

ROTARY SCHOLAR ON WOMEN'S ROLE IN PEACE & SECURITY SHARES THE STAGE WITH FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE

By May O'Brien, DC Rotary Scholarship Committee

Ever wonder what happens to our Rotary Scholars? After Agathe Christien, a Rotary Global Grant Scholar from Brittany, France, got her Masters' from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service in Arabic and Peace & Conflict Resolution, she joined the GU Institute for Women, Peace & Security (GIWPS) as the Hillary Rodham Clinton Research Fellow.

Agathe is the lead author of a joint report, "Advancing Women's Participation in Post-Conflict Reconstruction" and "UN Action Plan," which was launched at a virtual program on November 11, 2020, streamed by Reuters TV. She shared the stage with keynote speaker former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; UAE Ambassador to the UN, H.E. Lana Nusseibeh; and Ambassador Melanne Vermeer, GIWPS Director. Agathe and Ambassador Vermeer briefed the audience on the report's findings and action plan and led the discussion. At the end of the program, several ambassadors to the UN endorsed the report and proclaimed its importance.

The report celebrates the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, affirming the "important role of women in the prevention and solution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to



[Above] "I hope that this report and action plan can help the UN, post-conflict states, and development partners make concrete commitments to adopt a gender perspective and advance women's meaningful participation in post-conflict reconstruction." -- Agathe Christien

conflict prevention and resolution . . ."

The GIWPS report aim is to advance women's participation in post-conflict reconstruction. The following areas in post-conflict transition period are addressed in four chapters: 1) Enhancing Women's Participation in Post-Conflict Governance; 2) Fostering Women's Inclusion and Environmental Sustainability in Economic Recovery; 3) Advancing Justice for Women; and 4) Championing Security Sector Reform. GIWPS notes "The . . . report highlights effective strategies and entry points to ensure women's meaningful



[Above] Agathe and her Mum and sister at her GU SFS graduation.

participation as decision-makers, implementers, and beneficiaries of post-conflict reconstruction. The UN Action Plan offers priority actions and specific recommendations to advance these goals." For example, the report shows that "Women's political participation is associated with more equitable policy outcomes and a reduced likelihood of renewed conflict."

The report and action plan were written by a team at the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security—led by Agathe Christien and Jeni Klugman. The report followed a number of panel discussions with policymakers, practitioners and experts; the report and action plan, and most of the webinars are available online at [GIWPS.georgetown.edu](https://giwps.georgetown.edu).

Agathe Christien, a Rotary Global Grant Scholar sponsored with the Fouesnant Sud Rotary Club in France, (near Quimper in Brittany) and District 1650 and a graduate of the prestigious Sciences Po university, came to our club out of the blue after Bart Cleary, US coordinator of the US-France Intercountry Committee, called me looking for a sponsor in Washington, DC, to meet a looming TRF deadline for the French club's global grant scholarship application. I volunteered! I had never sponsored a Rotary scholar before, but now I could never be prouder! Aside from her studies, she enjoys Jazz and Swing Dancing! She is now back in France, working for the World Bank, remotely. Kudos, Agathe!