

GLOBAL WOMAN® P.E.A.C.E. FOUNDATION



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Executive Summary

As we approach the end of 2023, we are pleased to share with you that Global Woman P.E.A.C.E. Foundation (GWPF) continued to work tirelessly for young women and girls worldwide this year. We continued to expand the reach of some of our programs by delivering them virtually. We are deeply grateful for our allies, sponsors, donors, and leaders, who continued to support and inspire us throughout the year. Thanks for your help, as we enter our 14th year of fighting FGM to help women and girls affected by it.

We continued to hold our board meetings, support groups, and special training presentations in virtual formats, and we found that this change made it possible for people from more places in the world to participate. This year we successfully held the ninth annual Global Woman Awards and the 10th annual Walk to End FGM in person in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, September 30.

Although we did not make our ambitious fundraising goal of \$15,000 for The Walk to End FGM this year, we received enough donations to sustain part of our programs in 2024. We raised enough funds this year to cover two restorative surgeries in 2024. Our Resource Development Team (RDT) successfully made it through their second year since their establishment. The RDT continues to expand their activities, and they have exciting plans for 2024.

In 2023 . . .

- *We continued and strengthened our partnership with George Washington University*
- *We held our 10th Walk to End FGM and our 9th Global Woman Awards on September 30th*
- *Thirty-seven donors raised \$3,641 in the Walk to End FGM, which represented only 24% of our goal for the Walk*
- *Guinea, Senegal, and Sierra Leone received over 5000 sanitary pads from us this year. Our contacts in Liberia still had pads remaining from our shipment to them last year, so we will give to them again next year.*
- *We sponsored 10 Liberian girls through our Lisa C. Bruch Scholarship Fund, and we sponsored 10 Liberian boys through our Donald A. Strong Scholarship Fund; these scholarships pay for tuition and books for these students, as long as they maintain solid grades and receive anti-FGM education as part of their curriculum*
- *Our support group continued to grow with referrals coming from other like-minded organizations*
- *We sponsored two FGM survivors this year for the restorative surgery, and they are both doing very well.*
- *We collaborated with George Washington University and Sahiyo in Integrated Community Care training programs*
- *We had more than 150 donors throughout this year.*
- *The donation amount ranged from \$10 to \$1000 U.S.*

Thanks to all the donors, awardees, sponsors, Walk to End FGM participants, partner organizations, and volunteers who helped to make this year a success. We look forward to many more productive years fighting for gender equity and an end to gender-based violence.

About Global Woman P.E.A.C.E. Foundation

Our Mission

Global Woman P.E.A.C.E. Foundation (GWPF) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization established in 2010. Our mission is to empower women and girls through education to help eradicate gender-based violence, especially female genital mutilation (FGM).

Our Cause

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the intentional removal of all or part of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. External genitals include the clitoris, labia, pubis, urethral and vaginal openings. We focus on education and advocacy to prevent FGM, and services to help girls and women who have experienced FGM or are at risk of FGM.

Our Board of Directors



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2023 Goals & Outcomes

Goal: Combine the Global Woman Awards and Walk to End FGM on the same day, September 30, 2023.

Outcome: We successfully combined what had previously been a two-day event into one day. We had the biggest turnout this year since 2018.

Goal: Host the first “FGM Survivor Retreat” in the spring.

Outcome: We successfully hosted our first FGM Survivor Retreat the weekend of April 14th in Stafford, Virginia, U.S.A.

Goal: Launch university campus workshops to help raise awareness among students.

Outcome: We hosted an in-person workshop at George Washington University on March 8th in Washington, D.C. Another workshop was held at the University of Prague, Czech Republic, using our model to help raise awareness among students at that campus.

Goal: Launch a weekly fundraiser, “Five Dollar Friday,” to inspire youth to support our programs.

Outcome: Five Dollar Friday was successfully launched on March 10th. We ran it through June 30th with plans to restart in 2024.

Goal: Start a public speaking class for survivors in our support group.

Outcome: GWPF launched the virtual public speaking class on May 9th and ran the class through August 29th with 5 attendees in the class.

2024 Goals

- Continue to combine Global Woman Awards and Walk to End FGM on the same day, Saturday, September 28th
- Continue with our public speaking class for survivors who attend our Support Group
- Establish a Foundation Ambassadorship for GWPF
- Continue our partnership with George Washington University
- Implement small fundraisers throughout the year, with the Walk to End FGM and Giving Tuesday being our largest annual fundraisers
- Partner with a sanitary pads manufacturer to help us expand our distribution and reach

Update on Our Activities

GW & GWPF Partnership (GW2PF)

Since 2017, GWPF has continued its partnership with the Milken Institute for Public Health at George Washington University (GW), and we look forward to another year of successful partnership in 2024. Last year, the partnership adopted the name, GW2PF, a combination of GW and GWPF.

