

The General Federation of Women's Clubs 2016-2017 Resolutions Fully Revised and Updated June 2016

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Visit www.GFWC.org/Resolutions for updates and more information

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GFWC Standing Rules: Resolutions

GENERAL

- a) Resolutions, upon adoption, shall become an integral part of the policy of GFWC.
- b) The subject matter of all resolutions shall be germane to the interests or work of GFWC and must be national or international in scope.
- c) Specific methods of implementation shall be outlined in the resolutions when appropriate.
- d) The International President and Community Service Program, Standing, and Special Committee chairmen to whose work it is germane, the Legislation/Public Policy Chairman and the State Federation chairmen and member clubs shall be responsible for carrying out the intent of the resolutions and GFWC policies.
- e) State Federations are requested to give to delegates pertinent information concerning resolutions to be considered at the Annual Convention.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS

- a) The Resolutions Committee shall review all resolutions including emergency resolutions before presentation to the Executive Committee or the Annual Convention. Any proposed resolution presented to the Resolutions Committee that is not recommended by that committee may be presented as a motion to the convention body as a matter of new business except motions to rescind, which shall be included in the call to convention to provide proper notice to the membership.
- b) Resolutions may be presented only by the following:
 - 1) The Executive Committee
 - 2) The Resolutions Committee
 - 3) A State Federation by convention action
 - 4) A Community Service Program Chairman, a Standing or Special Committee chairman. These chairmen shall review current resolutions and/or initiate new resolutions, in accordance with their programs of work.
 - 5) An International Club, paying per capita dues, may present resolutions to the International Liaisons Chairman for consideration by the Resolutions Committee.
- c) Resolutions submitted to the Resolutions Committees shall be typewritten and accompanied by proper supporting documents. Proposed resolutions shall be submitted to the Resolutions Committee Chairman by November 1 each year. Only emergency resolutions shall be accepted after November 1 (GFWC Bylaws, ARTICLE XII Committees. Section 12.1 Standing Committees. K. Resolutions).
- d) Resolutions referring to a bill before the Congress of the United States or to a legal document shall be based upon the principles involved and shall be accompanied by two copies of the bill or document in question.
- e) Except for emergency resolutions and resolutions originating under new business, all resolutions to be presented to the Convention body shall be incorporated into the Call to Convention.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT STATE FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

- a) Resolutions regarding national issues adopted at state conventions may be referred to the Resolutions Committee Chairman (by November 1) for consideration at the Annual Convention the following year.
- b) Emergency resolutions adopted at state convention shall follow rules governing emergency resolutions.

EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

- a) Emergency resolutions are those whose subject matter has arisen since the preparation of the last call to convention, or those that are governed by a definite time value and upon which delayed action would be disadvantageous.
- b) Emergency resolutions may be presented by only those eligible to present resolutions.
- c) Emergency resolutions to be presented at the Annual Convention shall be distributed to the voting delegates by the Resolutions Committee no later than 4:00 p.m. of the day before consideration by the convention body.
- d) Resolutions to be considered by the Board of Directors in session between Annual Conventions shall be confined to matters of an emergency nature. These resolutions shall be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee Chairman by midnight of the first day of the Annual Convention Business Session.

LIFE OF RESOLUTIONS

- a) All resolutions which have been in force for four years shall be automatically reviewed by the Resolutions Committee for timeliness, change of opinion, etc.
- b) Resolutions establishing the general policy of GFWC shall continue active until rescinded by the delegate body or until their purpose has been accomplished.
- c) By recommendation of the Resolutions Committee, notice to rescind resolutions whose purpose has been accomplished, shall be appended to the call to convention. Unless a motion is made from the floor to amend one or more of these resolutions, they shall be considered rescinded at the close of the Annual Convention.

RESCINDING RESOLUTIONS

- a) Proposals to rescind a resolution shall come from any person or group eligible to present resolutions, and such proposals shall follow the usual procedures for consideration of such resolutions (refer to Presentation of Resolutions #2).
- b) Intention to rescind shall be incorporated in the call to convention at which action is to be taken.

MINORITY OPINION

- a) A State Federation that wishes to differ with any adopted resolutions and that, in a State Federation convention, express a minority opinion by a two-thirds vote shall immediately register such action with GFWC by furnishing a copy of the minutes where such action was taken.
- b) A State Federation, holding a registered minority opinion and wishing to support its stand further, may do so provided it states that its action represents the minority vote of GFWC.
- c) Any State changing its position shall advise GFWC of such action.

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ARTS

010-010 **Funding for the Arts** (Convention 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs promotes encouragement of the arts and freedom of expression; and

WHEREAS, The National Endowment for the Arts makes grants available to artists and states in accordance with the NEA charter to take into consideration "general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public"; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs recognizes the need for continued state funding; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for continued allocation of sufficient funds through the National Endowment for the Arts for individual artists and state programs; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with state and local agencies to develop additional sources of funding for the arts.

010-020 **Museums** (Convention 1986; Reviewed 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Museums preserve and interpret cultures as depicted in artifacts and art objects; and

WHEREAS, The American Association of Museums considers education as the primary purpose of museums; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support, maintain, and contribute to the establishment of museums to ensure preservation of cultures for the enrichment of present and future generations.

010-030 Support of the Arts in Schools and Communities (Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended 1989; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009)

WHEREAS, The arts enhance life in all its dimensions and explores the realm of expression, imagination, and creation resulting in new knowledge;

WHEREAS, Participation in the arts may improve confidence, social skills and learning skills and troubled children who participate in art programs are more likely to continue their education and adopt appropriate social behavior; and

WHEREAS, Art serves as a vehicle for communication not always achieved by presentation of historical and scientific fact; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges that arts in the broadest sense be integrated into curricula of preschools, elementary schools and secondary schools, and as many aspects of community life as possible; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to encourage promotion and funding for all the arts, both visual and performing, in schools and communities.

CONSERVATION

011-010 **Chemicals in the Environment** (formerly "Chemicals in Agriculture"; Convention 1970; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Amended 2016)

WHEREAS, The use of chemicals has proven of benefit to mankind by increasing the food supply, controlling insects, and providing better health conditions; and

WHEREAS, The improper use of chemicals has been proven to cause health and environmental hazards; and

WHEREAS, Pollinator species, such as butterflies and bees, and their habitats, are facing declines across the country due to the misuse of chemicals and the drift from spraying; and

WHEREAS, Environmental biotechnology is playing a key role in attaining a healthy balance between protecting the environment and promoting economic development; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation that regulates the proper use of chemicals and upholds a person's right to know about chemicals used in their community; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the private and public sectors to continue conducting research on the impact of chemicals on health and the environment and to cooperate in educational campaigns to assure that users have current information on the wise and safe use of chemicals; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges public and private support of environmental biotechnology.

011-020 **Conservation of Natural Resources: Education** (formerly "Conservation Education"; Convention 1952; Amended 1964; Reaffirmed 1981; Reaffirmed 1986; Reviewed 1990; Amended 1994; Reviewed 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Environmental education improves our everyday lives by: protecting human health, advancing quality education, expanding employment opportunities, promoting environmental protection along with economic development, and promoting America's natural heritage; and

WHEREAS, The prosperity and welfare of this nation depends upon the availability of sufficient natural resources; and

WHEREAS, A program of education and practice at all age levels can improve analysis and problem solving skills and bring local environmental challenges into the classroom; and

WHEREAS, Deeper understanding of the environment inspires people to take responsibility for its preservation and restoration; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to

work for the inclusion of the study of our renewable and nonrenewable natural resources in elementary, secondary, and higher education curricula to anticipate and address society's energy needs; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support and encourage participation in conservation education, including renewable and non-renewable natural resources, for all.

011-030 Development of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)
(Convention 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The Coastal Plain portion of ANWR has the highest potential on the North American Continent for discovery of commercially valuable reserves of oil and gas; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress' decision to open the Coastal Plain portion of ANWR to oil and gas exploration will have far reaching effects on the economy of our nation as a whole; and

WHEREAS, The United States must prepare to develop domestic oil and gas resources if it is to decrease its dependency on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, The opening of the Coastal Plain may provide our nation with the opportunity to protect this country's balance of trade; and

WHEREAS, The security of our national energy depends on the development of domestic oil and gas resources to replace depleted U.S. reserves; and

WHEREAS, The Coastal Plain contains unique environmental and wildlife qualities that require consideration and caution in the exploration of the resources of the Coastal Plain; and

WHEREAS, The petroleum industry has operated in the Arctic for over 50 years and has proved that careful development could be made compatible with stewardship of wildlife resources and traditional subsistence needs; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the opening of the Coastal Plain (1002 Area) of ANWR to environmentally sound oil and gas exploration and development; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members and member clubs to contact their legislators in the Congress of the United States and urge them to open the Coastal Plain 1002 Area of ANWR.

011-040 Endangered Species (Convention 1987; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Many species of wildlife and plants have become extinct; and

WHEREAS, Many more species have been so depleted in numbers or available habitat that they are now in danger of becoming extinct; and

WHEREAS, These species are of aesthetic, ecological, educational, historic, recreational and scientific value; and

WHEREAS, Natural ecosystems and their diversity of wild animals and plants are disappearing at a rapid rate, particularly in the world's rain forests which harbor the greatest diversity of natural life; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has recognized the importance of conservation of such species by enacting the Endangered Species Act, and by encouraging each state to adopt parallel legislation to give protection to species within its own boundaries; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges, without compromise, the reauthorization and implementation of the Endangered Species Act with the appropriation of sufficient funding and the flexibility to recognize personal property rights; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for the adoption of appropriate state legislation, following the model of the Federal Endangered Species Act, and development of appropriate state funding sources to ensure establishment or enhancement of an effective state conservation effort.

011-060 Forest Resources (Convention 1984; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The United States ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, committing the country to working cooperatively within the international community to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases to 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, Concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, can be limited by increasing the amount of annual uptake by natural systems such as forest reservoirs; and

WHEREAS, Forests provide protective habitat for a variety of plant and animal life; and

WHEREAS, Forests are managed for a multitude of uses and values; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports policies which meet international obligations and adequately protect forest resources through such means as:

- Improved land use management of public and private forests and adjacent areas;
- Adequately funded research programs in all phases of forest management, sustainability, and recycling technologies;
- Waste, fire, insect, and disease control;
- Provisions for forest land management assistance to private landowners;
- Promoting public awareness programs; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to contact legislators to enact and enforce legislation to secure the above stated goals.

011-070 Fuel Conservation (formerly “Petroleum Conservation”; Convention 1975; Reaffirmed 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that practices such as ride sharing, adherence to mandatory speed limits, use of mass transit, use of more fuel efficient vehicles and use of alternative fuel sources can reduce petroleum consumption, air pollution and traffic congestion; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports funding of research for greater fuel efficiency and alternative energy sources; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports stronger fuel efficiency regulations; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs encourages its member clubs to promote fuel efficient practices including: vehicle maintenance, ride sharing and enforcement of maximum speed limits; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports funding for and encouraging the use of mass transit.

011-090 Global Warming (Convention 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010)

WHEREAS, Scientific studies indicate that emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), nitrogen oxides and other gases are adding to global warming; and

WHEREAS, This greenhouse effect results in substantially altered rainfall patterns, increases in sea levels, loss of soil moisture and changes in the movement of storms, adversely affecting agriculture, forests, wetlands, water resources and coastal areas; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges action by government and industry worldwide to:

- Reduce emissions of harmful greenhouse gases;
- Research and develop economically feasible alternative energy sources;
- Implement sound agricultural and forestry practices to prevent deforestation and irreversible damage to tropical rain forests;
- Promote international cooperation to address this issue;
- Promote efficient use of energy; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Educate themselves and their communities about the dangers of global warming;
- Educate members about the personal choices that can be made to reduce this effect in areas including personal transportation, electrical use, and waste production;
- Share their concerns with legislators.

011-100 Hazardous Wastes Disposal Sites (formerly “Disposal of Hazardous Waste”; Convention 1985; Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001, 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, Hazardous wastes are potentially perilous to human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Proper zoning for future waste sites, with buffer zones, is essential to prevent encroachment of residential areas toward waste sites; and

WHEREAS, Waste sites, including brownfields, present a risk to human health and the environment and must be dealt with expeditiously; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges the Congress of the United States to:

- Offer tax incentives to waste generators, transporters, and waste disposal site operators which would result in responsible waste management and a decrease in the creation and transportation of waste;
- Create an atmosphere whereby qualified employees of local, state, and federal regulatory agencies work in a cooperative manner with the waste generators, transporters and waste disposal site operators to minimize the effect of hazardous wastes on human health and environment;
- Encourage the resolution of hazardous wastes conflicts through negotiation where possible;
- Encourage federal and state agencies to develop communication channels for local participation in decision-making about hazardous waste;
- Ban the importation of radioactive nuclear waste, thus avoiding transportation dangers, the gradual but long term build-up of radioactivity at the storage sites, and the eventual depletion of sites to store such waste generated by United States’ nuclear power production; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges funding for safe and responsible clean-up of toxic waste sites and reclamation of contaminated sites.

011-110 Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) (formerly “Disposal of Household Toxic Material”; Convention 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Household hazardous waste is considered a major problem in our nation; and

WHEREAS, Americans generate more than half a million tons of household hazardous waste (household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients) per year; and

WHEREAS, Improper disposal of household hazardous waste, such as paints, cleaners, oils, batteries, aerosols, compact fluorescent light bulbs, medications, and pesticides, can pollute the environment and pose a threat to health; and

WHEREAS, Household hazardous waste is often disposed of with regular household refuse, and indiscriminate mixing of these wastes can give off toxic gases, can be flammable and pose a serious threat of injury to trash collectors and landfill operators; and

WHEREAS, Household hazardous waste pollutes the environment by leaching into soil and damaging sensitive ground water; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote public awareness of the dangers of improper disposal of household hazardous waste; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support reductions in the amount of household hazardous waste entering the waste stream by:

- Promoting public awareness and safe storage, reduction, reuse, recycling, and disposal are all important tools to safely manage household hazardous waste;
- Encouraging state and local agencies to provide and promote public participation in household hazardous waste “drop off” programs, collection days, and permanent collection sites;
- Promoting the substitution of non-hazardous products for hazardous household cleaning, yard care, and car maintenance products;
- Promoting public awareness about proper disposal to prevent pollution;
- Promoting the distribution and use of educational materials, such as home hazardous product surveys, through classroom education, publications, and the media; and
- Encouraging retailers and manufacturers to provide information on proper recycling and/or safe disposal of all household hazardous waste.

011-120 Local Parks and Recreation Areas (Convention 1964; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The growth of population and the development of homes in and around towns and cities adds to overcrowding and the need for open recreation areas; and

WHEREAS, In many areas the land available for public use is restricted; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with their communities to help maintain established areas and to plan and create new parks, playgrounds and diverse recreational facilities.

