



**Dear President, Ambassador, Mayor, Professors, Board members and esteemed participant of this conference,**

*Let me start with congratulating our Lithuanian NFA with her "Birthday" and with this most impressive conference.*

*It is a real honour to be allowed to address you this way although I wished I could be with you in person. Celebrating the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lithuanian women congress and the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lithuanian University Women Association is a significant milestone for Women all around the world. You showed your perseverance as all Lithuanian women do!!*

*As Vice-President Membership of Graduate Women International (GWI) I also bring the greetings of the GWI Board. We are so proud and appreciate it very much that one of our National Federation organizes such a high standard academic conference. An inspirational "best practice" for the other NFA's.*

*Your theme: Migration Challenges forming the outline of the future in North Europe, the Baltic region is very challenging. Your programme is balanced; not only the burdening issues of the receiving countries are addressed but also the opportunities of integrating migrants in your societies and communities are getting ample attention. Your focus on education playing a very important role in the transition of migrants is significant and relates these topics directly to the mission of GWI.*

*If needed we will help to publicise your results and will disseminate them throughout our vast networks within the UN, ILO and other INGO's.*

*I hope you will have fruitful meetings and that, next to knowledge exchange, also very valuable friendships will develop as I did with the members of our Lithuanian NFA.*

*On behalf of the GWI Board a happy anniversary*

Kindest regards

Eileen Focke-Bakker

GWI Vice President Membership