



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 64: October 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.

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](#).

Join The Whole Story October MP Lobby

There are less than 30 days to go until COP26- the world's 'last best chance' to limit the worst effects of global warming and keep global temperatures to 1.5C.



As a member of the largest women's voluntary organisation in England, Wales and the Islands, you and your fellow WI members have the power to be extremely influential in the run-up to COP26 by meeting with your MP during October.

Meeting with your MP will show that you, as an individual or group in their constituency, care about the outcomes of COP26 and that you expect strong climate agreements to be delivered that act decisively to limit the worst effects of climate change, especially for the most climate-vulnerable people and places in the world.

The worsening impacts of climate change will eventually affect every person and place on the planet. However, women and girls are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

You can hold your meeting with your MP any time during the month of October that will work for you and your MP. Your meeting could also be an opportunity for you to present your MP with a hand-crafted 'No More Loopholes' bracelet from you and your WI.

We have produced the below resources for you to use during your meeting with

your MP. From the 5th October, a recorded training session with climate communicators 'Hope For the Future' will also be available to access on MyWI.

Top Tips for your MP meeting

Policy asks for your MP

Climate Scrapbook: Submit your stories of climate change

The WI Climate Scrapbook is now live!



Join with WI members across England, Wales and the Islands and use your knowledge, experience and creativity to contribute to our WI Climate Scrapbook, which will be taken to COP26 in Glasgow.

Your submission should answer the question 'Why does the UK Government need to make COP26 a success?'.
[Find out more here.](#)



This month, the WI is presenting webinars on two of our most recent campaigns. These will be excellent opportunities to hear from expert speakers and share ideas with other members.

Read more about each webinar below.

Stop Modern Slavery - Register

On Friday 15 October between 1 and 2pm, the NFWI will be hosting a webinar on Modern Slavery, where members will have the chance to hear from expert speakers on the issue and understand what recovery for survivors may look like. You will also have the chance to ask the speakers questions.

[Sign up here](#)

Make a Match - Save the date!

On Wednesday 27 October from 1pm to 2.30pm you will have the chance to hear from an excellent panel of speakers who will talk about the urgent need for more stem cell donors. You will also hear from members who are already taking action, and have the opportunity to get some campaigning inspiration.

The event will be open to members and non-members.

[To register your interest, email pa@nfwl.org.uk](mailto:pa@nfwl.org.uk)

Please remember to check your junk mail folder regularly to ensure you receive further information.

Have your say in the restoration of Parliament!

As a part of the Houses of Parliament Restoration and Renewal programme, the NFWI has been asked to hold a Community Conversation focus group to feed into the process.



This is an excellent opportunity for WI members to inform plans for the restoration and renewal of the Houses of Parliament. You can take part even if you haven't been to or have a relationship to the building.

In a small group discussion you will explore questions such as what you think about the building's different roles and how to make it feel welcoming to diverse communities, as well as accessibility and facilities.

Anonymous feedback from the session as a whole will then be reported to the R&R Programme.

This small focus group will be held via Zoom on **26 October between 1 and 3pm** and all WI members are encouraged to apply.

As a thank you, participants will receive a £30 gift.

If you wish to attend, [please email pa@nfwl.org.uk](mailto:pa@nfwl.org.uk) with your name, email, WI and federation by **Wednesday 13 October**. Due to the limited number of places, members will be selected in a random ballot. Please make sure you are available on the day before applying.

[You can read more about the restoration project here.](#)

Campaign Update: No More Violence against Women

This week has again reminded us all of the urgent need to make our world safe for women. Women have the right to live a life free from violence. Today and everyday we stand in solidarity with victims, survivors and their families. We are renewing our call for an end to violence against women and girls. Now is the time for action.

We need a whole-system response, including concrete action from Government, the police and in legislation. Support services must have the funding and resources they need. Only through a holistic approach can we achieve women's liberation from the fear of violence once and for all.

#NoMoreViolence.



16 days of Activism to End Violence against Women

Between 25 November and 10 December we are encouraging members to take part in the 16 Days of Action. Building on the success of previous years, we are asking members to get involved by building links with their local women's refuge.

Women's refuges can often be in need of vital goods such as toiletries, children's toys and books. You can also offer other support through craft sessions, providing home cooked meals or donating items that make the refuge more homely.

We are asking WIs to get in touch with their local refuge to let them know they are there to support them. You can do this by sending a **handmade card** to your local refuge with information on how to contact you when they need support. We would like as many refuges as possible to know that their local WI is there to support them.

You can find the contact information of your local refuge to ask them what they need [here](#).

Don't forget to send in photos and information about your plans for the 16 Days to pa@nfwl.org.uk

Webinar: Save the date

NFWL will be hosting a webinar during the 16 Days on 10 December, where you will be able to learn more about the issue from expert speakers, including the role that men can play in ending male violence against women.

To sign up for the webinar and for further ways to get involved in the 16 Days, click the button below.

Case study: Get in touch!

Have you previously taken part in the 16 Days of Action? Do you plan on doing so this year? Do you have a relationship with your local women's refuge? We're asking WIs and members to get in touch with us with their experiences to be featured as a case study. Whether you've had a long or short relationship, offered support regularly or just a few times - we would love to hear from you!

Email us at pa@nfwl.org.uk

16 Days of Activism Information and Webinar Sign Up



Stop Modern Slavery

Action Pack

If you haven't done so already, check out the campaign action pack for ways to get involved and to get a better understand of modern slavery and trafficking in the UK.

You can download the action pack [here](#).

Anti-Slavery Day

18 October marks Anti-Slavery day and we will be supporting the work of specialist modern slavery organisations and highlighting the voices of survivors across the UK.

Keep an eye on social media for more information and don't forget to share our posts to raise awareness about the signs to look out for and how to report it.

Twitter: @WomensInstitute Facebook: @thewi

Write to your MP

The NFWI Public Affairs department is currently drafting an important template MP letter that we would like members to send to their MP.

To request your copy, [**email us at pa@nfwl.org.uk**](mailto:pa@nfwl.org.uk).



Take part in our craftivism competition to raise awareness of the signs of ovarian cancer

To enter, 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 gynae-oncology 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.

The deadline for submissions is 31st January 2022.



5 Minutes that Matter – New campaign resource

Since 2019, the WI has been campaigning to raise awareness of the importance of cervical screening through our 5 Minutes that Matter campaign and, in April 2021, we published the findings of our research with nearly 3,000 women. As part of this research, we asked about HPV (human papillomavirus); how comfortable women feel about talking about it, and around how HPV can be passed on. We found that there are many misconceptions about HPV and

that women can feel confused, worried or embarrassed about it.

We want to help change this so, with the support of Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust and the Cancer Prevention Group at King's College London, we have produced a new leaflet which aims to help people understand HPV and their cervical screening results.

You can download it from the [**WI website**](#), or contact the Public Affairs Department for paper copies.



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!





Members have been busy crafting No More Loopholes-bracelets to call for a solid COP26 agreement later this year.

These have been made by Jude at Fox Hatch WI.

[Click here to read more about our campaign The Whole Story, and the No More Loopholes- bracelets.](#)

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.

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