011-130 Nuclear Waste Disposal (Convention 1984, Reviewed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Nuclear waste materials are a by-product of nuclear power production, industrial processes, medical procedures, and research that must be disposed of safely; and

WHEREAS, Federal laws have established some responsible programs of nuclear waste disposal; and

WHEREAS, spent nuclear rods are stored for extended periods of time in inadequate and unsecured wet storage pools; and

WHEREAS, Transporting nuclear waste to a repository puts human life and the environment at risk and creates targets for terrorists; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports continued implementation of these laws; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports a plan to encase spent nuclear rods in safe solid storage containers; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the federal government to consult with the states in the high level waste repository development process, and support state efforts regarding intermediate level and low level waste site development; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the development and implementation of a comprehensive national transportation plan that accommodates state, local, and Tribal concerns to the greatest extent possible; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about nuclear waste disposal.

011-140 Ozone Depletion (Convention 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, Many scientific studies indicate that emissions of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) and other gases are depleting the earth's stratospheric ozone layer with each chlorine atom able to destroy as many as 100,000 ozone molecules; and

WHEREAS, The ozone layer acts as a shield against harmful solar radiation; and

WHEREAS, A significant reduction of ozone in the upper atmosphere could cause long-term increases in the incidence of skin cancer and cataract worldwide; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges continued action by government and industry worldwide to:

- Reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances;
- Promote international cooperation to address the threats created by ozone depletion;
- Enforce and comply with international treaties; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about the dangers of ozone depletion and to share their concerns with legislators.

011-150 Preservation and Beautification of Public Lands and National Forests (Formerly the “Environmental Preservation and Beautification” and “Preservation and Beautification of Public Lands/National Forests;” Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended and combined with a new name 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Public Lands and National Forests are irreplaceable assets and a vital component of a healthy economy; and

WHEREAS, Environmental preservation and beautification of public lands is of great concern; and

WHEREAS, Vandalism and abuse threaten the physical environment, natural resources, and heritage of public lands; and

WHEREAS, Soil, water, wildlife, and other resources are of national importance, providing scenic and recreational benefits, and should be managed and utilized to their utmost potential; and

WHEREAS, Many nonfuel minerals, natural gas, oil and coal essential to the health, well-being and defense of the nation are in public lands; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support public land stewardship programs and become involved on the local, state and national level.

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges full support of sustainable development and management of the multiple resources of Public Lands/National Forests and urges the further exploration and utilization for the good of the nation; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges Congress to safeguard Public Lands and National Forests for the benefit of all, and to encourage and support proper protection, sustainable development, beautification, and management of these resources.

011-160 Renewable Energy (Convention 2007; combined with “Global Energy” and Reaffirmed 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, Global security and economic well-being demands a balanced use of energy resources; and

WHEREAS, Renewable energy resources reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign energy, are environmentally sensitive, create economic opportunities for America’s farmers and rural communities, and are necessary in meeting the nation’s future energy need; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to promote and conduct conservation programs which relate to reducing the level of energy consumption; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges governments, private industry and consumers to:

- Focus public attention on the need for adequate energy and the need for coordinated energy policies
- Encourage balance between the interests of proper management of resources, adequate water supplies and protection of wildlife, with the interests of energy production; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges governments and private industry to research, explore and develop efficient and effective energy sources.

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports legislation to fund and expand renewable energy resources, including a higher national renewable energy standard and decreasing consumption of all non-renewable fuels.

011-170 Soil Conservation (Convention 1950; Amended 1984; Reaffirmed 1988, Amended 1991; Amended, 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed, 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Progress has been made by many states in promoting and developing a sound soil and water conservation practice; and

WHEREAS, Much remains to be done before all vital natural resources are safeguarded from waste and destruction; and

WHEREAS, There have been tangible and beneficial results from the local operations of active and vigorous soil conservation districts assisted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs endorses periodic inventories by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, to provide complete factual information about our land in cooperation with conservation farm planning done in soil and water conservation districts and as an aid to industry, utilities, wildlife organizations and all groups which are interested in or make any use of the land; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs endorses the effective work of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, which gives technical help in developing and applying farm conservation plans for the locally organized and administered soil conservation districts and urges the continued expansion of the complete, practical on-the-farm help needed by farmers and landowners to apply sound conservation measures; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges continuation of support and assistance of the Natural Resources Conservation Service to local soil conservation districts.

011-180 Support of Coastal Wetland Restoration (Convention 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The coastal wetlands of the United States constitute a significant natural resource habitat and ecosystem rich in scenic beauty that function to protect water quality, store floodwater and maintain water flow in dry periods; and

WHEREAS, Coastal wetlands support almost 75% of the nation's commercial fish and shellfish industries; and

WHEREAS, Coastal wetlands provide storm protection with an acre of wetlands able to store 1 to 1.5 million gallons of floodwater; and

WHEREAS, Coastal wetlands provide habitat for up to half of North American bird species; and

WHEREAS, Numerous states are consistently losing coastal wetlands with catastrophic consequences to our nation; and

WHEREAS, To protect and preserve coastal wetlands and the coastal zone, including estuaries, it is vital that agencies, entities, and persons in both the public and private sector serve as responsible stewards for these unique resources; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs declares its deep concern for the devastating loss of coastal wetlands and the effect this has on the United States economy and environment; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges private industry and governmental agencies to work together and encourages research to find ways to stop erosion and support the proper protection, development and rehabilitation of this national resource; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly supports funding for coastal restoration projects.

011-190 Waste Management and Recycling (Convention 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, The use of biodegradable products and recycling conserves the use of natural resources, helps protect and improve land, air and water resources, conserves energy otherwise used in the securing, transporting and manufacturing of products from primary raw materials, and reduces the amount of solid waste; and

WHEREAS, The use of biodegradable products and recycling demonstrates community commitment toward reducing solid waste and preserving the quality of the environment; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the use of biodegradable products, encourages recycling and discourages over packaging; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation that encourages recycling by individuals, business and government.

011-200 Water Quality and Supply (Convention 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, A dependable water supply is essential to the world's health and economy; and

WHEREAS, The proper use of our present water supply, augmented by the restoration to usability of presently polluted water, would provide a supply of usable water that would sustain the earth's population in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, Pollutants such as household toxic materials, sewage, mine sludge and agricultural chemicals entering our streams, lakes, and underground water supply may contribute to food shortages, disease and severe environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, Studies indicate that as the world's population grows, the main resource problem will be water, and failure to address this problem may result in human, fish, and animal health problems; and

WHEREAS, Rehabilitation and preservation of ground water, watersheds, wetlands, and forests are important factors both for water supply and water quality; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly supports enforcing existing laws protecting water quality and seeks stronger regulations to:

- Develop a systematic program to prevent groundwater contamination;
- Prohibit continued pollution of streams and domestic water supply;
- Develop a means whereby individuals and businesses pay their fair share of the cost of maintaining clean water;
- Maintain and protect our national forests; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly supports laws requiring local communities, landowners, and businesses in violation of current pollution laws to clean up their pollution; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote action within their communities to support scheduled testing and the conservation of their water supplies including ground water, lakes, rivers, coastlines, watersheds, wetlands and forests; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges member clubs to support implementation of an overall program which will ensure the necessary supply of water for future generations by encouraging further research into water filtration and desalination methods and enforcing all relevant laws; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the enactment of regulations at all levels that will protect and expand the existing supply of usable water.

011-220 Wilderness Areas (formerly “Wilderness”; Convention 1970; Amended 1983; Amended 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs supports efforts to preserve natural areas available to all people; and

WHEREAS, The Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577) provides that the Departments of Agriculture and Interior shall review the following as suitable for preservation as Wilderness Areas and road-less areas: National Forests, Parks, Monuments, and National Wildlife Refuges; and

WHEREAS, Designation of Wilderness Areas by this type of review serves to assure the preservation of Wilderness Areas for future generations; and

WHEREAS, The location of these areas is of primary importance as it relates to highways, recreation areas and other necessary facilities; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges that careful consideration be given to the location of Wilderness Areas; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges the enforcement of laws for the protection and preservation of Wilderness Areas.

011-230 Wildlife Conservation (Convention 1984; Reviewed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Reviewed 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, The proper methods of land and water management must be practiced to create a favorable environment and habitat for wildlife which are consistent with other purposes to which the land and water are devoted; and

WHEREAS, Wildlife is in danger of inhumane treatment and possible extinction because of grossly unsportsmanlike practices involving aircraft, land and water vehicles; poaching and illegal trappings; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges the enactment and enforcement of laws for the protection and preservation of wildlife; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs encourages the enactment of legislation to ban leg hold traps and the enforcement of existing laws.

011-240 Protection of Oceans (Convention 2011; Reviewed 2015)

WHEREAS, Oceans cover more than two-thirds of the Earth's surface; play a critical role in the global water and carbon cycles and in regulating climate; sustain a large part of the Earth's life forms; provide an important source of food and resources; act as a frontier for scientific exploration; are critical to national and economic security; and provide a vital means of transportation; and

WHEREAS, The oceans are susceptible to change as direct and indirect results of human activities, and such changes can significantly impact the ability of the oceans to provide the benefits to the Earth, which affect global climate patterns, ecosystem productivity and health, biodiversity, environmental quality, availability of energy, vulnerability to natural hazards, and transportation safety and efficiency; and

WHEREAS, Human pressure on ocean resources is drastically increasing due to chemical, nutrient, and biological pollution; use of destructive fishing practices; and habitat damage; and

WHEREAS, Government agencies and programs dealing with ocean resources and activities are poorly coordinated and do not constitute a unified and comprehensive public policy toward the oceans; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of governments to create, foster, and maintain conditions, incentives, and programs that will further ensure the sustainable and effective conservation, management, and protection of oceans in order to fulfill the responsibility of each generation as trustee in protecting the oceans to ensure that such resources will be available to meet the needs of future generations; and therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support effective water conservation and management efforts at the local, state, and federal levels, and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the development of an international ocean policy that unifies and coordinates ocean preservation efforts, and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support efforts to protect, maintain, and restore marine ecosystems.

EDUCATION

012-010 **Basic Education** (Convention 1990; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Many United States students are not prepared academically to compete in a global society; and

WHEREAS, Solutions to our educational problems must be addressed; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs, realizing that meeting children's basic needs must begin at an early age and start in the home, urges its member clubs to:

- Encourage parents to work in partnership with schools and teachers to assure that students come to school ready, willing, and able to learn;
- Encourage parents to be actively involved in their children's academic lives;
- Establish strong early childhood educational programs with challenging academic curricula for all students;
- Establish and participate in tutoring programs and mentoring programs linking volunteers, business representatives or professionals with individual students;
- Encourage respect, tolerance, and cooperation among the students, parents and teachers;
- Recognize teachers who are highly qualified, well prepared and dedicated, and who display excellence in developing our youth;
- Encourage more students to study advanced mathematics, science and foreign languages to enable them to be highly competent and competitive in the global society;
- Work for equality of education and high standards for all students;
- Establish or participate as tutors in programs that encourage high school drop-outs to pursue a general equivalency diploma (GED) in order to provide them with wider career opportunities;
- Establish scholarships for students of GED classes in need of funding for testing;
- Support efforts at the federal, state and local levels to reduce student-teacher ratio for the purpose of improving academic achievement.

012-020 Community Colleges, Vocational/Technical Education Institutions (formerly "Two-Year Community Colleges, Vocational and Technical Education Institutions"; Convention 1964; Amended 1981; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, Community colleges, vocational, and technical education institutions offer education, employment training and personal enrichment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Nearly half of all undergraduates in the United States attend community colleges; and

WHEREAS, Community colleges offer quality education opportunities with flexible scheduling at a lower cost than traditional four-year schools; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support and promote these institutions; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support programs which provide financial assistance and/or incentives for enrollment.

012-030 Educational Equity (Convention 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2004; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, Title IX of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 guarantees no person in the U.S. shall on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, Research has provided a comprehensive assessment of the status of girls in school; and

WHEREAS, Research indicates that girls are being negatively affected in school by gender role stereotyping; and

WHEREAS, A continued interest in education reform has grown out of an urgency to achieve excellence in education in order to remain competitive in the global marketplace; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports expanded accountability in reporting all Title IX programs to the Department of Education including but not limited to athletics; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Institute programs for teachers and counselors to learn effective gender-fair teaching and counseling priorities;
- Urge local school districts to review curricula and textbooks for gender-role stereotyping;
- Undertake other activities that will make education equity a reality for all students.

012-040 Enforced School Busing (Convention 1978, Amended and Reaffirmed 1981; Amended and Reaffirmed 1986; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Enforced school busing to achieve racial balance:

- Requires funds which might better be spent on needs critical to quality education;
- Eliminates possible self-enrichment and extra-curricular activities before and after school hours;
- Presents a potential safety hazard in transporting students many miles and many hours in all types of weather in daylight and in darkness; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs opposes forced busing as a means to achieve racial balance in schools.

012-050 English, Official U.S.A. Language (Convention 1986; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, The United States of America has been enriched by the cultural contributions of immigrants from many traditions and blessed with one common language (English) which has united a diverse nation and fostered harmony among its people; and

WHEREAS, The public schools of the nation have a special obligation to transmit the common culture and civic values of the United States of America and to accelerate the assimilation of immigrant students to American society; and

WHEREAS, English is the national language of the United States of America by custom only, enjoying no official protection, and is subject to erosion with increased use of other languages which could be a divisive force within this nation; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its U.S.A. clubs to work for a constitutional amendment which establishes English as the official language of the United States of America; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the enforcement of the English language requirement for U.S.A. naturalization.

012-070 Humanities Education (Convention 1985; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, The primary purpose of education should be to enlarge the mind; and

WHEREAS, According to the 1965 National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities Act “The term ‘humanities’ includes, but is not limited to, the study of the following: language, both modern and classical, linguistics, literature, history, jurisprudence, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, ethics, the history, criticism and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the study and application of the humanities to the human environment with particular attention to reflecting our diverse heritage, traditions, and history and to the relevance of the humanities to the current conditions of national life”; and

WHEREAS, A proficiency in speaking and reading foreign languages and a knowledge of the history and culture of other major nations are a basic in building greater understanding of and participation in world affairs; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages and promotes the pursuit of education in the humanities; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports the National Endowment for the Humanities, including funding.

012-080 Libraries (Convention 1948; Reaffirmed 1978; Reaffirmed 1985; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Libraries are the preeminent self-help community asset, providing traditional and electronic access to information for poor, minority, immigrant, and rural populations; and

WHEREAS, Libraries are information resource centers for education, employment, and recreation serving the entire community; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs, having been responsible for the founding of approximately 75 percent of the nation's libraries established by 1933, recognizes the contributions libraries have made and should continue to make to the national welfare; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong and significant relationship between children's services and public libraries and early reading success at school; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs, having exceeded its commitment made at the President's Summit for America's Future to contribute \$12.5 million in books and materials to public school libraries and public libraries to help "turn the tide for America's youth"; and

WHEREAS, the General Federation of Women's Clubs established The GFWC Disaster Relief - Library Replenishment Fund to assist GFWC communities affected by manmade and natural disasters in restocking the collections of public and public school libraries; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports adequate library funding at all levels; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Continue support of existing libraries;
- Encourage the extension of library services to all areas;
- Encourage communities to make full and responsible use of their library facilities and services;
- Support and encourage enforcement of confidentiality laws;
- Contribute to The GFWC Disaster Relief – Library Replenishment Fund.

