



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 63: September 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](#).



NFWI RESOLUTIONS 2021-22

Reminder: There is still time to submit your resolution!

The Women's Institute is democratic and member-led, and the resolutions process is unique in putting members at the heart of decisions about our campaign activity. A resolution is a call for change on a current issue in society.

Every issue that we campaign on stems directly from a resolution put forward by members and adopted at the Annual Meeting. WI members have a unique opportunity to turn a concern into a national campaign every year, backed by the whole of the WI.

If you have an idea for a resolution that you would like to see the WI campaign on from 2022, you can submit resolutions until Friday 10 September.

To read more and get started on your resolution, [click here](#).



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN



Become a stem cell donor at
www.dkms.org.uk/thewi or
www.anthonynolan.org/WI

Blood Cancer Awareness Month

To mark **#BloodCancerAwarenessMonth** this September we are continuing to raise awareness of the urgent need for more potential stem cell donors.

You can take part by sharing our social media infographics or by sharing the WI's donor sign up links with five people you know.

You can download the action pack and find our social media toolkit on **[My WI here.](#)**

We'd love to hear how your WI is working on the Make a Match campaign this September. Email us at **pa@nfwi.org.uk**.

To find out more and to register to become a donor visit:
www.dkms.org.uk/thewi or **www.anthonynolan.org/WI**



Stop Modern Slavery: Get Involved

The campaign action pack is now available to download.

In the pack you will find:

- Information to help you understand the issue
- Facts to help you bust the myths on modern slavery
- Ideas for how to get involved
- Information about contacting specialist organisations
- Key dates for your diary

Wallet Cards

We have also produced a page of wallet cards for you to print, cut and share among your networks and at any events you may be holding.

The wallet cards outline some of the signs to spot for modern slavery and how to report it.

Stop Modern Slavery Webinar: 15th October 2021

As part of Anti-Slavery Day this year, the NFWI will be hosting a webinar for WI members on the topic of modern slavery and trafficking. You will have the chance to hear from expert speakers on the topic, as well as an opportunity to ask questions.

Write to your MP

We are asking members to write to their local MP on the issue of modern slavery and on the provision of support for survivors.

The action pack, wallet cards, webinar registration and template letter can all be [found here](#).



Cervical Screening Research Findings

The full findings of the WI's research on attitudes towards cervical screening are now available to download in a series of short briefings from **[My WI and the WI website](#)**. Each briefing focuses on a different theme identified in the research: HPV self-sampling, strategies that can improve uptake of cervical screening, public awareness of the basic science behind cervical cancer, and barriers to attendance.

As the next step in the WI's 5 Minutes that Matter campaign, you can help make a difference in your area by writing to your Clinical Commissioning Group in England or Local Health Board in Wales to ask for their support in considering strategies that will improve uptake of cervical screening.

Contact pa@nfwf.org.uk for a template letter you can use.

The Great Big Green Week is nearly here!

September marks the beginning of a very busy period for our climate and environmental campaigns.



Between the 18th-26th September, the WI will be supporting The Climate Coalition's Great Big Green Week.

By taking part in events across local communities, WI members will be part of the largest event for climate and nature ever seen in the UK. Thousands of events will celebrate how communities are taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces, and encourage others to get involved too.

We know that WI members have been extremely busy organising events and their own Great Big Green Weeks across England, Wales and the Islands. Events include everything from Big Green Walks around local parks and allotments, climate and zero-waste cafes, upcycling projects, panel and policy discussions, tree planting projects and plenty more.

The NFWI Public Affairs team would love to hear about how you are marking your Great Big Green Week in your local area.

Please contact pa@nfwl.org.uk with information about your plans for the Great Big Green Week. Any photos you send across of your Great Big Green Week could appear on the WI's social media pages and even in WI Life!



No More Violence: We want to hear from you!

As part of our No More Violence campaign, we're looking to hear from WI members who work or volunteer in a women's refuge, or specialist support service. This could be currently or in a previous role, or perhaps you know a particular WI who has been working on this campaign and built a relationship with their local women's refuge. Whatever your experience – we'd love to hear from you.

Similarly, if you have encountered modern slavery in your community, have worked or volunteered with survivors or have reported concerns, please do get in touch to share your experiences with us.

Any information you share with us will only be shared further with your permission.

APPG on Microplastics: Policy Report Launch

On the 21st of September, the APPG on Microplastics will be launching its first policy report on cleaning up our microplastic problem in Parliament.



As Secretariat of the APPG on Microplastics, the NFWI Public Affairs team has worked with the office of Alberto Costa MP and over 30 stakeholders across the lifecycle of a garment to propose 6 holistic policies that would help to stem the tide of microplastic fibres emitted from clothing during the washing process.

This work has been done as part of the WI's 'End Plastic Soup' campaign, and will be open to MPs and Peers.

If you would like to invite your MP to the parliamentary launch event of APPG on Microplastics' policy report, please contact pa@nfwl.org.uk to receive a template email with further information about the launch that you can adapt and send to your MP.

The report will be available to read on the WI's website shortly after the parliamentary launch event.



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!



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 version 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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