



NORFOLK WI PALS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

Dear all

Resolutions!

At the beginning of October, I attended the National Shortlisting meeting for this year's Resolutions. It was a very interesting meeting (via Zoom, of course!) with good discussions and, from it, 5 Resolutions were selected to put forward to members for them to vote in January to select one or two to go forward to next year's Annual Meeting. Now, at last, I can let you know the Resolutions selected and I am also including the explanation. You will be able to read full details on the National website at the beginning of November and also in WI Life in November

Final resolutions shortlist 2021/22

1. Fit for purpose - fit for girls

Girls' clothing ranges often promote harmful gender stereotypes and can lack the practicality and robustness of boys' clothing due to the differing design features and materials used. The NFWI calls on clothing manufacturers and retailers to produce and market clothes for girls at all ages which are equal to their boys' clothing ranges in terms of design, quality and coverage, and which aim to empower and enable girls to feel comfortable and confident in whatever activity they choose throughout their childhood.

2. Appropriate sentencing of non-violent women offenders

Women in prison are some of the most vulnerable in society. The majority have committed non-violent offences, and many have been victims of much more serious offences than those they are accused of committing. Prison can do enormous lasting damage to women's mental health, and research shows that community support and management can be far more effective and produce better reoffending outcomes than custodial sentences, as well as mitigate the negative impacts on children and their wider families. The NFWI therefore urges government to renew its focus on early-intervention and community-based solutions for women who have committed non-violent offences as a matter of urgency.

3. Equality in law for the menopause

Too many women are experiencing discrimination at work and in wider society during the menopause. The NFWI calls on the Government to strengthen equality law by including the menopause as a protected characteristic alongside pregnancy and maternity under the Equality Act 2010, in order to provide better protection for women and to help tackle the stigma around menopause.

4. Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD - under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported

Women and girls presenting with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) are going undiagnosed. The NFWI calls on the government and funding bodies to fund research into the female presentation of ASD and ADHD, and for

action to be taken to improve the diagnosis process for women and girls, to ensure that they are equipped to better manage these conditions and do not suffer in silence. The NFWI further calls on WI members to raise awareness within their WIs of the issues facing women and girls with ASD and ADHD.

5. Tackling digital exclusion

Digital exclusion in the UK is preventing a significant proportion of the population from accessing the internet, and therefore limiting access to essential services, learning opportunities and social connection. This can be due to a lack of internet connection, lack of access to devices or lack of digital literacy. With millions of people affected, the NFWI calls on the government to increase investment in digital infrastructure, ensure access to suitable devices and appropriate education and training.

For a discussion on these topics do come to our Resolutions Meeting at Mattishall on Tuesday 23rd November from 10-12.30. Tickets are still available – contact Helen in the Office admin@norfolkwi.org.uk

Remember that you will vote for your preferred resolution at your January meeting and your secretary will send the totals to the Federation Office by 14 February 2022.

Climate Change: What is it and what can I do NOW?

King's Centre, King Street, Norwich, Thursday 3rd March 2022

We are organising a conference to highlight what we can do about climate change and have some wonderful speakers lined up, including Prof Tim O'Riordan, Emeritus Professor of Environmental Sciences at UEA, Dr Teresa Belton, author of "Happier People, Healthier Planet" and Jim Paine from the Walnut Tree Nursery. There will be more details in your mailing and in WI News but do mark this in your diary! It should be an interesting meeting.

See the signs

This is the current campaign for raising awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer. The charity TargetOvarianCancer are launching a BakeforChange initiative so do look at their website if you would like more details of how to support them – targetovariancancer.org.uk

Kind regards

Liz Barker

*Chair of PA Subcommittee & Federation Resolutions Coordinator
Norfolk Federation of WIs*