



## Public Affairs Digest

**Issue 48: May/June 2020**

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.

### **Contents:**

- [NFWI survey: How has the coronavirus impacted you?](#)
- [2019/2020 resolution results](#)
- [Equal Power: Free online training!](#)
- [Update on the Great Get Together](#)
- [New blog post: Domestic Abuse Bill](#)
- [The anniversary of the Equal Pay Act](#)
- [New resources for World Bee Day!](#)
- [The Plastic Pollution Bill and the Environment Bill](#)
- [Postcards of Kindness](#)
- [Campaigns Corner: World Bee Day](#)

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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.](#)



### How has the coronavirus (Covid-19) impacted you?

The NFWI has launched a new survey to understand WI members' experiences of lockdown, and the impact coronavirus (Covid-19) has had on local communities. Your responses will help inform our campaigning activity and enable us to call for any changes that might benefit women and their communities during these difficult times. The survey should take 10-12 minutes to complete and is completely confidential.

The survey will close on Tuesday 30th June, and is open to all members, so please feel free to share it with others in your WI who might be interested!

**To take part in the survey, [click here](#).**



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Forward

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### The results are in for the 2019/20 resolutions

As the NFWI Annual Meeting was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the two resolutions due to be discussed were not able to be debated or voted on by delegates. The NFWI Board of Trustees has decided that in these exceptional circumstances, the **results of the shortlist selection process will be used as a proxy for the Annual Meeting vote.**



The NFWI Board felt that this was the most democratic means available to determine the outcome of this year's resolution process taking into account time and resource constraints and the challenges of the current lockdown period.

In the shortlisting selection stage, the two resolutions (stem cells and modern slavery) attracted a clear majority of selections from members (over 70%). This means that the following two resolutions have now been adopted by the WI, and **members are free to campaign on these issues:**

- **A call to increase potential stem cell donor registration**
- **End Modern Slavery**

WIs will not need to consider how they wish to vote or to hold discussion events, but they are nevertheless encouraged to engage with and learn about the topics.

We recognise that the discussions before the Annual Meeting and at the event itself offer members a valuable opportunity to engage with the issues and learn about the resolutions. The Public Affairs Department will be producing a range of educational and discussion materials over the coming weeks and months to allow members to consider the issues in more depth.

**You can read more about this decision and the new campaigns on [our website](#).**

If you have any questions about the resolutions or the resolutions process

please contact the NFWI Public Affairs Department  
via [publicaffairs@nfwi.org.uk](mailto:publicaffairs@nfwi.org.uk).

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### **Equal Power: Free online training!**

Existing inequality means that women are being disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus outbreak, but women have largely been invisible from the UK Government's crisis decision making table. During this time of national crisis, still just 35% of local councillor and 34% of MPs are women.

Equal Power is a three-year campaign to get more women in all our diversity into politics and community activism. This summer the Equal Power coalition is running a programme of FREE online training. Sign up to be inspired and gain the skills and knowledge to get more politically active.

You don't need any existing knowledge or experience and women from across the political parties are welcomed. We particularly want to hear from BAME, younger women and disabled women as well as mums and those with caring responsibilities who are further underrepresented.

To find out more, [click here](#).

[Click here to retweet](#) this information and share with friends and family.

Let's get as many women as possible signed up to gain the skills and knowledge to get more politically active.

If you have any questions email us at [pa@nfwi.org.uk](mailto:pa@nfwi.org.uk).

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### **Update on the Great Get Together**

We're pleased to say that the Great Get Together is back on but in a different form to comply with Government social distancing **guidance**. Over the June 19-21 weekend, you can get involved in lots of ways, such as by organising a telephone tree in your WI, setting up a WhatsApp group for people in your street to stay connected or calling someone you haven't spoken to in a while.

**If you or your WI will be taking part, please do get in touch and let us know your plans by emailing [pa@nfwl.org.uk](mailto:pa@nfwl.org.uk)**

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[Home](#) > [Blog](#)

## Blog

### Understanding the Domestic Abuse Bill

14 May 2020

In Spring 2018 the government conducted a public consultation on Transforming the Response to Domestic Abuse, attracting over 100,000 responses. In January 2019 the government published their response to the consultation and produced a draft

[Read more...](#)

### How to get involved with 'Postcards of Kindness'

18 May 2020

#### **New Blog Post: Domestic Abuse Bill**

In our latest blog, we analyse the landmark piece of legislation that is the Domestic Abuse Bill and briefly explain its passage through Parliament to date. We have also pulled out some of the key aims and features of the Bill, and highlighted some further sources of information if you are interested in finding out more about it.

