



NFWI Mandates from 1918 to date

The WI has a long history of campaigning on a wide range of issues that matter to women and their communities. Over the past 100 years, WI members have campaigned to empower and support women within society, exerting their individual and collective influence; brought a series of controversial issues into the public domain; and brought about many changes in legislation and government policy.

The WI is an entirely member led organisation, and the resolutions process ensures that every WI member has the opportunity to set the direction of NFWI campaigns and policy, from the grassroots up. Every year WI members have the chance to put forward issues as 'resolutions' that they want to see the national body campaign on. Resolutions go through a yearlong debating and consultation process. Members shortlist resolutions for debate in Federations and WIs, before making a final selection of resolutions to take forward for discussion at the Annual Meeting in the summer. If passed, these then become mandates and form the basis of campaigning and awareness raising activities in the years ahead. This document lists all the mandates of the NFWI.

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Social Policy

1. Deterrents against crime

That this meeting views with concern the increasing number of crimes of violence and sexual assault, especially against women and children and urges HM Government to give immediate consideration to the establishment of more effective preventative measures.

Summerbridge WI – Yorkshire Federation

June 1958

In order to counteract the upsurge in violent crime and vandalism the Government be urged to introduce stronger deterrents against crime.

Pembrey WI – Dyfed-Caerfyrddin Federation

June 1979

2. Random breath testing

Owing to the number of deaths and injuries on the road, this meeting urges the introduction of random breath testing of drivers of those in charge of motor vehicles.

Pembrey WI – Dyfed-Caerfyrddin Federation

June 1988

3. Licensing of air weapons

This meeting is worried about the increasing possession and use of air weapons, not considered dangerous by the Secretary of State, by young persons in this country and therefore recommends that all air weapons should be licensed.

Perranporth WI – Cornwall Federation

June 1981

4. The Police Force

That this Annual Meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes representing 140,000 village women Police. It urges:

- (a) that the work of the Metropolitan Police women Patrols had undoubtedly lessened the number of offences which come before the courts and has thus saved public expenditure
- (b) that much of the work now performed by them will still have to be done by women and be paid for at a higher cost
- (c) that in their preventative work among women and girls they are a moral and economical asset to the State.

For these reasons the meeting asks that instead of disbanding the MPWP and thus wasting money already spent on training and equipment, those who have already been dismissed shall be reinstated forthwith and that their usefulness shall be further increased by giving power of arrest to the whole force.

Staffordshire Federation

May 1922

That women's Institutes be asked to use their influence to secure an increase in the number of Women Police throughout the country and that a Women Police official be attached to each Police Station where there are cells.

Bridlington WI – Leicestershire & Rutland Federation

May 1924

That this meeting calls upon the government so to amend the Children and Young Persons Act 1933 as to ensure that whenever possible the taking of statements from, and the questioning of girls prior to Court

proceedings shall be in the hands of women police or of trained and responsible women officers attached to the Police Force for that purpose.

Cornwall Federation

May 1924

This meeting views with very real alarm the continued undermanning of the Police Force throughout the country and urges the Government to take immediate steps to improve the conditions and prospects of the Police in order to attract more men and women of the right calibre.

Whitchurch WI – Somerset Federation

June 1972

5. Probation Officers

That this meeting of the National Federation of Women's Institutes urges the government to facilitate in every possible way the introduction of the Bill entitled 'Probation, Certified School and Borstal Institutes Bill' which makes the system of probation officers, to care for young offenders, part of the necessary organisation of Borough and County Police Courts.

Westmorland Federation

May 1922

6. Identity Cards

This meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to introduce legislation for the issue of simple identity cards to include name, date of birth and photograph only to all UK residents.

Beechen Grove WI – Hertfordshire Federation

1995

7. Inappropriate imprisonment of the severely mentally ill

"In view of the adverse effect on families of the imprisonment of people with severe mental health problems, this meeting urges HM Government to provide treatment and therapy in a more appropriate and secure residential environment."

Susan Warr, Federation representative and Federation Chairman, Norfolk Federation

June 2008

Children

That the National Federation of women's Institutes, being strongly in favour of the principles embodied in the Bastardy Bill 1920, urges the Government to pass the Bill at the earliest possible date.

Duffield WI – Derbyshire Federation

May 1920

The NFWI welcomes the proposed action of the Government on the findings of the Curtis committee and promises to do all it can to find suitable foster parents and those willing to train as child-welfare officers and to take up the Godparents Scheme for children in homes and orphanages.

Surrey Federation

May 1947

The NFWI welcomes the proposed action of the government on the findings of the Curtis committee and promises to do all it can to find suitable foster parents and those willing to train as child-welfare officers and to take up the Godparents Scheme for children in homes and orphanages.

Surrey Federation

May 1947

That the NFWI should urge the Government to investigate the present state of separated mothers and the difficulties and hardship they often have in obtaining maintenance money for themselves and their children.

Frenchay Evening WI – Gloucestershire Federation

May 1966

This meeting endorses in principle the provisional proposals of the Houghton Committee with regard to adoption of children in long-term foster care and urges the Government to bring in the necessary legislation as soon as possible.

Clearwell WI – Gloucestershire Federation

June 1971

7. Child abuse

That as the sentences in cases of even the grossest cruelty to children are not of a severe enough nature, representation be made by the NFWI to the Home Secretary asking him to issue a circular to Justices urging that adequate sentences be passed against persons found guilty of serious offences against children.

Westmill WI – Hertfordshire Federation

May 1923

That this meeting is of the opinion that the punishment imposed in cases of cruelty to children, and especially with regard to criminal assault, is far from adequate.

Brentwood WI Centre – Essex Federation

May 1930

That this meeting voices its concern at the number of cases of cruelty to, and neglect of, children and urges the Home Secretary, Local Authorities and those responsible for the administration of justice to consider speedier and more adequate means of investigation and dealing with such offences. The meeting reminds Women's Institute members of the necessity of reporting any cases of ill-treatment or neglect before it is too late.

Alphington WI – Devon Federation

May 1952

This meeting urges that all WI members remain alert to an increasing incidence of child abuse and to their responsibility to report any such incident, which may come to their notice, to the appropriate agency.

Loughoughton WI – Northumberland Federation

June 1984

This meeting urges the judiciary of this country to impose stiffer penalties on those convicted of offences against children especially those involving sexual abuse.

Rock and South Charlton WI – Northumberland Federation

June 1986

8. Substance and alcohol abuse

In order that people be discouraged from smoking, the National Federations of Women's Institutes urges that strong measures be taken to restrict the amount of smoking in public places such as tops of buses, places of entertainment, cafes and restaurants and also on television.

Hellesdon WI – Norfolk Federation

June 1964

That this meeting, noting the Brain Report on Drug Addiction and in particular paragraphs 40 and 41, urges parents and those responsible for children and young people to make themselves aware of the very grave danger in the easy availability of habit-forming drugs and drugs addiction.

Greys WI – Oxfordshire Federation (Urgency Resolution)

May 1966

In View of the alarming increase in under-age drinking of alcohol, this meeting calls upon the Government to promote more education in homes, schools and youth organisations about the dangers of alcohol.

Cheddar Hannah More WI – Somerset Federation

June 1980

In view of the alarming increase in solvent sniffing among young children and teenagers, this meeting urges the Government, parents and all those responsible for young people to promote education on the dangers of solvent abuse.

Wentworth Park WI – County Durham Federation

June 1982

This meeting urges Her Majesty's Government and all relevant regional and local agencies to provide immediate and continuing help for drug addicts and their families.

Hyde and Frogham WI – Hampshire Federation

June 1985

9. Escapes from prisons and Home Office institutions – compensation for damage

This meeting is of the opinion that payment and compensation for all damage and loss resulting from action by persons detained by Court order in, or committed to, prisons, Borstals or approved schools, should be made by the Home Office or Prison Commission and not, as at present, fall on those who suffer damage and loss.

Isle of Wight Federation

June 1950

10. Age of consent

That this Annual Meeting of the NFWI records its satisfaction that the Government has introduced a Criminal Law Amendment Bill and now begs that the necessary time may be granted in order that this Bill may pass through all its stages and become law this session. This meeting specially urges the importance of Clause 2, as the defence at present allowed, that the defendant had reasonable cause to believe that a girl was over the age specified by law for her protection, has led to innumerable miscarriages of justice.

Staffordshire Federation

May 1922

This meeting urges that the age of consent for heterosexual intercourse remains at sixteen.

Shipton under Wychwood – Oxfordshire Federation (Urgency Resolution)

June 1975

11. Violence against women

The NFWI supports the Sexual Offences (Amendment) bill asking for changes in the law as it relates to rape.

Farnham WI – Essex Federation (Urgency Resolution)

June 1975

While welcoming the Government's Committee of Inquiry into the problems of battered wives, this meeting urges that immediate action be taken to provide alternative accommodation for these women and their children in at least every country if not every town.

Barnock WI – Cambridgeshire-Hunts & Peterborough Federation

June 1975

This meeting views with great concern the increasing incidence of rape and urges the Lord Chief Justice to ensure that the sentences passed adequately reflect the extremely serious nature of the offence.

Sefton WI – Lancashire Federation

June 1988

This meeting calls upon the Home Secretary and the Lord Chancellor to carry out a review of the Homicide Act and the criminal justice system, believing there is an urgent need for reform of the definition of provocation to include prolonged domestic violence.

Clare WI – Suffolk West Federation

June 1993

12. Trafficking of women and children

In view of the constantly increasing trafficking of human beings, particularly women and children, for sexual exploitation and forced labour, this meeting urges HM Government to put into place legislation to combat trafficking and support victims, and urges all WI members to raise public awareness of this issue.

West Yorkshire Federation

2004

13. Convicted mothers

That this meeting urges the Home Secretary to approve and assist financially in establishing Homes where mothers convicted of offences involving ill-treatment or neglect of their children could, at the discretion of the Court and as an alternative to imprisonment, be sent with their babies for training in homecraft. That such training be simple and practical in character so that it bears relation to facilities available in the homes from which the delinquents come. That these Homes should give priority to first offenders.

Wolverly WI – Worcestershire Federation

June 1949

14. Genetic fingerprinting

The NFWI calls upon the Government to introduce legislation for compulsory DNA testing in those areas where violent crime has been committed.

Old Heathfield WI – East Susses Federation

June 1989

15. Magistrates and Jury Service

That this meeting of delegates, representing over 120,000 country women, believing that women equally with men should accept their full responsibilities as citizens in whatever way they may be called upon to serve their country, urges upon all qualified women the importance of the service to which they are called as jurors, and is of the opinion that women should not be exempted from this duty, more especially in cases in which a child or woman is concerned either as party or witness.

Surrey Federation

May 1921

That the Clerk to the Court be asked to notify women JPs when cases affecting women and girls are coming on so that, if possible, they should attend and that in the absence of a woman magistrate a responsible woman should be in court in any cases other than those of trivial character, where the presence of women or girls or children under fourteen years of age is necessary either as principle or witnesses.

Ely WI Centre – Isle of Ely Federation

May 1924

That this meeting urges on the Lord Chancellor the importance of having at least two women magistrates on every bench.

Essex Federation

May 1929

That this meeting is of the opinion that the qualifications for jury service are outdated and that the law governing them should be reformed.

Kidmore End WI – Oxfordshire Federation

June 1964

16. Equal opportunities

That in view of a recent judgement, this meeting, representing over 140,000 women of England and Wales, feels strongly that a law which allows a woman to shelter behind her husband in wrongdoing or crime is now obsolete and strongly supports Lady Astor's Bill on the subject which is now before Parliament.

West Kent Federation

May 1922

That men and women should receive equal pay for equal work.

Bures WI – West Suffolk Federation

June 1943

The NFWI believes in the principle of equality of opportunity and of legal status for men and women and pledges itself to work to achieve this.

NFWI Executive committee

June 1975

17. The Queen's engagements

That this meeting, remembering that our young Queen has duties as a wife and mother, urges the nation as a whole not to overwork Her Majesty.

Lodsworth WI – West Sussex Federation

May 1952

Ethical

18. Parenting of lifeforms

This meeting calls for the EC draft directive authorising the patenting of lifeforms to be rejected until there has been more public debate concerning its legal, social, environmental and ethical implications.

Butts Brow WI – East Sussex Federation

June 1992

19. Artificially-produced embryos

That this meeting urges the Government to bring in legislation on the status of artificially-produced human and part-human embryos.

Lincolnshire South Federation Executive Committee

June 1983

Media

20. Display and sale of unsuitable publications to children

This meeting calls public attention to the danger of the sale and circulation in this country of certain types of 'comic' and deplores their effect on many young minds. It urges all Women's Institute members who are the mothers of young families and all those who are responsible for the upbringing and education of the young to do their utmost to prevent this type of publication from coming into children's hands and to foster standards which will prevent their wishing to read such 'comics'. The meeting welcomes the announcement by the home Secretary of a joint inquiry with the President of the Board of Trade and the Minister of Education.

Dorney WI – Buckinghamshire Federation

May 1952

This meeting voices its concern at the display and sale to children of literature which through its pornographic and violent content may be considered harmful to young minds. It urges parents and responsible persons to be more aware of the dangers of such literature and do all they can to prevent its sale and circulation to children.

Cambridgeshire-Cambridge Federation Executive Committee

June 1978

21. Pornography

In order that the courts may deal effectively with those who produce and purvey material of a most explicit and violent content, HM Government be urged to review the unworkable key legal test in the Obscene Publications Act which states that the material 'must have a tendency to deprave and corrupt'.