012-090 Lifelong Learning (Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Amended 2016)

WHEREAS, Since the inception of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the educational needs of women have been promoted and enhanced through educational forums, study groups, and seminars; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Sponsor discussion groups and forums, both among their members and in their communities, placing an emphasis on subjects of local, national, and international importance, as well as personal and club growth;
- Participate in Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO), the GFWC structured reading program;
- Encourage all adults to further their education through programs available locally, institutes of higher learning, tours, and online.

012-100 Literacy (Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, An alarming number of adults and job seekers in the United States are functional illiterates, and many school children cannot read or write well enough to make progress in school; and

WHEREAS, There has been increased public awareness of the problem of adult illiteracy, and teaching resources devoted to providing literacy skills are growing slowly while demands for these services are increasing dramatically; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation and increased funding for literacy services; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its state federations and member clubs to:

- Initiate and/or support any necessary changes in the states' educational code, making courses in methods of teaching reading in accredited colleges and universities mandatory for the granting of the elementary teachers' certificates;
- Seek the cooperation of school boards and administrators for the purpose of determining pupils' reading proficiency on the basis of approved reading tests, professionally administered;
- Support increased school funding to include school-wide adolescent literacy programs as well as remedial special services, assistance of teacher aides for individual instruction and projects in improved reading comprehension for all grade levels;
- Enter into programs to teach children and/or adults with literacy problems on a volunteer basis in local communities;
- Volunteer with local literacy groups or libraries;
- Encourage corporate awareness of literacy problems and support of literacy programs.

012-110 Quality Education (formerly “Quality Public Education”; Convention 1978; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Access to quality education is a right of all children; and

WHEREAS, The school system is responsible for educating students to reach their fullest potential in order to be functioning members of society and should, in cooperation with the community, be accountable for providing the climate in which this can be achieved; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports national education goals and encourages allocation of federal funds to enable state and localities to reach these goals; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports the following to achieve a quality education program:

- Each state implement basic requirements for receiving a high school diploma including proficiency criteria as well as an ongoing program of evaluation in reading, writing and mathematics;
- School boards, administrators, teachers and parents work together using non-confrontational methods to resolve disputes; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges that education programs be established for all students regardless of their abilities or special needs so that they may reach their full potential.

012-120 Digital Media in Education (Convention 1953; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs is aware of the ever increasing impact of digital media on the cultural pattern of the United States; recognizes its great educational value; and desires that the greatest possible constructive use be made of this technology; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs recognizes both the promises and challenges presented by technological advancements in this media; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to work cooperatively with educational and governmental institutions in providing quality education through digital media; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the continued development of educational programming, and for state, local, and private financing of programs of merit; and further

RESOLVED, That the purpose of digital media in education be maintained and subject to commercial advertising limits imposed by current laws and regulations.

012-130 Youth Employment (Convention 1962; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, An alarmingly high percentage of youth drop out before completing their education in high school or vocational education; and

WHEREAS, Unemployment and lack of education are considered as large contributing factors to juvenile delinquency; and

WHEREAS, Technology is changing the face of employment and reshaping the workplace; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs:

- Supports stay-in-school programs, emphasizing proper guidance and counseling programs, utilizing, if necessary, skilled artisan aides to assist certified teachers in conducting courses in vocational education;
- Supports future-focused training to develop the skill sets needed in the changing job market;
- Requests federal and state governments to promote programs affording safe and healthful work opportunities without encroaching on the adult labor market;
- Petitions labor and management to cooperate with schools, youth oriented services and the United States Department of Labor to expand age-appropriate work-opportunity programs for young people such as internships, co-ops, work studies, etc.;
- Urges employment services, community organizations, media, schools and businesses to provide local listings of age appropriate, safe and healthful work opportunities for young people, especially during vacation periods;
- Encourages local clubs to take the lead in organizing and promoting safe and healthful work-opportunity programs for youth in their communities and states.

HOME LIFE

013-020 Agricultural Policy Family Farms (Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, A Family Farm is a form of business enterprise in which the entrepreneurial decisions are made by a family engaged in the production of food, fiber, forest products, and/or flora for profit, which provides a major source of income and capital for reinvestment; and

WHEREAS, The lack of financial rewards is jeopardizing the future of family farms, which not only produce high quality foods, but benefit local communities by being good stewards of the land; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation, fiscal policies and programs which ensure the financial rewards of farming be sufficient to sustain practical, productive and efficient use of the land by farmers and farm families; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the Congress of the United States to continue developing legislation for a long-range constructive agricultural program, to benefit family farms, which will:

- Assure equal economic opportunity and adequate protection under the law for farm families;
- Provide more financial incentives to make farming and farm life attractive to farmers and their families, including working to restore the farmer's profit share in the food system;
- Consolidate duplicate government farm agencies.

013-030 Breast Cancer (formerly “Breast Cancer Examination”; Convention 1986; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, The Center for Disease Control reports that one in eight women and one in 1,000 men will develop breast cancer in his/her lifetime; and

WHEREAS, A woman's risk of developing breast cancer increases as she ages; and

WHEREAS, The stage at which breast cancer is diagnosed is a major predictor of survival, with early detection significantly lowering the mortality rate; and

WHEREAS, Self-examination by palpation, regular physical examination by a physician, especially when there is a family history of cancer, and mammography (x-ray) and other imaging technologies are screening methods that assist in early cancer detection; and

WHEREAS, Mastectomies and lymph node dissections are common treatments of breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, Many are forced to go home from the hospital hours after breast cancer surgery due to hospital stay restrictions imposed by their insurance companies; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to continues-to raise awareness and encourages-participation in breast cancer screening and early treatment; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to supports-legislation requiring insurance companies to cover hospital stays for recovering breast cancer surgery patients including a 48-hour minimum hospital stay for mastectomy patients and a 24-hour minimum hospital stay for those undergoing lymph node dissection surgery.

013-040 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillators (AED) formerly “Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training (CPR)”; Convention 1981; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, The American Heart Association reports that sudden cardiac arrest occurs more than 600 times per day in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Survival is directly linked to the amount of time between the onset of cardiac arrest and defibrillation; and

WHEREAS, The American Heart Association estimates that 100,000 lives could be saved each year if Automated External Defibrillators (AED) were more available to the public; and

WHEREAS, Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillators (AED) are proven lifesaving techniques; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Promote the availability of AEDs in all public places;
- Work through local and state legislatures, school boards, education groups and other organizations for the implementation of CPR and AED training in public and private schools;
- Promote participation in age- and gender-specific CPR and AED education, training and recertification for all members of the community.

013-050 Child Foster Care (Convention 1976; Reaffirmed 1980; Amended 1981; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the number of children in out-of-home care is more than half a million; and

WHEREAS, The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 establishes national goals for children in the child welfare system including safety, permanence, and well-being; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Support legislation and programs that facilitate recruitment, training and retention of high-quality foster parents and kinship providers;
- Encourage efforts by state and/or local agencies who have legal custody of foster children to maintain their cultural heritage and family relationships, making every effort to keep siblings together; and
- Advocate for legislation providing adequate and equal financial reimbursement and support services for foster parents and kinship providers; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the development of programs and services that help to establish permanency and educational stability for children in foster care.

013-060 Child Support Enforcement Program (Convention 1983; Amended 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Large numbers of custodial parents and children suffer from financial deprivation due to non-payment of child support; and

WHEREAS, Government, and ultimately the taxpayer, bear the burden of financially supporting children deprived by parents able, but unwilling, to meet their family responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Child support enforcement programs administered by states and localities aided by the federal government seek to reduce welfare costs and foster parental responsibility; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress has enacted laws mandating payment of child support and making non-payment a felony; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges U.S. member clubs to:

- Study and become knowledgeable about the performance of child support enforcement in their states;
- Work cooperatively with state agencies to sponsor public awareness of the laws;
- Advocate enforcement of the laws.

013-070 Civil Rights in the Workplace (Convention 1991, Amended 1995; Amended 1999; 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support all efforts and legislation to protect all people from employment discrimination.

013-080 Communication Industry (Convention 1984; Reviewed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Communications technology exerts cultural, educational, political, religious and social impact on large populations; and

WHEREAS, The potential exists for the abuse of the technology by governmental and nongovernmental entities, commercial and public interests, and individuals; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the right of people to regulate what comes into their homes via the communication industry; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages its member clubs to urge the communication industry to demonstrate responsibility to the public by a continuous effort to broadcast information that is accurate, educationally sound and morally appropriate; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to commend what is beneficial and correct what is questionable by making their views known to the responsible parties; further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs commends and recommends studies of the communications industry by public and private sectors.

013-090 Consumer Product Information (Formerly “Consumer Safety;” Convention 1962; Amended 1967; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, Ongoing studies of the safety of consumer goods and products are of continuing concern and it is the responsibility of the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish mandatory product safety standards in order to reduce the risk of injury to consumers; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs advocates full disclosure of information including nutrition facts for all consumables and labeling of phthalates and Bisphenol A (BPA) in all plastic products and opposes any misrepresentation in advertising, labeling, warranties, guarantees, and in all forms of marketing to the public; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote programs of education and cooperate with law enforcement officials to ensure consumer safety; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission in its efforts to save lives and keep consumers safe.

013-100 Diabetes (Convention 2003; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2016)

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control, diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the United States and the number of children and adults with diabetes is rising, and statistics show that more than 29.1 million, or more than 9.3 percent of the population, have diabetes, of which 8.1 are undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, Diabetes can cause and/or complicate other health problems in children and adults including cardiovascular, renal, neurologic, and dental diseases, and may cause complications of pregnancy and obesity with an estimated cost of \$245 billion in direct and indirect costs; and

WHEREAS, Diabetes is more prevalent among minority groups and elderly persons; and discrimination against those with diabetes has occurred in the workplace, child care centers, and schools; and

WHEREAS, In order to manage their disease, those with diabetes must have access to the means to balance food, medication, and physical activity level; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- The enforcement of disability rights laws prohibiting discrimination against those with diabetes;
- Funding for quality medical care for those with diabetes;
- Programs to train school and child care personnel to identify symptoms and treatment options in order for students with diabetes to be medically safe;
- Education about the benefits of a healthy diet and physical activity to reduce the onset and treatment of diabetes; and
- Increased funding for diabetes research and prevention programs.

013-110 Economic Equity (Convention 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, U.S. government statistics continue to demonstrate that there remains a significant gap between the wages paid to men and the wages paid to women; and

WHEREAS, Many female-headed households with children continue to live below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, Women run a greater risk of impoverishment as a result of career interruptions, gender discrimination, divorce, death of spouse, or inadequate medical and retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, The welfare of all families is affected by the economic security of women; and

WHEREAS, Equal Pay Day symbolizes how far into the current year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages passage of legislation that would improve the economic status of women through improved employment training, expanded business opportunities, and better child care services; further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs advocates equal access for women to higher paying and managerial positions with salaries equal to those of men in like positions through enforcement of economic equity laws; further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote awareness of the wage gap and of "Equal Pay Day."

013-120 Family Caregivers (Convention 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2016)

WHEREAS, Meeting the demands of multiple family responsibilities, as well as the added pressures of employment and outside commitments, creates great stress for family caregivers; and

WHEREAS, There is a possible financial advantage and opportunity for more individualized care options in a community-based program; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with appropriate agencies in their communities to support the development and maintenance of creative community based support services for those with a terminal or debilitating illness, the elderly, people with disabilities, and family caregivers, such as adult day care centers, respite care, transportation services, nutrition services, home health and homemaker services, congregate or alternative housing arrangements and support groups for family caregivers; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with their state and federal legislators to formulate licensing requirements for home health care workers that would include background checks and minimum standards of training; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation providing for:

- Flexible employment policies and programs to train and aid family caregivers;
- Licensing and training requirements for home health care workers.

013-130 Food, Drug, Cosmetics and Medical Products Regulation (formerly "Food and Drug Regulation"; Convention 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs was instrumental in helping to establish the Food and Drug Administration to protect the health and safety of consumers by regulating items including food, drugs, health care products, cosmetics, personal care products, and household and medical devices; and

WHEREAS, The Pure Food and Drug Act and related laws have proved valuable to consumers in safeguarding their health by protecting them against the adulterating and misbranding of products; and

WHEREAS, There are deficiencies in the ability of the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the ingredients in cosmetics and personal care products that may lead to serious illness or health complications; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs endorses the principles of the Food and Drug Administration and public health and safety laws; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports strengthening

consumer protection regulations including the ability of the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the ingredients in cosmetics, personal care products, and products such as sunscreen and insect repellent.

013-140 Food Safety (Convention 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, According to the United States General Accountability Office, some food and food products may be contaminated with microbial pathogens, such as Salmonella and E. coli, that cause food borne illnesses and death; and

WHEREAS, Studies indicate that inspection and recall regulations are insufficient; and

WHEREAS, Weaknesses in food recall programs heighten the risk that unsafe food will remain in the food supply and ultimately be consumed; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly supports funding of the United States Department of Agriculture and Food and Drug Administration food safety programs that are mandated by the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports additional consumer protection regulations for food safety; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports authority for the USDA and FDA to:

- Require companies to notify the relevant agency when it has distributed a potentially unsafe food and/or food products;
- Establish recall requirements;
- Order a recall;
- Impose punitive monetary penalties if a company violates recall requirements.

013-150 Freedom of Access to Health Clinics (Convention 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law makes it a federal crime to deny access to medical clinics and facilities by force or threat of force; and

WHEREAS, There have been reported incidences of intimidation and violence at health clinics; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs condemns all intimidation and violence; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the enforcement of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances law to ensure public safety at health clinics.

013-160 Freedom of Enterprise (Convention 1973; Reaffirmed 1981; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The American economic system provides its people with incentives and rewards exceeding those of almost any other country in the world; and

WHEREAS, Free enterprise operates according to the following principles: the freedom to choose our businesses, the right to private property, the profit motive, competition, and consumer sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, Education on domestic and world economy, political issues and processes which affect the daily lives of the American people is necessary to guarantee continuance of the free enterprise system; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with their communities, educators, states, and nation to strengthen the American ideals of political and economic freedoms.

013-170 Gynecologic Cancer (Convention 2006; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control report that more than 71,000 women were diagnosed with a gynecologic cancer such as uterine (endometrial), ovarian, or cervical; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 27,000 women in the United States die annually of gynecologic cancers; and

WHEREAS, Uterine (endometrial) cancer is the most common gynecologic cancer; and

WHEREAS, Ovarian cancer is the most deadly gynecologic cancer; and

WHEREAS, Cervical cancer, once the leading cause of death for women in the U.S., has significantly declined in incidence and mortality; and

WHEREAS, Early detection and appropriate treatment of gynecologic cancers are key in lowering mortality rates; and

WHEREAS, Many are unaware of the risk factors, symptoms, and diagnostic tools available to screen for these factors contributing to late stage diagnoses and increased mortality; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly urges member clubs to support, participate in and sponsor awareness campaigns; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports comprehensive screening and treatment programs for gynecologic cancer; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly supports funding for research for the continued development of screening methods, treatments, and cure.

