



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 60: April 2021

Dear Member,

Welcome to the NFWI *Public Affairs Digest*, an e-update on all the latest WI campaigning news, delivered directly to your inbox.

If you know anyone in your WI who is interested in our campaigns, please direct them to the campaigns area of [MyWI](#) to sign up to receive this Public Affairs Digest.



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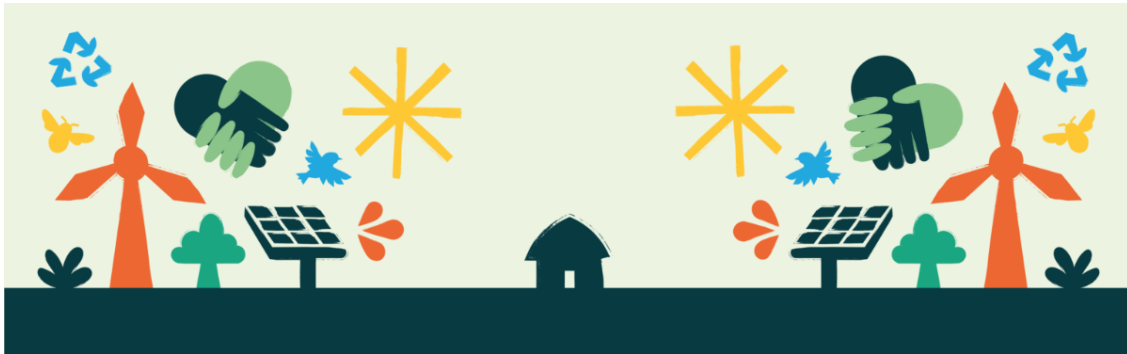
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The main priority for the NFWI is the safety and wellbeing of our members. If you haven't already, please visit [this link](#) for the latest, up to date government guidelines.

See more information about support [at the end of this Digest.](#)

Launch of the Great Big Green Week

In September we are joining with other members of The Climate Coalition to organise the Great Big Green Week - a huge call for action on climate change.



The Great Big Green Week will take place from 18 to 26 September, and WI members will have the opportunity to host thousands of events and activities across the UK in accordance with any social distancing guidelines that may still be in place.

Whether it's a WI community stall, a park clean up or a group of you getting planting in your local area - these activities will celebrate what you are doing to make your local area a cleaner, greener place to live. This will be an opportunity to raise the profile of climate change and how it is impacting the people and places we love right here in the UK and across the world.

If your WI would like to get involved, [find out more here](#)



Webinar: Women in Leadership - Save the date!

On Friday 21 May from 1pm to 2.30pm you will have the chance to hear from an excellent panel of speakers who will explore the topic of women in leadership in the areas of climate change, gender equality and Covid-19 recovery.

Please note, the event will be open to members and non-members.

To register your interest, **email the Public Affairs team** with your full name, WI and email address and further information will be sent to you. Please remember to check your junk mail folder regularly to ensure you receive further information.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

Preparing for COP26 - WI Action Pack

This year, the UK will be playing host to COP26- the annual UN climate change conference that will ‘make or break’ the strength of global climate agreements

for decades to come.

COP26 will be the biggest ever diplomatic conference the UK has ever hosted, and Parliament, devolved administrations and local councils alike will be working to demonstrate that they are committed to raising the ambition of their climate commitments.

As a member of the largest women's voluntary organisation in the UK, there will be a range of opportunities for you to raise your voice and show your support for COP26 agreements that deliver ambitious and fair climate action fit for the 21st century and beyond.

The WI is developing a range of resources for members to use in preparation of the conference.

If you want to be the first to receive it when it's ready, please email the Public Affairs team



APPG on Microplastics - Is your MP taking part?

The APPG on Microplastics works to promote awareness of microplastics and their harmful effects on the environment. Alberto Costa MP and the WI will be

hosting the the next meeting of the APPG on 20 April.

The group will continue its work on policy recommendations designed to stem the tide of microplastic fibres into our environment.

All MPs are welcome, so if you want to find out if your MP is taking part we have developed a template letter.

[Download the MP template letter here](#)

[Find out more about the APPG on Microplastics here](#)



Government consultation: Women's Health Strategy

The government has launched a survey to help improve women's health and care. It is quick and easy to fill out and will help shape the future women's health Strategy for England. The consultation closes on 30 May.

[You can have your say by clicking here](#)



Around 70 % of people who require a blood stem cell donation are unable to find a sibling match and must hope for a match on the national stem cell registry.

Find out more about becoming a stem cell donor at
www.dkms.org.uk/thewi or www.anthonynolan.org/WI

Have you donated your stem cells or received a stem cell transplant?

The Public Affairs team would love to hear your story. Member stories can make a big difference when it comes to raising awareness and promoting registration.

With your permission, the NFWI may share these through channels such as campaign resources, WI Life or social media.

If your WI is hosting a Make a Match event, we would also love to hear about it. We can also help you promote the event, if it is open to the wider membership.

**Get in touch with the Public Affairs team by contacting
pa@nfwl.org.uk**



Have your say on rural services during the Coronavirus pandemic!

Rural England (where the WI is a stakeholder) has launched a survey as part of work on its *State of Rural Services 2021* report, aimed at rural residents. The survey asks about use of services since the start of Covid-19 restrictions, and how you expect to use those services in future.

The survey is open to rural residents in England and should take around 10 to 15 minutes to complete. It will close on 4th June.

[Click here to take the survey.](#)



PA Digest on My WI

Missed an issue of the Digest? You can now access previous issues on My WI.

[You can find them here.](#)



We want to hear about local WI campaign activities. Please email us with your news!





WI Walk with Women

Last month, WI members and friends joined #WIWalkwithWomen to show their support for all women who have experienced abuse and harassment. Members walked down their streets in their local areas with a candle or lantern to raise awareness of violence against women and stand in solidarity with survivors.

[If you haven't yet, you can see the pictures here](#)

Support and help during pandemic

This can be a particularly difficult and worrying time for adults and children living with domestic abuse. **[This link](#)** will take you to a page of support sources, please share as widely as possible. It is important that survivors know that they are not alone.

This can also be a difficult and worrying time if you require additional assistance. If you need emergency food or support you can find the contact details of your local food bank using your postcode **[here](#)**.

If you are able to support your local food bank with donations or by volunteering, click here to visit the **[FareShare website](#)**.

You can also visit **[this section](#)** of our website for information from the

NFWI on ways you can help your community, sources of support and other helpful information such as setting up a virtual meeting.

We have a PDF versions of the digest available, that you can share with the people around you. Please **get in touch** with the Public Affairs department if you would like a copy.

Please also encourage other members of your WI to sign up to receive this monthly digest.

Kind regards,

The NFWI Public Affairs team.

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