



## TOGETHER WE MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE

Getting involved and supporting the public affairs teams at both national and local level is the way forward if we want to raise issues that matter to us all. Over the last 100 years WI members have campaigned on an incredible range of social policy, health, food and agriculture, education, environment and international causes. By exerting their individual and collective influence, WI members have increased public awareness of the issues and brought about important policy changes.

Take a look at some of the current campaigns below to see what interests you, and if you would like to keep up to date with WFI's Public Affairs team please subscribe to the Public Affairs Newsletter .....(insert link).... Plus there's always lots of information, ideas on how to get involved, a calendar of campaign dates and information packs on MyWi.

## CLEAN RIVERS FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

**The campaign will encourage members to make and support applications to create safe bathing waters in rivers across England and Wales as a way to drive the cleanup of our precious waters.** Bathing water designation can play a key role in tackling pollution as water must be tested for the bacteria that causes illness during the bathing season; water companies have an obligation to tackle pollution in these locations



## **THINKING DIFFERENTLY: AUTISTIC AND ADHD WOMEN AND GIRLS**

**This campaign seeks to raise awareness of Autism and ADHD in women and girls and to take action to improve the diagnosis process.**

Go to MyWi to find more information about how you can get involved. There is a poster to download to use at your local meeting and information on how to make your meeting inclusive to autistic and adhd members and guests.

## **SEE THE SIGNS**

**This campaign seeks to raise awareness of the subtle signs and symptoms of ovarian cancer to help ensure that more women are diagnosed earlier.**

What you could do:-

Download the posters from MyWi and display on community noticeboards. Spread the word on social media by sharing posts or using the hashtag #SeeTheSigns. Share your experiences with other members to raise awareness of the importance of being able to recognise symptoms

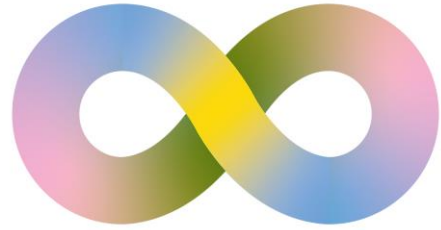
## **MAKE A MATCH**

**This campaign seeks to promote registration to the aligned UK stem cell registry to enable more people to receive potentially life-saving stem cell transplants**

**For key facts on blood cancer and the need for more people to join the aligned stem cell registry, visit: [www.anthonynolan.org/facts-and-stats](http://www.anthonynolan.org/facts-and-stats)**

To find out more about blood cancer, visit: [www.dkms.org.uk/en/about-blood-cancer](http://www.dkms.org.uk/en/about-blood-cancer)

To learn more about how to become a potential blood stem cell donor, visit: [www.dkms.org.uk/en/registration-donation-process-explained](http://www.dkms.org.uk/en/registration-donation-process-explained), or watch this video from DKMS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QyB686Gnbbg>



**Thinking Differently:**  
Autistic and ADHD Women and Girls



For more information about the shortage of BAME donors, visit ACLT's website:  
<https://aclt.org/impact-of-our-work/>

### **STOP MODERN SLAVERY**

**This campaign seeks to raise awareness of modern slavery in the UK. It also calls for better support for survivors, as well as more effective action to eradicate the problem.**

For an explanation of modern slavery, visit the websites of organisations such as [Unseen UK](#) and [Haven of Light](#)

For more data on the nature and extent of modern slavery in the UK, take a look at the latest [ONS report](#) (published in March 2020)

To find out more about the signs of modern slavery, how to report it, and sources of support visit the [Met Police website](#)

For more details on the UK Government's approach to modern slavery, download the [Modern Slavery Statement](#)

### **NO MORE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**Women across the UK experience violence, including domestic violence, rape, forced marriage, sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse and harassment. Launched in 2019, our No More Violence against Women campaign encourages the WI movement to take action to end the scourge of violence against women.**

Tackling domestic violence has been a longstanding concern for the WI. Throughout our history, the WI has campaigned to make sure that women and girls can live the lives they choose, free from the fear of abuse.

Every year, running from 25 November - the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and also White Ribbon Day - to Human Rights Day on 10 December, the 16 Days ...is a global event. Here's what you can do

Take part in the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-Based Violence (25 November – 10 December). This could involve donating care packages to your local women's refuge, fundraising for your local women's refuge and holding a candlelight vigil.



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# NO MORE

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## violence against women

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Save the Date: Every year, the WI movement takes part in the Million Women Rise March.

## **END PLASTIC SOUP**

We are campaigning to prevent the environmental impact of microplastic fibres. Launched in 2017, our End Plastic Soup campaign explores the scale of the microplastic fibre pollution and calls on the government and industry to develop solutions to the problem. The issue is complex and involves a wide range of stakeholders, from the clothing and wastewater treatment industries to washing machine manufacturers.

## **WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR**

2022

Using the [Microplastic Policies for Government](#) report as a basis, the APPG on Microplastics and the WI have had meetings with DEFRA Ministers and civil servants to discuss the findings of the report further, and to explore putting the report's recommendations into law

Throughout 2021, the APPG on Microplastics held a series of policy roundtable discussions with over twenty different stakeholders to discuss policy solutions to microplastic fibre pollution released from clothing during the laundry process.

In September 2021, the APPG on Microplastics published our six recommendations in our first report, '[Microplastic Policies for Government](#)'. Key recommendations in the report include the fitting of microfibre filters in all new domestic and commercial washing machines from 2025; the appointment of a designated Minister of Plastic Pollution; and Extended Producer Responsibility schemes for textile recycling.

The report was launched in Parliament and received national press coverage in the Guardian, the Times, Times Radio, Peston, and The House Magazine. It also received coverage in relevant industry press.

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

Find out how you can get involved in our campaign to tackle climate change.



The WI has a proud history of taking action to protect the environment. As a founding member of The Climate Coalition, we work to protect what we love from climate change and lobby politicians to prioritise tackling the issue.

For nearly 100 years, the WI has led campaigns to conserve the natural world from environmental degradation and climate change.

Be it making simple swaps in their own lives, or lobbying policymakers as part of the WI's Climate Ambassador scheme, more and more WI members and supporters are taking action to protect our world for generations to come.

### **What climate campaigns will the WI be focusing on in 2023?**

As the largest women's voluntary organisation in the UK, the WI will be using our campaigning might to call for ambitious domestic policies that get the UK on track for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. We will be working alongside partners in The Climate Coalition, Warm this Winter and Unchecked UK to campaign for green, clean solutions to rising energy bills, and to retain hard-won environmental policies and protections.

The WI will also be continuing to boost our WI Climate Ambassador scheme with new supplementary resources, training,