In partnership with GW, we planned and implemented the creation of an integrated community of care model to provide FGM prevention and intervention services. In that model, we provided training to law enforcement, nurses, and other medical personnel, through both online training and in-person

training. We worked with a team of community experts at GW to help tailor a prevention program for each community that engages in the prevention of FGM. GWPF assisted in preparing training materials for this project, using our expertise in prevention and rehabilitation for victims and survivors of FGM. This has been a productive year, for the GW2PF partnership.

Newsletter/Social Media/RDT

We have had success with our monthly newsletter this year. The newsletter readership continued to grow in 2023, retaining our original readers, and adding new ones. Our Resource Development Team (RDT) utilized social media in 2023 to help keep the public informed of our work and the practice of FGM. They created a social media ad campaign in May, which ran through August. They launched a small fundraiser, “Five Dollar Friday,” in March, and ran it through August. They ran a successful 2023 Giving Tuesday Campaign. Utilizing our newsletter and social media, the RDT is poised for an active 2024. They launched a “Why I Support GWPF” campaign in November. Here are only a few testimonies from donors about why they support us:

“I learned of the organization from a friend. I had heard about FGM but didn’t know what I could do about it. I was pleased to find out that someone in the U.S. was addressing this problem, and I wanted to help. I am happy to be able to feel that I have some small part of helping girls who are in societies that sanction FGM.” ~ Kitty ~

“As a survivor of FGM/C I have experienced its ramifications and support organizations working to end the practice. GWPF provides personal support to women trying to free future generations from sexual cruelty.” ~ Dr. Renee Bergstrom ~

“I got involved with GWPF out of concern for girls in my local community who may be at risk for FGM. By joining the Board of Directors and donating, I am able to help fight FGM not just in my area and my country but internationally.” ~ GPWF Supporter ~

“I was disgusted and angry to learn of the practice of FGM in the world today. Equality is essential. GWPF does amazing work to assist survivors of FGM and continues to help pass laws to eradicate this horrible abuse of women and girls.” ~ Laura D. ~

Our Programs

Vaginal Restorative Surgery

Our RDT is proud to announce that in 2023, we have raised the funds required to sponsor two restorative surgeries in 2024. In 2023 we sponsored two women’s surgeries, one in May and another in September. Many women in our support group suffer both physically and psychologically in their post-FGM lives. Restorative surgery helps restore what was removed during FGM, and provides a painless physical life, while they rehabilitate from FGM. We look forward to sponsoring 2 women in 2024. Here are reactions from one of our sponsors/donors and a survivor about the surgery:

“Each year I select an organization to support. God spoke to my heart to provide funds to allow one woman to have the life changing surgery. One woman changing the life of another.” ~ Donor ~

“As a survivor of FGM it’s nice to know that I’m not alone on this journey. This Foundation has been very supportive and provided me the opportunity to regain what was taken from me at a young age.” ~ Survivor ~

Our Support Group



Our monthly Support Group successfully met every month this year from January until November, with the holiday break in December. It is an exclusive group of women who have experienced FGM. We took our survivors on a special two-day retreat in April, and they enjoyed watercolor painting, cooking, beading, walking, and getting to know one another. We launched a public speaking class for our survivors in May which ran through August. In 2023, we addressed topics such as “Positive Thinking Skills,” “Fear and Trust,” “Something You Always Wanted to Do,” “Letter-Writing about What Bothers You,” and several others. Here are only a few anonymous quotes from survivors attending meetings in 2023:

“This group has opened up my eyes to know that FGM is not only prevalent in Africa but also silently exists in other parts of the world. Also, I’ve come to realize that it’s a fight that we all need to fight as one united group. So, we stand in it together and we’ll fight to conquer it together!” ~ R ~

“I have learned through this group and have a better understanding that this doesn’t happen to everyone. This knowledge has made me want to make sure others know too. I felt very isolated and in my community it feels very isolating. I look forward to this meeting, it gives me strength to connect with other women in the outside world that understand and care. I would like to learn how to have conversations with children about FGM and how to help those children that have been affected by FGM, especially when many have family and friends that believe it is okay.” ~ L ~

