



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 66: November/December

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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Forward

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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.](#)



NFWI RESOLUTIONS 2021-22

Resolution Shortlist Selection Resources

In the November/December issue of WI Life which landed with members last week, you will find information about the five shortlisted resolutions for 2021/2022 which will now be taken forward for further debate and voting by members!

The shortlisted resolutions are:

1. Fit for Purpose – Fit for Girls
2. Appropriate Sentencing of Non-Violent Women Offenders
3. Equality in Law for the Menopause
4. Women and Girls with ASD and ADHD Under-Identified, Under-Diagnosed and Under-Supported
5. Tackling Digital Exclusion

What happens now?

Every member now has the opportunity to cast their individual selection on the resolution they support the most. WIs are encouraged to hold meetings to provide members with the opportunity to discuss and learn more about each resolution. However, if this is not possible members can research the issues themselves and make their selection.

The deadline for members' selections to reach their federations is 14 February 2022.

You can find a number of resources for each shortlisted resolution on our [website](#).



Stop Modern Slavery: Ask your MP for urgent changes to the Nationality and Borders Bill

More than 100 leaders in the human rights and anti-slavery sector have written to MPs asking for urgent changes to the new Nationality and Borders Bill currently making its way through Parliament.

The Bill could mean more victims of modern slavery going unidentified, including British victims and children, and make it harder to prosecute traffickers.

To make this message even louder, we need your help.

Take urgent action today

Please email or write your MP asking for urgent amendments to the Bill in its current form.

You can **[find your MP here.](#)**

The NFWI Public Affairs department has a template letter you can use. To receive the template letter fill out your email address on **[this page.](#)**



Do you know the **four main symptoms** of ovarian cancer?

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Persistent stomach pain



Difficulty eating/feeling full more quickly



Persistent bloating



Needing to wee more frequently

If you are experiencing **one or more symptoms of ovarian cancer and they are persistent and increasingly frequent, or a change that isn't normal for you, **speak to your GP****

See the Signs - Action pack and resources

As part of our See the Signs campaign, which seeks to raise awareness of the subtle signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, we have launched a new action pack with ideas for how members can take part!

The pack includes detailed information on the symptoms of ovarian cancer, and guidance around what to do if you feel you might be experiencing one or more of the symptoms.

It also includes awareness raising resources and tips from gynae-oncology research charity GRACE on how to support friends or family with a possible symptom of ovarian cancer, as well as lots of sources of further information and expert support.

To download the action pack and accompanying resources such as social media graphics, [visit My WI](#) or [get in touch with the Public Affairs Team](#) to request paper copies.

NO MORE
violence against women

There's still time to take part in the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence (25 November – 10 December)

25 November marked the beginning of the 16 days of activism to end gender-based violence. Thank you to all WIs and Federations who take part each year by generously donating goods and raising money for their local women's refuges, holding candlelight vigils and holding virtual discussions to learn more about the issue.

We are continuing to encourage WI members to build relationships with their local refuge to let them know you are there when they need support.

You can find [further information here](#).

On Friday 10 December 1pm-2pm, the last day of the 16 days and International Human Rights day the NFWI will be hosting a webinar on the role that men can play to end violence against women.

To register your attendance in the webinar [click here](#).

It's not too late to get involved. You can get in touch with your local refuge, hold a candlelight vigil, take a photo wearing orange (the United Nations colour for this campaign) and watch the [PowerPoint presentations](#) at your next WI meeting.

If you've taken part in any activity this year for the 16 days, we'd love to hear from you. Please email us with your story and photographs to PA@NFWI.org.uk

The NFWI at COP26- and where next?

Between the 1st- 13th November 2021, COP26 took place in Glasgow. The Chair of the NFWI Public Affairs Committee, Nicky Amos and members of the NFWI Public Affairs team attended the conference between the 4th- 7th November 2021.



On the 5th November, the WI had a stand in the UK Government's 'Green Zone.' This showcased the work of WI members and Climate Ambassadors throughout 2021 and in the run-up to COP26. The WI Climate Scrapbook was on display, in addition to a video produced by Cheshire Climate Ambassadors. Visitors to the stand were given a No More Loopholes bracelet made by WI members and made pledges which were tied onto the giant 'No More Loopholes' bracelet. We met visitors from across the world and showcased the WI to a new audience.

On the 6th November, the NFWI Public Affairs team battled the Scottish weather and marched alongside 100,000 people during the Glasgow Global Day of Action to demand climate justice and climate action that would keep us on track for 1.5C of temperature rises. WI members marched across the UK in London, Cardiff, Manchester and Birmingham- and that's just the places we know about!



COP26 was a vital staging post towards a net-zero world with 1.5C of temperature rises.

At Glasgow, we saw the world pick up the pace of climate action and turned the temperature gauge down. COP26 wasn't the complete solution, but the gap between where we are and a safer world is slowly but surely beginning to close.

But the NFWI are clear that COP26 should only be the start of the UK's climate ambitions. The UK still remains as the COP26 President until November 2022, and it must do all that it can to pressure other nations to continue to ratchet up their climate ambitions and put their pledges at COP26 into action. The UK has a start of a plan through its long term net-zero strategy, but there's still huge amount of work to be done from every member of the Government.