Cheshire Federation Executive Committee

1994

22. Standards of films

That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable that there should be an official Board of Censors, unconnected with the trade and of which two members at least shall be women, to consider all films shown at cinemas where children under fifteen are admitted and that no children under fifteen should be admitted to a cinema where the films have not been previously censored by such a board.

Leicestershire and Rutland Federation

May 1921

That this meeting desires to protest against further delay in the setting up by Government of a Board of Censors, including representative women, of cinema films shown to juveniles and urges NFWI Executive

Committee to take the necessary steps to ensure the unanimous vote recorded at the Annual General Meeting of 1921 being made effective.

This meeting also urges that steps be taken at once by the government to raise the age at which persons are admitted to see films advertised for adults only to twenty-one at least as it is considered that these films are more harmful during the age of adolescence than they would be to juveniles.

Leicestershire and Rutland Federation

May 1922

That this meeting welcomes the establishment by the home secretary in November last (1931) of the Consultative Committee of Representatives of Local Authorities and urges that it should press for greater vigilance in excluding objectionable incidents and dialogues and, in the hope of expediting its work, urges Women's Institutes to appeal to local cinema authorities in their areas asking them to exercise fully the powers of control which already exist. That action should be taken by the responsible authority to prevent the admission of all children of school age and under to films passed by the censor for 'adults' only. That any authority controlling the exhibition of films should include women. That further, this meeting asks the NFWI Executive Committee to explore the possibilities of taking action in conjunction with the National Council of Women, the Mothers' Union and the National Union of Women Teachers, believing that the united action of these four great women's organisations should prove an invincible factor in bringing about the reforms we so earnestly desire.

Barton and Dunstall WI – Staffordshire Federation

May 1932

That all main 'U' films should be supported by other 'U' films.

Huby (Leeds) WI – Yorkshire Federation

June 1954

In view of the increasing part films are playing in the lives of countless thousands of people of all ages, this meeting urges the NFWI (ie the National Federation Executive Committee, County Federation Executive Committees and Women's Institutes) to take action to improve the general standards of films released.

Alphington WI – Devon Federation

May 1974

23. Violence on films and television

That this meeting deplores the prevalence of physical violence in films and television and pledges itself to do all in its power to arouse public opinion to an awareness of the detrimental effect on children and young people.

Staplehill WI – Dorset Federation

May 1961

24. Crime and the Press

That this meeting of delegates representing 140,000 village women, having regard to the incalculable power of the press to influence public opinion, deprecates undue prominence being given in the daily papers to crime and immorality by means of pictures of letterpress.

Middlesex Federation

May 1922

That this meeting strongly supports the provisions of the Judicial Proceedings (Regulation of Reports) Bill 1924 and in the interests of public morality urges the Government to reintroduce the Bill and give it early facilities.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1924

25. Lurid tendency of the Press

That in co-operation with other women's organisations, the NFWI should voice the opinion of the women of this country who dislike the increasing tendency of some sections of the Press to give headline and front-

page prominence to lurid reports and pictures which are of no interest to decent families and may do definite harm to the younger members of the family, and suggests that the best way of doing this is not to buy the newspapers concerned.

All Stretton WI – Shropshire Federation

June 1954

Social Security

That this meeting urges members to study and interest themselves in the subject of Board of Guardians with a special view to the treatment of women and children under the Poor Law.

Derbyshire Federation

May 1925

That this meeting urges all Women's Institutes to study the different methods of National Health and other Insurances in the interests of members and the families of members.

Westmorland Federation

June 1926

That this meeting recommends the proposals of the Minister of Health for the reform of the Poor Law to the consideration of all Institutes with a view to enabling their members to form a considered opinion upon these proposals. This meeting further urges the Minister of Health to make provision in any Poor Law Reform proposals for a due proportion of women to be placed on all committees or other bodies performing duties similar to those of the Guardians of the Poor.

Bladen WI – Dorset Federation

June 1927

That in the opinion of this meeting the insurance regulation which allows a married woman, who previous to her marriage was an insured person, to draw double benefit in connection with the birth of her first child, should not be restricted by any provision as to the length of time between marriage and the birth of the said child (the present period being two years) and that the attention of the Ministry of Health should be called to this matter.

Somerset Federation

May 1930

That this meeting calls attention to the urgent need of amendment to the National Health Insurance Acts, so as to allow women who have previously been insured persons to be entitled to medical attendance after marriage, so long as payment of 6d per week (or such sum as may be found actuarially necessary) is paid.

Gwernymydd WI – Flintshire Federation

May 1936

That this meeting records its appreciation of Sir William Beveridge's great work for social security and particularly of his recognition that health insurance for housewives and children's allowances are essential if family life is to be free from want.

Toft WI – Cheshire Federation

June 1943

This meeting urges the government to include in its National Insurance Scheme some cash sickness benefits for all non-gainfully employed married women and non-gainfully employed widows.

Courteenhall WI – Northamptonshire Federation

June 1945

That in view of the increase in tuberculosis the Government should include all married women in the present scheme of allowances which should also cover non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Middlesex Federation Executive Committee

May 1946

That this meeting urges that the law relating to Family Allowances be altered to that it may be legal for parents whose children are in the care of a Voluntary Home to nominate the Voluntary Home to receive the Family Allowance(s) direct.

Duston WI – Northamptonshire Federation

June 1956

That this meeting urges the Government to provide a sufficient allowance for a housewife, disabled by chronic illness, injury or a congenital handicap, to remain in her own home and so enable the family to live as a unit.

Newnham WI – Gloucestershire Federation

May 1968

The National Federation of Women's Institutes views with great concern the effect on the financial position of many mothers if Family Allowances are discontinued under the proposed new Tax Credit System and urges Her Majesty's Government to continue with the present policy of payment to mothers.

Middlesex Federation Executive Committee

June 1973

This meeting views with concern the complexity of the Social Security and Taxation systems and asks HM Government to institute a complete review with the aim of harmonising and simplifying these systems and of eliminating the 'poverty trap'.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1978

That Her Majesty's Government be asked to raise substantially the amount of earnings, allowable without decrease, from part-time employment of those in receipt of supplementary benefit.

Lymm WI – Cheshire Federation

June 1987

26. Unemployment

That this meeting, remembering that the NFWI was founded in a time of crisis to serve Home and Country, calls upon all Women's Institute members to support efforts in their own locality to deal with unemployment and distress among both men and women.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1933

This meeting, realising that any plan to prevent mass unemployment will entail individual sacrifice, assures the Government of its willing co-operation in accepting necessary hardships and urges that precedence be given to this problem in efforts to secure an 'ordered opportunity of service and earning for all'.

Norfolk Federation

June 1943

27. Pensions

That this meeting urges that the NFWI calls upon the government to introduce legislation giving pensions to civilian widows with dependent children, free from the taint of Poor Law Relief.

Newport WI – Essex Federation

May 1924

That Her Majesty's Government be asked to raise substantially the amount of earnings allowable without decrease of (1) retirement pensions, (2) pensions for widows, (3) allowances for widowed mothers.

Devon Federation

June 1950

That this meeting urges the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance to revise the law so that every widow should receive a Widow's Pension on reaching the age of fifty irrespective of her age at the time of her husband's death.

Barton-in-the-Beans WI – Leicester & Rutland Federation

May 1961

That all persons who look after elderly or handicapped dependents should be credited with Class 1 National Insurance contributions on order that their retirement pension is not reduced by the fact that they have not been in contributory employment.

Cambridgeshire – Cambridge Federation Executive Committee

June 1975

This meeting urges that married women be allowed to make provision in their occupational pensions for their husband if the wife should predecease the husband.

Starcross WI – Devon Federation

June 1983

This meeting urges the government to abolish the amount deducted from Retirement Pensioners after a six-week stay in hospital.

Chiddingfold WI – Surrey Federation

June 1991

28. Taxation

That this meeting urges the Government to make spinsters and bachelors the same house-keeper's allowance free of income tax as is at present granted to widows and widowers.

Crawley WI – Surrey Federation

June 1949

That the Chancellor of the Exchequer be asked to remove the purchase tax from wireless batteries.

Kinlet WI – Shropshire Federation

May 1952

Whilst grateful for the Budget concessions, this meeting, realising that many men's working tools carry no purchase tax, urges the Chancellor of the Exchequer as soon as possible to abolish the purchase tax on housewives' kitchen utensils, including electrical appliances.

Spondon WI – Derbyshire Federation

May 1957

That this meeting is of the opinion that the present system of rating is unsatisfactory and urges Her Majesty's Government to consider alternative systems of obtaining contributions to the provision of Local Government services.

Stanion WI – Northamptonshire Federation

May 1963

That Clause 7* of the Divorce Reform Bill should include provisions granting a deserted wife, whose marriage has been terminated on the grounds referred to in this Clause, financial security, tax reliefs and pension rights of a married woman.

Three Stones WI – Essex Federation

May 1968

This meeting urges the Government to re-instate immediately the variable Domestic Rate Relief System throughout England and Wales, in view of the enormous and totally unjustifiable increase with which ratepayers in the rural areas are now faced.

High Ham WI – Somerset Federation (Urgency Resolution)

June 1974

This meeting urges HM Government to reconsider the imposition of 12% VAT on the purchase, servicing and repairs of domestic appliances.

Pinner WI – Middlesex Federation

June 1976

29. Legal Aid

This meeting urges MH Government to reverse its decision to restrict and/or deny the overwhelming majority of its citizens access to the courts by its attack on the legal aid system.

Kington with Dormston WI – Worcestershire Federation

1994

Savings

That this meeting of the NFWI desires to record its sympathy with, and goodwill towards, the National Savings Movement and, while noting with satisfaction the number of Institutes now conducting Savings Associations, would urge all Women's Institutes to avail themselves of the facilities offered by the National Savings Movement and so give every village the opportunity of establishing a branch.

Norfolk Federation

June 1926

Credit: that this meeting urges the Women's Institutes to study the terms of the Hire Purchase and Deferred Payments Systems and, as far as possible, to help members to understand the danger inherent in the systems.

Nottinghamshire Federation

June 1937

That this meeting is of the opinion that the present limit of £100 payable to the persons entitled from a deceased person's Post Office Savings Account or Trustee Savings Bank Account or other similar account without probate or letters of administration is no longer adequate, and urges the introduction of appropriate legislation to increase this limit to an amount more in keeping with present monetary values; and further urges that such payments be made as promptly as possible.

Fulmodestone WI – Norfolk Federation

June 1953

That post-war credits be paid to heirs or next-of kin immediately after the decease of the holder.

Shirley WI – Warwickshire Federation

June 1953

That this meeting urges that the Hire Purchase Acts (1938 and 1954) be amended so as to make it obligatory that, in all hire-purchase transactions, a detailed copy of the terms as signed by the prospective hirer be given to him for retention at the time of such signing, so that he may have a record of those terms as signed by him.

Anglesey Federation Executive Committee

May 1960

This meeting urges the Government to work with the credit industry to bring under control the aggressive and indiscriminate sale of credit and to give more publicity to the hazards of borrowing money.

Filkins and Broughton Poggs WI – Oxfordshire Federation

June 1987

30. Inheritance

That this meeting welcomes the introduction of the Will and Intestacies (Family Maintenance) Bill, which aims at putting an end to the injustices of the present law, whereby it is possible for widows and children to be completely disinherited and urges the Government to give facilities for the Bill so that proper provision may be made for the surviving spouse and issue of a deceased person.

Frinton WI – Essex Federation

May 1931

31. Household goods and clothing

That this meeting deplures the poor quality of household goods and clothing produced for the home market and asks that available material be used to better advantage both as regards workmanship and design, so long as no action is taken that would in any way detract from the export market.

Chigwell WI – Essex Federation

April 1948

Safety

32. Accidents to children in the home

That the NFWI should make every effort to arouse public opinion on the dangers of leaving children of tender years alone in a house.

Northamptonshire Federation Executive Committee

May 1939

33. Burns

That in view of the numerous accidents from burning this meeting wishes to bring before the public:

- the urgency of adequately guarding all fires, especially portable electric and gas fires
- the danger of inflammable material being used for clothing
- the danger of celluloid and inflammable plastic toys
- the danger of inflammable household articles

and to urge the appropriate authorities to provide additional safeguards and that the manufacture of articles covered by Clause (3) be prohibited.

Easter Compton WI – Gloucestershire Federation

June 1950

34. Fireworks and bonfires

That this meeting urges all members of Women's Institutes to make every effort to arouse public opinion to the dangers of fireworks and bonfires and that the retail sale of fireworks should be banned until a fortnight before 5 November.

Llanddaniel WI – Anglesey Federation

May 1962

35. Road safety

That in view of the increasing number of motor omnibuses and lorries now running in provincial towns and along country roads, the Government Department concerned be urged to make it compulsory for them all to carry a guard similar to that used on all London omnibuses to prevent persons and animals from slipping under the wheels.

Create Waltham WI – Essex Federation

May 1922

That the Ministry of Transport be strongly urged to include regulations to the following effect in the forthcoming legislation on motor traffic:

- Slow traffic to light up at the same time as other traffic.
- Adequate rear reflector to be compulsory on all bicycles.
- A special light to be carried before and after driven cattle on high roads.

