



Each year members have the chance to put forward issues that you want the NFWI to campaign on or raise awareness about. Since the WI was formed in 1915, we've taken action on a wide range of topics that matter to women and their communities, from farm-gate milk prices to equality at work and family planning services. This year federations and WIs submitted 79 resolutions, which were narrowed down to a shortlist of eight at a meeting of representatives chosen in September.

Members are asked to consider these resolutions and select which they would like to take forward for discussion and final voting at the Annual Meeting next June. Successful resolutions become mandates that form the basis of campaigns and educational activity.

We recommend that WIs hold meetings to explore the issues. You can get briefing notes and other resources on each resolution from the Public Affairs department, on the campaigns section at www.thewi.org.uk and the WI Moodle.

Many thanks to all who submitted resolutions for consideration.

YOU decide!

Members have shortlisted eight potential new resolutions for NFWI campaigns. Here is the key information you need to help you select the one you want to go forward to the 2016 Annual Meeting

Ban the microbead



1 'Beach litter and floating plastic debris is more than just an unsightly problem. Scientific research shows that plastic microbeads, found in cosmetic and personal care products, are polluting the oceans and causing long-term health risks for both aquatic life and people. We call on WI members to take action to reduce use of plastic microbead-containing products in their own homes and communities; to raise awareness of the problems associated with plastic

microbeads; and to lobby manufacturers, retailers and see the UK Government following in the steps of the Netherlands and other countries in proposing a ban on the use of these products.'

Microbeads are particles of plastic that cannot be filtered out of waste water. The plastic soaks up toxins and is eaten by marine creatures, entering the food chain and ending up on our plates. Up to 80 tonnes of microbeads go down the drain and into the ocean every year, from the UK alone. Some

companies have pledged to phase out microbeads, and several US states are introducing bans.

TALKING POINTS

- The resolution fits the WI's ethos of consumer power and concern for healthy marine ecosystems.
- There are research gaps on the impact of microbeads on marine ecosystems.

MORE INFORMATION

- Beat the Microbead: www.beatthemicrobead.org/en
- Marine Conservation Society: www.mcsuk.org 01989 566017

Illustrations: Elisa Cunningham

British fruit: reviving our heritage



2 ‘This meeting calls on the WI to spearhead a national campaign that creates a fruit revival in local communities, celebrates our WI roots, promotes health, addresses food security and reduces the carbon footprint.’

The UK is only 12% self-sufficient in fruit production, contributing to the steady decline of UK food security. Fruit is also the second most wasted type of food (1.1m tonnes wasted in 2012), with huge economic,

environmental and health costs. That we import 88% of our fruit is not only bad news for British growers, but also for British consumers in terms of taste and nutritional value. Britons are losing touch with British fruit, such as the Decio apple which is in danger of extinction. The Government and consumers alike must do more to promote domestic fruit production.

TALKING POINTS

■ The WI’s Great Food Debates highlighted concern about people’s lost connection to food. Would this resolution

help to teach new skills, promote healthy eating and environmental stewardship, and contribute to the nation’s domestic food supply?

■ This resolution includes a number of complex issues, and many WIs will have discussed them as part of the WI Great Food Debate.

MORE INFORMATION

■ Incredible Edible Network: www.incredibleediblenetwork.org.uk 07818 570177

■ British Growers Association www.britishgrowers.org 01507 602427

Free sanitary protection for homeless women



3 ‘We call upon WIs to campaign for homeless shelters to be provided with a funding allowance to enable them to provide sanitary protection (tampons and towels) for homeless women.’

Menstruation is often a real problem for homeless women. Thanks to grant funding, items such as condoms and razors are routinely available in shelters, but sanitary wear is not consistently provided – an inequity campaigners say

is grossly unfair. Even where it is on offer, not all women can access shelters.

For women struggling to pull together enough money for food or shelter from the cold, sanitary products can become unaffordable.

TALKING POINTS

■ Shocked after reading an article about the humiliation and suffering of women living on the streets, this year three young people decided to take action on the issue. They launched a petition for free sanitary products and it

has now secured more than 100,000 signatures.

■ In addition to national campaigning, the WI – with our unrivalled network of groups across England, Wales and the Islands – can raise awareness and support efforts locally to ensure that all shelters have access to such products.

MORE INFORMATION

■ The Homeless Period: www.thehomelessperiod.com

■ St Mungo’s Broadway: www.mungosbroadway.org.uk 020 8762 5500

Prevention of sudden cardiac death in young adults in the UK



4 ‘Every week in the UK at least 12 apparently fit and healthy young people die suddenly from undetected cardiac abnormalities. The majority of these deaths are preventable. This meeting urges Her Majesty’s Government to put in place a national strategy for the prevention of young sudden cardiac death to ensure that all young people between the ages of 14 and 35 have access to heart screening by appropriately qualified professionals to identify

any potentially life-threatening conditions.’

Young sudden cardiac death (YSCD) is one of the biggest killers of people aged 35 and under in the UK. There is no national strategy to detect or treat the causes. Campaigners argue that many of these deaths can be prevented, as the underlying heart abnormalities can be detected by screening with electrocardiograms.

But the effectiveness of this approach is in question: in July 2015 the National Screening Committee recommended that a

universal screening programme should *not* be introduced.

