



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 54: August 2020

Dear Member,

Welcome to the NFWI *Public Affairs Digest*, an e-update on all the latest WI campaigning news, delivered directly to your inbox.

If you know anyone in your WI who is interested in our campaigns, please direct them to the campaigns area of [MyWI](#) to sign up to receive this Public Affairs Digest.



Share



Forward

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The main priority for the NFWI is the safety and wellbeing of our members. If you haven't already, please visit [this link](#) for the latest, up to date government guidelines.

See more information about support [at the end of this Digest](#).

Take part in our survey on cervical screening

Access the survey at
thewi.org.uk/s/cervicalscreeningresearch

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Join the Make a Match campaign during Blood Cancer Awareness Month, September!

As part of our Make a Match campaign, we are working with the charity DKMS to spread awareness of the urgent need for more stem cell donors during Blood Cancer Awareness month this September.

Throughout the month, we will be sharing key information and busting myths on the topic via social media, and we encourage you to do the same.

We have developed a series of infographics and social media posts that you can use to spread awareness.

Download the social media [toolkit here](#) or share it from our [Facebook page](#) as we post.

We also want to hear from you. Have you made any fun plans to raise awareness of the need for stem cell donors, or have you had experience with donating stem cells or receiving a transplant?

To get in touch, [email us here](#).

WIs will also be receiving the August mailing this week, so please keep a look out for the Make a Match briefing which includes more information on our new campaign and how you can get involved.

You can also [download the briefing here](#).



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FOOD MATTERS

Household food waste in the UK has increased by nearly a third as Coronavirus lockdown restrictions have eased.

We're compiling a list of tips on how to reduce your household waste and want to hear from you!

Get in touch with your best and most creative tips for reducing household food waste by emailing us at pa@nfwi.org.uk.

Get in touch with your best food waste tips!

UK households waste 4.5m tonnes of food a year that could have been eaten, worth £14billion (Jan 2020) and household food waste in the UK has

increased by nearly a third as Coronavirus lockdown restrictions have eased.

We're compiling a list of tips on how to reduce your household waste and want to hear from you. Get in touch with your best and most creative tips for reducing household food waste by emailing us at pa@nfwf.org.uk.



Submit a resolution

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A resolution is a call to action on a current social or political issue. Any WI or federation can submit a resolution. You don't need to be an expert on the issue:

- Choose an issue that you are passionate about
- Read our Resolution Submission Guidance
- Carry out some research on why the issue is important
- Be specific about what you want to change
- Call on a particular body or organisation (such as the Government) to do something

Your chance to create change

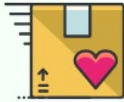
For more information visit www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns or contact pa@nfwf.org.uk

The **deadline** to submit your resolution is
Friday 11 September 2020

16 DAYS OF ACTION TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: 25 November - 10 December

1

Set up a donation drive & produce care packages for your local women's refuge



2

Take part in a fundraising event to raise money for your local women's refuge



3

Arrange a socially distanced candlelight vigil in your community, or take part at home



4

Take part in White Ribbon Day with your local community



During the first three months of lockdown, **26 women and girls were killed** in suspected domestic homicides in the UK. Calls to domestic-abuse hotlines have soared and specialist service providers continue to struggle with overwhelming demand for emergency housing.

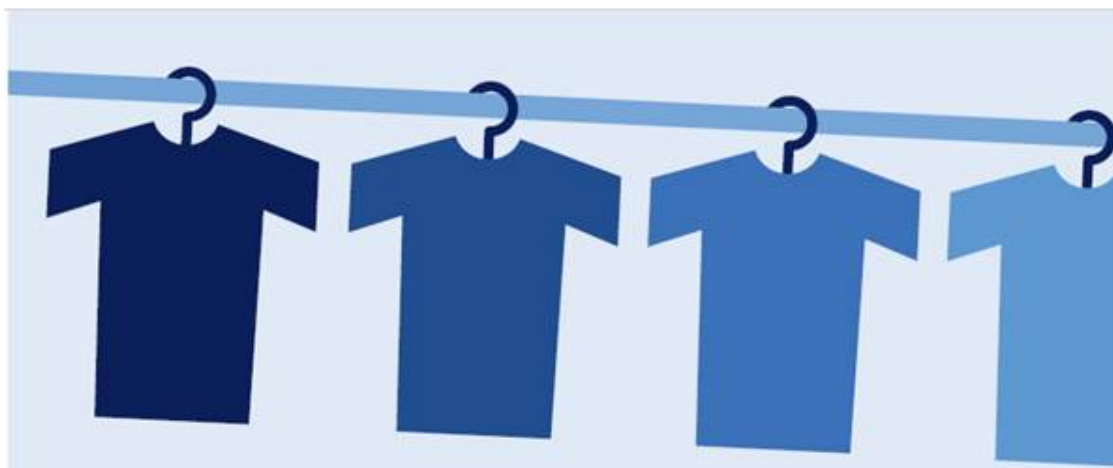
This autumn, we are again encouraging members to take action to end the scourge of violence against women by taking part in 16 Days of Action against Violence.

