



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 62: July 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. This edition combines updates from both June and July.

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](#).



The 2020/21 resolution results are here!

In the lead up to and following the Annual Meeting, WIs have been discussing the proposed ovarian cancer resolution and deciding how they wish to vote.

Link Delegates and Federation Representatives have cast these votes and we are happy to confirm that the resolution 'A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer' has passed with a majority of 99.48%.

This means the resolution is now an NFWI mandate and will form the basis of a national WI campaign which all members are invited to work on.

The Public Affairs Department will be producing a full campaign action pack. In the meantime you can [download our briefing](#) on the new campaign with background information and some initial ideas about how you can take action.



NFWI RESOLUTIONS 2021-22

You can now submit your resolutions!

The Women's Institute is democratic and member-led, and the resolutions process is unique in putting members at the heart of decisions about our campaign activity. A resolution is a call for change on a current issue in society. Every issue that we campaign on stems directly from a resolution put forward by members and adopted at the Annual Meeting. WI members have a unique opportunity to turn a concern into a national campaign every year, backed by the whole of the WI.

If you have an idea for a resolution that you would like to see the WI campaign on from 2022, submissions must reach the NFWI by Friday 10 September.

To read more and get started on your resolution, [click here](#).

Last chance: Join the Virtual Resolution Shortlist Selection Meeting on 5 October 2021

In October each year, federation representatives and member delegates meet to consider and debate each resolution on the longlist with a view to creating a shortlist. This is an exciting opportunity to help shape the shortlist, from which all WI members are later able to select the resolution they support the most.

All WI members are welcome to apply for a member delegate place at this year's shortlisting meeting which will be held virtually. Delegates will be selected at random when the application deadline has passed.

Please note that the closing date to apply is 31 July 2021.

To read more and to apply, [click here](#).



Great Big Green Week- 18th- 26th September 2021

Is your WI taking part in the Great Big Green Week this September? Organised by **The Climate Coalition**, it's a nationwide celebration of climate action.

Maybe you're getting together to do a community litter pick, planting in your local area, or organising a craft display to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change.

If you are organising something, email us at pa@nfwl.org.uk- we'd love to hear all about it!

To find out more about the week, [visit The Great Big Green Week Website here.](#)



The Whole Story- COP26 Resources

Help to raise awareness of the impact of climate change on women and girls by getting involved in our campaign for COP26 – ‘The Whole Story’.

As the largest women’s voluntary organisation in the UK, we will be using our platform to stand shoulder to shoulder with women and girls around the world and will be calling on the UK Government to deliver a COP26 that provides a fair deal for women and girls everywhere in the fight against climate change.

We’ve put together an action pack for members with information about how you can get involved including the ‘No More Loopholes’ bracelet craft action.

[Find out more on My WI.](#)



No More Violence: We want to hear from you!

As part of our No More Violence campaign, we're looking to hear from WI members who work or volunteer in a women's refuge, or specialist support service. This could be currently or in a previous role, or perhaps you know a particular WI who has been working on this campaign and built a relationship with their local women's refuge. Whatever your experience – we'd love to hear from you.

Similarly, if you have encountered modern slavery in your community, have worked or volunteered with survivors or have reported concerns, please do get in touch to share your experiences with us.

Any information you share with us will only be shared further with your permission.



Stop Modern Slavery Campaign Action Pack

The campaign action pack will be available to download soon. In the pack, you will find information and facts to help you understand the issue and debunk the myths, as well as suggestions for how to get involved in the campaign, key dates for the diary and information about contacting specialist organisations.

The Action Pack and a Spot the Signs Wallet cards will be included in the August Mailing.

To request your digital Action Pack, [fill in the form here.](#)



**These next few months are crucial to
get your views heard on improving
bus services in your area**

Head to the Get on Board campaign page of My WI for some
resources to help you get involved

**These next few months are crucial to get your views heard on
improving bus services in your area**

In England, over the next few months Local Transport Authorities and Bus Operators will be producing Bus Service Improvement Plans for your area. In Wales, the Welsh Government will be publishing the National Bus Strategy for Wales.

Bus Service Improvement Plans and the National Bus Strategy for Wales must be passenger-driven and take into account the views of people in the local area. We have produced an easy-to-follow guide to help you understand the process and outlined ways you can get involved to ensure your views and needs are considered in your Local Authority's Bus Service Improvement Plan.

We also have a template letter you can use to write to your Local Transport Authority/Member of the Senedd.

[All these resources can be found here](#)

We're here to help- if you have any questions get in touch with us at
pa@nfwl.org.uk



County Lines: a third of UK adults don't know what County Lines is; 38% would not know what to do if their child was involved

Summer holidays can be a really vulnerable time for our young people.

County Lines describes the mobile phone lines used by criminal gangs to organise illegal drugs to be moved and sold from one village, town or city to another across the UK.

Children are most often used to move and sell the drugs. They are recruited by gang members who pose as friends and then trap the young people into a terrifying cycle of violence, exploitation and abuse.

Unseen UK have produced a free guide for parents, carers and people who work with children to help them spot the signs of county Lines and know where to get help.

You can find further information and the guide at [the Unseen website](#).



Update: All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics

As part of our work on the WI's End Plastic Soup campaign, the NFWI Public Affairs Department is acting as the Secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics (APPG on Microplastics)

Over the last few months, the NFWI Public Affairs Department has been working with the office of Alberto Costa MP, the Chair of the APPG on Microplastics, to put together a detailed report assessing the environmental effects of predominantly synthetic microfibres emitted from clothing during the laundry process, and holistically during the lifecycle of a garment.

The report lists six recommendations for Government that if implemented, would significantly reduce the volume of microfibres from laundry omitted into the environment, helping to clean up our rivers, river banks and seas.

The report has been put together with help and advice from 35 different groups, including global domestic appliance corporations; the textiles industry; academia; industry and retail; and the environmental sector.

Following the publication of the report, the WI will be working with Alberto Costa MP to secure meetings with high-level DEFRA Ministers to urge Ministers to implement our six policy recommendations.

We will also be making the APPG on Microplastics report available on the WI's website, where you will be able to obtain a copy.

Catch up on the WI's Women in Leadership Webinar

In May this year, the NFWI hosted a webinar on the topic of Women in Leadership: Climate Change, Gender Equality and Covid-19 Recovery.



Speakers included:

- Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland, Chair of the Elders and Former UN Special Envoy on Climate Change
- Preet Kaur Gill MP, Shadow Secretary of State for International Development
- Mary Ann Stephenson, Director of the Women's Budget Group
- Katherine Nightingale, Head of Advocacy and Policy, Care International

Discussion topics included:

- What role does women in leadership play in climate change, gender equality and Covid-19 recovery?
- Why is it important and necessary that we have more women in leadership positions and at decision-making levels?
- How do we get more women involved at decision-making levels?

If you missed it you can still watch it through The WI's Youtube Channel [here:](#)



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!





Climate Ambassador Wendy Hubbard has knitted her version of the climate scarf. To complete the pattern she added the colours for 2019 and 2020. Modelled here by Climate Ambassador Andrea Cooper.

[You can download the knitting pattern here.](#)



Photo: Janet Banks, Wellingore WI

Earlier this year members from Wellingore WI in Lincolnshire South Federation donned their bespoke high viz vests and litter pickers to take part in the Great British Spring Clean on one of the hottest days of the year.

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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