

WI Resolution Training Transcript - Module 1

Slide 1 – Welcome



Welcome to the WI Resolution Training. This course is primarily aimed at WI members undertaking the role of Resolutions Coordinator for their federation. The course may also appeal to WI members who provide advice, on behalf of their federation, to members submitting resolutions. WI members who wish to submit a resolution or who are interested in resolutions and campaigns will also find this course of interest.

This module will focus on WI Campaign History and Impact. All resources referenced in the modules, as well as a transcript, are available under the 'Helpful Links' section below the video.

At the end of the module, you'll complete a short knowledge test. Upon successful completion of all four modules, you'll receive a certificate recognising your achievement.


Thank you for your interest in WI Campaigns, we hope you find the training useful.


Slide 2 – Introduction to Resolutions

Introduction to Resolutions

- What is a resolution?
- What do campaigns achieve?
- Who can submit a resolution?

How can we make a difference?





A resolution is a call for change on a current issue in society. Once a resolution has been adopted at the Annual Meeting, the NFWI Public Affairs department turns it into a campaign.

Through national and local campaigning, members play a key role in achieving change on important issues. Any WI or federation can submit a resolution, as long as it has been voted on and approved.

Slide 3 – How Campaigns Work in the WI

How Campaigns Work in the WI





The WI has been campaigning since 1918. The Women's Institute is democratic and member-led, and the resolutions process is unique in putting members at the heart of decisions about our campaign activity.

With approximately 190,000 informed and active members, the WI is widely recognised as a powerful force for positive change. Since the first mandate was passed in 1918, the WI has been campaigning and raising awareness on issues of local, national and international concern.

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

Slide 4 – Campaigns History



In celebration of the WI centenary, the document 'The WI as a force for change' was produced. The document highlights a number of campaigns and looks at the WI's role in promoting women's rights, fostering health awareness, encouraging sustainable development, and building a fairer society.

See the 'Helpful Links' section below this video for a link to 'The WI as a force for change' document.

Slide 5 – Keep Britain Tidy



The impact of a resolution can be significant. In 1954 a resolution to *'inaugurate a campaign to preserve the countryside against desecration by litter'* led to the

formation of the Keep Britain Tidy group and was influential in transforming litter policy following the introduction of the 1958 Litter Act.

See the [Keep Britain Tidy timeline](#) from the NFWI involvement in 1954 to the current day which is linked below.

Slide 6 – NFWI Mandates from 1918 to Date



You can find a list of all previous resolutions in the document 'NFWI mandates from 1918 to date'. In the document you will find 6 categories of resolutions: Social Policy, Health, Agriculture and Food, Education, Environment, and International.

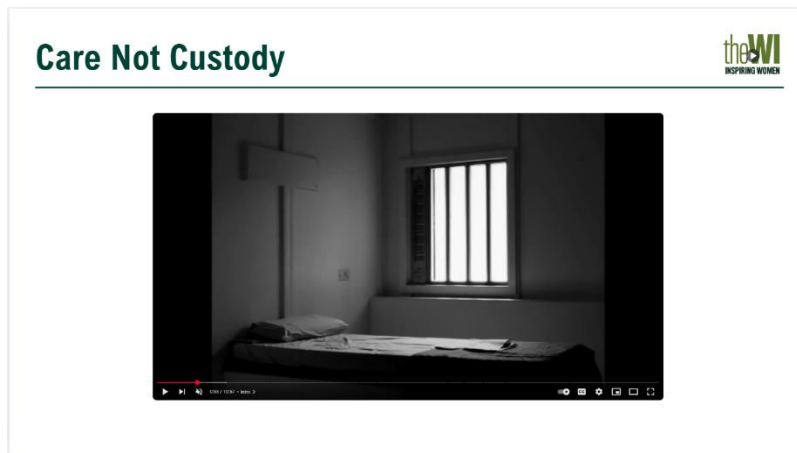
Slide 7 – Focus on Key Campaigns



In the next few slides we'll look at some previous and current campaigns such as:

- Care not Custody
- Climate Change
- No More Violence against Women

Slide 8 – Care Not Custody



In 2008 the NFWI passed a resolution calling for an end to the inappropriate detention of people with mental illness, after the son of a Norfolk WI member tragically took his own life while in custody.

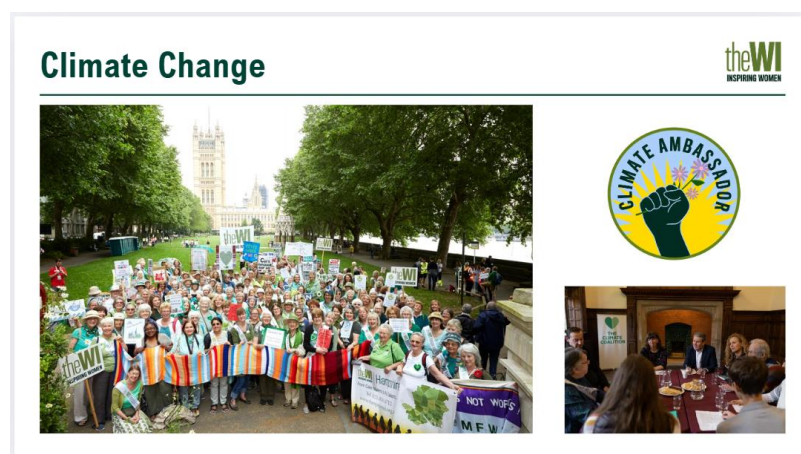
Together with the Prison Reform Trust, the WI launched the Care not Custody Coalition to campaign for better support for vulnerable people caught up in the criminal justice system.