East Suffolk Federation

June 1927

That the NFWI urges the Minister of Transport to seek powers without delay for the regulation of motor-cycle trials, above all for the prevention of motor-cycle reliability and other trials through villages and in country lanes. Such trials, occurring as they usually do on Sundays, are a real danger to villagers, especially children, and to users, both human and animal, of country lanes.

Thursley WI – Surrey Federation

June 1937

That owing to expense and unreliability of rear lights HM Government be asked to compel cyclists to carry reflectors measuring not less than nine inches by two-and-a-half inches, and of the same type as those placed on trees and telegraph poles.

Warwickshire Federation

June 1939

That this meeting being gravely concerned at the increase of road casualties in the countryside welcomes the measures already being taken but asks the Government and Local Authorities to treat this matter with the utmost urgency and pledges itself to do everything possible to help solve the problem of road safety.

East Sussex Federation Executive Committee

May 1960

36. Motorcyclists

In view of the continued deplorable accident rate on the roads, this meeting urges that the following steps be taken in regard to motorcyclists:

1. motorcycle driving tests should be made much more searching
2. a limit be put to the number of times a provisional licence may be renewed
3. licences to drive low-powered cycles should not qualify drivers to use high-powered machines capable of great speed
4. that crash helmets should be freed from purchase tax

Headington WI – Oxfordshire Federation

June 1954

37. Service to the community

That this meeting, while recognising our community work, urges Women's Institutes to increase their efforts for service in their own area.

Cheshire Federation Executive Committee

May 1965

38. National Fund for Disasters

That HM Government be asked to set up a permanent National Fund for Disasters in the British Isles, to be financed partly by Government, immediately available for disasters of any kind, and not limited to place or to type of catastrophe.

Devon Federation

May 1961

39. Last offices for the dead

This meeting wishes to express its concern at the growing difficulty of obtaining anyone to perform the last offices for the dead and suggests that Women's Institutes, in consultation with the County Nursing Federations, should take steps to find suitable persons to be trained for this work in every part of the country.

Seaton WI – Devon Federation

May 1946

40. Registered clubs

That in view of the growing number of registered clubs which are being brought into rural areas, especially in the neighbourhood of large towns, this meeting urges the Government to consider further legislation for their control.

Gloucestershire Federation

May 1935

Health

41. Health Policy

That this meeting considers that it would be of valuable help to the County Federations if the NFWI would frame a policy with regard to Public Health work, to act as a guide to those Institutes wishing to take part in the health services and further, being convinced of the national importance of healthy home life, urges the necessity for instruction of women and girls in the hygiene of food and drink and the laws of health.

Berkshire Federation

June 1927

That is be the recognised policy of the National Federation of Women's Institutes to take full advantage of all existing Health Services and to do all in its power to secure such further development, both practical and educational, as may help to improve the standard of health of the rural population. That it be clearly

understood that no pressure of any kind is placed upon any individual member or local Women's Institute to adopt or submit to any particular method of medical treatment.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1928

42. Closing of small hospitals

That this meeting welcomes the improved specialist services proposed by the Minister of Health in the large general hospitals but protests most strongly against the closing of small hospitals in county areas.

Langham & Barleythorpe WI – Leicestershire & Rutland Federation

May 1963

43. Closure of Community Hospitals

“This resolution urges H.M Government to stop the closure of Community Hospitals, which provide essential services to local people.”

June 2007

44. Mixed hospital wards

This meeting urges the Department of Health and Social security to exhort the Area Health Authorities to stop the practice of open mixed sex wards in hospitals, excluding intensive care and high dependency units.

Dean Row WI – Cheshire Federation

June 1979

45. Nursing career

That this meeting welcomes the Government inquiry into the conditions of the nursing career and stresses the urgent need for shorter hours, better pay and better conditions generally for nurses.

Caernarvonshire Federation

June 1938

46. Rural doctors

That in the future planning of villages, thought should be given to the needs of doctors and their surgery patients. It is considered essential that each village should have either a surgery with waiting-room or adequate conveyance to and from the new clinics which are to be built in the towns.

Nutley WI – East Sussex Federation

May 1947

This meeting urges the Government to re-consider its proposals to limit dispensing by doctors in rural areas.

Hampton-on-the-Hill WI – Warwickshire Federation

June 1967

47. Shortage of members of professions supplementary to medicine

This meeting draws the attention of the Government to the severe shortage of physiotherapists, radiographers, occupational therapists, etc., in the National Health Service and urges the Government to offer better financial and other inducements in order to encourage entry into the professions supplementary to medicine and the return to practice (whether part-time or full-time) of those already qualified.

Burstow WI – Surrey Federation

May 1963

48. Hospice practices

In view of the fact that the present system of early waking of hospital patients for washing, etc., is a cause of justifiable complaint and against the best interests of the recovery of the patient, Institute members are urged to persuade hospital authorities to adopt a new routine, as has been successfully carried out by the Middlesex Hospital, entailing no extra staff or expense, where no patient is now disturbed except for urgent reasons before 7.00 a.m.

Sandhurst WI – Buckinghamshire Federation

May 1931

That this meeting, while fully realising the difficulties of the nursing staff, deploras the fact that in some hospitals mothers and fathers are not permitted to visit their children and asks Hospital Management Committees to allow visiting in agreement with doctors and sisters.

Hampshire Federation

June 1950

That, while appreciating the magnificent work which the hospitals have done and are continuing to do, often under extremely difficult conditions, this meeting, in view of the long periods of waiting frequently experienced in Clinics and Hospitals Out-Patients' Departments, asks the Hospital Management Committees to review the appointments system in hospitals under their control, bearing in mind the special difficulties of country people who have to travel long distances by public transport.

West Sussex Federation Council

June 1953

49. Donating parts of the body for transplants

This meeting urges that the law should be altered to permit people to bequeath their eyes so as to allow surgeons, without obtaining the permission of the executors of next-of kin, to remove the cornea (front covering of the eye) with adequate safeguards, and in suitable cases, from patients who have died.

Uley WI – Gloucestershire Federation

May 1952

The meeting urges that improved arrangements should be made for people who wish to donate parts of their own body for transplant purposes.

Otham WI – West Kent Federation

June 1974

50. Organ Donation

To facilitate the donation of organs for transplant and thus reduce the alarming time spent waiting for donors, this meeting urges HM Government to consider the systems of presumed consent and required request of other appropriate measures.

Essex Federation Council

1994

The NFWI notes that 3 people die every day whilst waiting for an organ transplant. We call on every member of the WI to make their wishes regarding organ donation known, and to encourage their families and friends, and members of their local communities to do likewise.

Standon & Cotes Heath WI, Staffordshire Federation

2014

51. Care and care in the community

That this meeting urges Women's Institutes to bring before their members the facilities already existing for the education, training and betterment of the mentally subnormal and that where necessary local authorities be urged to afford greater provision for the care of the mentally subnormal in both urban and rural districts. Further, that public opinion should urge the necessity of aftercare of the mentally subnormal particularly with regard to marriage. (Note: the term 'mentally subnormal' has been substituted for 'mentally deficient' throughout this resolution as the latter is no longer used since the passing of the Mental Health Act.)

Essex Federation

May 1925

That this meeting urges the Women's Institute members to do all in their power to assist in the rehabilitation of Mental Hospital patients by visiting the patients, taking an interest in their welfare, inviting them to Institute meetings and generally helping to dispel ignorance about the mentally sick.

Devon Federation Executive Committee

May 1957

That this meeting urges all WI members to press for the provision of more 'Day Hospitals', Day Centres and ancillary services, thus enabling older members of the family to share the home without undue hardship and stress for the younger generation.

Sonning Common WI – Oxfordshire Federation

June 1967

This meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to ensure that sufficient day centres and adequate aftercare are provided for patients discharged from hospitals for the mentally ill.

Threlkeld WI – Cumbria-Cumberland Federation

June 1977

This meeting of Women's Institutes urges its members to promote and support the provision of hospice care for those patients who desire it.

Stockland WI – Devon Federation

June 1983

That this meeting urges the Minister of State for Health (DHSS) and local Health Authorities to provide adequate hospital care for psycho-geriatric patients throughout Britain as stated in the National Health Service Act 1977.

Hampshire Federation Executive Committee

June 1984

52. Appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia

We call upon HM Government and the NHS to provide facilities to enable carers to stay with people with Alzheimer's disease and dementia that have been admitted into hospital.

Norley WI, Cheshire Federation

June 2016

53. Care of older people

This meeting calls upon HM Government to take urgent action in order to ensure that the necessary facilities and services are provided to enable older people, irrespective of their means, to spend their remaining years in comfort and dignity, whether this be in their own home, or in a nursing or residential home of their choice.

Sheringham Evening WI – Norfolk Federation

2003

54. Maternal and child health

That this meeting views with grave concern the fact that since 1902 maternal mortality associated with child-bearing has remained almost stationary and, in view of the serious effects of a high maternal mortality upon the health and welfare of many hundreds of families every year, this meeting urges Women's Institutes to do what may be possible to create an informed public opinion without which no substantial progress can be made.

Epping and District WI – Essex Federation

May 1925

Since the questions of maternal welfare is one which affects all women, this meeting, believing that the way in which the movement can help most is to further the efforts now being made to spread knowledge on the subject, urges County Federations to make known the health facilities offered by the various Local Authorities and to keep the whole matter before their Institutes. Further, this meeting urges women's Institutes to do what is reasonably possible to ascertain:

1. If a pre-natal clinic is available in their area for prospective mothers who desire to use it.
2. Whether steps are being taken by the Local Authority to make such arrangements with the doctors practising in the area as will ensure medical supervision for women in rural areas where no clinic is practicable.

Wiltshire Federation

May 1931

That this meeting, while warmly supporting the action of the Minister of Health with regard to research, begs Women's Institute members to urge Local Authorities where necessary to carry out the Minister's

recommendations for the provision of specialised obstetric advice and an improved midwifery service; also to persuade expectant mothers to make full use of existing pre-natal clinics and treatment. Further, this meeting is of the opinion that the opportunity of anaesthesia should be within reach of all expectant mothers.
Berkshire Federation *May 1935*

This meeting urges the Executive Committee to take all possible steps to get the new methods of analgesia made available for all country women in childbirth in their own homes provided that there are adequate safeguards.
Hastingleigh with Elmsted WI – East Kent Federation *June 1938*

This meeting urges all Women's Institutes to study the question of the importance of adequate sleep for young children in relation to good health and the avoidance of nervous strain.
West Kent Federation *May 1939*

That this meeting urges that the National Health Act shall be so administered that expectant mothers, if they so desire, shall be attended by a doctor of their own choice at the time of their confinement.
Lancashire Federation *May 1947*

That this meeting deplores the efforts being made to attract mothers of young children back to industry.
Ebberston and Allerston WI – Yorkshire Federation *June 1950*

This meeting urges that all possible action should be taken to avoid perinatal death and damage.
Cromford WI – Derbyshire Federation *June 1980*

There are chronic shortages of midwives. The NFWI calls on the Government to increase investment in the training, employment and retention of midwives in England and Wales to ensure services are adequately resourced and are able to deliver a high standard of care.
Horwich WI, Lancashire Federation *2012*

55. Funding of Children's Hospices

This meeting urges HM Government to start funding children's hospices in accordance with the same principles that hospices for adults are funded.
Rhosnesni and Abenbury WI – Clwyd Denbigh Federation *2000*

56. Children's diets, exercise and health

This meeting views with concern the increase in obesity and diet-related health problems in children, and the associated risk of chronic disease in later life, and urges HM Government to regulate the promotion to children of foods that contribute to an unhealthy diet and to ensure increased opportunities for exercise and practical food education in schools.
East Witton WI – North Yorkshire West Federation *2003*

57. Family planning

This meeting urges the Government to make it mandatory rather than permissive, as at present, for all Local Authorities to provide a full free Family Planning Service.
Anglesey Federation Executive Committee *June 1972*

58. Health of schoolchildren

That this meeting draws the attention of the Women's Institutes to the recently published report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education on 'The Health of the School Child' from which it appears that, in certain areas, the health of the rural child has not progressed at the same rate as that of the urban child;

further, this meeting would urge the Institutes to give their special attention to the suggestion contained in the report that Women's Institute members may be of practical help in the matter.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1926

That in view of the increasing number of central schools for older children, Women's Institutes should inquire into the possibility of co-operating with educational authorities in making adequate arrangements for school lunches, for change of footwear and where feasible for the provision of a rest-room.

Kelmscott WI – Oxfordshire Federation

June 1926

Sport for a Healthy Population

This meeting urges HM Government to: recognise that participation in sport is an essential factor in the creation of a healthy population; ensure the re-establishment of competitive (mainstream) sport in the curricula of all schools; and take such steps as are necessary to reverse the decline in the availability of sporting facilities for all citizens, particularly in light of the 2012 Olympics being awarded to the city of London.

Ludlow WI - Shropshire Federation

2006

59. Provision of School Nursing Service

This meeting urges HM government to ensure that all school-age children have access to a dedicated school nursing service that is local, responsive and informed by evidence of best practice.

Haughton, Faddiley & District WI, Cheshire

June 2001

60. Care of the eyes

That the Minister of Health be urged to examine the system of priorities for the provision of spectacles with special regard to children so that cases where delay would be harmful can be dealt with more speedily.

Little Lovell WI – Oxfordshire Federation

June 1950

This meeting urges the Government to retain the existing optical dispensing facility within the HS Ophthalmic Services.