Spearheaded by the UN, it runs from **25 November** (White Ribbon Day) to **10 December 2020** (International Human Rights Day).

Here are some ideas about how you can get involved:

1. **Set up** a donation drive and produce care packages for your local women's refuge.
2. **Arrange** a socially distanced candlelight vigil in your community, or take part at home.
3. **Encourage** a push to recruit male ambassadors in your community and ask them to pledge their support for violence against women on White Ribbon Day.
4. **Take part** in NFWI Wales's 'design a car sticker' competition as part of the Not in My Name campaign. The closing date for entries is 1 October 2020. You can [find out more here](#).
5. **Handcraft** white ribbons to wear yourself, to give away to other members or others in your community.

We'll be publishing some new resources in the coming weeks with guidance on how you can set up these campaign activities and events. If you're starting to plan an event, already have plans or not sure where to start, get in touch with us at pa@nfwl.org.uk we'd love to hear from you!



Contact your MP: New APPG for Microplastics led by the NFWI

We would like to invite Climate Ambassadors and WI members to contact their Members of Parliament to ask them to become a member of the newly formed All Party Parliamentary Group on Microplastics.

This group has been formed by the NFWI's Public Affairs team and Alberto Costa, MP for South Leicestershire. Alberto Costa MP will be chairing the meeting, and the NFWI will be performing the secretariat function.

As part of the NFWI's End Plastic Soup campaign, the APPG will aim to promote awareness of microfibre plastics and their harmful effects on the environment to consumers, and will work to ensure collaboration across industry, academia and environmental organisations to reduce the effects of microfibres on the environment.

The inaugural meeting of the APPG will be on the 14th September at 3:30pm, and will be conducted virtually.

The NFWI's Public Affairs team have put together a template email for WI members to send to their MPs. You can find this and further information about the APPG by clicking [here](#).

Do let me know on f.thomas@nfwi.org.uk if/when you have contacted your MP.

Celebrating 105 Years of the WI!

There is less than 2 weeks to go until WI Day and this year we're turning 105!

Help us celebrate this special anniversary on 16 September by sharing a time your WI has organised or taken part in some special campaign activities!

The WI has achieved a lot in its rich history. Some of our accomplishments live on in national memory and some have become hidden treasures, remembered by those to whom they mattered most.

Is there something your WI has done that you're particularly proud of, something that people wouldn't have expected? Perhaps you campaigned for something in a fun way, creatively brought attention to something or did something that would have ruffled a few feathers to raise awareness of an important cause?

It can be something that happened in your WI or even another WI recently or many years ago, even if you were not a member at that time.

Send us your memories, stories and photos to pr@nfwi.org.uk and let's show everyone that the WI's incredible 105 year history cannot be underestimated!



PA Digest on My WI

Missed an issue of the Digest? You can now access previous issues on My WI.

[You can find them here.](#)

Campaigns Calendar

Don't forget to check out our campaigns calendar on My WI where you will find relevant dates for each of our key campaigns to help you plan ahead.

You can view the calendar [here](#).

If you have any questions about any of these dates - [Get in touch!](#)



Campaigns Corner

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



Support and help during pandemic

This can be a particularly difficult and worrying time for adults and children living with domestic abuse. [This link](#) will take you to a page of support sources, please share as widely as possible. It is important that survivors know that they are not alone.

This can also be a difficult and worrying time if you require additional assistance. If you need emergency food or support you can find the contact details of your local food bank using your postcode [here](#).

If you are able to support your local food bank with donations or by volunteering, click here to visit the [FareShare website](#).

You can also visit [this section](#) of our website for information from the NFWI on ways you can help your community, sources of support and other helpful information such as setting up a virtual meeting.

We have a PDF versions of the digest available, that you can share with the people around you. Please **get in touch** with the Public Affairs department if you would like a copy.

Please also encourage other members of your WI to sign up to receive this monthly digest.

Kind regards,

The NFWI Public Affairs team.

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