WI members across the country sent letters to their MPs calling for an end to inappropriate detention of people with mental illness.

The Coalition successfully campaigned for the full rollout of 'liaison and diversion' services. These services support people with mental health needs, learning disabilities and autism when they come into contact with the criminal justice system. These services now cover all of England.

We have linked a video below on the Care not Custody campaign for you to watch:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qcJhtjYKXM&t=18s>

Slide 9 – Climate Change



The WI's climate change campaign began after the resolution 'Care of our environment' was passed in 2005, moved by the NFWI Board of Trustees. The board mandate of the resolution enabled WI members to start campaigning on climate change.

The WI is a founding member of The Climate Coalition, the UK's largest group of people dedicated to action on climate change.

Our network of over 400 WI Climate Ambassadors work to raise awareness of the impacts of climate change and mobilise their communities to take environmental action.

Working with campaign partners like The Climate Coalition, the WI successfully pushed for the Government to commit to a net-zero target for greenhouse gas emissions. In June 2019 the government committed to net-zero by 2050. The WI is now working to hold the government to that promise and to make net-zero a reality.

We have linked a video below entitled Mass Lobby for you to watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBbfHA5eEPQ&t=1s>

Slide 10 - No More Violence Against Women



Tackling domestic violence has been a longstanding concern for the WI. Our campaign stems from many resolutions passed throughout the WI's history. The WI campaigned for funding for refuges in 1975, to ensure domestic violence survivors can access justice through the courts in 1988 and to adequately define domestic violence under the law in 1993.

In 2011 the WI worked to safeguard access to legal aid in response to concerns about changes proposed in the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment Offenders Bill. As a result of the campaign, the government committed to widening the definition of domestic abuse and widening the threshold of proof required to access legal aid – a huge victory.

The WI began working on the issue of violence against women again in 2019, starting by encouraging members to take action locally. WI members have been raising funds and donations for local refuges, holding candlelight vigils, writing to parliamentarians about the Domestic Abuse Bill and volunteering at their local refuges.


We have linked a video in the 'Helpful Links' section on this campaign entitled 'Million Women Rise'.


Slide 11 – Additional Resources

Additional Resources

- The WI at 100 report
- Campaigns section on My WI
- Campaigns section on the WI website
- Social Media
- Public Affairs Digest

We hope you've found this module interesting!





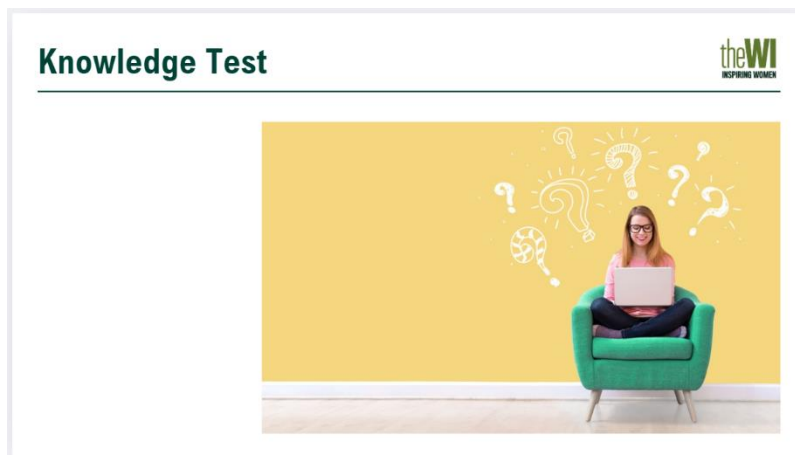
We hope you have found the past few slides of great interest. You can read about those and other campaigns in 'The WI at 100' document which is a report produced at the NFWI's centenary and 'WI Campaigns: your chance to make a difference' a booklet of the WI's previous campaign achievements.

We would also suggest becoming familiarised with, and keeping a close eye on the following, where you will find the most up-to-date campaigns information:

- Campaigns section of My WI (hyperlink: <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns/news-and-actions>)
- Campaigns section of the WI website (hyperlink: <https://www.thewi.org.uk/campaigns>)
- Social media (Facebook: @thewi Twitter: @WomensInstitute)
- Finally, don't forget to sign up to the monthly e-newsletter, the Public Affairs Digest: <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/public-affairs-and-campaigns>

Don't forget, all of the documents and links referenced in the training are available in the 'Helpful Links' section below this video.

Slide 12 – Knowledge Test



Congratulations on completing this module! Now, it's time for the knowledge test. There are five questions based on the material covered. If needed, feel free to review the slides to refresh your understanding.

Thank you for undertaking this training.