Minster Lovell WI – Oxfordshire Federation

June 1984

61. Dental health

That having regard to the scant attention paid in many homes to the state of the children's teeth, this meeting welcomes the offer of the Dental Board to provide speakers on this subject for Women's Institute meetings and urges that full use be made of the facilities provided by the Local Authorities through the County and District Medical Officers.

Rothley WI – Northumberland Federation

June 1926

This it is advisable that Dental Treatment should be available for all insured young persons as soon as they are eligible to receive medical treatment and that the NFWI Executive Committee be asked to call attention of the Insurance authorities to this question.

Somerset Federation

May 1930

That this meeting, re-affirming the Mandate of 1926 on Care of Teeth, urges that more widespread instruction on the prevention of decay stressing importance of diet be given in ante and post-natal clinics, schools, WIs and other institutions.

Much Hadham Evening WI – Hertfordshire Federation

June 1960

62. Chiropody

That chiropody for men and women of pensionable age should be obtainable through the National Health Service and that, until this is possible, the powers of local authorities to make grants for Old People's Welfare, under the National Assistance Act 1948, Section 31, be more widely used for the provision of a chiropody service.

Polesworth WI – Warwickshire Federation

May 1957

63. NHS Dentistry

This meeting views with grave concern the increasing lack of NHS dentists and urges Her Majesty's Government to ensure that NHS dental treatment is available and readily accessible to all.

Kings Sutton WI – Northamptonshire Federation

1996

64. Venereal Disease

That the NFWI welcomes the action of the Ministry of Health in setting up a committee of experts representing the National Council for Combating Venereal Disease and the National Society for the Prevention of Venereal Disease and urges that questions of public health should be given due weight in education.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1922

That this meeting urges that the legal requirement of confidence (which should apply to all cases coming before local committees as well as to treatment at clinics and hospitals) in relation to the treatment of Venereal Disease, be included in the National Health Service Act by means of a clause in the forthcoming Amending Bill, thus ensuring that the successful system of free, voluntary and confidential treatment of Venereal Disease is an integral part of the Act.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1949

65. Vaccination

That this meeting considers it desirable to bring the question of vaccination before Women's Institute meetings with a view to studying it on its merits.

Oxfordshire Federation

May 1924

That this meeting is concerned by the fact that not all children are being vaccinated in early infancy. It urges the Ministry of Health to take further steps to publicise the fact that early vaccination is a necessary defence against smallpox and Women's Institutes to give every assistance by education and publicity.

Steyning WI – West Sussex Federation

June 1956

66. Rheumatism

In view of the amount of suffering and disability caused by rheumatism, this meeting urges the Minister of Health to give greater priority to research into the causes of the disease and to the treatment and rehabilitation of rheumatic cases. The meeting draws special attention to the difficulties of country dwellers and urges the Minister to encourage and help voluntary associations and statutory bodies to provide, equip and run an increased number of mobile physiotherapy units in country areas.

Nottingham Federation

June 1951

67. AIDS

This meeting of the WI urges its members to support the campaign of the Department of Health to inform the general public of the true facts concerning the disease AIDS.

Crickhowel WI – Powys-Brecknock Federation

June 1986

68. Abuse of the Elderly (training of staff working with older people)

In view of reports that some elderly people in hospitals and residential homes and their own homes suffer abuse, both mental and physical, including neglect, this meeting urges HM Government to ensure that all staff caring for the elderly must undergo specific training for a recognised qualification.

Amberley WI, Gloucestershire

June 2001

69. Young Carers

This meeting urges HM Government to ensure that full support is available to assist school-aged children who are carers in order that their welfare and education are protected.

Broughton Pastures WI – Buckinghamshire Federation

1998

70. Alleviating Loneliness

This meeting calls on every WI and the NFWI to work alongside health and social care providers and their local communities to raise awareness of the causes and impacts of loneliness, thus ensuring better identification of lonely people in order to be able to offer them the appropriate support and assistance.

North Cave WI, East Yorkshire Federation

June 2017

Women's Health

71. Cervical cancer tests

That the National Federation of Women's Institutes urges Her Majesty's Government and the Regional Hospital Boards to treat as a matter of urgency the provision of comprehensive facilities for routine smear test for cervical cancer.

Whitchurch on Thames WI – Berkshire Federation

June 1964

72. Osteoporosis

This meeting wishes to increase awareness of osteoporosis; to improve the education of women of all ages concerning the disease and urges HM Government to improve the advice and treatment of those most at risk.

Green Street Green WI – Kent-West Kent Federation

June 1964

73. Screening for breast cancer

Her Majesty's Government is urged to set up clinics where any woman can be screened for cancer of the breast.

Willoughby Waterleys WI – Leicestershire and Rutland Federation

June 1975

74. Paracetamol

This meeting urges that more publicity be given to the dangers of proprietary drugs containing paracetamol, which, if taken in excess, may lead to renal/liver damage and possible death.

Lymm WI – Cheshire Federation

June 1991

75. Endometriosis

This meeting wishes to increase awareness of endometriosis and urges HM Government to allocate finance to enable a higher level of research.

Studley Lunchtime WI – Warwickshire Federation

June 1992

76. A test for ovarian cancer

This meeting supports research into a test for ovarian cancer – the silent killer. It urges WI members to take part in research programmes and HM Government to set up clinics where any woman can be tested, as soon as a test becomes available.

Timbersbrook WI – Cheshire Federation

1999

77. Stroke Sufferers (Treatment and Therapy)

We urge HM Government to greatly improve the treatment and therapies available to stroke sufferers to achieve a far higher national standard of care.

Westonzoyland WI – Somerset Federation

2000

Agriculture and Food

78. Home production and world food

That recognising the growing importance of sidelines in agriculture County Federations be urged to give practical assistance to WI members in the development of their own resources for home food production.

That in particular they be asked to call attention to the urgent necessity of promoting the development of fruit culture and preservation in England and Wales.

Worcestershire Federation

May 1929

This meeting notes with satisfaction the action of the Ministry of Agriculture in bringing into force regulations for the application of the national Mark to all English flour with a view to standardising home-grown wheat... (Part of a resolution on the National Mark).

West Kent Federation

May 1930

This meeting requests the Ministry of Agriculture to consider the early extension of the National Mark to jams, honey, pickles, bottled fruits and vegetables in order to safeguard consumers and to enable them to distinguish goods made from a full percentage of home-grown fruit and vegetables from other kinds appearing on the market and also to prevent waste of vast quantities of produce.

Surrey Federation

May 1931

This meeting desires to see the recognition accorded to the war-time efforts of the small producer extended and urges the Government, in framing post-war agriculture policy, to make due provision for the views of the small producers, including facilities for organisation, training and marketing.

Worcestershire Federation

June 1943

That this meeting views with grave concern the world shortage of food and pledges itself to do everything in its power to increase home production and preservation.

Lancashire Federation

May 1946

In recognition of the universal shortage of food and resources, this meeting pledges itself to intensify the WI policy of education in production and preparation of food and urges Her Majesty's Government to provide for a stable, well-balanced agriculture policy for this country and to support United Nations action in securing a more regular and even distribution of resources in the world at large.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1975

This meeting urges the Women's Institutes to do all in their power to maintain national varieties of fruit, vegetables and farm crops.

Colehill Afternoon WI – Dorset Federation

June 1981

79. WI co-operative marketing

That present economic difficulties render it desirable that Women's Institute members should do their utmost to improve the quality and quantity of foodstuffs they raise, increasing the amounts offered for sale through Women's Institute co-operative markets or otherwise.

East Sussex Federation

May 1932

80. Industrial use of crops

This meeting urges HM Government to fund more research into the use of food crops in surplus and also non-food crops for industrial purposes and take positive steps to obviate the need for set aside.

Lincolnshire South Federation Executive committee

June 1993

81. Agriculture and rural development

That this meeting, realising the significant changes which are rapidly taking place in agriculture and rural life, calls on the NFWI Executive Committee and the County Federations to encourage Women's Institute members to study changes and to help to adapt new conditions to old.

Gloucestershire Federation

June 1938

82. Decline of the agriculture industry

We would urge HM Government to take all reasonable steps to halt the decline in the fortunes of the agriculture community and therefore to protect the rural infrastructure and the rural way of life which is a valuable part of our heritage.

Five Roads & district WI – Sir Gar Carmarthenshire Federation

1999

83. Local abattoirs

This meeting urges HM Government to support existing small abattoirs and to promote the re-establishment of local abattoirs, in order to minimise stress to animals, reduce the risk and spread of disease, and encourage the availability of locally produced meat.

Longtown & District WI – Herefordshire Federation

2002

84. Agriculture committees

That the NFWI urges the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure that among the representatives of women on the County Agricultural Committees there shall be included representatives of Women's Institutes.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1920

That this meeting directs the attention of all Institute members to the importance of the Young Farmer's Club movement as a valuable form of agricultural education and social training for boys and girls and as a means of increasing food production.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1925

That in view of the urgent national necessity of maintaining women's interest in agriculture production and rural life the WIs (or County Federations of WIs) address themselves to the task of securing adequate representation of countrywomen on the District Wages Committees and that the Institutes undertake by representations to the organisations concerned, and other appropriate means, to spare no effort to secure that there shall be a due proportion of women members on these Committees.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1926

That this meeting urges the Consumers' Committee of Great Britain recently appointed under the Agriculture Marketing Act to protect the interests of country as well as of town housewives and regrets that the Minister of Agriculture has not yet appointed to the Committee and person especially qualified to represent rural population.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1934

85. Milk and milkers

That the NFWI should consider the advisability of approaching the Ministry of Health with a view to prohibiting the sale of condensed skimmed milk from human consumption.

Cheshire Federation

May 1928

That in view of the importance of milk as a food of the people, WI members should endeavour to educate public opinion to demand milk that is clean and to support the authorities in seeing it is supplied and in enforcing the Milk and Dairies Act and Orders. Further, this meeting urges housewives to realise that clean milk can be made dirty by carelessness in the home.

Milford-on-Sea WI – Hampshire Federation

May 1933

This meeting welcomes the suggestion of the Government to promote a campaign for securing a purer supply through the improvement of herds and in connection with any scheme for providing a milk ration for school children urges that schools in rural areas should be given equal consideration with town schools.

NFWI Executive

May 1934

That since it is essential for the health of the nation that milk should be available for all consumers, this meeting urges the Government through the Milk Marketing Board or otherwise to take such action to reduce the retail price as would operate without detriment to the producer.

Dursley WI – Gloucestershire Federation

May 1936

This meeting regrets that adequate steps have not yet been taken by the Government to ensure that the price of milk is reduced to all needy parents of children under school age and since milk is a commodity essential to health and life of young children urges that this position should be remedied without delay, provided that this reduction in price does not adversely affect the producer.

Blewbury and Upton WI – Berkshire Federation

June 1937

That this meeting urges the Ministry of Agriculture to take further action in order to ensure the supply of clean, safe, raw milk and considers that forcing people to take pasteurised milk when they prefer raw milk is not fair to the community and prejudicial to the future of good farming.

Durham Federation

June 1945

This meeting urges the WIs to encourage and help the organisation of schemes for the provision of relief milkers which will enable workers on small dairy farms to have a day off each week and presses the Government to continue to encourage War Agricultural Executive Committees to organise such schemes.

East Sussex Federation

May 1946

This meeting urges the Government to take steps to maintain the British tradition of Doorstep Milk Deliveries.

Willington WI – Derbyshire Federation

June 1978

Farmgate Milk Prices

“This meeting urges WI members to do all in their power to raise public awareness of the unfair difference between the retail prices of milk and the price paid to the farmer.”

(Moved by Mrs Stella Fernyhough, Devon Federation Chairman and Mrs Sally Wilson, Devon Federation Treasurer, Federation Representatives for Devon Federation)

June 2005

86. Avoid food waste, address food poverty

“The WI calls on all supermarkets to sign up to a voluntary agreement to avoid food waste, thereby passing surplus food onto charities thus helping to address the issue of increasing food poverty in the UK.”

Snailbeach WI, Shropshire Federation

June 2016

Produce

87. Meat

That this meeting urges that research should be undertaken into the home bottling and canning of poultry, game, rabbit and meat.

Monmouthshire Federation

June 1949

Country of origin food labelling

“The meeting urges HM government to introduce clear and mandatory country of origin labelling on all meat, poultry and fish products sold in this country.”

Bengeo Evening WI - Hertfordshire Federation

June 2010

88. New York Dressed Poultry

This meeting strongly urges the Government to oppose the European Economic Community Directive which will in future prohibit the sale of New York Dressed Poultry in the shops.

Lancashire Federation Executive Committee

June 1974

89. Honey

That this meeting strongly urges the Government to take steps to prohibit the use of the word Honey on any foodstuffs which are not wholly produced by bees from natural sources.

Buckinghamshire Federation

June 1937

90. Bread and flour

That this meeting is of the opinion that for hygienic reasons all loaves of bread should be enclosed in paper bags not only for delivery in towns but also in country districts and suggests that the Ministry of Health be urged to make this a rule.

Stoke Poges WI – Buckinghamshire Federation

May 1929

... believing that it is of the utmost importance for the whole of the nation that bread should contain the greatest possible amount of nutriment, this meeting urges the Government to consider the possibility of taking steps to ensure that the bread sold to the public should be of high nutritive value, thus tending to increase the demand for home-grown wheat, which would have the further advantage of benefiting agriculture. (Part of a resolution on the National Mark)

West Kent Federation

May 1930

In view of the harmful effect of a low wheat extraction on public health, this meeting urges Women’s Institute members to make themselves conversant with the facts concerning the present food content of the loaf.