013-180 Health Care (Convention 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, People require a full range of medical and mental health care services including prescription drugs to meet their health care needs; and

WHEREAS, There remain areas of the United States which have substandard or non-existent health services; and

WHEREAS, The cost of health care services, prescription drugs and insurance is not affordable for all; and

WHEREAS, Everyone needs basic knowledge and understanding of health care terminology and procedures to function effectively as patients and health care consumers; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with their communities, the government, and private sector to improve the quality and affordability of health care services, prescription drugs, and insurance for all; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges improved communication and explanation of medical terms and procedures by medical professionals to patients and caregivers.

013-190 Homelessness (formerly “Homeless”; Convention 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, There are increasing numbers of homeless people, including youth, veterans, elderly, disabled, and families with children; and

WHEREAS, Poverty, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, medical expenses, domestic violence, incest and sexual abuse, mental illness and addiction disorders are major causes of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, Food, safe shelter, clothing, medical and mental health services, substance and physical abuse treatment, education and employment training opportunities are greatly needed by the homeless; and

WHEREAS, Homeless youth require specialized services to ensure their health, safety, emotional well-being, and education; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Contact local homeless coalitions to identify current needs and services available including access to public education, mental health care, and substance abuse treatment for the homeless population in their communities;
- Support funding for services for all at risk in the homeless population;
- Contact local homeless assistance providers and inquire how members can support their efforts;
- Support efforts to improve or develop transitional living programs with emphasis on education, life skills and employment training to enable homeless families and individuals to become self-sufficient members of the community;
- Support efforts to develop decent, affordable, and permanent housing to ensure that the cycle of homelessness is broken.

013-200 Humane Slaughter Enforcement (Convention 2003, Reviewed 2007; Amended 2011; Reviewed 2015)

WHEREAS, Concerns have been raised about federal compliance of the Humane Slaughter Act (HSA), or the non-enforcement of federal laws and regulations that are intended to protect animals from inhumane treatment during the slaughter process; and

WHEREAS, the Humane Slaughter Act does not cover all food animals and does not protect food animals before slaughter; and

WHEREAS, Evidence suggests that slaughterhouse employees who report inhumane handling and slaughter violations, in an effort to gain corrective action, suffer retaliation by management; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the strong enforcement of the Humane Slaughter Act to protect animals from inhumane treatment; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support a stronger Humane Slaughter Act to include all food animals and their treatment before slaughter; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports regulations and policies that protect United States Department of Agriculture slaughterhouse employees who report inhumane handling and slaughter violations.

013-210 Immunization for Prevention of Childhood Diseases (Convention 1992, Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007)

WHEREAS, Preventable childhood diseases which largely disappeared during the 1970s have resurged, despite great advances in vaccine technology, resulting in epidemics and needless loss of life; and

WHEREAS, This resurgence is due to a nationally relaxed emphasis on immunization exacerbated by one or more of the following:

- Over two million children do not receive the vaccinations they need to prevent disease;
- Lack of knowledge of the current guidelines for the frequency and ages at which children should be vaccinated;
- Almost 50% of all private insurance plans do not cover basic immunization despite the greater expense of treating childhood diseases rather than preventing them;
- One half of the nation's children are uninsured and Medicaid providers are not adequately reimbursed for the escalating costs of vaccines and vaccine administration; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges swift implementation of the Centers for Disease Control's recommendations that a series of vaccinations for the most potentially crippling and killing childhood diseases (Chickenpox, Rubella, Measles, Mumps, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis, invasive Haemophilus influenza type b, invasive pneumococcal disease, human papilloma virus, and Hepatitis B) be administered at the recommended age; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges swift implementation of recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control for investigation of childhood diseases; and further

RESOLVED, That legislators at all levels be urged to enact and immediately implement legislation to:

- Urge health care providers to educate parents on the necessity for timely immunizations;
- Require all insurance carriers to cover immunizations for preventable childhood diseases;
- Use Medicaid funds to adequately reimburse health care providers for the immunization of uninsured infants and children;
- Require proof of immunization as a prerequisite for enrollment in public and private day care centers and schools.

013-220 Improper Portrayal of Women (Convention 1981; Reviewed 1987; Amended 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to take a strong stand against exploitation of women in improper and questionable advertising and literature, unwholesome and violent programming in all media, including but not limited to, movies, television, videos, radio, music, video games, advertisements, and the Internet; and against the overall negative portrayal of women; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly opposes the depiction of women in ways that perpetuate gender based discrimination and/or contribute to violence against women; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages its member clubs to challenge advertisers, broadcasters and producers to portray women in a positive manner.

013-230 Income Tax Deduction for Tuition (Convention 1968; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The financing of higher education will continue to be an increasing burden; and

WHEREAS, Students who must earn their way through school should be aided and encouraged to pursue higher education; and

WHEREAS, An income tax credit or deduction will encourage persons to help in financing the higher education of students; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports existing laws and legislation which provide that tuition fees to higher educational institutions, accredited by state and regional associations, be deductible from income before income taxes or qualify for credit against income tax liability.

013-240 Retirement Savings (formerly “Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA)”); Convention 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Individual Retirement Accounts, Self-Employed Pension Plans, and defined-contribution plans are used by millions of families to save for retirement; and

WHEREAS, Since there are several types of retirement accounts, it is important for individuals to be knowledgeable of the interest, tax savings advantages, and future income tax implications of each; and

WHEREAS, retirement plans are increasingly necessary for long-term financial security; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation and laws that allow for maximum individual participation in retirement plans; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support education and programs promoting retirement savings.

013-250 Influence of the Home and Family (formerly “Influence of the American Home”; Convention 1925; Reaffirmed 1956; Reaffirmed 1973; Reaffirmed 1981; Amended and Reaffirmed 1985; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs recognizes that moral and spiritual strengths radiate from the home and family; and

WHEREAS, Family units should be recognized and supported; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support efforts toward strengthening the home and family through relationships, recreation, education, and spiritual living; and to recognize and celebrate the positive values of home and family.

013-260 Intolerance (Convention 1939; Amended 1952; Reaffirmed 1981; Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Reviewed 2015)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs believes that the democratic form of government would be endangered by the unchecked growth of prejudice and intolerance; and

WHEREAS, The cardinal principles of our democratic institutions demand respect for the rights of others; and

WHEREAS, Problems resulting from intolerance may have a national and international impact; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to accept responsibility for fostering tolerance, justice and religious freedom in their clubs and communities.

013-270 Long-Term Care (Convention 1989; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The U.S. Bureau of the Census reports that the population over the age of 65 was approximately 35 million in 2000 and is projected to reach 53.7 million by 2020; and

WHEREAS, The aging population coupled with longer life expectancy is creating an increased demand for a full range of long-term care services to supplement the care provided by family members; and

WHEREAS, Americans over the age of 65 face a 40% risk of entering a nursing home for long term care services; and

WHEREAS, Early and responsible planning is an essential component of financial security, including planning for additional resources in the event of no longer being able to care for oneself; and

WHEREAS, The cost of long-term care, particularly in a nursing home or other institution, can be prohibitive and can deplete the financial resources of most families; and

WHEREAS, In most cases the cost of long-term care is not covered by comprehensive major medical insurance policies or by the federal government through its Medicare program; and

WHEREAS, The federal-state funded Medicaid program covers the cost of nursing homes only after a family has exhausted most of its personal financial resources; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strives to bring information before the public regarding the growing need for long-term care, long-term care services and financing options; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs work together with public and private sectors to:

- Educate the public about the need for early and responsible financial planning, long-term care insurance and the limitations of Medicare and Medicaid programs;
- Support legislation, which increases the eligible premium tax deduction for long term care insurance;
- Ensure all citizens access to quality institutional and community-based long-term care services, including home medical and nursing care, home health aides and homemaker services, assisted living facilities and adult day care services.

013-280 **Mass Media** (Convention 1950; Amended 1985; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Mass Media is a powerful communication tool; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate:

- Against media violence which increases aggressive behavior, thoughts, and emotions;
- For public awareness that promotes responsible use of mass media.

013-300 **Mental Health Parity** (Convention 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2014; Amended 2016)

WHEREAS, The National Institute of Mental Health reports that one in five adults suffer from a diagnosable and treatable mental health disorder; and

WHEREAS, Mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, major depression, obsessive-compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and severe anxiety disorders are illnesses; and

WHEREAS, The National Institute of Mental Health estimates that untreated mental illnesses annually cost hundreds of billions of dollars in lost productivity, health care, and societal costs; and

WHEREAS, A report of the Surgeon General's states that fewer than one in five of the estimated 15 million children and adolescents, who suffer from a mental illness, receive treatment; and

WHEREAS, Discriminatory insurance coverage of mental illnesses limits treatments, can bankrupt families, and place a tremendous burden on taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Mental health first aid training is needed by educators, first responders, students, co-workers, and others to recognize the signs and symptoms of common mental disorders, to give them the necessary tools to deal with a psychiatric crisis, and to identify local mental health centers for timely referral; and

WHEREAS, Numerous studies have found equitable coverage for mental illnesses to be cost effective; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote programs that educate members and the public about the connection between mental and physical health in an effort to remove the stigma associated with mental illness; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation and regulations requiring equitable coverage for mental and physical illnesses.

013-310 Migrant Worker Families and Transient Youth (formerly “Migrant Families and Transient Youth” Convention 1951; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Reviewed 2015)

WHEREAS, The needs relative to housing, health, education and welfare of migrant worker families and transient youth remain unmet; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to ascertain the nature and extent of the problems of migrant worker families and transient youth in their communities, and to seek and support the appropriate solutions.

013-330 Nursing Shortage Crisis (Convention 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The shortage of nurses is a threat to patient health; and

WHEREAS, Recent studies confirm:

- Risks to patients caused by overburdening nurses with an increased caseload;
- A link between inadequate nurse staffing and increased risks of patients dying after surgery;
- Increased nurse burnout and job dissatisfaction; and

WHEREAS, The nursing shortage is contributing to higher health care costs; and

WHEREAS, The Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act would require Medicare-participating hospitals to establish unit specific staffing plans utilizing a committee comprising at least 55% direct care nurses and publicly report the staffing plan; and

WHEREAS, Resolving the nursing shortage is a national priority; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to provide scholarships to encourage more students to enter the nursing field; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges all appropriate action to increase the number of nursing programs, qualified instructors, and enrollment opportunities for those wishing to enter the nursing profession; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges in-home and center-based facilities to hire the number of nurses reasonably necessary to provide adequate patient care; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges better remuneration and better working conditions for nurses to improve patient care and reduce the nursing shortage; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for passage of the Registered Nurse Safe Staffing Act.

013-340 Nutrition (Convention 1976; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Reviewed 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Nutrition is a critical factor in both the prevention of disease and recovery from illness and injury; and

WHEREAS, People failing to follow a healthful diet can be found at every socio-economic level, in all age groups of all races and in various degrees of physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, The National Center for Health Statistics reports that overweight adults and children are at increased risk of multiple health problems; and

WHEREAS, Health care programs should educate providers and patients on the role of good nutrition in the prevention and treatment of diseases; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Support the inclusion of good nutrition in the planning, organization and implementation of health care programs as a basic component of health and medical care;
- Encourage schools to meet nutritional standards and to provide healthy food options;
- Encourage the food industry to provide reasonable food and beverage portions;
- Encourage food stores to increase the availability of nutritious food items; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to study and implement good nutrition programs for families and encourage nutrition education in communities to promote healthy lifestyles.

013-350 Organ and Tissue Transplants (Convention 1988; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The transplantation of vital organs and tissues is an accepted medical procedure; and

WHEREAS, Transplantation of organs and tissues can in some cases become a lucrative business venture; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of life saving and life enhancing transplant operations depend entirely on donors; and

WHEREAS, Potential organ and/or tissue donors should execute an advanced health care directive, designate a health care power of attorney, fill out a donor card, and inform their health care power of attorney and doctors of these directives; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Medical standards defining brain death;
- Programs that enlist voluntary registered organ and tissue donors;
- Legislation establishing priorities, eligibilities and financial support to cover transplant costs for people who are without means to pay for a transplant;
- Regulation of businesses involved in organ and tissue transplantation;
- Programs to educate members and communities about transplants and the dire need for donors.

013-360 Persons with Disabilities (formerly “People with Disabilities”; Convention 1980; Amended 1984; Reviewed 1988; Amended 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2016)

WHEREAS, Persons with disabilities are entitled to be meaningful participants in society; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of men and women voluntarily serve our country in the armed services and as a result of this service may be permanently disabled; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals who have disabilities are unable to reach their fullest potential without the removal of attitudinal, physical and transportation barriers; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Support existing laws and further legislation to protect and secure the rights of all persons with disabilities;
- Defend the rights of persons with disabilities to exercise their civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights on an equal basis with others;
- Promote recognition and acceptance of the principle that persons with disabilities have the same fundamental rights as others;
- Work within their communities to uphold the provisions set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

RESOLVED, That, in recognition of their service, entrance fees to national parks and forest be waived for disabled American veterans; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to work within their communities to uphold the provisions set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

013-400 Prevention, Detection, Control and Cure of Diseases and Illnesses (formerly "Prevention, Control and Cure of Diseases"; Convention 1977; Reaffirmed 1981; Amended and Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994 Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The incidence of disease and illness is costly to society in lives as well as dollars and the prevention, detection, control and cure of disease and illness are of great value; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Promote and support education and research on prevention, control, and cure of diseases and illnesses;
- Support state and local health departments in the development of new systems and the use of diagnostic information for the early detection, treatment or prevention of high-profile disease and illness outbreaks;
- Encourage insurance companies and health care organizations to cover the costs of the needed measures to promote prevention, detection, control, and cure of diseases and illnesses.

013-410 Product and Services Liability Reform (Convention 1986; Amended 1990; Reviewed 1994; Reviewed 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Product and service-related liability litigation has created a serious impact on the economy of our nation; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the enactment by the United States Congress of uniform, national standards which will guide product and service-related litigation in a fair and sensible manner.

013-420 Quality Child Care (formerly “Child Care”; Convention 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, A safe, educational and nurturing environment is essential to the well-being and development of children; and

WHEREAS, The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the majority of families with children under the age of 17 have the single parent or both parents in the paid work force; and

WHEREAS, Many parents and custodians of young children who must be employed outside the home must work to ensure the economic survival of their families; and

WHEREAS, The high cost and scarcity of child care contributes to young children being placed in mediocre child care arrangements or being left unattended; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports legislation and private initiatives to make quality child care affordable and accessible to all; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports legislation regulating and enforcing health and safety standards of child care facilities; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Evaluate the availability of child care facilities in their communities and to take appropriate action;
- Support increasing the federal child care tax credit for working parents;
- Support measures requiring early childhood training and increasing the wages of child care providers;
- Encourage self-supporting, independent after school programs in specified areas of school facilities.

