

## THE NEXT 100 YEARS



**1** "As we mark 100 years of the WI, we deplore the unacceptable level of gender discrimination that still exists. We call on decision makers to remove barriers preventing today's women and future generations reaching their full potential."

Almost a century on from the first WI meeting, the world is a different place. We have the right to vote, our role in society has changed; education and the professions have opened up. We have laws against sex and pay discrimination. But women are still under-represented in public life with fewer than one in four MPs and just one Supreme Court judge.

Female graduates are typically paid less than men. Earning less means women save less, so the income gap continues into retirement.

Gender equality is far from a reality for

most of the world's women. Last summer's international Girl's Summit highlighted slow progress in tackling Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), domestic violence and child marriage.

### TALKING POINTS

- This resolution would look forward in the centenary year and develop a programme of work examining the key social and economic challenges facing women of all ages.
- Has the battle for equality been won?

### MORE INFORMATION

- Government Equalities Office  
<http://tinyurl.com/o94tzqc> Tel: 020 7211 6000
- World Economic Forum  
[www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org) Tel: 0041 22 869 1212

## PLANT A TREE FOR THE FUTURE



**2** "The NFWI urges Her Majesty's government to start a continuous national broadleaf tree planting programme to replace vital woodlands lost in previous decades. WIs in consultation with their local councils and community groups will be asked to plant trees in celebration of the centenary and to benefit future generations."

Most native trees are broadleaf and deciduous. Studies suggest these support more wildlife.

Trees also provide many environmental, recreational

and economic benefits, yet the amount of woodland has been diminishing since the Middle Ages, with a low of 5 per cent by the early 20th Century. Today, only 13 per cent of the UK is woodland, while in the EU as a whole it's 37 per cent. Broadleaf makes up 49 per cent of the UK's woods, much in private forests – conifers dominate Forestry Commission land. England and Wales have targets to increase woodland coverage, with some grants available to create new, and manage existing, woodland. But campaigners think this is not enough to hit the targets.

### TALKING POINTS

- The UK has extremely low coverage of trees, despite efforts to plant new woodlands. Tree planting is a positive step.
- Could identifying land for the planting of trees and the creation of new woodland be tricky to accomplish?

### MORE INFORMATION

- The Woodland Trust  
[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) Tel: England 01476 581135, Wales 08452 935860
- Forestry Commission  
[www.forestry.gov.uk](http://www.forestry.gov.uk) Tel: 0300 067 4321

## PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATORS



**3** "There is an urgent need to widen public access to defibrillators to significantly increase the survival rate following a cardiac arrest. This meeting urges WI members to work with their communities to install public access defibrillators."

Around 60,000 cardiac arrests happen out of hospital every year in the UK and survival rates are poor, from two to 12 per cent. Using a defibrillator to restore the heart's rhythm saves lives but time is crucial – the chances of success fall by 10 per cent every minute.

Public Access Defibrillators (PADs) are compact and designed to be used by anyone. Organisations such as Community HeartBeat help install PADs. They are usually in places with large footfall; shopping centres or

stations; or poor ambulance response times.

PADs allow bystanders to defibrillate promptly, which can increase survival rates by 75 per cent. But there is no co-ordination from government to ensure wide coverage.

### TALKING POINTS

- Speed is at the essence after a cardiac event; survival rates as high as 75 per cent have been reported from rapid defibrillation.
- There is a lack of information on the location and number of PADs.

### MORE INFORMATION

- Community HeartBeat Trust  
[www.communityheartbeat.org.uk](http://www.communityheartbeat.org.uk) Tel: 0845 86 277 39
- British Heart Foundation  
[www.bhf.org.uk](http://www.bhf.org.uk) Tel: 0300 330 3322

## FAILING TO CARE - ASSESSMENT OF NEED IN LONG-TERM CARE



**4** "This meeting calls on HM government to remove the distinction between nursing care and personal care in the assessment of the needs of individuals, in order to advance health and wellbeing."

The resolution is about access to 'Continuing Care,' a programme of free social care from the NHS for people outside hospital who are judged to have complex, substantial and long-term care needs. It proposes changing the definition

of NHS Continuing Care by eliminating one of the criteria, that qualifying patients must require 'nursing care'. But it's not clear what the consequences would be for overstretched NHS budgets.

Charities including Age UK, Carers UK and the Alzheimer's Society are calling for a revolution in the funding and organisation of health and social care.