Essex Federation

May 1946

Animal Health

91. Eradication of brucellosis (contagious abortion)

This meeting urges the Ministry of Agriculture to speed up the eradication of Brucellosis, with its potential of causing Undulant Fever in man.

Eridge WI – East Sussex Federation

May 1968

92. Foot and Mouth Disease

That this meeting urges the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to give nation-wide publicity to the danger of the spread of Foot and Mouth Disease by the indiscriminate disposal of uncooked bone and offal.

Rattery WI – Devon Federation

June 1959

93. The control of rabies

This meeting pledges its full support for any measures which Her Majesty's Government considers necessary for the prevention, control or eradication of rabies in the United Kingdom.

Essex Federation Executive Committee

June 1976

94. Foot and Mouth Crisis

This meeting calls upon HM Government to order a thorough and fully independent investigation into the causes, consequences and handling of the recent Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak, and to take the necessary action at all levels to ensure a sustainable future for farming and our rural communities.

NFWI Board of Trustees

June 2001

Food Safety

95. Toxic chemicals in agriculture and chemical hazards to food

That this meeting is gravely concerned at the risks associated with the use of highly poisonous sprays, insecticides and weed-killers and urges the Government to exercise more stringent control over their use and also all users to make themselves more familiar with recommended safety precautions and methods of use.

Cookham WI – Berkshire Federation

June 1960

That this meeting asks the Government to speed research into the effects of health of the increasing use of chemicals in the production and processing of food and asks that all chemical hazards to foodstuffs be kept under stricter control.

Horsted Keynes WI – East Sussex Federation

May 1962

That this meeting requests the Government to ban the use of the artificial sweeteners known as 'cyclamates' in sweets, foods and drinks until more exhaustive tests as to their long-term and cumulative effects have been carried out.

Cookham WI – Berkshire Federation

June 1969

96. Genetically modified food

The NFWI urges Her Majesty's Government to introduce a minimum five year moratorium on the commercial growing and import of genetically engineered foods.

Ickenham Village Afternoon WI – Middlesex Federation

1999

97. Colouring matter in food, drink and medicine

This meeting urges HM Government to require that items of food, drink and medicine shall be labelled clearly so that the purchaser may easily identify each chemical colorant.

Hall Green (Hutton) WI – Essex Federation

June 1982

98. Irradiation of food

This meeting urges Her Majesty's Government not to legalise the irradiation of food in Great Britain until a reliable test is available to determine whether goods have been treated and more is known about the effects of irradiation.

Huxley and Hargrave WI – Cheshire Federation

June 1987

99. Disposal of fallen stock

This meeting urges HM Government, in the interest of public health, to ensure that there is an adequate regional network for rendering and disposal sites to deal with fallen stock.

Buckinghamshire Federation Executive Committee

June 1992

100. Food Hygiene

That this meeting... being convinced of the national importance of healthy home life urges the necessity for instruction of women and girls in the hygiene of food and drink ... (Part of a resolution on Health Policy)

Berkshire Federation

June 1927

That this meeting wishes to register a protest against the dirty way in which food is handled, distributed and served in this country and urges the Women's Institutes to help the authorities in every possible way to remedy these deplorable conditions.

Dane Hill and Chelwood Gate WI – East Sussex Federation

April 1948

The members of the National Federation of Women's Institutes welcomes the Clean Food Bill now before Parliament. They pledge themselves to maintain a high standard of cleanliness in their own homes and to demand it in public places especially at Women's Institute gatherings.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1954

In order to avoid risks to health, this meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to legislate that all food which is deep frozen initially and subsequently thawed for sale to the public should be labelled accordingly.

Dunkerton WI – Avon Federation

June 1980

101. Bovine Somatotropin (BST)

This meeting urges HM Government to exercise all its power to ban the use of Bovine Somatotropin and to withhold the granting of product licences for distribution of BST products in this country.

Market Bosworth WI – Leicestershire and Rutland Federation

June 1990

102. Food Labelling

This meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to ensure that food is labelled with all the contents stated to avoid the hazards of a fatal allergic reaction from hidden ingredients.

Quintrell Downs WI – Cornwall Federation

1995

103. Importation of foodstuffs

In the interests of the health of both the people and animals of this country, this meeting urges NFWI to put pressure on the Government to implement stricter controls on the importation of foodstuffs into this country.

Penybontfawr WI – Powys-Montgomery Federation

2002

104. GM crops

In the light of growing evidence that the current generation of GM crops are beneficial for neither people nor planet, this meeting strongly opposes the growing of GM crops in the UK and calls on HM Government to prohibit their cultivation.

Belmont and District WI, Herefordshire Federation

2004

Education

105. Adult education

That this meeting recommends the NFWI Executive Committee to represent to the Government the great need for the continuance and development of adult education in rural districts and the possibilities of economy by using the assistance of voluntary societies in this work.

Oxfordshire Federation

May 1922

That this meeting expresses its cordial appreciation of the valuable assistance given to the Institute Movement by those county councils which have aided the Women's Institutes in their areas by providing lectures, demonstrations and educational facilities generally and would urge all County councils to make full use of the opportunities for the development of adult education in rural areas afforded by the Women's Institute Movement.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1924

That this meeting welcomes the suggestion of a Women's Institute College, notes with satisfaction the power to provide grants for such a purpose in Clause 100(1)(b) of the Education Act 1944 and instructs the Executive Committee to make the necessary arrangements.

Oxfordshire Federation

June 1945

106. Agricultural Education

That the County Federations of WIs be urged to approach their County Councils in order to secure the appointment of a representative of the County Federation Executive Committee on the Committee dealing with the agricultural education of women in the country.

Bayford WI – Hertfordshire Federation

May 1922

107. Practical education for rural life

That the WIs be urged to approach their Local Education Authorities and ask them to endeavour to ensure instruction for all girls of twelve years of age upwards in plain cooking and such other domestic subjects as can be conveniently coupled therewith; further, that the NFWI be asked to emphasise to the Board of Education the importance which the WI movement attaches to this matter.

Merioneth Federation

May 1924

That as there is an ever-increasing demand in the Institutes for demonstrations and classes in dressmaking, cookery and housewifery, the NFWI should consider the possibility of arranging for short courses in domestic science, to include food values and household budgeting for WI members and should urge the county and other authorities to have special consideration for the needs of rural areas both in the provision of teachers and in the conditions regulating classes.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1927

That this meeting urges the Ministry of Agriculture to improve and extend the provision of such special education for women as shall fit them for the women's side of indoor and outdoor farm life in this country and overseas.

Gloucestershire Federation

May 1927

That the NFWI should use its influence for obtaining due recognition of the importance of training in home management for all girls.

Peppard WI – Oxfordshire Federation

May 1928

That this meeting urges the WIs of England and Wales to make a special study of the recently published Interdepartmental Committee's Report on the Practical Education of Women for Rural Life (Denman Report).

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1928

That this meeting urges the National and County Federations to take such steps as seem advisable towards securing the practical application of the recommendation contained in the Report on the Education of Women for Rural Life.

Lindsey Federation

May 1929

Having regard to the desirability of comprehensive development of training in domestic subjects, this meeting:

1. records its appreciation of the Ministry of Agriculture's action in recognising rural domestic economy as a branch of the agricultural education of women;
2. urges the Education Authorities, when considering the new arrangements consequent on the raising of the school-leaving age, to see that the provision made meets the needs of women as well as of girls;
3. pledges WIs to do all in their power to co-operate with the Local Education Authorities (authorities for general and agricultural education) in meeting the present urgent need for such instruction.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1930

That this meeting, recognising the strong and growing demand on the part of country-women for instruction in rural domestic economy, urges the Ministry of Agriculture to provide facilities for training in this subject, as recommended in the Denman Report.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1931

This meeting urges the appropriate authorities to make provision for advice and instruction to smallholders and domestic producers on their holdings and wishes to draw particular attention to the need for the appointment of Rural Domestic Economy teachers in all counties.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1946

That this meeting, whilst appreciating the development of Rural Domestic Economy instruction, asks for increased facilities for the further education of women and girls in agricultural and allied subjects, particularly through Farm Institutes; and that a fixed number of places for women be reserved at Agricultural Colleges or Farm Institutes.

Addingham WI – Yorkshire Federation

June 1951

This meeting asks the Secretary of State for Education and Science, as a matter of urgency, to reconsider his decision to close Studley Agricultural College in 1969 and affirms its belief that both men and women should have equal rights to choose to study at a single-sex college if they so desire.

Studley WI – Warwickshire Federation (Urgency Resolution)

June 1967

108. Crafts

Having regard to the present inequality in the standard of plain sewing as taught in rural elementary and secondary schools, this meeting urges Women's Institutes to approach their local authorities with a view to obtaining a uniformly high level in the teaching of this subject under any new arrangements consequent upon the raising of the school-leaving age.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1930

That since it is the policy of the National Federation of Women's Institutes to promote the teaching of handicrafts for home-making and as a leisure-time occupation and since the present high standard of craft work in the Women's Institutes would not have been attained but for the generous grants of money received for this purpose from HM Government, this meeting endorses the action of the Executive Committee in agreeing as a method of national service to administer for a limited period a special grant to assist in the teaching of such crafts in Occupational Centres for the unemployed.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1934

That this meeting is of the opinion that the teaching of plain sewing and mending in senior and junior elementary schools should be given pre-eminence over less useful crafts and urges the NFWI to approach the Board of Education in this matter. Further, that amongst the qualifications of at least one of the teachers in each school there should be the ability to teach plain sewing.

Wiltshire Federation Executive Committee

June 1937

Her Majesty's Government is urged to recognise the importance of the Crafts in an increasingly mechanised and leisured society and afford them support comparable to that given to the Arts.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1970

109. Libraries

That this meeting of countrywomen desires to put on record its appreciation of the work done by the United Kingdom Carnegie Trustees for country people and in particular of the great benefit conferred by the establishment of rural libraries.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1928

This meeting urges H.M. Government to maintain support for local libraries, as an essential local educational and information resource.

Nedderton WI, Northumberland Federation

2011

110. Education in nutrition

That in the opinion of this meeting the syllabus on the Hygiene of Food and Drink, as adopted by the Board of Education for use in schools, should be made more widely known by lectures at Institute meetings.

Fotherby WI – Lindsey Federation

May 1925

Since good nourishment is the foundation of national health, this meeting urges Institute members to use their exceptional opportunities for spreading and putting into practice knowledge of the choice and preparation of food.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1935

111. Skills for Living

Recognising that the teaching of cookery, food hygiene, nutrition, budgeting and parenting skills are fundamental to the nation's well-being, this meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to make these subjects a compulsory part of the National Curriculum, particularly with reference to key stage 3 pupils.

Lancashire Federation Council

1996

112. Educational opportunities

That the Minister of Education be strongly urged to ensure that equal facilities for full education, including when necessary, adequate maintenance, from the nursery school to the highest technical and university standard, be provided for all children able to benefit from it, in town and country alike, and that machinery to implement this be set in motion immediately.

Newdigate WI – Surrey Federation

June 1943

This meeting urges Local Education Authorities to fulfil their obligations under the Education Act 1981 and the Education (Special Educational Needs) Regulations 1983 by providing sufficient adequately trained teachers to meet the special educational needs arising from dyslexia.

North Perrot WI – Somerset Federation

June 1986

113. Student Grants

In order to minimise a waste of talent, this meeting urges HM Government to reinstate a realistic living grant to support students in higher education when they come from families of limited income.

Tibberton and Taynton WI – Gloucestershire Federation

1996

114. Nursery education

This meeting calls upon the Government to give high priority to the provision of nursery education for all children.

East Peckham WI – West Kent Federation

June 1972

115. Primary schools

That this meeting, recognising the value of the school as a centre of village life, urges the Local Education Authorities when planning the future pattern of education in their areas, whenever possible, to provide well-equipped and adequately staffed junior schools in the villages and where grouping is necessary to place the new schools in rural areas. Further that Women's Institutes should do all in their power to help the Local Education Authorities in their efforts to solve the problem of junior schools.

NFWI Executive committee

May 1946

This meeting views with deep concern the fate of villages whose schools have been closed within the decade. It urges Her Majesty's Government and Local Authorities to restrict the closure of small schools after considering the effects not only on the children but on village communities as a whole.

Hannington WI – Hampshire Federation

June 1979

116. Senior schools

That this meeting, realising the importance of education in national life, urges Women's Institutes to study the proposals for school reorganisation in their own areas. In the case of children remaining at school until fifteen, it is urged that in the last two years of their school life the girls should receive instruction in domestic subjects and in the case of boys special training should be given with regard to their future employment.

Kemerton WI – Gloucestershire Federation

May 1936

This meeting feels strongly that when new senior schools for country children are being provided they should whenever possible be built in rural areas and not in industrial towns, provided the necessary transport will be available.

Somerset Federation

June 1939

This meeting views with growing concern the number of boys and girls who leave Secondary Grammar Schools before they take their General Certificate of Education and urges Women's Institutes in England and Wales to do all in their power to encourage parents and guardians to allow their children to remain to complete the full educational course.

