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May 15, 2018

Dear Grace

Thank you for your letter dated May 2, 2018. We understand that CFUW is trying to heal a rift within its own organization and we empathize whole-heartedly with you. Thank you also for sharing the imminent motion to set CFUW per capita dues.

The motion mentions that some CFUW members have lost faith in GWI. Therefore, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you, in the gentlest of ways possible, of our work on behalf of Canada. Following is a brief recap which we hope will clarify GWI's work on behalf of all CFUW members.

Since we took office, we have been advocating tirelessly for all Canadian women at the United Nations meetings in New York, Geneva, Paris and Vienna.

Just since 2016, in Geneva, at the very confluence of human rights, gender and advocacy, we have been representing CFUW at the Expert Mechanism of the Rights of Indigenous People, CEDAW, Universal Periodic Review and the NGOCSW Committee on Aging. The Permanent Mission of Canada recognizes the pivotal role that GWI plays in the Geneva Gender Network.

We continue to clarify our position to the Human Rights Council on issues that are important to Canada including violence against indigenous women and girls.

This year, due to GWI's unflagging efforts with the Council, two CFUW members were given the coveted opportunity to deliver a civil society statement.

From July 2017 through April 2018, we have been pleased to publicize and promote statements on CFUW's position on a range of social justice issues, to decision-makers, activists and media in fifty-four countries.

- July 2017 - World Day against Trafficking in Persons
- September 2017 - International Literacy Day
- October 2017 - International Day of the Girl Child
- November 2017- CFUW 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence
- November 2017- CFUW International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women press release
- December 2017 – Canada National Day of Remembrance and Activism on Violence against Women; also highlighted in the October/November 2017 GWI InFocus newsletter.
- February 2018 -CFUW Rural Women’s Survey 2018 Executive Summary; also highlighted in the January/February 2018 InFocus newsletter
- March 2018- CFUW Sustainable Development Goal Series #7, International Women’s Day
- April 2018 -CFUW Sustainable Development Goal Series #8, Earth Day.

And, when we are fortunate enough to hear from a CFUW Club, we publicize its work as a standard of excellence for our other NFAs. Most recently, we provided end to end coverage of the Olympes de la Parole in Montreal.

Your first question is: “In the event of approval of the motion, *(to create two categories of membership)* CFUW would only pay GWI dues for those members who wish to be both CFUW and GWI members and not for those members who wish to be only CFUW members. Would GWI expect that CFUW remit dues for both categories of members?”

The answer is unmitigatedly “yes”. GWI would expect CFUW to remit dues for all of its members for 2018 and 2019.

A) GWI Constitution: Article II MEMBERSHIP

Article II (1) states that *A national federation or association (hereinafter referred to as: "NFA", "national federation or association", or "federation or association") of graduate womenmay become a member of GWI.....*

Membership in GWI is granted to National Federations or Associations (NFAs).

Membership was granted to CFUW, making CFUW one of GWI's member NFAs. CFUW members who do not wish to associate with GWI by virtue of CFUW's membership in GWI will have to leave and should they wish re-organize.

B) GWI Constitution: Article X FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND DUES

Article X (9) states that the dues payable by each NFA at the beginning of GWI financial year shall be based on its number of members at the close of the immediately preceding GWI financial year.

As one of GWI's NFAs, dues payable by CFUW are based on all of its members.

C) According to the Swiss legal framework for Associations (non-profit membership organizations), members *"must pay the fees fixed by the articles."*

GWI Constitution: Article X. FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND DUES

Article X (2) states "National federations and associations shall pay annual dues to GWI at a rate to be determined by the triennial General Assembly."

The General Assembly has determined the rate for all GWI NFAs including CFUW and payment is incumbent upon CFUW as it is on all other NFAs.

D) CFUW delegates participated in the General Assembly vote, in October 2017, on an increase in membership fees. CFUW delegates voted on behalf of the entity CFUW.

The increase was supported by 97% of the delegates. Voting for the increase embodies the commitment by all NFAs, including CFUW, to pay for all of their members.

Furthermore, the ballot made it clear that this increase would be in place until the end of the Triennium. And, having overwhelmingly voted for it, NFAs, including CFUW, are obliged to pay it for 2018 and 2019 for all of their members.

- E) According to the Swiss legal framework for Associations (non-profit membership organizations), *“Any member may withdraw from the association six months before the end of the calendar year or if an “administrative period” is provided, six months before the end of such period.”*

The GWI “administrative period” is the Triennium, in this case 2016 – 2019. If CFUW wishes to give up its membership in GWI, it must give notice before February 2019. It must continue to pay dues for all members during the triennium, payable on 1 January each year for 2018 and 2019.

- F) The GWI budget is based on membership fees paid to it by its NFAs. In October 2017, CFUW participated in a General Assembly vote to accept the budget. The adopted budget is calculated on the understanding that CFUW will pay membership fees for all its members.

The General Assembly’s vote to accept the budget embodies its commitment to the budget and it embodies CFUW’s understanding of its responsibility towards the adopted budget.

- G) According to the Swiss Legal Framework for Associations (non-profit membership organizations), *“Members have only few duties towards the association, i.e. the obligation of loyalty towards the association, whose interests they must not prejudice.....”*

Without the stated amount of notice under Swiss law and by paying less than its commitment in 2018 and 2019, CFUW is

prejudicing GWI's interests and jeopardizing the welfare of the organization.

Answers to this first question make questions 2 and 3 moot.

Sincerely

Geeta Desai

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