TALKING POINTS

■ Deaths may be preventable; is doing nothing an option?

■ The resolution contradicts the decision by the National Screening Committee. It is unlikely this will be reversed.

MORE INFORMATION

■ Cardiac Risk in the Young: www.c-r-y.org.uk 01737 363222

■ National Screening Committee: www.legacy.screening.nhs.uk/suddencardiacdeath

First aid to save lives



5 ‘The NFWI considers that suffering could be minimised and lives could be saved if more members of the general population were trained in first aid. We propose that HM Government should promote first aid training in schools, colleges, universities and in the workplace. Furthermore, that all WIs should support and encourage first aid training and volunteer as first aiders in their communities so that we become a safer and

better-informed country ready to help save lives.’

First aid can buy vital time until professional help arrives, but only 7% of people in the UK would be confident that they could perform emergency first aid.

There is no requirement to teach first aid in UK schools or workplaces. Yet evidence shows that up to twice as many people survive cardiac arrest in countries where there is. WI members can train to be Community First Responders, providing care until the ambulance arrives.

TALKING POINTS

■ First-aid training offers valuable skills designed to help people cope in emergencies – it can save lives.

■ Do we need mandatory training to make a difference?

MORE INFORMATION

■ British Heart Foundation: www.bhf.org.uk 0300 330 3322

■ St John Ambulance: www.sja.org.uk 08700 104950

Mind or body – equal funding for care



6 ‘The National Federation of Women’s Institutes calls upon the Government to ensure that the care of people with poor mental health receives funding and respect equal to that provided for people with physical health problems.’

Mental health issues account for 23% of all ill health but they receive only 13% of NHS spending.

Just 25% of adults with depression or anxiety get any

treatment at all and demand for mental health services is increasing. The Mental Health Policy Group (MHPG) estimates that by 2030, 2m more adults will be affected.

The 2015 budget committed an extra £1.25bn for mental health, to enable the NHS to treat 100,000 young people by 2020. But MHPG believes that spending needs to be increased by at least an extra 10% in real terms by 2020, to achieve parity.

TALKING POINTS

■ There is an inequality in

care funding, meaning that spending on mental health does not match demand.

■ With calls for more joined-up care, should funding decisions be split between an arbitrary divide of mental and physical health?

MORE INFORMATION

■ Mind: www.mind.org.uk 020 8519 2122

■ Centre for Mental Health: www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk 020 7827 8300

Avoid food waste, address food poverty



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

Most food distributed by food banks has been donated by consumers. Only 2% of edible surplus food discarded by supermarkets is redistributed to charities and food banks.

If this was merely doubled it would save the voluntary sector £160m.

In 2013-2014, food banks run by The Trussell Trust fed 913,138 people nationwide: i.e., three days' worth of emergency food was given out by the Trust. Supermarkets are working with charities but more effort is needed. Shops and charities have limited capacity and resources. Food waste also has an environmental cost.

TALKING POINTS

■ The NFWI has no current

mandate to address food poverty, despite the fact that members have always been interested in this subject. This resolution would finally give us a mandate to do serious policy work on this issue.

■ This focus has included work on food waste. WIs already support food banks.

MORE INFORMATION

■ WRAP: www.wrap.org.uk

■ FareShare: www.fareshare.org.uk 020 7394 2468

■ The Trussell Trust: www.trusselltrust.org 01722 580180

Appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia



8 '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.'

Dementia is a global health crisis affecting more people than cancer, heart disease, or stroke. In the UK it is the leading cause of death for women, and 21m people have a close friend or relative living with the condition. People with dementia

occupy more than 25% of hospital beds, but being admitted can be extremely damaging to their health.

Carers are often not allowed to stay outside visiting hours. Yet their relatives can be distressed by unfamiliar surroundings, and being without their families or specialist support can actually worsen their health.

One-third of people with dementia, who are admitted to hospital for an acute – but unrelated – illness never return to their own homes.

TALKING POINTS

■ It is clear that despite Government guidance, not all hospitals are dementia friendly, yet. It would benefit the health of dementia patients if their carers were allowed to stay with them.
 ■ In today's economic climate is this campaign feasible?

MORE INFORMATION:

■ John's Campaign: www.johnscampaign.org.uk
 ■ The Alzheimer's Society www.alzheimers.org.uk
 0300 222 1122



AM 2016 RESOLUTION SELECTION FORM

The final resolution/s selected will be voted on at the Annual Meeting by WI link delegates.

STEP 1 After reading the background notes, make your mark (X) for the one resolution you **support the most** in the box provided.

STEP 2 Cut out the form and follow the instructions from your federation about how your resolution selection should be submitted. Your federation will let you know the date of the deadline.

TITLE OF RESOLUTION	SELECTION (X)
1 Ban the microbead	
2 British fruit: reviving our heritage	
3 Free sanitary protection for homeless women	
4 Prevention of sudden cardiac death in young adults in the UK	
5 First aid to save lives	
6 Mind or body - equal funding for care	
7 Avoid food waste, address food poverty	
8 Appropriate care in hospitals for people with dementia	

NAME WI

FEDERATION

DO NOT SEND your completed form to the NFWI office: any forms received by the NFWI directly from members will be considered invalid