Berkshire Federation Executive Committee

June 1953

117. Education in duties as parents

That this meeting, in recognition of the fact that school is the institution through which most young people pass, urges the Local Education Authorities and Governing Bodies to encourage Head Teachers to give full consideration to the preparation of children, both during their school life and during any further period of education, for their duties and responsibilities as parents. And that, as home training is equally important with that of school, the NFWI should do all in its power to encourage and assist parents in giving their children the moral and spiritual guidance which is lacking in many homes today; and thus co-operate in this matter with their schools.

West Kent Federation Executive Committee

June 1956

118. Women school managers (governors)

That it is the opinion of this meeting that in all schools under the Local Education Authorities there should be at least one woman on the Board of Management and that Women's Institutes should do all in their power to secure this.

Rothley WI – Northumberland Federation

May 1933

119. School meals and milk

That Women's Institutes should inquire into the possibility of co-operating with the educational authorities in making adequate arrangements for school lunches...

Kelmscott WI – Oxfordshire Federation (Extract from resolution)

June 1926

... and in connection with any scheme for providing a milk ration for school children urges that schools in rural areas should be given equal consideration with town schools.

NFWI Executive Committee (Extract from resolution)

May 1934

That in view of the importance to national health of the right feeding of children, this meeting urges:

- i. The Local Education Authorities to extend and improve their existing arrangements for dinners in Elementary Schools.
- ii. Parents to take full advantage of such provision where it exists and in particular asks HM Government to arrange that milk for cooking purposes in school canteens can be purchased at the same price as that for drinking under the Milk-in-Schools Scheme.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1939

That this meeting, while appreciating the progress which has been made in the School Meals Scheme, notes that there are still many schools without canteens and urges: (1) Local Education Authorities to accelerate their arrangements (which should not be wholly dependent on voluntary effort) so that all schools may be served; (2) parents to take full advantage of such provision where it exists.

Norfolk Federation

June 1943

120. Vocational training

This meeting calls upon the Government to concentrate its efforts in promoting and strengthening modern apprenticeship schemes to provide skilled workers for the future.

Gosforth WI – Cumbria-Cumberland Federation

2003

Environment

121. Agenda 21

This meeting urges all WI members to support 'Agenda 21' and to work to further its social, economic and environmental aims.

122. Pollution

In view of the ever increasing danger from pollution of man's whole environment, the members of the NFWI undertake to do all they can to prevent further damage in their own neighbourhood and this meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to take immediate preventative and remedial action.

West Suffolk Federation Executive Committee

June 1970

123. Oil

That in view of the urgent necessity for national and international action for the clearing of our seas from oil pollution (waste oil thrown over from ships) Women's Institutes all over the country are asked to consider the matter seriously and to urge the Government to take the necessary steps without delay for stopping the further pollution of our seas and coastal shores and thus removing the terrible menace to the life both of our sea birds and fish.

Isle of Wight Federation

June 1927

124. Water

That this meeting deplores the large-scale pollution of rivers and streams in rural areas caused by trade effluents, more particularly from concerns dealing with the manufacture of milk products, by which many hitherto pure streams have been turned into open sewers, in which no creature can live and which are rendered unfit for any domestic purpose or for cattle to drink. The meeting calls upon the Government to take steps to remind Local Authorities of their statutory duties and to initiate new legislation on the subject.

Shropshire Federation

May 1936

In view of the increasing danger to livestock and other animals and the spoiling of beaches and countryside caused by non-perishable containers this meeting urges the Government to assist and hasten research into the production of disintegrating plastic packaging materials.

Leigh WI – Surrey Federation

June 1971

This meeting views with deep concern the dangers to marine life from over-exploitation and pollution and urges that the effect of these should be more closely monitored and controlled internationally.

Brixham WI – Devon Federation

June 1978

The WI urges Her Majesty's Government and other bodies responsible for water quality to reduce water pollution.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1988

Microplastic fibres are shed from synthetic clothing with every wash and are the main contributors to microplastic contamination of the oceans. The NFWI calls on Government and industry to research and develop innovative solutions to this problem in order to stop the accumulation of microplastic fibres in our oceans.

Ashley Green WI, Buckinghamshire Federation

June 2017

125. Acid rain

This meeting urges HM Government to take steps now to reduce the emission of sulphur and nitrogen oxides from power stations in order to reduce acid rain.

Surlingham WI – Norfolk Federation

June 1985

Care of our environment

“This meeting calls on WI members to take further action to reduce waste and conserve resources in their own homes and communities; to lobby manufacturers, retailers and decision makers to reduce waste in the production, packaging and transportation of public and consumer goods.”

(Moved by NFWI Board of Trustees)

June 2005

Air

126. The ozone layer and chlorofluorocarbons

In view of the depletion of stratospheric ozone, this meeting urges WI members to do everything in their power to discourage manufacturers from using chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in either products or processes and urges Her Majesty's Government to make labelling mandatory for all products that contain CFCs.

Corfe WI – Somerset Federation

June 1988

127. Nuclear tests

In view of the potential dangers of radiation to future generations this meeting urges the NFWI to combine with other women's organisations throughout the world in order to persuade all governments to reduce experimental nuclear explosions in the atmosphere to an absolute minimum.

Fetcham Afternoon WI – Surrey Federation

May 1962

128. Anti-noise campaign

That this meeting urges support for the anti-noise campaign.

Heamoor WI – Cornwall Federation

May 1960

129. Deforestation

This meeting views with deep concern the deforestation of the surface of the earth and its disastrous consequences. It urges individuals and organisations to do all in their power to impress upon the Government the need to halt extensive damage being done to the ecological balance of our planet.

Genau'r Glyn WI – Dyfed Ceredigion Federation

June 1989

Conservation

130. Countryside

That this meeting welcomes the action of HM Government in introducing legislation to control ribbon development.

Dorset Federation

May 1935

That this meeting views with alarm the increasing amount of building on the coasts of the British Isles and with a view to the protection of such unspoilt coast line as now remains, calls upon HM Government to remind Local Authorities of their powers under the Town and Country Planning Act and if necessary to increase these powers and further urges that the footpaths round the coast formerly patrolled by the coastguards should be preserved for public use and enjoyment.

Whitecross WI – Cornwall Federation

May 1936

In view of the fact that the present provisions for town and country planning are proving inadequate for the protection of our national amenities, this meeting of countrywomen urges the Government to set up immediately a co-ordinating authority with power:

- i. to deal effectively with rapidly increasing ruination of our countryside and coast, our hillsides and woodlands, our lovely old buildings and the farmlands which produce our food, and
- ii. to preserve wide areas of special beauty near populous districts for the health and enjoyment of this and future generations.

West Kent Federation

June 1938

That this meeting deplores the wastage of good agricultural land and requests the Planning Authorities to ensure that before planning permission is granted for the use of such land for building sites, full use should be made of all possible sites, either those left derelict by the demolition of old property or of prepared sites which have not been fully developed through change of plans. Further, that the land requirements of the Services should receive more careful consideration.

Durham Federation

June 1953

That the WI Movement exert its influence to conserve our countryside to the best advantage of the whole community.

Mount Rayleigh WI – Essex Federation

June 1969

This meeting urges HM Government and planning authorities to ensure that full use is made of the possibilities for in-filling redevelopment and the use of derelict and waste land, before granting planning permission to develop green field sites.

Uley WI – Gloucestershire Federation

June 1984

131. Wild flowers

That the rapid widespread destruction of wild flowers throughout England should be thoroughly discussed by Women's Institutes with a view to taking such steps as may appear most effective to prevent such destruction. That the NFWI Executive Committee be instructed to support, when considered advisable, the Wild Plant Conservation Board in representations the Board may make to the Government on the subject and that the co-operation of the Townswomen's Guild be invited.

Colesbourne WI – Gloucestershire Federation

June 1937

128. SOS for Honey Bees

“Honey Bees play a vital role in the pollination of food crops and in our environment. In view of concerns about the accelerating decline in the UK honey bee population, this meeting urges HM Government to increase funding for research into Bee Health.”

Hindon & Fonthill Bishop WI - Wiltshire Federation

June 2009

129. Public footpaths

That this meeting ... urges that the footpaths around the coast formerly patrolled by coast-guards should be preserved for public use and enjoyment. (Part of a resolution on the Conservation of the countryside)

Whitecross WI - Cornwall Federation

June 1937

That this meeting urges the Government to introduce legislation to carry through the recommendations with regard to public footpaths, as outlined in the Report of the Committee on 'Footpaths and Access to the Countryside', provided the interests of the owner of the land are safeguarded and that parents and teachers in town and country co-operated in teaching the children country manners – not to leave farm gates open for cattle to stray and not to break down fences, etc.

Cambo WI – Northumberland Federation

April 1948

130. Buildings

That in view of the destruction of ancient buildings still continuing throughout the country, this meeting recognises the desirability of strengthening the powers of the Ancient Monuments Act of 1913 and urges Women's Institutes to study this question particularly with a view to assisting in the preservation of ancient buildings in their own locality.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1930

131. Housing

The meeting urges all levels of government (national, regional and local) to make the regeneration of brownfield sites in urban areas a priority in the planning of housing development.

Haddenham Witchert WI – Buckinghamshire Federation

1998

Water Supply

That this meeting realising the vital importance to villagers of an adequate water supply and that water schemes for urban districts are rapidly increasing in number, urges the Ministry of Health to press for the establishment of Regional Water Committees so that the interests of the rural areas may be protected and town and country consult together over the solution of their joint problem. That further this meeting instructs the NFWI Executive Committee to support on behalf of the Institutes any proposed alteration in the law which would result in County Councils being empowered to make grants from their funds towards the cost of rural water schemes.

Lancashire Federation

May 1928

This meeting welcomes the stimulus to rural water-supply schemes given by the 1929 Local Government Act and 1929 Development Act and in view of the pressing need in country districts for improved and adequate water supplies urges Women's Institutes to press their County Councils to take the initiative in the formation of advisory Regional Water Committees so that in the matter of water supplies the interests of town and country may be considered jointly.

Berkshire Federation

May 1930

In view of the increased consumption of water for domestic, industrial and agricultural use, this meeting urges the Government to ensure the protection and preservation of this country's rivers, streams and ponds and to limit abstraction of water from underground sources; further to promote long term planning and co-operation between regions.

Blewbury WI – Oxfordshire Federation

June 1993

That in view of the acknowledged inadequacy of the rural water supply over a large part of this country which is a menace to health and entails great hardships to residents in villages and scattered farms, this meeting urges that Institutes should seek to co-operate with the proper authorities by collecting and supplying tabulated information as to the conditions and needs of their area. Further, that in view of the very serious water shortage of the year 1933, especially in many parts of rural England, the Ministry of Health be urged not only to press on with its scheme for improving the water supply for the whole country but also to co-operate with County Councils, Rural and District Councils for temporary measures to secure immediate adequate supplies of water to all districts. Further, that the Ministry of Health in making contributions to local schemes under the Rural Water Supplies Act 1934 and the Ministry of Agriculture under the new grant for improving the milk supplies of the country be urged to take into consideration the pressing needs of dairy farms in this connection.

Northumberland Federation

May 1934

That this meeting is of the opinion that the three main services – water, sewerage and electricity – should be a national responsibility and that it should be possible to compel Local Authorities to take necessary action to ensure that adequate provision is made in the country as well as in the town.

Essex Federation

June 1943

That this meeting urges the Ministry of Health to see that plans for new houses make provision for all water pipes and soil pipes to be placed inside the building so as to obviate the risk of freezing in cold weather and further that water cisterns and pipes should be placed in sheltered positions and given adequate protection and that water mains outside should be placed at sufficient depth in the ground to avert all possibility of freezing.

Much Hadham WI – Hertfordshire Federation

May 1947

That in view of the long delay in getting main water supplies and sewerage to villages as advocated repeatedly by the NFWI, this meeting urges the Minister of Health to encourage and help Local Authorities to provide and install small-scale water-supply schemes such as boreholes, wells and other local headworks, with any necessary machinery and equipment, such provision to be regarded where possible as stage one of ultimate regional schemes. Further, this meeting urges that immediate attention be given to the appalling sanitary conditions in many rural schools.

Perranuthnoe and District WI – Cornwall Federation

June 1949

While this meeting recognises the need to provide adequate water supplies for both town and country it urges that such supplies should not be provided by the inundation of important food producing areas; in particular it calls upon both Houses of Parliament to resist any proposal to flood some twelve square miles of Enborne Valle which would deprive about 4,000 members of the rural population of their present homes and livelihood.

Thatcham WI – Berkshire Federation

June 1949

That this meeting deplors the flooding of valuable agricultural land for reservoirs which cannot keep pace with the enormously increasing demands for water in urban areas and urges Her Majesty's Government to accelerate the development of alternative sources of supply, such as distillation of sea water.

Breconshire Federation Council

June 1964

In view of an increasing public interest in water-based recreational pursuits and to encourage further commercial use this meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to provide more money for the restoration and maintenance of our inland waterways.

Aldenham WI – Hertfordshire Federation

June 1972

132. Sewerage and sewage disposal schemes

This meeting urges the Women's Institutes to press their Local Authorities to provide drainage and sewage disposal in the villages.

Wiltshire Federation

June 1937

That this meeting urges the appropriate Ministries to take immediate practical action to improve all inadequate sewerage systems with a view to preventing the pollution of our watercourses and seashores.

Southerndown WI – Glamorgan Federation

June 1958

This meeting urges the Government to alter its present policy advocating the postponement of certain rural sewerage and sewage disposal schemes and instead to encourage Local Authorities to provide this basic public health need for all sections of the community.