013-430 Quality Long-Term Care (formerly “Quality Nursing Home Care”; Convention 1988; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2016)

WHEREAS, All patients’ rights are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Nursing Home Reform Act; and

WHEREAS, Each year, hundreds of thousands of institutionalized elderly residents are abused and severely neglected; and

WHEREAS, Evidence of physical and emotional abuse, and of substandard health care in nursing homes is a concern; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports uniformed enforcement of legislation that sets standards for quality care, guarantees the rights of residents and enforces compliance with the law; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to clubs to volunteer at long term care facilities and to work with state and local officials, long term care ombudsmen, advocates, and facility administrators to ensure quality care and compliance with laws; and further

RESOLVED, That current law be amended to require:

- Any person who has reasonable cause to suspect abuse or exploitation of an institutionalized elderly person be mandated to immediately report the information to law enforcement;
- All staff with direct patient contact at adult facilities shall receive training upon hire and annually thereafter, provided by the facility, on the signs of elder abuse and the procedures for reporting suspected cases. This training shall be offered to the families of patients.

013-450 Retired Persons (Convention 1963; Reaffirmed 1978; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Census Bureau statistics show that the United States population of persons over 65 years of age is increasing faster than the general population; and

WHEREAS, A compulsory retirement policy often results in inadequate income, unwanted leisure, loss of dignity and self-respect, impaired morale, and deteriorating physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS, There is a valuable potential asset in the talents, abilities, experience, training, and energy of retired persons to fill unmet needs throughout the nation; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to encourage and cooperate with the appropriate governmental authorities; businesses; medical facilities; and educational, religious, and civic groups in providing retired persons with:

- Pre-retirement programs to prepare them for meaningful activity and service through the extended life span;
- Information-referral-activity centers for counseling, advice, and companionship;
- Employment and volunteer opportunities;
- Continuing education courses in schools, colleges, and community centers;
- Adequate housing, better nursing homes, and extended care facilities;
- Reduced rates on goods and services; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the enforcement of laws prohibiting age discrimination.

013-460 Sexual Harassment (formerly “Sexual Harassment in the Workplace”; Convention 1992; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment is a problem affecting the lives and careers of millions of women and men; and

WHEREAS, All individuals are entitled to freedom from a hostile environment; and

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, The majority of persons who experience sexual harassment do not file formal complaints due to the fear of retaliation; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports education of workers regarding legal remedies when sexual harassment or retaliation occurs; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support education of law enforcement personnel as to the seriousness of this offense, increased enforcement of the laws against sexual harassment and passage of legislation that would include full compensatory and reasonable damages.

013-480 Smoking in Public Places (Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The office of the Surgeon General of the United States has issued numerous reports revealing scientific proof that use of tobacco products and secondary smoke causes serious health problems and are classified as known human carcinogens by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. National Toxicology Program and the International Agency for Research on Cancer; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support the enforcement of legislation and regulations prohibiting smoking in public places, except where specifically designated.

013-490 Specially Trained Dogs and Other Animals For People with Disabilities (Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, People with disabilities desire independence in life; and

WHEREAS, The use of specially trained dogs and other animals can help to achieve such independence; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support the training of dogs and other animals for people with disabilities; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation recognizing and protecting the use of all assistance dogs and other animals.

013-500 Stem Cell Research (Convention 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Human stem cell research results in improved medical treatment and cure rates of numerous types of malignancies, anemia, inherited metabolic disorders, deficiencies of the immune system, and other conditions; and

WHEREAS, Time is crucial for many with these conditions; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports use of human stem cell science and the revision of current standards to reflect evolving knowledge; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to educate its members about human stem cell research.

013-510 Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation (Convention 1983; Amended and Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Combined with 013-520 “Substance Abuse Rehabilitation” and Amended 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, Substance abuse including alcohol, illegal, prescription, and over the counter drugs continues to be a menace to the public health and safety, and societal costs for the prevention and treatment of substance abuse are enormous; and

WHEREAS, Substance abuse produces harmful effects to the physical, mental and emotional health of abusers, contributes to criminal activity and is a contributing factor in the spread of HIV infection in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Substance abusers need therapeutic programs and services to return to healthy and productive lives; and

WHEREAS, Preventing substance abuse is largely dependent upon a sound educational program about the dangers of substance abuse; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with other organizations in supporting and promoting substance abuse education and prevention programs; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to supports-the enactment and strict enforcement of laws against the production, distribution and possession of illegal substances; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support the continued development of programs and increased availability of services to substance abusers through private and public means such as continued appropriations at federal, state, and local levels recognizing that these programs should be viewed as ongoing treatments for improving the lives of such abusers; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support local, state, and national program initiatives for the proper and environmentally safe disposal of unused prescription medications to prevent future abuse.

013-540 Tobacco and Young People (Convention 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, Statistics show that the majority of regular tobacco users begin smoking before the age of 18 and that many will ultimately die of tobacco-related diseases; and

WHEREAS, Young people may be influenced by a variety of factors to begin using tobacco; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports education of young people on the addictive qualities and long-term effects of tobacco use; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation to prohibit the marketing and sale of tobacco to young people.

013-550 Tuberculosis Prevention (Convention 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Reviewed 2015)

WHEREAS, Tuberculosis is a contagious disease; and

WHEREAS, The incidence of tuberculosis has resurged and today one-third of the world's population is exposed to the risk of contracting tuberculosis and over two million people a year internationally are dying from the disease; and

WHEREAS, The number of persons with latent tuberculosis infection is estimated to range between 10-15 million in the U.S. alone; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs advocates support for the World Health Organization's program "Stop TB," increased testing, funding for medical care, training of personnel, and world-wide education about tuberculosis to reduce its threat.

013-560 HIV/AIDS (formerly "Women and AIDs" and "Women, Children and the AIDs Virus" and "Women, Children and HIV/AIDS"; Convention 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2016 to include "The United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)", Convention 2004)

WHEREAS, According to the latest available data, the number of people estimated to be living with HIV rose from 8 million in 1990 to 34 million in 2011; and

WHEREAS, Women represent the fastest growing demographic of HIV infections worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The spread of HIV/AIDS can be directly attributed to the lack of education about the disease; and

WHEREAS, Countless people lack access to proper health care and prevention of transmission products; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support HIV/AIDS educational programs and accessible treatments worldwide.

013-570 Women’s Health Research (Convention 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, Too few research studies are conducted on diseases and conditions that affect women and the inclusion of women in clinical trials potentially facilitates the development of less expensive treatment and strategies; and

WHEREAS, Women are not routinely included in Phase I and II stages of NIH-funded clinical trials; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges continued commitment and funding for women’s health programs; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges that women be included in all phases of clinical trials in the same proportion as men, and that the data for gender difference be analyzed.

013-580 Youth Suicide Prevention (formerly “Youth Suicide”; Convention 1986; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is one of the leading causes of death among youth ages 15 to 24 years old; and

WHEREAS, Suicidal youth may exhibit characteristics and warning signs; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support programs that:

- Provide information to increase awareness about behavioral characteristics, risk factors and warning signs of at-risk youth to peer groups, parents, school personnel, and other concerned adults;
- Provide information about available treatment, counseling resources, and services;
- Teach youth to build self-esteem and to develop coping skills;
- Emphasize building support groups and networks for youth who have survived an attempted suicide, and for surviving family and friends of suicide victims; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges school districts to fund and develop plans of action to identify at-risk youth and provide staff training in recognizing risk factors and warning signs of suicidal behavior.

013-590 Autism Spectrum Disorder (Convention 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Approximately 1 in 88 children in the United States (a ten-fold increase in prevalence in 40 years) live with Autism Spectrum Disorder and this increase is only partly explained by improved diagnosis and awareness; and

WHEREAS, the cost of lifelong care of ASD can be reduced with diagnosis and early intervention; and

WHEREAS, many health insurance plans do not cover any intervention treatment; therefore

RESOLVED, that the General Federation Women's of Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for:

- Legislation providing private and government sponsored coverage for ASD intervention programs;
- Insurance coverage for services, therapies and the treatment of individuals of all ages with ASD;
- Continued research in the causes, treatment, and prevention of ASD.

013-600 Cancer (Convention 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Cancer is a complex group of diseases with many possible causes; and

WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, more than one million people develop cancer each year; and

WHEREAS, The American Cancer Society and the National Institutes of Health estimate the annual costs of cancer exceed hundreds of billions of dollars; and

WHEREAS, There are multiple causes of cancer, including genetic factors; lifestyle choices such as tobacco use, diet, physical inactivity; sun and UV exposure; certain infections; and environmental exposures to certain chemicals and radiation; and

WHEREAS, More than half of all cancer deaths could be prevented through education, healthy lifestyle choices, and early detection; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support, participate in, and sponsor educational campaigns that target risk factors; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation that combats cancer and its risk factors; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports research funding for the continued development of screening methods, treatments, and cures.

013-610 Heart Disease in Women (Convention 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Heart disease is the number one killer of women in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Heart disease claims more lives of women than all forms of cancer with earlier onset than most think, and with increasing risk at menopause; and

WHEREAS, Two thirds of women who suffer heart attacks never fully recover; and

WHEREAS, Women often present with different symptoms than men, such as nausea, and sudden or overwhelming fatigue; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that women wait longer than men to go to an emergency room when having a heart attack and physicians are slower to recognize the presence of heart attacks in women because characteristic patterns of chest pain and EKG changes are less frequently present; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to provide educational opportunities to its members and communities on women's heart health; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports efforts to improve the research, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease, stroke, and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

013-620 Obesity Prevention (Convention 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Obesity, defined as having a Body Mass Index of 30 or above, has reached epidemic proportion in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The World health Organization estimates that today more than half of all adults in the Unites States are overweight; and the number of overweight teens and children has doubled in the last decade; and

WHEREAS, Obesity increases the risk for many chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, Obesity and its related health problems are placing a burden on the United States health care system; and

WHEREAS, Obesity is generally caused by inactivity and unhealthy eating, with genetics playing a role; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs

- Supports a national strategy to reduce obesity
- Encourages businesses to develop products and activities that promote increased physical behaviors
- Calls upon insurance providers to cover nutrition and fitness counseling and programs; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to create and maintain environments that address obesity.

013-630 Religious Freedom (Convention 2014)

WHEREAS, The Bill of Rights of the Constitution of the United States of America states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof”; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs opposes intolerance, stereotyping, discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against the members of any religion, and the destruction of religious property; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to inform themselves and their communities about the diversity of religions in their communities to create better understanding; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports the rights of all individuals to devote themselves to a faith of their own and to practice that religion freely, including the right and opportunity for voluntary prayer.

013-640 Sexual and Reproductive Health Care (Includes “Pre-Natal Care”, Convention 1997; “Reproductive Health Care”, Convention 1990; “Teen Pregnancy”, Convention 1988; “Sexually Transmitted Diseases”, Convention 1987) (Convention 2016)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs has long been concerned with the health, welfare, and psychological well-being of women and children; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control estimates more than 20 million new sexually transmitted infections occur each year in the United States among all age groups, with half of them among young people 15-24, which can complicate pregnancy and have serious effects on both women and developing babies; and

WHEREAS, Inadequate pre-natal care is associated with increased risks including low infant birth weights, premature births, and neo-natal, infant and maternal morbidity and mortality; and

WHEREAS, Most teen pregnancies are unintended and the babies of teen mothers face higher risks; and

WHEREAS, Postpartum depression is a serious and disabling condition that frequently goes undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, Female genital mutilation, illegal and on the rise in the United States,

- Has negative effects on sexual and reproductive health;
- Increases risk of infertility, childbirth complications, and newborn deaths;
- Violates human rights principles and standards;
- Lacks reporting and prosecution under federal law; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Legislation and funding for access to comprehensive health care for teens and adults;
- Research to develop treatments and cures;
- Programs, services and workshops on sex education, family planning, perinatal care, well-baby and well-child care, and family life parenting;
- Continued education both in schools and for the public;
- Academic education for pregnant teens and teen mothers;
- Educational awareness programs to end female genital mutilation.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

014-010 **Child Survival in Developing Countries** (formerly “Child Survival”; Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, The United Nations reports that millions of children under the age of five die annually of preventable childhood diseases, infections and parasites in the developing world; and

WHEREAS, Many children’s lives could be saved by providing a healthful and safe environment, access to medical care, proper nutrition, education and adequate clothing and shelter; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs works with existing international organizations to:

- Educate and involve GFWC members in promoting and supporting health care including prenatal care and immunizations for children;
- Provide basic treatment for childhood diseases;
- Teach parents how to treat sick children;
- Provide better living conditions for children; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

014-020 Drug Trafficking (Convention 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention reports that the illicit drug industry is an enormous criminal business generating hundreds of billions of dollars in illegal profits per year; and

WHEREAS, The cultivation, production, distribution, trafficking and consumption of illegal drugs increasingly threaten society, global security and foreign relations; and

WHEREAS, Terrorism, crime, corruption and violence thrive on the international drug trafficking; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Governmental cooperation on the enforcement of mutually beneficial drug laws;
- Strengthening laws against domestic and international drug money laundering, including increased vigilance by federal enforcement agencies;
- Continued use of law enforcement, military, and economic sanctions to dismantle drug trafficking organizations.

014-030 Enforcement of Immigration Laws (formerly "Immigration Laws"; Convention 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Effective enforcement of immigration laws is needed to control national security, economic, health, and social problems created by unchecked immigration; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support strict enforcement of existing immigration laws and maximum appropriations for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (UUSCIS) to carry out its mission; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) pertaining to the testing of immigrants for health related conditions deemed inadmissible.

014-040 Geneva Convention on Protection of Civilians in Wartime (Convention 1950; Amended 1958; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Civilians during the conflict of war are subjected to injury and death from abduction, small arms, landmines, and weapons of mass destruction; and

WHEREAS, The Geneva Conventions prohibit the following acts at any time and in any place whatsoever with respect to any person taking no active part in hostilities:

- Violence to life and person, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment;
- Taking of hostages;
- Outrage upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment;

WHEREAS, The Geneva Conventions state that attacks must be made solely against military targets; that parties to a conflict must distinguish between civilians and combatants, and civilians may not be attacked; that weapons and methods of warfare likely to cause unnecessary losses or excessive suffering, or severe or long-term damage to the environment may not be used; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the United States Mission to the United Nations to use its influence for furthering the strict observance of the provisions of the Geneva Conventions relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war.

014-050 Hemispheric Solidarity (Convention 1956; Reaffirmed 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Promoting Western Hemisphere solidarity is an established policy of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; and

WHEREAS, Western Hemisphere security is safeguarded in part by the structure of the Organization of American States; and

WHEREAS, The women of the Americas have it within their power to better understanding between the people of their respective nations; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the Organization of American States; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs calls upon its member clubs to aid of women of all American nations in urging their governments and people to increase mutual understanding and cooperation to further common interests in cultural, economic and political well-being.