**[Click here](#) to read it.**

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#### **Equal Pay Act Anniversary**

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Equal Pay Act. In 1943 WI Members first campaigned for Equal Pay and stating 'that men and women should receive equal pay for equal work' (Bures WI, West Suffolk Federation).



However, 50 years on the UK's gender pay gap remains at a stubborn 17%. In 2018, gender pay gap reporting became mandatory, but this hasn't resulted in all companies taking concrete action to address this issue.

The Fawcett Society's new Equal Pay Bill aims to modernise the law as new data shows that UK equal pay law is not fit for purpose.

- 40% of people do not know that women have a right to equal pay for work of equal value.
- Only 36% of people know women have a legal right to ask male colleagues about their salary if they suspect pay discrimination.

The proposals, launched in Parliament on 5 February, would give women who suspect they are not getting equal pay the 'Right to Know' what a male colleague doing the same work is paid. This would give women the opportunity to resolve equal pay issues without having to go to court which would be a huge step forward.

For further information on the Equal Pay Bill [click here](#).

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### **New resources for World Bee Day, 20<sup>th</sup> May**

For World Bee Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May, the Public Affairs team worked closely with Alison Rush, the Food and Floral adviser at the NFWI-Unit to produce some new member resources to supplement our work on the SOS for Honeybees campaign.

These resources included how-to instructions to make your own bee-friendly seedbomb, and recipes for decorated focaccia, salted honey fudge and strawberry and raspberry pollinator-friendly gin, and proved very popular with members, with the resources being ‘liked’ on Facebook a combined total of 400 times!

You can take a look at the new SOS for Honeybee resources, alongside the existing resources, on **[MyWI](#)**.

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### **The Plastic Pollution Bill and the Environment Bill**

Despite the lockdown measures, the Public Affairs team has continued to work alongside Friends of the Earth on our efforts to improve the upcoming Environment Bill, and to spread the word about our Plastics Pollution Bill.





Over the last two weeks, we have had a number of productive meetings both with Friends of the Earth, additional external organisations, and MPs, and will be continuing to do this over the coming weeks.

As it stands, Parliament has voted to return physically to the House of Commons on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June. The final arrangements for this are yet to be decided, but we are anticipating that this could lead to the resumption of the parliamentary work on the Environment Bill. As always, the Public Affairs team will continue to keep you updated with any developments.

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### **Postcards of Kindness**

Postcards of Kindness is a wonderful initiative that encourages people to write and send postcards to residents of care homes across the UK, with the aim of

combatting loneliness. With social distancing measures in place as a result of coronavirus, getting involved with this initiative is a great way to help brighten someone's day, during what is a particularly difficult time for many.

**You can find out more about this project and how to get involved in our recent [blog](#).**

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Campaigns Corner

We want to hear about local WI campaign activities. Please email us with your news!



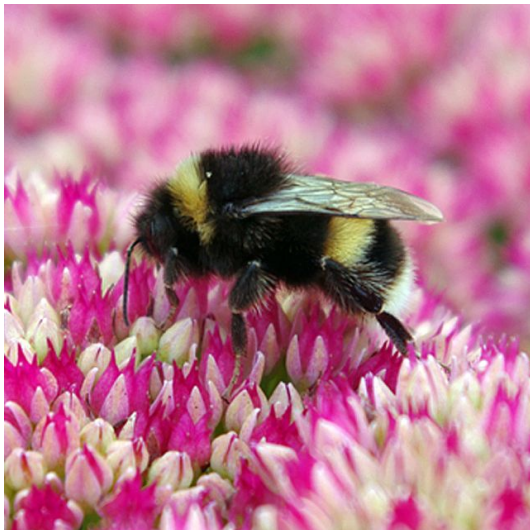
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### **Members celebrate World Bee Day**

We have been overwhelmed by all of your wonderful images and videos of bees and your bee-friendly pants. Here is a small selection:







Photos: Teresa Dunne, De Beauvoir WI (Middlesex Federation) & Pauline Bedson, Llanfair WI (Gwynedd-Meirionnydd Federation).

**Don't forget to check out our new fun SOS for Honeybee resources on [MyWI!](#)**

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### **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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