### TALKING POINTS

■ Is the resolution too limited? The problem of

finding the sustainable solution to paying for social care needs of millions is pressing; the London School of Economics estimates half a million people who need help receive no social care from councils.

■ The complexity and variety of the health and social care system is hard to navigate for many people.

### MORE INFORMATION

■ Age UK [www.ageuk.org.uk](http://www.ageuk.org.uk)  
Tel: 0800 169 6565

■ The Alzheimer's Society  
[www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk) Tel: 020 7423 3500

## CUTTING BACK ON FOOD WASTE



**5** "Everybody loses when good food is thrown away. We call on WI members to reduce their own food waste and all public and private sector organisations to do more to minimise food waste and protect our finite resources."

In 2012 we wasted 7m tonnes of food; 4.2 million was avoidable. Half the waste is at production level, a result of climate stress, pests and disease and produce being rejected by retailers.

Food waste is expensive, damages the environment and reduces the food supply available across the world. Yet a House of Lords Committee said in April 2014 that efforts to tackle this across the EU were 'fragmented and untargeted'. About 89 million tonnes of food is wasted each year in the EU. This could rise to 126 million tonnes by 2020 if no action is taken.

The Committee called for a five-year strategy on food waste prevention. Several initiatives have been launched, including the UK government's Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP), set up in 2000.

### TALKING POINTS

■ Food waste was identified as a concern by members in 'The WI Great Food Debate'. The WI's involvement with WRAP and Love Food Hate Waste demonstrates it's an issue members are concerned about. But is a new campaign needed?

■ Are members already active in reducing the amount of food that they waste?

### MORE INFORMATION

■ Love Food, Hate Waste  
[www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com)

■ WRAP [www.wrap.org.uk](http://www.wrap.org.uk)

## ENDING FGM



**6** "This AM welcomes the progress that has been made towards ending Female Genital Mutilation. We call on political leaders and the UK public to maintain momentum behind all efforts to eradicate this abuse of human and child rights."

FGM involves the removal of external genitalia from women and girls for religious and cultural reasons.

Around 140 million women worldwide are affected, with 1,279 women receiving NHS

treatment.

In the UK it has been a serious offence for 30 years but there had been no prosecutions until this year.

A push has recently been made to tackle FGM, including a government fund of £35 million and plans to prosecute parents and confiscate the passports of girls at risk.

Schoolgirl Fahma Mohamed's petition persuaded the Education Secretary to issue guidance to teachers, while health workers have been encouraged to report suspected cases.

### TALKING POINTS

■ The resolution is in keeping with the NFWI's promotion of women's human rights and campaigns on violence against women and girls.

■ Does the issue need its own resolution campaign when government and community efforts are underway and WIs are active on the issue?

### MORE INFORMATION

■ Daughters of Eve  
<http://www.dofeve.org>

■ Orchid Project  
<http://orchidproject.org>  
Tel: 020 3752 5505

## TO CURB THE USE OF ANTIBIOTICS



**7** "In view of the problem of increased microbial resistance to antibiotics, this meeting urges HM government to work with health professionals and the public to raise awareness of, and encourage the appropriate use of, antibiotics in human and animal healthcare."

Antibiotics treat bacterial infections in humans and animals but increasingly infections are developing resistance to them. A House of Commons select committee is concerned that GPs rely on them as a 'bottomless pit of miracle treatments' and that resistance is growing due to inappropriate prescribing and demands from patients. It also called for limits on their use in farm animals to therapeutic applications only.

Prof Dame Sally Davies, Chief Medical

Officer for England, has described antibiotic resistance as a threat as serious as terrorism.

### TALKING POINTS

- Antimicrobial resistance is a 'time bomb' that could cast the world back into the dark ages of medicine, risking their use in a wide range of medical settings.
- The government has a five year strategy in place that focuses on public engagement.

### MORE INFORMATION

- Department of Health <http://tinyurl.com/pleknwj>  
Tel: 020 7210 4850
- Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs <http://tinyurl.com/lkx6vgs> Tel: 01932 338316



## AM 2015 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 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 communicate a deadline to you.

TITLE OF RESOLUTION	SELECTION (X)
1 The next 100 years	
2 Plant a tree for the future	
3 Public access defibrillators	
4 Failing to care - assessment of need in long-term care	
5 Cutting back on food waste	
6 Ending FGM	
7 To curb the use of antibiotics	

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.