



Students from Nottingham Girls' High School selected to attend United Nations event in New York

Two Year 13 students from Nottingham Girls' High School will be jetting off to the Big Apple to represent the UK as delegates of the National Council of Women Great Britain at CSW61 (the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 61) in March 2017.

Jenny Raw, 17, and Rachel Wibberley, 18, have been handpicked to join the delegation in New York. They were chosen due to their work with the National Council of Young Women (NCYW), an organisation formed in 2008 which represents young women at a national level, working with the well-established National Council of Women to lobby government on issues that young women care about.

This opportunity has been made possible by the funding and support of Nottingham Girls' High School and the Girls' Day School Trust (GDST), of which Nottingham Girls' High School is a member.



Nottingham Girls' High School's well-established NCYW group meets regularly and plans events such as marking the International Day of the Girl, Human Rights Day and International Women's Day. Jenny and Rachel are passionate about their involvement with the group and it has certainly inspired their forthcoming trip, where they will be discussing women's economic empowerment in the workplace, as well as the empowerment of indigenous women.

Jenny, who is also Head Girl at the school, said: "Representing the National Council of Women Great Britain at the UN will be an invaluable and amazing

opportunity for me. It will draw on my interest in the issues women are facing around the world, as well as developing my leadership skills."

"My desire to follow a career where I can champion the progress of women, either through law or in government, has been fuelled and cemented by these opportunities and the chance to represent the NCW at the UN is the ultimate privilege."

Fellow student Rachel said: "Making a difference motivates me. I want to have a role in shaping the world for others and I am excited about my opportunity to represent the NCW at the 61st Commission. By giving me the opportunity to augment my insight into the global issues women are facing and develop my communication and leadership skills, I can become more effective in my aim to highlight the fact that many younger women take great interest in the progression towards gender equality."



Julie Keller, Head of Nottingham Girls' High School, said: "This is an extremely exciting opportunity for the girls and we were over the moon when we heard the news that they had been asked to attend the event in New York. The school has a strong link with the National Council of Women and we couldn't be more proud to represent them in New York at an international event. We encourage our students to be bold, adventurous and principled, and this is just that. I know that they will have a brilliant time and learn so much along the way."

Cheryl Giovannoni, Chief Executive of the GDST, added: "We are proud to support Jenny and Rachel as our GDST global outreach ambassadors, using their time at CSW61 to share the views of girls and young women across the GDST network and gather information to share with the network on their return."

The girls have launched an online blog for their journey to New York, which will chronicle their trip as well as hopefully inspire other girls to get involved: <http://gdstcsw61.wixsite.com/jennyandrachel>

ENDS

For further information, please contact:

Dianne Allen or Lucy Budge at Gemini PR & Marketing on 0115 852 3850 or email:

DianneAllen@geminiprmarketing.com or lucybudge@geminiprmarketing.com

Notes to Editors:

About Nottingham Girls' High School

Nottingham Girls' High School is an independent day school for girls aged between 4 – 18. Part of the GDST (Girls' Day School Trust) it is one of the largest schools in the group with over 800 pupils.

About Jenny and Rachel

Jenny Raw is Head Girl of Nottingham Girls' High School.

Rachel Wibberley leads the East Midlands region in the UK Youth Parliament. She has previously volunteered in a women's empowerment centre and girls' orphanage in India.

Last year, both girls were selected to work on a Cabinet Office initiative to liaise with the Lord President of the Council, and also gave speeches at the National Council of Women's annual conference in October.

About CSW61

The Commission on the Status of Women is the principal intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and shapes global standards on policies which affect women. 2017 marks its 61st meeting.

About the GDST

The Girls' Day School Trust (GDST) is the UK's leading group of independent girls' schools, with nearly 4,000 staff and 20,000 students between the ages of 3 - 18. As a charity that owns and runs a family of 24 schools and two academies in England and Wales, it reinvests all its income in its schools. Founded in 1872, the GDST has a long history of pioneering innovation in the education of girls.

For more details about GDST schools, please go to <http://www.gdst.net/> and follow us on Twitter @GDST

About NCW

The National Council of Women of Great Britain was originally founded in 1895 as a response to the unsatisfactory working conditions faced by many women at the time. It soon evolved into a nationwide organisation affiliated to the International Council of Women (ICW) and has over the years worked tirelessly on all issues of concern to women. In 2000 the organisation was given special consultative status at the United Nations, enabling it to send representatives to sessions such as the Commission on the Status of Women, held annually in New York. Today, the NCW continues to influence issues ranging from consumer awareness to developments and challenges in science and health, making recommendations to Government and other decision-making agencies and providing a key support network for women in the UK.