014-060 Human Rights (Convention 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Reviewed 2005; Reviewed 2009, Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, Human rights abuses and genocide continue to occur around the world; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs calls upon all nations to end human rights abuses and genocide by promoting the rule of law, peace and understanding among all peoples.

014-070 International Child Labor (Convention 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1995; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The widespread practice of child labor is one of the greatest threats to poverty eradications; and

WHEREAS, Child soldiers, one of the vilest forms of child labor, face not only the dangers of combat, but suffer physical abuse or rape at the hands of fellow combatants; and

WHEREAS, The international community, working through the International Labour Organization (ILO), has agreed to the elimination of the worst forms of child labor by 2016 and recognizes the need to step up global efforts to reach this goal; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Projects aimed at reintegrating former child soldiers to society through economic empowerment and employment support;
- Programs of aid, education, and public awareness to alleviate poverty, which is often the cause of commercial exploitation of children; and
- The enactment and enforcement of legislation that strengthens domestic and international child labor laws.

014-080 International Exchange Programs (Convention 1956; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2003, Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support international exchange programs that promote international understanding.

014-100 Management of Outer Space (formerly "Control of Outer Space" Convention 1959; Amended 1983; Reviewed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Reviewed 1999; 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, two-thirds of member countries of the United Nations have ratified or signed the Outer Space Treaty, which:

- Limits use of the moon and other celestial bodies exclusively to peaceful purposes and prohibits the establishment of military bases, installations, or fortifications; the testing of weapons; or the conduct of military maneuvers;
- Prohibits the placement of nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction on any celestial body or manmade structure in outer space;
- States that any exploration or use of outer space shall be in accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations.

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support matters relating to protection and preservation of the space environment, especially those potentially affecting the earth's environment.

014-110 **Man-made and Nuclear Disasters** (Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Reviewed 1999; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Man-made and nuclear disasters which cause a loss of life, health hazards and contamination occur in the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs is concerned about the fate of the people affected by such tragic disasters; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the United States government to call upon nations of the world, and the Secretary General of the United Nations, to demand that such disasters be reported immediately so that all nations may assist in aiding victims and their families; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly urges the United States and nations of the world to find a more effective means to standardize safety regulations in nuclear plants and a process for safe disposal of all nuclear wastes.

014-120 **National Defense** (Convention 1979; Amended and Reaffirmed 1980; Amended and Reaffirmed 1981; Amended and Reaffirmed 1986; Reviewed 1990; Amended 1991; Reviewed 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Amended 2011; Reviewed 2015)

WHEREAS, The security of the United States and its citizens is of paramount importance; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs reaffirms its conviction that a strong national defense system is necessary to our survival as a free and strong nation; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs continuously opposes any treaty which will permit any nation to obtain or retain military superiority over the United States; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports effective security and intelligence capabilities along with maintenance of a strong military force.

014-130 **Nuclear Arms Reduction** (Convention 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Nuclear arms threaten the world and its inhabitants, therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges continued reduction of nuclear arms; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges legislators to monitor nuclear trade agreements for military and/or civilian use that are not in compliance with legislation and treaties, such as the Atomic Energy Act (PL 83-703) and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

014-140 Population Growth (Convention 1966; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The rapid worldwide increase in population is a threat to people, economies, the environment, natural resources, wildlife, and world peace; and

WHEREAS, Starvation in many parts of the world is a dire reality and is an ever increasing problem; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges all private and governmental agencies engaged in family planning to increase their efforts to find safe, inexpensive, and effective means to reduce population growth; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for legislation to make family planning services accessible.

014-150 Prayer at the United Nations (Convention 1956; Reaffirmed 1979; Reaffirmed 1985; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012)

WHEREAS, The peoples of the world have in common a desire for compassionate human coexistence and the need to be united in facing the challenges of the world; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the current practice of one minute of silent prayer or meditation at the opening and closing of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

014-160 Refugees (formerly "Reunification of Refugee Families"; Convention 1979; Reaffirmed 1985; Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, Civil strife, wars, persecution, or natural disasters have tragically separated families, destroying familial and social structures and the influence of the home; and

WHEREAS, Children commonly constitute more than half of the total refugee population;

WHEREAS, Lack of security can leave refugees, especially women and children, vulnerable to violence; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges all governments to:

- Find effective means of reuniting refugee families through the efforts of the United Nations and other international organizations;
- Provide protection and assistance to unaccompanied refugee minors;
- Take actions to provide for the safety and security of refugees, especially women and children.

014-170 Support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) (Convention 1961; Reaffirmed 1983; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was created to promote security, peace, democracy, and stability in North America and Europe; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs has supported NATO from its inception; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports this organization and urges strong leadership within the member nations to safeguard the security of threatened members.

014-180 Support of UNESCO Day of Tolerance (Convention 2000; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Acts of violence and hate crimes against and by children have increased awareness of intolerance and violence; and

WHEREAS, Increasing acts of intolerance, violence, terrorism, and racism threaten the peoples of the world; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs has a history of supporting tolerance and non-violence; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) promotes peace, non-violence and understanding, and has an established Day for Tolerance, which is observed annually on November 16; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the observation and promotion of the UNESCO Day for Tolerance and urges its member clubs to teach tolerance and promote non-violence through year-round projects and programs.

014-190 Support of the United Nations (Convention 1952; Amended 1969; Reaffirmed 1984; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs recognizes the interdependence of nations; has consistently urged cooperation and collective action as the only road to mutual security and enduring peace; and has repeatedly endorsed the United Nations as an instrument for "solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian nature"; and

WHEREAS, National integrities are safeguarded by the Charter of the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, The Charter of the United Nations provides for a General Conference of the members of the United Nations for the purpose of reviewing the present provisions of the Charter; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs affirms its endorsement of participation by the United States in the United Nations; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs, in order to disseminate accurate information, shall promote programs on the United Nations and events, such as United Nations Day (October 24).

014-200 Assistance to Economically Less Developed Areas (formerly "Technical Assistance of Economically Less Developed Areas) Convention 1950; Reaffirmed 1961; Amended and Reaffirmed 1979; Reaffirmed 1985; Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs has consistently manifested its concern in the economic survival of the peoples of the world; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs reaffirms its support of the principle of joint responsibility among free nations for economic stability and mutual security; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs endorses programs which provides basic technical assistance to less-developed areas of the world, encourage private investment of capital needed for this economic development, and which uses carefully screened, qualified staff, and volunteers.

014-210 Terrorism (Convention 1981; Amended and Reaffirmed 1986; Reviewed 1990; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Terrorism continues to be a grave threat to all persons throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Homeland Security was created in 2001 to lead, oversee, and coordinate a comprehensive national strategy to safeguard against terrorism; and

WHEREAS, An effective campaign to counter terrorism and bring to justice those who have perpetrated terrorist acts must be multilateral, multi-agency and tightly coordinated; and

WHEREAS, National, state and local governments need to be better prepared to combat and responding to terrorism; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its State Federations and member clubs to support anti-terrorism efforts including:

- Developing and implementing a domestic anti-terrorism strategy;
- Providing training and financial aid to state and local government agencies and emergency response teams preparing for terrorist attacks;
- Educating members to better understand the various forms of terrorism in order to be better prepared;
- Supporting legislation providing strong counter-terrorism programs; and
- Encouraging enhanced communication and cooperation among participating agencies within the U.S. and internationally;
- The improvement and reform of anti-terrorism programs as necessary; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the United States to work collaboratively with international organizations and governments to combat terrorism; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly reaffirms its conviction that any terrorist act is morally outrageous; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly reaffirms its conviction that any terrorist act against the United States or other countries be investigated and necessary action taken to identify and apprehend those responsible and to have them prosecuted.

014-230 **Totalitarian Aggression** (formerly “Communist and Totalitarian Aggression”; Convention 1961; Amended 1972; Amended 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended 1991, 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Totalitarian penetration and aggression are threats to the peace and security of the world; and

WHEREAS, The continued pressure of totalitarian regimes jeopardizes the solidarity of established and emerging democratic nations; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support efforts to prevent aggressive actions by totalitarian regimes.

014-240 **United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** (formerly "United Nations Conferences on Women"; Convention 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) establishes basic international principles of equality for women in areas of civil, economic, education, employment, health care and political rights; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW is regarded as the most important international mechanism for women's equality; and

WHEREAS, Discrimination against women continues to exist, violating human rights, fostering gender based violence, hampering growth and prosperity of society, and limiting the full potential of women; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW has been ratified by more than 90% of the United Nations Member States; and

WHEREAS, The United States is a leader in the promotion of human rights; and

WHEREAS, Lack of U.S. ratification has hindered our country's leadership in promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, U.S. failure to ratify CEDAW allows countries with weak human rights records to neglect and undermine human rights for women; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports immediate ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members and member clubs to become active supporters of CEDAW ratification by contacting their United States Senators and the White House to urge their support for U.S. ratification.

014-260 World Hunger (Convention 1989; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Hunger exists both domestically and internationally; and

WHEREAS, Hunger affects the quality of life of all by contributing to civil unrest, terrorism, crime, environmental degradation, mass migration of refugees and a curtailment of world trade; and

WHEREAS, Hunger should be viewed as a problem that can be solved, instead of a tragedy that must be endured; and

WHEREAS, The immediate problems of hunger, malnutrition and preventable diseases must be dealt with, along with their causes including chronic poverty, deprivation, lack of basic education of young children (especially girls), and/or civil conflicts; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs commends the worthwhile efforts of private organizations, governments and the United Nations to end world hunger; further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports initiatives that combine existing domestic and international assistance programs that promote long-term self-sufficiency of low-income people.

PUBLIC ISSUES

015-010 **Abolishment of Pornography** (Convention 1987; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, Pornography is known to be addictive and progressive and has been associated with damaged marriages, violence against women, and the exploitation of children; and

WHEREAS, Pornographic materials are so readily available, especially on the Internet; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to use every available legal means to combat pornography by:

- Educating its members, teenagers, parents, and the public about the current pornography laws and the problems of easy access to pornographic materials in all forms of media and communication and its destructive effects on society;
- Encouraging cooperation of law enforcers and communication technology providers to combat the electronic distribution and possession of child pornography;
- Supporting the strict enforcement of existing laws, especially those dealing with children, and the creation of new laws where needed.

015-020 Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention (formerly “Abused Persons”; Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2009; Amended 2011; Amended 2013; Amended 2016)

WHEREAS, Domestic violence, which includes, but is not limited to physical, emotional, mental, and sexual abuse, continues to increase within our society cutting across race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, educational, and socioeconomic lines and can cause emotional distress, physical injury, and death to children and adults; and

WHEREAS, Many victims are forced to remain in dangerous situations because they are deliberately placed into financial dependence by their abuser; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence also includes dating violence, which is defined as the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in a dating relationship; and

WHEREAS, Lack of dating experience subjects teens to situations where they are less likely to recognize signs and/or symptoms of abuse; and

WHEREAS, Young people who witness violence, or are directly victimized by it, endure various emotional ramifications, and are at an increased risk of perpetuating violence in their own relationships; and

WHEREAS, Many state laws and legal remedies only deal with certain areas of abuse and may be applied inconsistently, and there continues to be a need for emergency shelters and counseling services for victims of abuse; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to] support legislation and actively promote programs that:

- Identify at-risk families and suspected cases of child, spousal, partner, and elder abuse;
- Increase awareness of the risks of financial dependence and provide necessary resources to become financially self-sufficient;
- Provide emergency aid and shelter for those who are forced to leave violent family settings, including family pets;
- Provide treatment, support, legal aid, and advocacy for victims and rehabilitation for perpetrators of abuse;
- Provide public awareness and education programs concerning prevention of abuse; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for legislation preventing perpetrators from purchasing or possessing guns from the time a Temporary Restraining or Protective Orders are issued until the final resolution of both any petition seeking a permanent restraining or protective order and of any criminal prosecution of the person against whom such a temporary or permanent

order is sought; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for expansion of the definition of the term "intimate partner" as found in the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act to include a dating partner or former dating partner; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for dating violence prevention programs in middle and high schools to increase awareness and promote healthy relationships; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges Congress to fully fund legislation that supports all victims of domestic violence without discrimination; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to enlist the help of hospitals, doctors, clinics, educators, schools, lawyers, law enforcement, churches, counseling services, social service agencies, domestic violence shelters and programs, and clinics in a united effort for prevention of abuse and treatment of abused persons.

015-040 Advocacy Rights of Charitable Organizations (Convention 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Many nonprofits have the right and responsibility to engage in advocacy and lobbying activities; and

WHEREAS, These rights are being challenged formally and through legislation that would limit nonprofits to engage in advocacy; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs opposes any legislation that limits and/or prohibits the advocacy rights of charitable organizations.

015-050 Aging The Case (Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Aging the case occurs when a crime has been committed and an individual has been arrested for the offense but, the case has been allowed to be postponed continuously; and

WHEREAS, This "aging of the case" works against successful prosecution, especially in the larger cities; and

WHEREAS, Justice delayed is often justice denied; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to examine this situation in their respective communities and to join other organizations to seek action for the prevention and control of "aging of the case."

015-060 Vehicle Safety Systems (formerly “Automobile Restraint Systems”; “Automobile Safety Systems”; Convention 1974; Amended 1980; Amended 1985; Amended 1987; Amended 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2009; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Studies prove that seat belts offer the best protection available for motor vehicle occupants, and their correct use can save many thousands of lives annually and drastically reduce the number of serious injuries; and

WHEREAS, Replacement or repair of safety systems with incorrect or substandard parts and/or faulty installation can lead to serious injury or death of vehicle occupants; and

WHEREAS, Statistics show that injury and death often occur when passengers ride in the cargo area of trucks; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports the enforcement of laws which mandate the use of seat belts; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports legislation requiring licensing or certification of businesses that install or repair vehicle safety systems; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports legislation restricting passengers from riding in truck cargo areas; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports continued development and improvement of vehicle safety systems; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to sponsor and/or work with other organizations to promote vehicle safety programs.

015-070 Balanced Budget (Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs is concerned with the economic problems facing the nation; and

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs has long advocated programs of the government of the United States which support national defense and services necessary to the education, health and welfare of the people; and

WHEREAS, A strong and healthy economy, free from excessive taxes or runaway inflation, depends on the adoption of responsible federal budgets for the years ahead; and

WHEREAS, When government spends more than it collects in taxes, the increased cost is imposed upon the taxpayer in the form of taxes, inflation and higher living costs; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs recommends the elimination of waste in governmental spending and recommends rigid scrutiny of every proposed expenditure in both non-defense and defense programs; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges Congress to continue its goal of a balanced federal budget for the promotion of a strong and stable economy.

