



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 67: January

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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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

Reminder: Resolution Shortlist Selection deadline - 14 February 2022

There is less than one month left to make your selection on the 2021/2022 Resolution Shortlist. Every WI member has the chance to make their voice heard on what will be the next WI campaign!

This year's shortlisted resolutions are as follows:

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

WI members will find their selection slip in the November/December issue of WI Life magazine. If you have any questions about returning your selection slip, please speak to your WI committee or your federation.

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

You can find further information and a number of resources for each shortlisted resolution that you can use to help you make your decision on our [website](#).

Show the Love 2022

The UK Government came out of the COP26 UN Climate Summit with a big to-do list. This February 2022, we must all come together to make sure they deliver on their promises and plans.



Photo: Social Lites WI

There are two ways you can get involved in Show the Love 2022.

- You can use your green hearts to ask your MP to keep up the momentum on climate change. This can be done through sending your MP a green heart affixed to your Show the Love postcard, or by presenting them with green hearts through an in-person or virtual meeting.
- Using you- or your WI's- creative skills, you can make, wear and spread green hearts around your community to make visible to your MP your wish for the pledges made at COP26 to be acted on in Parliament. The more green hearts MPs see in their constituency, the stronger their mandates to make sure your wishes are acted on in Parliament.

There are a range of resources available to help you with your Show the Love 2022 plans, including the action pack, policy briefings to use when meeting your MP, craft templates- including a new green heart craft from Patrick Grant from The Great British Sewing Bee- and downloadable postcards.

You can access the resources here.

As a WI member, you will also be receiving a postcard for your use in February's edition of *WI Life*.

Remember to let the Public Affairs department know if you have any events planned for Show the Love 2022 by emailing us on pa@nfwf.org.uk.

See the Signs Craftivism Competition – deadline 31 January!

There are a few days left to enter our See the Signs Craftivism Competition.

As part of the competition, members are invited to make something that represents the WI's ovarian cancer campaign and will help to spread awareness of the key signs to look out for.



There are no restrictions on the type of medium or materials you can use, but try to upcycle what you already have where you can.

Entries will be judged by Nicky Amos, Chair of the NFWI Public Affairs Committee, and Gemma Hodgkiss, Communications Manager at gynaecology research charity GRACE. The judges will consider the creativity of each entry and how well it communicates the key messages of the resolution.

The winning submission will be featured in a spring 2022 issue of *WI Life*, and across our social media channels. There will also be an online exhibition of

submissions.

This competition is open to all WI members. You can submit an entry as an individual, on behalf of your WI or federation, or together with your local community.

Please submit a photo of your entry to the NFWI Public Affairs Department **by email** or by post. You do not need to send the actual project. We would love to hear the story behind your artwork as well. Let us know what inspired you to create it, and the process you undertook to complete it.

For information on the signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer, download our **[campaign action pack](#)**.



Make a Match event toolkit

You can now access the Make a Match event toolkit resources on MyWI.

A virtual or in-person Make a Match event is an excellent opportunity to come together to ask questions about the stem cell donation process, to think about how donor registration can be promoted in your local area, or to discuss and address any concerns and misconceptions that people may have.

The Make a Match action pack includes a toolkit for planning your event. To accompany the toolkit, the NFWI Public Affairs team has developed a set of resources, including educational videos and a presentation, which are now available to download on MyWI.

The short informational videos are also great to share on social media. The videos include:

- an introduction to the Make a Match campaign from NFWI Chair Ann Jones
- member Heather Roythorne (Vice-chair of Leicestershire and Rutland Federation) sharing her story of needing a stem cell transplant; and
- Ruth Ainsworth (President of League of Ladies WI) showing how easy it is to register as a potential stem cell donor

You can [download the action pack and access the toolkit resources here](#) or contact the Public Affairs team on pa@nfwl.org.uk



There is still time to get involved with the Great Winter Get Together (17-30 January)!

Inspired by Jo Cox, this year's Great Winter Get Together is all about normalising conversations about loneliness and showing there's #NoShameInSharing.

Anyone can take part - whether that's by sharing your story, reaching out to someone else, or bringing people together. Sometimes the 'smallest' actions make the biggest difference.

[Discover how you can take action here.](#)



Modern Slavery Training Events

The NFWI Public Affairs team is pleased to announce that a training event will be provided for WI members as part of our Stop Modern Slavery campaign. Too often victims of modern slavery are 'hidden in plain sight' in our communities: forced to work in car washes, nail bars, or in fields and farms. We can all play a role in learning about the signs of modern slavery and become aware of how to raise concerns to help victims.

The training is tailored to WI members and will teach you how to spot the signs of modern slavery and how to safely report your concerns, as well as hearing the stories of those who have survived modern slavery.

The training will be delivered by modern slavery expert Phillip Clayton, who has worked with charities supporting survivors of modern slavery for many years. The training will take place virtually, and is open to all WI members.

The training sessions will take place at 1pm 1 March and 7pm on 3 March.

[To register your interest please click here.](#)

Changes to cervical screening in Wales

Public Health Wales recently announced changes to the Cervical Screening Wales programme. We are aware that the announcement of these changes has caused some worry. In our latest blog we explain more about the changes that are being made and why, and also share sources of information and support.



Cervical screening has become more accurate and effective, with HPV primary screening now used in Wales, England and Scotland. This means samples are tested first for HPV, and evidence shows this is the best way to find out who is at higher risk of developing cervical cell changes or cervical cancer. This screening method will save more lives by identifying those at greater risk of cancer earlier.

The UK National Screening Committee (a body of scientists which makes recommendations to UK ministers and the NHS) has therefore recommended extending the routine screening interval for people with a cervix aged 25 - 49 if human papillomavirus (HPV) is not found in their next cervical screening (smear) test. The change came into effect on 1 January 2022, bringing the advice for this age group in line with the screening interval for those aged 50-64.

If you have any questions or concerns about the change in the routine screening interval, you can contact Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust Helpline on 0808 802 8000 or access information on their [website](#).

Read more about the change on our [website](#).

Microplastic Filters (Washing Machines) Bill - Second Reading

As Secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics, (APPG) the WI has been working closely with Alberto Costa MP to implement measures to stem the tide of microplastic fibres into UK rivers and seas.



Through our 2017 'In A Spin' report, the NFWI Public Affairs team found that up to 9.4 trillion microplastic fibres are being released into UK rivers and seas every single week of the year.

As Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics, Alberto Costa MP introduced his own parliamentary Bill that, if successfully passed through Parliament, would require all new domestic and commercial washing machines for sale in England and Wales to include microplastic capture filters by 2025.

As Parliament ran out of time to debate the Bill on Friday 21st January, Parliament will revisit the Bill in early March.

Alongside other contributors to the APPG on Microplastics, the WI will be meeting with DEFRA Ministers Rebecca Pow MP and Jo Churchill MP in early February to discuss the Bill, and the six recommendations made in the APPG on Microplastics' report in September 2021.



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!



16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence

Thank you to all WIs and federations who took part in the 16 days of activism last year by generously donating goods to their local women's refuges, holding candlelight vigils, raising money for their local women's refuges and holding virtual discussions to learn more about the issue.

Here is a snapshot of how members got involved.

To learn more about the No More Violence campaign and how to get involved, [visit our website.](#)



Candlelight vigil held by Nottinghamshire Federation



Donations collected by Ollerton WI



Donations collected by Crockenhill WI



Donations collected by Felinfoel WI



Donations collected by Avening WI



Siddal Sisters wearing orange, the UN colour to mark the 16 days

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 take 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.
pa@nfwl.org.uk 020 7371 9300 ext. 2002



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