an award-winning health researcher, and PhD candidate at Western Sydney University. Her MRes thesis examined, and proposed a model to understand and mitigate, women's help-seeking challenges for their vaginismus. She published four peer-reviewed journal articles on this work. Her current mixed methods PhD research will develop resources for health professionals to better support women with vaginismus. Part of this research is accepted for an international conference presentation.

Renewal of Membership

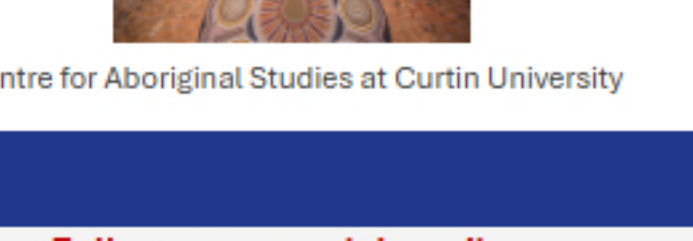
Renew your membership with Australian Graduate Women (AGW), the voice of graduate women in Australia. The contribution of members is valued and greatly appreciated. Please find attached our membership form

Check out our website - <https://www.australiangradwomen.org.au/>

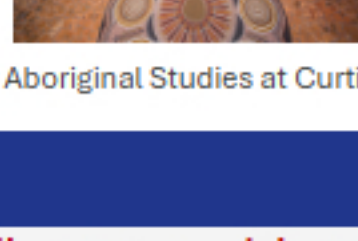
We are on LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/89498891/admin/dashboard/>

To renew your membership please visit <https://www.australiangradwomen.org.au/join/>

We hope you will all renew your membership and also invite a family member or friend or colleague to join AGW. I will be sharing this newsletter and membership form with many of my colleagues, friends and community members.



AGW would like to acknowledge the Indigenous Australians as the traditional custodians of the land and pay respects to the Elders past, present and emerging. We pass on our thanks for their custodianship of the land, water, and air through which we travel. During Naidoc Week – July 2024, we acknowledge that it is a time for all Australians to understand our shared history and to reflect how we can contribute to achieving reconciliation.



Centre for Aboriginal Studies at Curtin University

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