



WI RESOLUTIONS FOR 2021

The procedure for resolutions this year is totally different! As we know, even with Zoom meetings, it is likely that few WIs will be meeting in January 2021, when voting normally takes place.

Please read the new procedure below carefully, particularly the deadline dates.

As the National Annual Meeting is in April, when we would normally have a Resolutions Information Day and in light of the current situation we have not yet set a date and will be reviewing this in the New Year.

Overleaf are the resolutions to be considered.

November 2020

- You will receive *WI Life* with details of the resolutions, with a voting slip.
- ***It is really important to read the details carefully and understand exactly what the resolution means – sometimes titles are misleading!***

December 2020/January 2021

- Members make their selection of their preferred resolution.
- Depending on your WI's arrangements, you can give your vote to your Secretary for her to collate or cast your vote on the Survey Monkey poll (it is *not* a survey!). This is the link:
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/WX9RGNV>
- You can also send the voting slip from *WI Life* to us. (If you send your vote direct, it is not essential to know the name of your WI, but it is helpful.) **Votes must be with us by 18th January 2021.**

If Secretaries are collecting the votes and using the separate form included with the mailing to submit their WI's votes, please remember that you are NOT submitting a majority vote – it is one member, one vote!

February 2021

- The National Board of Trustees looks at the selected resolutions, decides which ones should go forward and the result is published in *WI Life*.

April 2021

- The National Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place on 19th April.
- There will be a debate about the resolutions, **but no voting.**
- If you are meeting in May or June (or the end of April) your delegate will need to report back about what was said. There will be information in *WI Life* and the website about the resolutions.

June 2021

- Your WI has to vote on the resolutions.
- In due course you will receive detailed information about this from National and nearer the time we will make sure that you know what to do.
- At this stage, the one thing we do know is that the deadline for votes is **5th July.**

August 2021

- The results will be announced in National's August mailing to Secretaries.

Please contact me or the Federation Office if you are unsure of any of the procedures or need help!

Liz Barker, Federation Resolutions Coordinator

2021 Resolutions to be considered

1. **A call to increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer**

Every two hours in the UK someone dies of ovarian cancer. Making sure GPs and the public know what to look for will not only ensure the early detection and treatment of this disease, but transform lives today and for generations to come. NFWI calls on WI members everywhere to help increase awareness of the subtle signs of ovarian cancer.

2. **Stop women dying prematurely from coronary heart disease (CHD)!**

Coronary heart disease (CHD) is twice as deadly for women in the UK than breast cancer. To avoid premature deaths caused by a lack of awareness of the symptoms and misdiagnosis, the NFWI calls on WI members to improve understanding among the public and healthcare professionals of the symptoms of a heart attack and its prevalence in society, particularly among women, and to campaign to tackle inequalities in treatment.

3. **Racism and discrimination**

Systemic racism and discrimination is still a prominent challenge in society. The global protests surrounding the Black Lives Matter Movement have once again emphasised the extent of the inequality and injustice that people from BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) communities still face across a wide range of settings including the justice system, employment, education and healthcare.

The NFWI and its members, in furtherance of their duties as citizens, agree to take concrete action to stamp out racial inequalities including by:

- campaigning for decision-makers to implement the recommendations of existing reviews on racial inequality, and taking action following forthcoming reviews;
- raising public awareness of these issues; and
- otherwise taking suitable action to increase recognition of, and help to address, this inequality and injustice.

4. **Now's the time to act! Protect your nature space to create wildlife-friendly communities**

UK wildlife is in decline, but solutions exist within all our communities. The NFWI calls on its members to participate in national schemes and local organisations and mobilise their groups to take action to protect wildlife in their own or local green spaces, protecting biodiversity and the environment, and creating a network of accessible wildlife-friendly communities throughout the UK.

5. **Stop the destruction of peat bogs to tackle climate change**

Peat cutting for compost is harming both our natural environment and our efforts to tackle climate change. 80% of peatlands in the UK are damaged and release millions of tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere each year. The WI calls on its members to cease using peat-based compost, to persuade others to cease using it and to work with garden centres to encourage them to stock alternative products which already exist, thereby reducing the demand for peat to be harvested.