Holton-le-Clay WI – Lindsey Federation

June 1970

Energy

133. Electricity

That this meeting considers that a supply of cheap electricity in rural areas is essential and asks the NFWI Executive Committee to take such steps as may seem to them advisable to achieve this.

Gloucestershire Federation Executive Committee

June 1939

That this meeting is of the opinion that ... electricity should be a national responsibility and that it should be possible to compel Local Authorities to take necessary action to ensure that adequate provision is made in the country as well as in the town.

Essex Federation

June 1943

That this meeting, recognising the vital importance of agriculture to the whole community, urges the Government to speed up the provision of electricity in the countryside and to ensure that rural areas receive a fair share of such capital as is available for electrification.

Devon County Federation

May 1952

That in view of the hardships caused to village halls, educational establishments and voluntary and charitable institutions by the application of the commercial tariff for electricity to these premises, the Electricity Boards be asked to provide a separate tariff for such non-commercial consumers.

West Sussex Federation

June 1954

134. Nuclear power

This meeting, while in no way wishing to discourage intensive research into the possible uses of nuclear energy, urges the Government to postpone the building of the commercial fast breeder reactor until such time as a more satisfactory means has been discovered of disposing of the latent and permanent dangers of nuclear waste.

Glamorgan Federation Executive Committee

June 1977

In view of the recent nuclear disaster at Chernobyl and other nuclear accidents which have come to light, this meeting urges all governments of the world to declare a moratorium on the development of nuclear power until the risks and consequences have been fully assessed and the general public has indicated its acceptance of those risks.

Chalgrave WI – Bedfordshire Federation (Urgency resolution)

June 1986

135. Alternative sources of energy

This meeting urges HM Government to give greater priority to research into alternative sources of energy such as solar heating, the use of wind generators and wave-power, thus making more use of the natural resources as recommended in the sixth report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

Harracott WI – Devon Federation

June 1977

Renewable Energy

This meeting urges all levels of government to put in place legislation and policy requiring the use of renewable energy technologies in all new buildings, re-building and renovation.

2006

136. Coal

That this meeting, whilst recognising the urgent need for the maximum production of coal at this time, feels that the present opencast coal policy is being forced forward without adequate regard to its adverse affects on agriculture and amenities and to the quality of coal and urges the Government to give more attention to these aspects when selecting new sites for operation.

Warwickshire Federation

June 1950

Animal Welfare

137. League of Nations and animal welfare

That this meeting of delegates from WIs in England and Wales approves the action of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in endeavouring to secure international agreement for the protection of animals through the League of Nations, and pledges itself heartily to support its efforts.

Cambridgeshire Federation

June 1937

138. Performing animals

That in view of the cruelty entailed in the training of performing animals and the uselessness of the performances and the fact that most performing animals are trained abroad where there is no adequate provision as regards the prevention of cruelty, this meeting is of the opinion that a law should be passed prohibiting the importation of performing animals into Great Britain.

Shropshire Federation

May 1930

139. Trapping of animals

That in view of the sufferings entailed by the present methods of trapping wild animals for fur, this meeting urges women of England and Wales to ask for and, when possible, to buy only humanely farmed furs or other furs humanely obtained, or artificial-fur fabric, and so to discourage cruelty and encourage employment in these British industries. This meeting further urges the Fur Farming industry to seek some method of marketing or marking its goods whereby they may be distinguished from the skins of trapped wild animals.

Girton WI – Cambridgeshire Federation

May 1931

That this meeting, feeling that the restriction of inhumane methods of rabbit-catching would stimulate invention of humane methods, urges prohibition of the use of steel-toothed traps.

Hauxley WI – Northumberland Federation

May 1936

140. Birds

That this meeting of the NFWI urges all women to support the principles of the Plumage Bill now before Parliament.

West Wittering WI – West Sussex Federation

May 1921

That this meeting welcomes the introduction of legislation to prohibit the sale of British live wild birds throughout the year and urges the Government to give facilities for such a measure.

Langton Matravers WI – Dorset Federation

May 1933

141. Control on killing of badgers

That the WI Movement urges legislation to prohibit any killing of badgers, other than under licence issued in circumstances where it is proved that they are causing material damage to agricultural and horticultural interests.

Willaston-in-Wirral – Cheshire Federation

June 1970

142. Traffic in horses

That this meeting urges the Government Department concerned to make the export duty on old horses sufficient to prevent their exportation to other countries.

Hatch End WI – Middlesex Federation

May 1922

That this meeting, having regard to the national interest in horses, considers that the long campaign against the export of horses for butchery should be carried to a successful conclusion in Animals' Year 1935 and pledges itself to use every effort to secure the passage of a Bill on the lines of the one at present drafted.

Shurdington WI – Gloucestershire Federation

May 1935

That the National Federation of Women's Institutes uses every means possible to elicit the help of Associated Country Women of the World and kindred organisations of women in all the continents to reduce the suffering of live horses in transit and at slaughterhouses. Further, it welcomes the setting up of the 'Northumberland' Committee, and urges Women's Institute members to study the report when published and to take action to ensure that all regulations made in line with this resolution are carried out.

Topsham WI – Devon Federation

June 1953

143. Market conditions for livestock

That this meeting considers that the question of overstocking cows for sale is an urgent matter on which WIs should help to form an enlightened public opinion and strongly advocates more effective legislation to prohibit the sale of cows in the open market in an overstocked condition.

Spelsbury WI – Oxfordshire Federation

May 1947

That this meeting views with concern the inadequate accommodation for the reception of small livestock (ie poultry and small animals) at the local markets and asks the responsible authorities to secure the humane treatment of such livestock and to ensure that covering from sun and rain and drinking water are provided.

Rowsley WI – Derbyshire Federation

June 1951

144. Intensive rearing of livestock

That this meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to hasten the investigations into the allegations of cruelty involved in the intensive rearing of calves and other livestock and to take preventive measures immediately if these allegations be proved.

West Suffolk Federation Executive Committee

May 1965

145. Export of live animals for slaughter

That this meeting welcomes the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Export of Live Cattle to the Continent for Slaughter and urges the Government to carry out the recommendations to alleviate unnecessary suffering but is of the opinion that slaughter before export is the only real safeguard for these cattle.

West Suffolk Federation Executive Committee

May 1957

This meeting urges the Government to ensure that all animals exported for food should first be slaughtered in the United Kingdom.

Watlington WI – East Sussex Federation

June 1973

146. Humane slaughter

That the National Federation urges all WIs to use their influence to induce Local Authorities to adopt the model set of by-laws for slaughter-houses issued by the Ministry of Health and so save much unnecessary suffering.

Cornwall Federation

May 1921

That in view of the urgent need of slaughter reform and the proved efficiency of humane killers now obtainable, this meeting of women, composed of delegates from 2,700 Institutes, urges the Government to afford facilities for the Slaughtering of Animals Bill now before the House of Commons.

Partridge Green WI – West Sussex Federation

May 1923

That this meeting (1) requests the Government to introduce a Bill making compulsory the adoption of Clause 9b in the model by-laws of the Ministry of Health, thus securing the use of the humane killer in the

slaughter of animals; and (2) in the meantime, until such a Bill has been passed, urges each WI to work for the adoption and enforcement of the by-laws by its own Local Authority.

Isle of Ely Federation

May 1928

That this meeting urges the Prime Minister to arrange that facilities be given for the full consideration of the Slaughter of Animals Bill during this Session by the House of Commons so that England may not be behind Scotland in humane methods of slaughtering.

Cambridgeshire Federation

May 1931

Transport

This Federation deplors the continued withdrawal of bus and rail services in rural areas and urges the Minister of Transport to review the position concerning rural road and rail transport and take immediate steps for its improvement.

Yorkshire Federation Executive Committee

June 1956

That all public transport in rural areas should be so co-ordinated as to make it an efficient service to the community.

Somerset Federation Executive Committee

May 1963

This meeting, in the interests of rural life and the environment, urges the Government to formulate a comprehensive transport policy with special regard to the present disparity in expenditure on roads and railways.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1973

147. Bus services

That this meeting urges the Government to give priority to the adequate provision of transport facilities for shopping and essential purposes in rural areas, in particular giving a bus connection at least once weekly for all villages with the town in whose rural district they lie and that all delegates to this meeting ask their own Institutes to continue to press this matter. Further that buses serving rural areas should not carry short-distance passengers from the towns, thereby leaving the country people stranded.

Stoke Poges and Wexham WI – Buckinghamshire Federation

April 1948

In view of the difficulties and decreasing facilities of public transport this meeting urges that the relevant Road Traffic Acts be amended to allow for more flexibility in transport schemes in rural areas wherever necessary.

East Sussex Federation Executive Committee

June 1976

148. Half-fares for school children

That owing to the compulsory raising of the school-leaving age the authorities be requested to extend the 'half fare' travel concession to the age instead of terminating it at fourteen as at present.

Jarvis Brook WI – East Sussex Federation

June 1949

149. Women's Institute outings and the Road Traffic Act

This meeting urges that the Road Traffic Act 1934 be amended to allow the organisers of private coach parties to advertise their arrangements in a public place.

Hampshire Federation Executive Committee

June 1953

150. Size and weight of commercial vehicles

For reasons of safety and amenity the WI Movement objects to proposals now under review by the Ministry of Transport to increase the permitted size and weight of commercial vehicles.

Barrowby WI – Kesteven Federation

June 1970

151. Level crossing

That British Railways be urged to install some system which warns the public as well as the gatekeeper of an approaching train at all level crossings and that telephones be installed without delay at all isolated level crossings.

Marlesford WI – East Suffolk Federation

June 1950

152. Transport policy for the disabled

This meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to reconsider its whole policy of transport for disabled people with special reference to the phasing out of the invalid tricycle.

Sturton-by-Stow and District WI – Lincolnshire North Federation

June 1977

153. Motorcycles

This meeting proposes that all persons acquiring a motorcycle (new or second hand) and holding only a provisional licence should have to undergo an officially approved training scheme.

Calderbridge and Ponsonby WI – Cumbria-Cumberland Federation

June 1979

Planning

That it is desirable that Women's Institutes should interest themselves in the subject of town and regional planning; that Women's Institutes situated in any area for which a Town Planning Scheme is being prepared by the Local Authority should take every opportunity of examining and expressing their opinions on the proposals and that in appropriate cases they should offer their services to the Local Authority with a view to assisting in the preparation of a civic or regional survey; that where no Town Planning Scheme is in preparation, Women's Institutes should, from time to time, consider whether a scheme is in preparation, Women's Institutes should, from time to time, consider whether a scheme is needed for any part of the area with which they are concerned, whether to facilitate the realisation of its resources, to preserve its amenities, to improve its communications or in any other way to influence its development on the best and most appropriate lines and that where such need is found to exist and the Local Authority has taken no action, they should make representation to the Local Authority accordingly.

West Kent Federation

June 1926

That this meeting, representing 234,000 countrywomen of England and Wales, heartily welcomes the activities of those societies which are trying to prevent the disfigurement of rural scenery and of the amenities of towns and villages in all parts of the country by the unrestricted display of advertisements and urges all Institutes and County Federations to bring pressure to bear upon their County Councils to use their power by formulating and enforcing by-laws under the Advertisements Regulations Acts in order to check the growing disfigurement of the countryside.

Northumberland Federation

June 1927

That this meeting, while welcoming the Government Bill, urges the enforcement of a satisfactory policy with regard to residential caravan sites.

Shiplake WI – Oxfordshire Federation

May 1960

That local Parish Councils be notified and more general publicity be given by County and National Planning Authorities to any housing or development proposals which may be of public interest in order that the

community concerned may have full opportunity of understanding the issues involved and making its views known and the NFWI welcomes Circular no. 21/61 from the Minister of Housing and Local Government.
Middlesex Federation Executive Committee *May 1961*

In order to allow full public participation in planning, this meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to make financial aid more readily available to individuals and to formally constituted voluntary organisations when opposing applications at planning inquiries and other public local inquiries.
NFWI Executive Committee *June 1972*

The NFWI notes with concern the continuing decline of our high streets and the damaging effect this has on local communities. We call on every member of the WI to support their local shops and make the high street their destination of choice for goods and services. We call on decision-makers to work collectively, at all levels, to help bring an end to the decline of our high streets and to ensure that high streets flourish and provide a focal point for local communities.
NFWI Board *2013*

Waste

154. Refuse collection and disposal

... that this meeting would ask the Ministry of Health to urge all Parish Councils and other Local Authorities to provide proper facilities for the collection and destruction of rubbish.
Westmorland Federation (Part of a resolution) *May 1925*

That this meeting strongly urges the Government to examine very carefully the whole question of refuse disposal, including uncontrolled open tipping.
Burghill and Tillington WI – Herefordshire Federation *May 1965*

That this meeting calls upon HM Government to take action to ensure that the strictest control is carried out on the importation, treatment and disposal of toxic waste material to prevent any kind of pollution to the environment.
Gillingham Afternoon WI – Dorset Federation *June 1989*

155. Reclamation, re-use and recycling of waste

This meeting urges the Government to institute a national policy to co-ordinate and develop the reclamation, recycling and re-use of ingredients in domestic and industrial waste.
Chobham Evening WI – Surrey Federation *June 1974*

156. Litter

That Women's Institutes should realise that they can do valuable public service in helping to safeguard the beauty of the countryside by carrying out a vigorous anti-litter campaign; that this meeting would ask the Ministry of Health to urge all Parish Councils and other Local Authorities to provide proper facilities for the collection and destruction of rubbish and that Women's Institutes should specially encourage the schools to train the children in this matter.
Westmorland Federation *May 1925*

That this meeting requests the NFWI Executive Committee to inaugurate a campaign to preserve the countryside against desecration by litter of all kinds and urges every member of the Women's Institutes to make it a personal matter to mitigate this evil. Further, that anti-litter by-laws be more strictly enforced.
Northumberland Federation Executive Committee *June 1954*

Housing

That the provision of a sufficient supply of convenient and sanitary houses, being of vital importance to women in the country, County Federations and Women's Institutes are urged to bring pressure to bear upon their Local Councils and, through the National Federation, upon the Local Government Board to ensure that full advantage is taken in their districts of the Government scheme for State-aided-Housing.