“Hi. This is my second meeting with everyone, and I am very happy to have this opportunity to connect with everyone. I have also received a letter from GWPF for my immigration proceedings and I am very hopeful... thank you.” ~ C ~

Sanitary Pads Campaign

We continued our sanitary pads campaign, with the help of donors such as the Rotary Club of McLean, Virginia; Rotary Club of Centreville/Chantilly, Virginia; Sabah Hussein; and students, parents, and faculty of Chantilly High School. The campaign provides sanitary pads to girls in Liberia, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Senegal. Many girls in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia, and Senegal are forced to stay home from school up to five days a month, due to the lack of sanitary

pads. We have continued shipping sanitary pads to the above-mentioned countries. In 2023, we shipped 2000 pads to Guinea, 2000 pads to Senegal, and 2000 to Sierra Leone. Liberia deferred until next year because they still have pads left over from last year. We will continue to keep girls in those 4 West African countries supplied with sanitary pads annually. Our high school interns launched a sanitary pads drive at their school, where they collected more than 5000 pads this past school year.



Girls in Guinea Receive Sanitary Pads

Donald A. Strong Scholarship Fund for Boys

The Donald A. Strong Scholarship Fund, which was established last year to benefit boys at the Julie E. Tait School (JETS) in Liberia, expanded this year. We started with only five male students last year, and we were able to double the number to 10 male students receiving our scholarship. Donald A. Strong was a professor at the Milken Institute for Public Health at George Washington University. Professor Strong advocated for the involvement of more male students in the campaign against FGM. He passed away in late October 2021, before his dream was realized.



Scholarship Student, Mezee Freeman, Senior Class

Lisa C. Bruch Scholarship Fund for Girls

Our Lisa C. Bruch Scholarship Fund has successfully provided girls at the Julie E. Tait School in Liberia with tuition to remain in school and stay out of the Sande Bush, since August of 2020. The Sande Bush in Liberia is where FGM is performed. We reduced the number of girls benefitting from the scholarship from 20 to 10 girls this year, so that the funds will provide not only tuition but books and other school supplies, as well. In many African countries, enrollment in school requires is an annual tuition, even though the school might be a public school. We are

pleased to announce that three of our Lisa Girls are seniors this year and will be graduating from high school next June. One of the prospective graduates, Rebecca Kpee, not only has the best grades in her class but also scored the highest grade point average in the entire school. We are proud of these students.



Rebecca Kpee, Highest Grade-Point Average

Events

Global Woman Awards

We hosted our ninth annual Global Woman Awards on Saturday, September 30, 2023. We combined both the Walk to End FGM and the Global Woman Awards on the same day. The turnout was the biggest since 2018. We recognized and honored 10 women and a man in nine categories. Pictured below top left to top right: Mariya Taher, Dr. Nettie Johnson, Jennifer Hawkins; middle row, left to right: Ngoltoingar Chantal Bayor, Caitlin LeMay, Dr. Krishna Patel; second from bottom row, left to right: Grace Olander, Esther Park, F.A. Cole; bottom row, left to right: Dr. Mamady Kamara, and Madam Fatoumata Kande-Kouyate.





Walk to End FGM (10 Years of Walking)

This year's event drew the largest crowd since 2018. This was our 10th Walk to End FGM. We walked to the Lincoln Memorial from the National Sylvan Theater, as the crowd chanted, "No more FGM," and then walked back to the Sylvan Theater. Our keynote speaker was the mayor of Fairfax City, Virginia, Catherine S. Read. The crowd was serenaded by Grammy-nominated songwriter and singer, Cyrus DeShield. Here are some pictures from our 10th year of the Walk:





We Thank Those Who Sent Well Wishes to Commemorate “10 Years of Walking”

Virginia Governor, Glenn Youngkin

U.S. Congressman, Gerald E. Connolly, Virginia’s 11th District

Dr. Marci Bowers, world-renown surgeon who performs who performs restorative surgeries for FGM survivors

Our Sponsors



We Thank Our Fundraising Teams

Walk4Funds

GW MCH (George Washington University Milken Institute)

NANBPWC (National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women’s Club)

Jacqui Olkin

The Uncounted

Arielle Buchmann

Dr. Krishna Patel

We Thank Our Loyal Donors

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Dr. Wallicia Gill
Dr. Willa Jones

Conclusion

We are thankful for a successful 2023. To our leaders, partners, donors, supporters, and allies, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your efforts to end FGM. We are hopeful for a safe, healthy, and productive 2024!

Written by: A.M. Peabody

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Approved by: Board of Directors, Global Woman P.E.A.C.E. Foundation