



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 79 February

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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Three ways to get involved with International Women's Day 2023

Gender equality has come a long way, but there is still more to be done.

The cost of living crisis has brought these issues into sharp focus – women are disproportionately affected as they are more likely to be in insecure work, or unable to increase their hours due to childcare commitments. And with the gender pay gap between men and women at 11% according to the Fawcett Society, women are getting paid hundreds of pounds less than men. Meanwhile

women are still underrepresented at the highest levels in business and politics. There is a lot that needs to change.



This March we will be shining a light on gender equality, and we want to hear from you. What are your views on the progress on gender equality? Why do you feel it is important? What still needs to be done?

1. Member survey on gender equality

We want to understand more about how gender equality and its progress is perceived among members, so that we can spotlight this during International Women's Day. To do this, we have developed a short survey for members to take.

The survey will take no more than 5 minutes to complete, is completely anonymous and is a great way to share how you are experiencing the fight for gender equality. We are hoping to use the findings in our future campaigning work and share them widely.

The survey is for WI members and is open until Sunday 26 February.

[Take the survey here](#)

Please share the survey with other members who might want to share their views.

2. International Women's Day Pledge board

On MyWI you can download our International Women's Day pledge boards. This is a great way to share your views about what needs to change and take a stand on gender equality. You can also encourage people around you to think about what they can do to tackle the issue in their day-to-day, and make a pledge.

- Download the pledge board [here](#).
- Fill it in and take a picture of yourself holding it up.
- Share your photo with us via email to pa@nfwl.org.uk or share it on social media on International Women's Day and tag the WI on Twitter or Instagram @WomensInstitute

On the day we will share as many of your boards as possible on our social media channels.

Please do spread the word by asking your fellow members and those around you to make a pledge. Please remember to ask for their permission before sharing any photos.

We look forward to seeing your pledges and photos.

[Download the pledge boards here](#)



3. International Women's Day 2023 Women in Leadership webinar

On 9 March 2023 from 7 to 9pm, the NFWI will be hosting a webinar on Zoom for WI members and members from the Six-O group, which is made up of the six leading women's organisations in the UK. The webinar will offer WI

members and members from the Six-O group the chance to hear from expert speakers on the importance of women in leadership, who will also share their experiences of being a woman in a leadership role.

[You can register to attend the webinar here.](#)

It's Show the Love 2023!

Throughout February, people from all walks of life will be using the power of green hearts to show decision makers that we want to see urgent action to tackle climate change, protect nature and bring down energy bills.



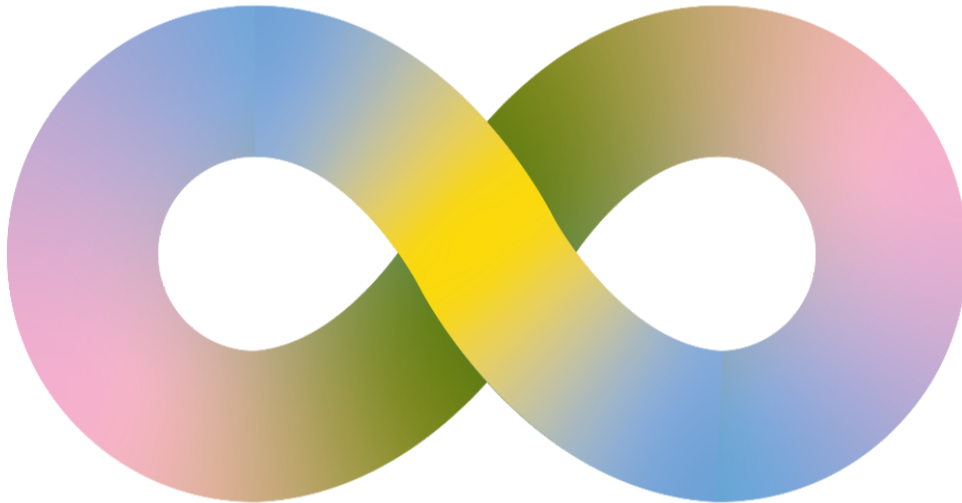
1. **Got five minutes?** Use The Climate Coalition's '**Write to your MP**' **digital tool** to tell your MP to champion action on climate, nature and the cost of living crises, and to urge the Prime Minister and the Chancellor to prioritise these issues in 2023 and beyond
2. **Want to send a new kind of green heart to your MP this year?** Turn to pages 42 and 43 of your February edition of WI Life to find an exclusive WI craft for Show the Love 2023! You can also **read it here.**

The WI Life pinhole embroidered heart card is perfect to send to your MP to urge them to tackle the joint climate and cost of living crisis, and to call for measures to reduce our energy bills, like investment in renewable energy schemes, a mass programme to insulate British homes and a move away from fossil fuels. These will also protect our planet and safeguard a cleaner, greener future for the next generation.

Thinking Differently: Autistic and ADHD Women and Girls - resources

Have you had a chance to check out the resources for our latest campaign? **On this page** you will find our campaign toolkit, a guide on how to make your WI

more inclusive and pledge cards for you to print and show your support.



Thinking Differently:

Autistic and ADHD Women and Girls

You can also watch back the two webinars held at the end of last year: Women and Girls with ADHD and Autistic Women and Girls.

If your WI has made a pledge to include and support autistic women and women with ADHD, let us know for a chance to be featured in the Public Affairs Digest by emailing us at pa@nfwf.org.uk

Reminder: Million Women Rise 4 March

On 4 March, the WI will attend the Million Women Rise march in London.

If you are interested in attending the march with us, you can [register your interest here](#) (The pre-meet is now fully booked, but you can register your interest in case any spaces should free up).



Members are also invited to get creative making musical instruments from recycled household items to bring to the march to create a cacophony of noise, supporting victims and survivors of violence against women.

You will find downloadable instructions on how to create the instruments and the No More Violence logos to download for decorating your instrument [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!



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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