Epping WI – Essex Federation

Oct 1918

That this meeting urges members of Women's Institutes to investigate the conditions prevailing in their districts in special relation to the new Government Housing Act, with a view to forwarding to the Executive of the NFWI any practical suggestions in order that, should they consider it advisable, they may make representations to the Local Authorities through the Ministry of Health or otherwise.

Durham Federation

May 1923

That in view of the danger to the countryside of unsightly buildings being erected for private as well as commercial use, thereby disfiguring the natural beauties, all Women's Institutes shall exert their influence, by co-operating with existing societies for the preservation of the countryside, to ensure that the new buildings are both practical to live in and in keeping with the character of the locality wherein they are erected. That the Urban and Rural District Councils be asked to co-opt members of the local Women's Institutes on to their Housing Committees so that the women's point of view shall be expressed. That Women's Institutes for their part should study the problem of rural housing and in particular should press their County Councils to adopt and put into operation before 1 October 1931 the Housing (Rural Workers) Act 1926.

Newton WI – Cambridgeshire Federation

May 1928

This meeting urges the National Federation of Women's Institutes to do all in its power to encourage the Local Authorities to make full use of the provisions of the Housing Acts, especially the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, in order to secure sufficient and sightly houses at low rentals in rural districts, that the building of cottages on main roads should be discouraged, that whenever possible, and advisable, reconditioning should be resorted to instead of demolition and that for these purposes Local Authorities should be urged to make use of the services of architects and to appoint women to serve on the Housing Committees.

Overbury WI – Worcestershire Federation

June 1938

That the Government be urged to take steps to expedite the modernisation of existing rural cottages where such modernisation can be efficiently, safely and economically effected for example by extension of the grant and loan available under the Rural Workers Housing Acts and to adjust the differences in rents between them and the new cottages built by the Local Authorities.

Wiltshire Federation

June 1945

This meeting urges the authorities concerned, when planning for the future, to give consideration to small villages, which are centres for the surrounding district with a view to such villages having a fair quota of new houses and essential services.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1947

That the Minister of Housing and Local Government should issue a circular urging Housing Authorities to consider, before making a Demolition or Clearance Order, the possibility of repairing old cottages in rural areas and making them habitable in accordance with present-day standards.

Westmorland Federation Council

June 1958

That this meeting welcomes the 'Hobhouse' Committee report 'Reconditioning in Rural Areas' and urges the Government to introduce legislation to give immediate effect to its recommendations.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1974

157. Homelessness

In order to alleviate the problem of homelessness this meeting urges Her Majesty's Government to review and take action on legislation adversely affecting the availability of rented accommodation.

Northamptonshire Federation Executive Committee

June 1976

158. Accommodation for the elderly

That the NFWI urges the housing authorities to consider the provision of improved accommodation for the aged in their own village.

Huntingdon and West Stoke WI – west Sussex Federation

May 1935

That this meeting welcomes the passing of the Poor Law (Amendment) (No.2) Act, whereby permanent inmates of Institutions who are sixty-five years of age and over may be granted up to 2s. a week pocket-money and urges Local Authorities to make use of their new powers.

Burton WI – Hampshire Federation

June 1938

This meeting urges Women's Institutes to draw the attention of the authorities to the pressing need for the housing and care of elderly and lonely people, including the provision of homes of rest for the elderly, sick and infirm, financed upon a contributory basis according to means and subsidised by the Government.

Potters Bar and Little Heath WI – Middlesex Federation

May 1946

This meeting regrets that so many homes for the elderly do not provide accommodation for married couples, thus causing great distress by the enforced parting of husband and wife. It urges all authorities concerned with such places to provide married quarters wherever necessary.

Rowledge WI – Surrey Federation

June 1969

159. Temporary accommodation

This meeting deplores the fact that with the coming of the National Health Service Act and the consequent taking over of many Public Assistance Institutions by the Hospital Boards very little accommodation has been left for use in emergencies. This meeting therefore urges that adequate accommodation be provided immediately under the National Assistance Act for stranded, destitute, homeless or old people 'in need'.

Great Hampden WI – Buckinghamshire Federation

June 1950

160. Building materials

That this meeting is glad to note that the urgent need of a research being made for a means of keeping down the prices of building materials is recognised.

Epping WI – Essex Federation

May 1923

Rural Services

161. Village halls and community facilities

That in post-war planning special attention should be given to the urgent need for well-built, well-lighted and well-equipped public halls in villages managed by Committees representative of village organisations.

Pentrevoelas WI – Denbighshire Federation

June 1945

This meeting urges that adequate community facilities be provided simultaneously with housing development.

Stokenchurch WI – Buckinghamshire Federation

June 1970

162. Closure of rural sub-post offices

In view of the increasing number of village post offices which are being closed, this meeting urges the Postmaster-General to improve the status and pay of sub-postmasters and sub-postmistresses by abolishing the unit system of remuneration and by introducing a flat-rate system of salary for sub-postmasters and staff. And now that holidays with pay are granted by the postal authorities they should be urged to provide a supply service of qualified clerks to enable village postmasters and mistresses to take advantage of this.

Madron WI – Cornwall Federation

June 1945

That this meeting urges the Minister of Posts and Telecommunications to examine the problems underlying the closure of so many Sub-Post Offices which is causing hardship in rural areas and to take remedial action.

Chignalls and Mashbury WI – Essex Federation

June 1971

163. Payment of Benefits at Post Offices

This meeting urges upon HM Government the importance of allowing people to continue to collect their pensions and benefits in cash at the Post Office beyond 2002.

Nettlebed WI – Oxfordshire Federation

2000

164. Sunday postal collections

This meeting urges the Post Office to reinstate the Sunday Postal Collection.

West Sussex Federation Executive Committee (Urgency resolution)

June 1977

165. Telephones

That this meeting representing 234,000 countrywomen living in rural parishes in England and Wales wishes to urge upon the Postmaster-General the vital necessity of facilitating telephone communication in the country districts and begs that there should be a considerable reduction in the amount at present required to be guaranteed before establishing Rural Exchanges and suggests that the Treasury be asked to review the revenue-earning capacity of the Telephone Service as a whole and not from each individual telephone station.

This meeting also urges the great need for the establishment of all-night service as experience has repeatedly proved the inadequacy of a system which ceases at 7pm especially in isolated districts, in cases of fire and sickness.

East Suffolk Federation

July 1927

That this meeting agrees that attention should be drawn to the present method of fixing telephone rentals, whereby subscribers living more than three miles from the telephone exchange are required to pay unreasonably high rentals and is of the opinion that the GPO should levy a uniform rental on all subscribers irrespective of where the telephone is located.

Libanus WI – Breconshire Federation

June 1959

166. Public telephone kiosks

This meeting considers that public telephone kiosks in rural areas are an essential service especially vital in emergency situations and as such should be protected by Government subsidy if necessary against recovery by British Telecom on commercial grounds.

Cornwall Federation

June 1982

Public Services

167. Public conveniences on railways

That this meeting calls the attention of the railway companies to the inadequate number and deplorable condition of the lavatories in most railway stations and trains in England and Wales and urges the provision of better facilities and that on long-distance trains there should be a special compartment, suitably fitted, where mothers with babies could attend to their needs in privacy. Further, that representations be made to the Minister of Health that the provisions of the Public Health Act in relation to sanitary conveniences be extended to apply to any sanitary conveniences to which members of the public have access, situated on the premises of a railway.

Brill WI – Buckinghamshire Federation

May 1946

168. Turnstiles in public lavatories

That the NFWI take necessary action to ensure the abolition of turnstiles in all women's conveniences and that the co-operation of kindred women's organisations be sought to secure this.

Littleham WI – Devon Federation

June 1956

Local Government

That it is advisable to have Women's Organisations such as Women's Institutes represented on Parish councils and District Councils and sub-committees to deal with health and housing.

Sundridge WI – West Kent Federation

May 1920

That it be the recognised duty of individual Institutes to educate their members in the powers of the Parish Councils, Rural District Councils and County Councils with a view to getting local women on all these bodies.

West Suffolk Federation

May 1921

That in view of the importance of Parish Council elections the Government be urged to change the method of election by show of hands to that secret balloting, which should be made compulsory.

Longton WI – Lancashire Federation

May 1923

That this meeting urges the Home Secretary to amend the Parish Councillors Election Rules 1934 so as to substitute a simple inexpensive form of ballot for a vote by show of hands and also that such elections be advertised in the local press.

Somerset Federation

May 1935

That this meeting wished to call the attention of the County Councils to the great inconvenience caused by the present system of registering births and deaths whereby people often have to go long distances to obtain a certificate and is of the opinion that arrangements should be made to enable registration to be made locally at more convenient centres and times.

Northamptonshire Federation

June 1938

That in view of the local knowledge of Parish Councillors and their availability to residents and in order to foster the community feeling within villages, this meeting is of the opinion that the status and power of Parish Councils should be increased.

Winwick WI – Lancashire Federation

May 1957

That this meeting views with concern the first published draft proposals of the Local Government Commission and deplores the policy by which small local authorities lose their identity.

Leicestershire & Rutland Federation Executive Committee (Urgency resolution)

May 1960

This meeting is concerned that, whatever the final structure proposed for the reform of local government, due provision should be made to ensure that rural views and interests are heard and acted upon.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1970

International

169. International understanding and co-operation

That this meeting urges all Women's Institutes and County Federations within the National Federation to encourage the study of the principles underlying the League of Nations.

NFWI Executive Committee

May 1921

That this meeting affirms the maintenance of peace to be the world's greatest present need and the vital concern of all women and therefore commends the study of the work of the League of Nations to all Women's Institutes.

Acton Burrell WI – Shropshire Federation

May 1924

That this meeting strongly supports the principle of the League of Nations.

NFWI Executive Committee

June 1926

That this meeting places on record the desire of the Women's Institute members to further closer relations with similar associations of women overseas where possible by interchange of visits with a view to mutual assistance and understanding.

Berkshire Federation

June 1927

That this meeting recognising the great need for mobilising public opinion against the acceptance of war as a necessity and the important part that women can take in doing so, urges every Women's Institute to study the work of the League of Nations and to consider how best to further the cause of world peace and further recommends that, should there be no branch of the League of Nations in the village, when a meeting on the subject is held it should be an open meeting.

Berkshire Federation

May 1929

That this meeting wishes to register its appreciation of the work done by HM Government in the direction of the reduction of armaments and whole-heartedly supports any further efforts on its part to induce the nations of the world to reduce expenditure on armaments by mutual agreement.

Gloucestershire Federation

May 1932

We desire to reaffirm our faith in the League of Nations and to urge HM Government to continue to do its utmost to secure a real measure of world disarmament; and further we authorise co-operation where advisable between NFWI and other organisations with a view to every possible effort being made to attain this end. Further we recommend that all Women's Institutes should endeavour during the next year to introduce into their programmes something that would interest their members in the activities and outlook of other nations.

Sowerby WI – Yorkshire Federation

May 1934

UN & ACWW

The members of the NFWI, recognising the important part women can play in promoting world peace and agricultural prosperity, pledge themselves to study the United Nations Organisation and to work by every means in their power for the promotion of friendship between nations by making contact with individuals and organisations in other countries, either direct or through international organisations such as the Associated Country Women of the World.

West Sussex Federation

May 1943

170. Women at the 1946 Peace Conference

That women delegates with special qualifications should share with men the honour and responsibility of taking an active part in the Peace Conference.

Oxfordshire Federation

June 1943

171. Post-war relief in Europe

That in order to promote better international understanding by giving practical help immediately after the war, the National Federation of Women's Institutes be asked to consider ways and means by which the Women's Institutes can help in the post-war relief in Europe.

Essex Federation

June 1943

172. Freedom From Hunger Campaign

That this meeting of the NFWI pledges support to the Five Year Freedom From Hunger Campaign.

Cornwall Federation Executive Committee

May 1961

173. World food

This meeting urges the UK Government and the European Community to establish a long-term programme of technical and financial assistance to increase the agricultural self-sufficiency of Third World countries.

Woodsetts WI - South Yorkshire Federation

June 1985

174. Antarctica

This meeting urges the Government to do everything in its power to persuade other countries, especially those which are party to the Antarctic Treaty, that Antarctica be declared a wilderness park within which the extraction of oil and minerals and other commercial, polluting and military activities should not be permitted.

Glensford WI - Suffolk Federation

June 1990

175. Women's Human Rights

This meeting deplores the fact that women's human rights continue to be violated worldwide and calls upon the governments of the world to adhere to the commitments made at the Fourth UN Convention on Women 1995, 'that women's human rights are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights' and to implement policies to this end.

NFWI Executive Committee

1999