



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 68: February/March

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](#).



Happy International Women's Day 2022!

Today is International Women's Day. The theme for this year is [#BreakTheBias](#).

The WI has been celebrating women's voices and achievements for over 106 years, campaigning to ensure women are equally represented in public life and calling for an end to the discrimination that women face in their daily lives. We still have a long way to go, but we're proud of the women fighting today to make a more equal, inclusive, and safer future for the next generation of women and girls.

We'd love to hear about what you or your WI are doing to mark International Women's Day. Please send us any details of activities you have planned or taken part in, as well as photographs that may feature in WI Life or on our social media channels. You can email us [here](#)

[You can read more about how to get involved on MyWI.](#)

Supporting Ukraine

We are deeply concerned about the ongoing situation in Ukraine and the threat that the conflict poses to civilians. We urge the UK government to provide humanitarian assistance and to do everything in its power to bring the conflict to an end and to protect the Ukrainian people.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine and all those fleeing violence.

We understand that WI members will wish to do what they can to support the people of Ukraine at this time, and so we have collated a website page sets out some actions you can take to help.

[You can read more here.](#)



The resolution selection results are in!

Between November and February, every WI member had the chance to have their say on the shortlist and the resolution they would like to see go forward to the Annual Meeting on 11 June.

Women and Girls with ASD & ADHD - under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported received the most selections from members and the NFWI Board of Trustees has decided to put this resolution forward to the Annual Meeting.

WIs should now consider how they wish their delegate to vote on the resolution at the NFWI Annual Meeting in Liverpool on 11 June 2022.

[Read more on MyWI here.](#)

March is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

As part of our See the Signs campaign, the WI is joining calls to increase awareness of the subtle signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer to mark Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.



Do you know the **four main symptoms** of ovarian cancer?

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Persistent stomach pain



Difficulty eating/feeling full more quickly



Persistent bloating



Needing to wee more frequently

If you are experiencing **one or more symptoms of ovarian cancer and they are persistent and increasingly frequent, or a change that isn't normal for you, **speak to your GP****

Ovarian cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in women. Although the risk of developing ovarian cancer increases with age, there are cases in younger women so it's important that all women know the symptoms to look out for.

The earlier ovarian cancer is diagnosed the easier it is to treat. However, because the early signs of ovarian cancer can be similar to conditions such as irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), and pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS), it is often not diagnosed until it has spread, and a cure is not possible.

Research by Target Ovarian Cancer this year has revealed that only 21% of women are able to name bloating as a symptom, 32% abdominal pain, 2% feeling full and just 1% urinary urgency.

Join us this month to change this by helping to spread the word about what to look out for and ensure more women get a diagnosis at the earliest possible opportunity.

The four main symptoms of ovarian cancer are:

- Persistent stomach pain
- Persistent bloating
- Difficulty eating/feeling full more quickly
- Needing to wee more frequently

Here's how you can get involved:

- Share our graphics and posts on social media using the hashtags #SeetheSigns and #OvarianCancerAwarenessMonth. You can download these from My WI [here](#)
- Display our symptoms [leaflet](#) and [poster](#) in your local community

- Share our sources of support and information included in our **campaign action pack**
- Use, or share with friends and family, **Ovacome's** and **Ovarian Cancer Action's** diaries to help track symptoms.

To read personal stories of WI members affected by ovarian cancer, click **here**.

Share your feedback on the See the Signs campaign

If you have taken part in the WI's campaign on ovarian cancer, whether that is by entering the craftivism competition, holding an event, or using the action pack, we would love to hear about it.

Please take part in our two short evaluation surveys which will help us determine the impact of the WI's campaign and keep it on track.

They will remain open throughout the campaign and both members and non-members can take part.

If you have attended a WI or federation meeting or event on ovarian cancer, **let us know about your experience here**.

To share your feedback on the WI's national campaign as a whole, **complete a separate survey here**.



Upcoming Second Reading of Plastic Pollution Bills- 18th March 2022

The 18th March looks set to be a big day for plastic pollution in Parliament as two WI-backed Bills are down to be discussed by MPs.

Alberto Costa MP's Microplastic Filters (Washing Machines) Bill, and Alistair Carmichael's Plastic Pollution Bill feature gold-standard measures to help clean up our seas of plastic pollution. Alistair's Bill would set legally-binding plastics elimination targets, and Alberto's Bill would require all new domestic and commercial washing machines from 2025 to include a microplastic fibre capture filter.

As the Secretariat to the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics, members of the NFWI Public Affairs team have been working with Alberto Costa's office to encourage DEFRA Ministers to take strong action on microplastic fibres released from clothing during the laundry process.

[Follow the APPG on Twitter here](#), to stay up to date.

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!



Show the Love 2022

Yet again, WI Climate Ambassadors and WI members turned out in droves to support this year's Show the Love campaign!

Across England, Wales and the Islands, WI members organised panel events and talks, green heart community trails, green heart displays in their local communities, concerts, community tree planting schemes, promoted their work on local and regional radio stations, and worked with other local community groups to make their Show the Love events extra special.

Here's a very small selection of what WI members have been up to during February 2022:



Members of Doveridge WI raised awareness of the need for climate action by transforming a disused bus shelter in their community.



Cheshire Federation Climate Ambassadors hosted an event in Bridgemere Garden Centre where they spoke to visitors about peat-free compost, which trees to plant for winter colour, heat pumps, and healthy food that would boost your heart health

New Mills WI created a green heart window display in one of the businesses on their local high street.



Hawkesbury and Horton WI's Show the Love event featured a swishing rail, a local produce table, a make-do-and-mend station, and a children's activity area. The local Girl Guiding group had a table selling cakes, Avon Wildlife Trust had wildflower seeds for sale and the local hedgehog hospital also had a stall.



Towcester Evening WI members covered local green space, Sawpits Green, with green hearts to promote Show the Love to local people. Towcester Community Food also had a stall alongside the WI to promote the importance of tackling food waste.

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



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