But the reason that progress has happened is because of pressure from WI members and the general public on the UK Government to push us towards a better, greener world.

Findings of an Ipsos MORI poll released last week showed the highest level of concern about climate change since the agency began polling in 1988. More and more, there is growing public awareness of the need for our leaders to take ambitious climate action fit for the 21st century.

Lots has been done, but there is still lots to do. Over the next few months, the WI will be keeping up the momentum on our climate change campaigning work. There will be lots of opportunities for you to take part in The Climate Coalition's campaign plans like February's Show the Love 2022 and the Great Big Green Week in September 2022, and plenty more on the WI's own environmental campaigns.



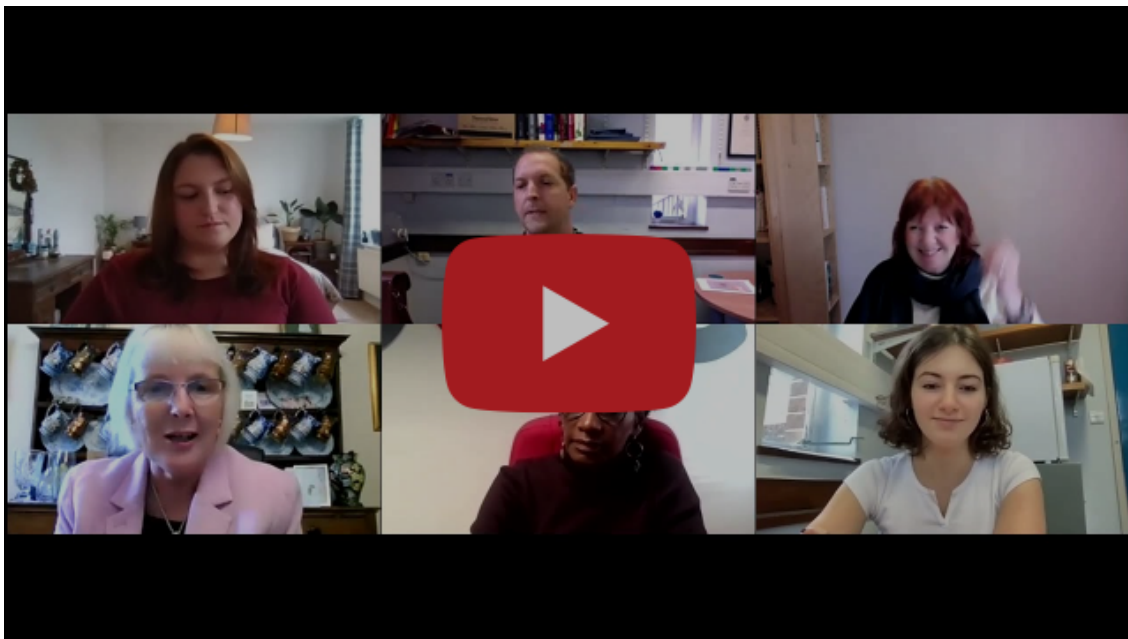
The WI supports the Microplastic Filters (Washing Machines) Bill

As part of the WI's work on our End Plastic Soup campaign, and as part of our work as the Secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics, the WI is supporting Alberto Costa's 10 Minute Rule Bill to fit all new washing machines with a microplastic fibre capture filter and for there to be more public

education on the environmental effects of microplastic fibre release.

The Bill received its first reading on Tuesday 30 November and passed to its Second Reading. The Bill will next be discussed in Parliament on Friday 21 January 2022.

The WI co-hosted a parliamentary drop-in on 23 November where we spoke to MPs about the Bill and the need for all washing machines to be fitted with microplastic fibre capture filters. Over 20 MPs attended the drop-in, in part thanks to the efforts of WI members writing to their MP to ask them to attend the event.



Make a Match webinar recording available

If you missed our WI Make a Match webinar in October about stem cell donation and how your WI can take action on this campaign, you can catch up on [our YouTube channel](#).

Speakers included Verna Bracket from The ACLT (African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust); Dr Rhys Morgan from University of Sussex; Julia Reinstein, stem cell transplant recipient and advocate for signing up to the stem cell registry and Ruth Ainsworth, member of League of Ladies WI.



Pembrokeshire Federation Resolution Meeting

On Friday 10 December from 1.30 – 4pm, the Pembrokeshire Federation is holding its Resolutions Zoom meeting.

The event is open to all members and will hear from expert speakers on the shortlisted resolution topics.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about this year's shortlist ahead of casting your selection.

If you want to attend, you can email the federation on [**secretary@pembrokeshirewi.org.uk**](mailto:secretary@pembrokeshirewi.org.uk).



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.](#)

Campaigns Corner

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



To mark Great Big Green Week in September, Angela Thompson (member of Abberley WI, Worcestershire Federation) initiated a crochet Coral Reef to demonstrate the devastating effects on sea-life in a visual form.

This was inspired by a US Climate project by Australian twin-sisters Margaret and Christine Wertheim in Los Angeles in 2007. The 'Reef' was exhibited in various Museums including the Hayward Gallery, London.

Since exhibiting her version at the Autumn Council Meeting more WIs have contributed to her coral reef. She hopes the reef will continue to grow.

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,

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