015-080 Bicycle Safety (Convention 1973; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988, Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, The number of bicyclists continues to increase due to recreational and health values as well as concern for the environment and transportation expenses; and

WHEREAS, The proper maintenance of bicycles and adherence to traffic laws can dramatically reduce the number of crashes; and

WHEREAS, studies show that while wearing a helmet can significantly reduce the risk of head injuries, many people die or are seriously injured each year as a result of crashes; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs promotes bicycle safety courses for all bicyclists; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the creation of public bicycle paths; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to emphasize the importance of bicycle maintenance, the use of appropriate safety gear and adherence to traffic laws.

015-090 Child Safety Seats (formerly "Child Car Seats"; Convention 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death and injury of children one to 12 years old in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Children who are unrestrained or improperly restrained have a significantly higher rate of injury and death in a motor vehicle crash; and

WHEREAS, The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration recommends children be seated in a properly installed, federally approved child safety seat appropriate for the child's height, weight, and age; and

WHEREAS, State laws regarding safety seat usage and enforcement of those laws vary greatly; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation requiring children be seated in appropriate, properly fitted child safety seats, based on height, weight, and age; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly supports education programs regarding child safety seats, stressing the importance of proper and consistent use and correct installation; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly supports more stringent regulations on child safety seat use and strict enforcement of these laws.

015-110 Civilian Military Reserve (Convention 1945; Amended 1985; Amended 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs recognizes that changed conditions have forced the United States to reexamine its traditional attitude toward maintaining a large body of men and women trained in military science and practices; and

WHEREAS, The necessity to have available an adequate, equipped and ready military force may extend over an undetermined period of time and must provide for:

- The present emergency;
- The future military needs of the nation;
- The continuance of the American way of life; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports a well trained civilian military reserve and mobilization system which:

- Is democratic and universal in application;
- Provides a standing army and a civilian reserve which is constantly reinforced by newly trained men and women;
- Addresses quality of life issues including adequate pay, health care and other support services for civilian military forces when called to active duty;
- Provides for the future development and needs of our country by utilizing to maximum advantage the skills and abilities of those called into service.

015-120 **Continued Concern for Missing In Action** (Convention 1974; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs is on record urging concern and action for American prisoners of war and missing in action; and

WHEREAS, There are hundreds of Americans still missing; and

WHEREAS, United States search teams have been given limited authority to search areas where military personnel are last known to be alive; and

WHEREAS, Signatories to the Geneva Convention demand an accounting for prisoners and missing in action; therefore

RESOLVED, That peace with honor demands that the United States government continue to insist that all the missing in action be accounted for, that all prisoners who may be detained by the enemy be freed immediately and that honorable burial for our dead be provided, consistent with the wishes of their families; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the United States government to call upon the nations of the world, and particularly to signatories of the Geneva Conventions, to assist in providing a full accounting for prisoners of war, the dead and missing in action.

015-130 **Crime Prevention** (Convention 1968; Amended 1972; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with other organizations and law enforcement agencies to study the crime situation in their communities, examine the resources available to prevent and reduce crime, and to initiate and promote programs, such as cross-reporting of animal cruelty and violent crimes in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, that combat crime.

015-140 Disaster Service Planning (Convention 1984; Reviewed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, natural and other disasters may strike with little or no warning; and

WHEREAS, Successful emergency programs require awareness, acceptance and participation by individuals, families and communities; and

WHEREAS, Many people would not be able to evacuate a disaster area due to lack of resources; and

WHEREAS, Many elderly and disabled individuals, including those in hospitals and nursing homes, would be physically incapable of leaving on their own; and

WHEREAS Terrorists are working to obtain biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons, increasing the threat of attacks; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Be aware of emergency service programs, accept personal responsibility and take positive action toward ensuring family survival;
- Promote public education and participation through club and community programs and projects;
- Assess and assist in the establishment and support of local emergency services; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support comprehensive national, state and local policies that require evacuation plans that include:

- People with disabilities, in institutions, or without access to transportation; and
- The humane collection, shelter and/or evacuation of animals.

015-160 Driver Education (Convention 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2006; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, Many people in the United States are injured or killed by motor vehicle accidents caused by human error, and motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of teen death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Extensive driving practice and defensive driving courses have been shown to assist drivers in significantly reducing both accidents and traffic law violations; and

WHEREAS, Drivers over 65 are more likely to be involved in crashes due to declining perception and motor skills; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members clubs to supports-extensive driving practice and driver education; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to contact local legislators and school officials to retain or implement, and fund driver education within schools; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members clubs to supports-the enactment and enforcement of graduated drivers licensing laws; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members clubs to supports-quality driver education including courses designed for teen drivers, new drivers, and those over 55; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its individual members to participate in a defensive driving course and its member clubs to sponsor such courses for the benefit of their communities.

015-170 Driving Under the Influence (Formerly “Drunk/Drugged Driving;” Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Alcohol and drug related traffic crashes a leading cause of death for all ages; and

WHEREAS, Concerned persons are demanding permanent solutions to the problem of driving under the influence; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation to strengthen, update and strictly enforce state laws regarding alcohol and drug sales and driving under the influence; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to cooperate with other organizations, including local school systems, in supporting community-based alcohol and drug programs and projects; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support the enactment and strict enforcement of laws, which guarantee:

- Administrative License Revocation (ALR);
- Immediate arrest and speedy trial of offenders;
- Tough, standardized penalties especially for repeat offenders.

015-180 Early Release of Violent and Habitual Prisoners (Convention 1994; Reviewed 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, Early release of violent and habitual offenders often results in disaster; and

WHEREAS, States which prohibit early release have shown reduced crime; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to pursue all avenues to effect changes in legislation regarding early release of violent and habitual prisoners.

015-190 Election Procedures (Convention 1969; Amended 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Reviewed 2015)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs recognizes that to affect the greatest efficiency in operation it is necessary to review methods and procedures in the election of the President and Vice President of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The majority vote of the electorate does not necessarily prevail under the present procedures of the Electoral College in the election of the President and Vice President of the United States; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges that political parties and candidates conduct election campaigns with dignity; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the Federal Elections Commission and the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission to study and make recommendations for modern, efficient and equitable election procedures.

015-200 Eminent Domain (Convention 2006; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Eminent domain is the power of the State to take private property for public use with payment of compensation to the owner; and

WHEREAS, Eminent domain proceedings are critical in the development, maintenance, and revitalization of infrastructure at all levels of government, but not without limit; and

WHEREAS, Eminent domain has been used to condemn property legally occupied and maintained in order to transfer the same to private developers; and

WHEREAS, Use and abuse of eminent domain has increased; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation that

- Limits the taking of private property by foreign investors regardless of the proposed use;
- Restricts the exercise of eminent domain to those cases where the land is required for a legitimate public use and where a public benefit can be demonstrated; and
- Provides for adequate compensation to the property owner.

015-210 Equal Rights and Responsibilities for Women (Convention 1944; Reviewed 1950; Amended 1967; Reviewed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Reviewed 1999; Amended 2003, Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Reviewed 2015)

WHEREAS, The United States Constitution does not guarantee equality of status for women, except with regard to the right to vote, and will guarantee equality of other rights only when an amendment for the purpose is included therein; and

WHEREAS, Lack of ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) continuously jeopardizes women's parity with men in the areas of health care, violence, education and employment; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs reaffirms its support and urges the immediate ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) which would provide that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of gender.

015-220 Fire Prevention and Protection from Fire Injury (Convention 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, Fire causes death, injury, disfigurement and financial loss to many people each year; and

WHEREAS, Programs which educate the public and help prevent fires and protect against fire-related injuries in homes and public buildings are vital; and

WHEREAS, The use of smoke and heat detectors and flame-resistant fabrics provides protection against injury from fire; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Support the adoption, enforcement, and updating of fire safety laws;
- Promote education on the protective value of detectors and flame retardant materials, including increasing public awareness of stricter children's sleepwear standards and the need to report any infringements of that law;
- Work for the enforcement of the Flammable Fabric Act and other laws that require flammability standards for all textiles used to manufacture clothing and household items sold in the United States;
- Promote education of survival techniques and fire safety laws.

015-230 Fundamental Freedoms (Convention 1956; Amended 1968; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The future depends on the vision, courage, faith and devotion of those who believe that freedom must underlie any satisfying personal life, political order or productive economy; and

WHEREAS, Our country and the documents guaranteeing our freedom are sources of inspiration to people in many lands, giving them strength and guidance in their aspiring efforts toward freedom because they are based on the doctrine of freedom of the individual, limited only by transgression of the freedom of others; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote programs of education especially in schools to reiterate devotion to those ideals which have made this country a sanctuary of freedom: namely, those freedoms set forth in the Bill of Rights, and such inherent rights as respect for the dignity of the individual and freedom of thought, discussion, and belief.

015-240 Gun Control (formerly “Handgun Control”; Convention 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, One of the most alarming crises the nation faces today is the number of violent crimes involving firearms, and

WHEREAS, A waiting period and background check on purchase of handguns has reduced crime and violence by providing impetuous gun buyers a cooling off period; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports effective gun control legislation regulating the indiscriminate sale and possession of weapons including:

- Mandatory waiting periods and gun safety education prior to purchase;
- Improved licensing requirements for gun dealers;
- Requirements that purchasers produce identification and bear the cost of a background check;
- Requirements for background checks or a firearm owner’s identification card to purchase a gun at gun shows;
- Increased penalties for the sale of firearms to minors, and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports legislation banning the importation, manufacture, and sale of assault-style weapons; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports mandatory penalties for anyone convicted of using a firearm during the commission of a crime; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports legislation allowing law enforcement officials free access to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives gun trace information; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports the enforcement of existing gun laws and urges its member clubs to work with their legislators and firearm authorities on all levels to implement improved methods of safe gun control.

015-250 Historic Preservation (Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended; 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, Appreciation of cultural heritage and knowledge of history shape a nation's identity; and

WHEREAS, Historic landmarks contribute to the economic, social and cultural well-being of communities, yet countless historic properties are being ignored, destroyed and abandoned; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to record the history of and help preserve historic landmarks and artifacts; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages its member clubs to partner with other civic organizations and government agencies to preserve historic buildings and landmarks; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to study and preserve the history of their club and GFWC, including written and oral histories, buildings and artifacts.

015-260 Humane Treatment of Animals (Convention 1966; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs continues to support humane treatment of animals; and

WHEREAS, The Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International accredits institutions that demonstrate a commitment to responsible animal research and good science; and

WHEREAS, The procurement and utilization of animals for use in experimentation are essential for the advancement of medical science; and

WHEREAS, There are animal cruelty prevention laws in all 50 states; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Support the use of animals to advance medicine and science only when there are no non-animal alternatives, and when it is done in an ethical and humane way;
- Support the vigorous enforcement federal, state, and animal cruelty prevention laws;
- Encourage and support the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International accreditation program;
- Support programs promoting the training of personnel in the area of laboratory animal care, for legitimate procurement of the animals and construction of adequate animal care facilities.

015-270 Identity Theft (Convention 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that identity theft, the stealing of someone's personal identification for criminal purposes, is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Identity theft is an invasive crime that can severely damage the victim's financial security and credit history; and

WHEREAS, Identity theft is perpetrated by stealing personal information through credit cards, drivers' licenses, ATM cards, social security numbers, and computer hacking; and

WHEREAS, The perpetrator's actions may result in the victim being held civilly liable and having a record of criminal conviction; and

WHEREAS, Governments and businesses increasingly use personal identification numbers, and technology expands and simplifies the dissemination of personal information; and

WHEREAS, Careful handling of personal information and documents, including the use of encrypted websites can reduce the risk of identity theft; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about identity theft, including child identity theft, its serious ramifications, and the importance of, and methods for, protecting personal information, including the use of encrypted websites for the transfer of personal information; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about the importance of prompt reporting of any suspicious activity in their accounts and credit reports; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges government agencies and credit reporting bureaus to establish a simplified victim fraud alert process; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for legislation allowing a victim of identity theft to make an application to the court for expungement of any records reflecting that the victim was charged or convicted of a crime committed by the perpetrator; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges public and private industries to create methods of protecting personal information, especially records available on the internet; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support increased resources for and stringent enforcement of The Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act and related laws.

015-290 Improved Adoption Laws (Convention 1950; Reviewed 1983; Reviewed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Some infants and children are placed by unauthorized persons for adoption in homes that are unsuitable and detrimental to their welfare; and

WHEREAS, Inconsistencies in adoption criteria and delays in placement are often present in legal adoptions; and

WHEREAS, Adoption procedures and laws vary widely; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with state and federal governments with a view to abolish harmful practices and to establish standardized adoption laws.

015-300 Distracted Drivers (Convention 2001; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Motorized vehicles are powerful machines requiring the full and undivided attention of drivers; and

WHEREAS, Varied distractions take a driver's attention away from operating a motor vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Recent statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show distracted drivers continue to cause death and injuries in motor vehicle crashes; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports efforts to eliminate distractions while driving; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges government agencies to record crashes stemming from distracted drivers; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports enforcing existing laws and new legislation prohibiting distracted driving; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation creating increased penalties for distracted driving.

015-310 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency (formerly “Juvenile Crime and Justice”; Convention 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, Juvenile crime remains a very serious concern; and

WHEREAS, Children can be status offenders for offenses including chronic truancy, disobedience to parents, running away and other types of “incurable” or “ungovernable” behavior; and

WHEREAS, Juvenile crime can be reduced by encouraging prevention through positive parental involvement, participation in extracurricular activities and supportive adult mentoring thus decreasing risk factors such as drug use, poor school performance and unstable homes; and

WHEREAS, There are inadequate detention and probation services in many juvenile court jurisdictions; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs encourages the establishment and increased public awareness of children at-risk programs including family support, school dropout prevention, out of school programs, substance abuse prevention, gang membership prevention, and other community-based programs; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support the following:

- Adequate programs of probation and rehabilitative services in humane juvenile facilities using supervision and counseling to promote positive behaviors and prevent recidivism;
- Alternative living situations, such as shelter care, group and foster homes, with adequate programs for nonviolent juveniles;
- Protection of all youth under the age of 18 held pre-trial, whether charged in juvenile or adult court;
- Placement of youth convicted in adult court in juvenile;
- Steps to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system;
- Prohibition of the locked detention of status offenders;
- Safe and humane conditions of confinement for youth in state and/or local custody;
- Compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention ACT (JJDP) and adoption of best practices that improve outcomes for youth and communities;
- Development and strengthening of partnerships that expand training, technical assistance, research, and evaluation and encourage transparency, timeliness, public notice, and communication;
- Expansion of juvenile crime prevention efforts by reauthorization of and increased funding for JJDP

015-330 Labor Exploitation (Convention 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Reviewed 2015)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs was instrumental in the establishment of the first U.S. labor laws; and

WHEREAS, Evidence exists that laborers, domestic and international, continue to work in sweatshop conditions violating their basic rights; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs continues to support the enactment and enforcement of laws, domestic and international, guaranteeing workers the right to work free of abuse and exploitation.

015-340 Latch Key Children (Convention 1985; Amended 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, There are millions of children under the age of twelve who are considered latch key children; and

WHEREAS, These children, who are alone in the home before and/or after school, regularly contend with fear, boredom, loneliness and dangerous situations; and

WHEREAS, Few employers provide on-site child care; and

WHEREAS, The Children's Defense Fund reports that participation in out of school programs reduces crime and illegal drug use committed by juveniles; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Support educational programs to inform latch key children and their parents of basic safety and emergency guidelines;
- Encourage school administrators to establish out of school programs;
- Encourage employers to provide on-site child care facilities.

015-350 Legal Reform in Sexual Abuse Cases Involving Children (Convention 1986; Amended 1990; Reviewed 1994; Reviewed 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The sexual victimization of a child is not just a crime against the child, but also violates the family, the home and a sense of justice; and

WHEREAS, Child victims of sexual abuse who are questioned during an investigation or required to testify in open court may suffer additional psychological damage; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges legal reform in sexual abuse cases of children through improved investigative techniques and courtroom and cross examination procedures; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports counseling programs for the victim and family.

015-370 Maintenance of Strong United States Armed Forces (Convention 1957; Reaffirmed 1975; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The deterrence of wars, and achieving victory should wars be forced upon us, are basic national objectives demanding an ever-ready system of sufficient forces in all branches of the military system; and

WHEREAS, Military systems of deliberate mobilization and unhurried training ensure optimum readiness for action in emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, It is the moral responsibility of the people to ensure that the government of the United States provides all members of the military services every protection which physical fitness, adequate training and up-to-date equipment can give them; and

WHEREAS, The duties of military personnel are vast and all-encompassing, and often necessitates separation from family for extended periods of time; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the maintenance of a strong military force; in sufficient numbers and quality, with the strength, equipment and organized deployment to fully meet its objectives to deter war in all forms and achieve victory should war be forced upon us; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the establishment of incentives in salary schedules, working and living conditions, and guaranteed retirement benefits which will make careers in the Armed Services of the United States sufficiently attractive to recruit new personnel and retain highly trained and efficient personnel; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the provision of necessary programs and resources to assist military personnel and their families during deployment and reintegration; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the continuation and preservation of health benefits for veterans who have combat experience, including mental health benefits for those who experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

015-380 Mandatory Drug and Alcohol Testing (Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Many crashes on common carriers (airlines, buses, trains and any other form of public transportation) are caused by operators who are impaired by the use of drugs and/or alcohol; and

WHEREAS, The Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act requires transportation industry employers to establish and maintain alcohol and drug-free workplace programs that incorporate both alcohol and drug testing; and

WHEREAS, These crashes and the tragic loss of lives may have been prevented if drug and alcohol testing had been conducted; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Railroad Administration to work in conjunction with the respective Union and Management officials to enforce mandatory testing and therefore improve passenger safety and prevent tragic loss of lives.

015-390 Missing Children (Convention 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, Millions of children are missing from their homes; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of children are abducted annually by strangers, parents, and/or other individuals known to the child placing them in grave danger; and

WHEREAS, The misuse of modern technology including internet access contributes to the abduction of children; and

WHEREAS, Prompt and accurate reporting of a missing child could result in a more positive outcome; and

WHEREAS, In many cases, neither parents nor local law enforcement agencies have the resources to mount large search efforts; and

WHEREAS, The American Missing Broadcast Emergency Response (AMBER Alert) is highly effective for locating missing children; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation to increase federal support for local, state, national, and international efforts to find missing children; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work within their communities to:

- Mount an FBI approved campaign to fingerprint all children;
- Create immediate community awareness of all children who are reported as missing by having in place the current technology such as digital photo fingerprinting cards;
- Work with public and private agencies to educate parents and children about safety measures to safeguard against abduction;
- Establish designated neighborhood safe houses;
- Encourage parents and/or guardians to monitor their children's internet activities; and further;

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to contact their elected officials to support legislation dealing with the secure recovery of unlawfully abducted, detained, or concealed minor children; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support the creation of a legal framework within the U.S. Department of State to issue international protective custody warrants; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports funding for and utilization of AMBER Alerts and the Child Abduction Response Team Program; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation criminalizing any failure to promptly and accurately report a missing child.

015-410 **Nomination of Ella T. Grasso to be Honored on a United States Postage Stamp**
(Convention 2003, Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Reviewed 2015)

WHEREAS, Ella T. Grasso was the first woman in the nation's history to be elected governor of a state in her own right; and

WHEREAS, Ella T. Grasso was a member of the General Federated Women's Club of Windsor Locks, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Few United States postage stamps have honored women; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support the nomination of Ella T. Grasso to be honored on a United States postage stamp; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to send this recommendation to the Stamp Development Manager of the United States Postal Service in Washington, D.C.

015-420 **Occupation-Volunteer** (Convention 1982; Amended 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Volunteers are essential to our communities and should be valued as such; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who choose to be volunteers can only be listed as unemployed on the United States Census; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to encourage the United States Congress to recognize "volunteer" as an occupational category; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the category of "volunteerism" to be included in the United States Census.

015-430 **Personal Safety** (Convention 1983, Amended 1987; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Personal safety is a national and international concern; and

WHEREAS, Violent crimes, natural disasters, and acts of terrorism continue to occur; and freedom from fear of bodily harm and the need for social order is a fundamental right of every human being; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies to insure improved protection of communities; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote public awareness about the importance of personal safety and dangers.

015-440 Political Campaign Finance Reform (Convention 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, There is deep concern about the control and influence over the political process held by special interests due to large political campaign contributions; and

WHEREAS, Escalating costs of political campaigns prohibit candidates from seeking or attaining office and challenge the allegiance of elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Ongoing reform of the campaign finance laws is necessary to ensure transparency and to safeguard the democratic process; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the enactment and enforcement of laws to curb unchecked campaign donations and restrict campaign spending; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to network with other organizations in support of enactment and enforcement of laws that will create major reform in the financing of political campaigns.

015-450 Pound Seizure (Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Reviewed 1999; Amended 2003, Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Unclaimed animals in pounds and shelters are released or sold for use in research, product safety and development, or educational demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, This practice subjects animals to the pain and stress of laboratory experimentation; and

WHEREAS, The threat of pound seizure of animals used for research may make citizens fearful of taking animals to a local shelter, thereby undermining animal control efforts; and

WHEREAS, Animals from shelters often have diseases and/or have received medications which could invalidate experimental results; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support local, state and federal legislative initiatives to ban pound seizure.

015-460 Prisoner Rehabilitation (Formerly “Prison Reform”, Convention 1957; Reaffirmed 1972; Reaffirmed 1984; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that punishment alone is not a deterrent to crime; and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of rehabilitation programs differ by gender and age of inmates; and

WHEREAS, Use of modern methods of incarceration could develop responsible, law-abiding citizens; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to encourage prison boards and administrators to take advantage of every possible resource in order that prisoners, regardless of gender, may be provided with and make use of:

- Psychological evaluation and psychiatric treatment, when indicated;
- Adequate medical treatment, including treatment for substance abuse;
- Remedial education, vocational and life skills training, and counseling to prevent recidivism;
- The opportunity for spiritual guidance;
- Domestic violence counseling;
- Preparation for returning to their communities; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs encourages its member clubs to develop, implement, and participate in programs to provide volunteer services to inmates; and further

RESOLVED, That efforts be made to provide adequate follow-up services upon release of prisoners in order to assist them in their full adjustment as productive members of society.

015-470 Prosecution of Hate Crimes (Convention 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Hate crimes, which target individuals based on their actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or disability poses a threat to the principles upon which this country was founded; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support enactment and enforcement of federal and state legislation against hate crimes.

015-480 **Respect for the Flag of the United States** (formerly "Public Display of the Flag of the United States of America"; Convention 1974; Amended 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The American flag is a rallying point for Americans and stands for patriotism and love of country; and

WHEREAS, For generations Americans have dedicated and given their lives to preserve the freedoms represented by the flag; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its U.S.A. member clubs to learn and practice proper flag etiquette; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its U.S.A. member clubs to promote and endorse the flying of our flag in a correct and respectful manner in their communities everyday; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs expresses its strongest objections to the improper burning of and to any manner of desecration of the American Flag.

015-490 **Responsibility of the Media and Individuals Pertaining to National Security** (formerly "Responsibility of the Media Pertaining to National Security"; Convention 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs expresses its conviction that every precaution possible be taken to preserve the utmost secrecy concerning matters which, if disclosed, would imperil national defense and national security; and

WHEREAS, Responsibility for maintaining secrecy concerning critically important information relating to national security rests jointly with administrative officers in charge, the media and related agencies, and individual citizens who come into possession of such information; and

WHEREAS, Increased use of technology has made penetrating of our Nation's information infrastructure by outsiders a very serious and real threat to security; and

WHEREAS, Classified information can be misused as a weapon against democracy and security; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports protection of classified information; and further

RESOLVED, That acts of purposely obtaining or failure to protect classified information be subject to the severest censure, legal action and/or punishment.

015-500 Rights and Responsibilities of the Individual (Convention 1975; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The power of a nation is determined by the strength and quality of its individuals; and

WHEREAS, Many people feel their voices and votes do not count in the formation of government policies and thus ignore the importance of participating in the political process; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the right and responsibility of people to be informed and to speak out on public issues to government officials; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to initiate programs which promote civic engagement and support programs which promote voting and civic responsibility.

015-510 Rosie the Riveter Memorial Project (Convention 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, The National Park Service has established the Rosie the Riveter Memorial/ World War II Home Front National Historic Park honoring women who worked during World War II in shipyards and other defense industries; and

WHEREAS, More than six million women contributed to the war effort by working in aircraft plants, ordnance factories, shipyards and other related defense industries; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the Rosie the Riveter Memorial Project; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports identifying areas across the United States where women actively engaged in home front activities during World War II; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages its member clubs to provide assistance and support in establishing museums honoring the home front efforts of women in all war industries.

015-520 Safety for Air Travel (Convention 1959; Amended and Reaffirmed 1983; Amended and Reaffirmed 1987; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, Air travel is a major means of transportation; and

WHEREAS, There have been numerous accidents and near accidents involving military, commercial, and private planes; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Federal Aviation Administration to control and direct air traffic and to establish and enforce structural, mechanical, and safety standards on the runway and in the air; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Transportation Security Administration to strengthen the security of the nation's transportation systems and ensure the freedom of movement; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges that proper safety measures be enforced by responsible government agencies to ensure the highest possible degree of safety for air travel.

015-530 Safety Helmets (formerly "Helmets for Cyclists"; Convention 1976; Amended 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, Wearing safety helmets has been shown to prevent serious head injuries; and

WHEREAS, Various types of transportation and recreation can put users at risk; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs:

- Supports legislation requiring proper fitting safety helmets;
- Opposes the repeal of existing safety helmet laws.

015-540 School Violence and Disruptions (Convention 1977; Amended 1981; Reaffirmed 1986; Reviewed 1990; Reviewed 1994; Reviewed 1998; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The theft, vandalism, weapons, bombs, personal assaults and threats, some with deadly force, on students, teachers and personnel in our schools are alarming; and

WHEREAS, Incidents of crime and violence disrupt our schools, endanger students and school personnel and interfere with the safe atmosphere conducive to the educational process; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote programs to reduce school crime and disruptions by working with representatives from the school and community to:

- Study the local situation and determine a course of action involving parents, educators and school administrators, religious and community leaders, law enforcement agencies, and students;
- Provide families with access to early educational childcare programs proven to reduce crime;
- Implement programs of prevention and correction;
- Enforce zero-tolerance policies toward the presence of weapons, alcohol, and illegal drugs;
- Encourage school systems to prosecute offenders through the appropriate channels.

015-550 Sexual Assault (Convention 1987; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993, Amended 1997, 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, The establishment and/or support of programs including law enforcement personnel training, victim counseling, and court monitoring in sexual assault offenses is needed in all communities; and

WHEREAS, Victims of sexual assault may require specialized medical treatment and counseling services; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the establishment and/or strengthening of a comprehensive sexual assault reporting and conviction program; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation which will:

- Guarantee the right of confidentiality to the assault victim regarding all reports and conversations with investigators and counselors;
- Support the enforcement of existing laws and criminal penalties dealing with sexual assault;
- Establish new laws where needed;
- Abolish the marital rape exemption from the prosecution laws;
- Provide funding for the training of law enforcement personnel and medical providers in handling sexual assault cases; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly supports funding for crisis centers and medical treatment for sexual assault victims; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to establish and/or support community awareness programs for sexual assault victims to seek counseling and support; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its state federations and member clubs to establish and/or support community public education campaigns to alleviate the stigma affecting assault victims.

015-560 Sexual Exploitation of Children (Convention 1978; Amended 1985; Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, Sexual exploitation, which includes but is not limited to: pornography, solicitation, prostitution, and sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, In many cases, children are not capable of protecting themselves from sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, The underlying causes of sexual exploitation of children include poverty, greed, family dysfunction, and the drug trade; and

WHEREAS, Sexually exploited children can suffer lifelong sexual, physical, and emotional damage; and

WHEREAS, Victims of sexual exploitation are at high risk of unwanted pregnancies, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other sexually transmitted diseases; and

WHEREAS, Education is vital to preventing sexual exploitation of children by empowering them with ways to protect themselves and avoid high risk situations; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs shall encourage and support educational and awareness programs designed for children to increase their understanding of sexual exploitation and encourage communication of any problem with a responsible adult; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports programs for counseling and medical services for children and adult survivors who are victims of sexual exploitation; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly supports enforcing existing laws and developing new legislation concerning the sexual exploitation of children; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the adoption of laws that support aggressive prosecution, stringent pre-trial supervision, and strict sentences for convicted individuals.

015-570 Sex Offenders (Convention 1950; Reviewed 1979; Reviewed 1985; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2016)

WHEREAS, There is an alarming number of sex offenses and many states and communities lack adequate laws, personnel, and facilities to cope with this dangerous situation; and

WHEREAS, Technology provides opportunities for sexual predators to target victims; and

WHEREAS, The crime's impact upon the victim is not always taken into consideration by the criminal justice system; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote educational campaigns about sexual crimes, sex offenders, and their impact on the victims and their families; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges:

- The enactment of statutes providing for incarceration;
- That the severity of the crime and its impact to the victim and the family be brought to the attention of the court before plea bargains are accepted and sentences are imposed;
- Strengthened requirements for medical and psychiatric treatment for both adult and youthful offenders;
- An in-depth review of the crime be considered prior to granting parole to sex offenders;
- That the victims and/or families be notified prior to a parole hearing and before release of sex offenders;
- Public access to sex offender release and registration information, including the nature and date of the offense; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports enactment of legislation that defendants convicted of a sexual offense against children, be prohibited for life, from participating in any occupation or volunteer activity involving children; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation which imposes penalties for crimes of a sexual nature committed using technology to create, distribute, or solicit child pornography.

015-580 Social Security (Convention 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2004; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Amended 2016 to include “Discrimination in Social Security Benefits” Convention 1969)

WHEREAS, Social Security has become a major source of income for many people, especially women and those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The older population of America is projected to grow to 6.6 million in 2020 and the number eligible for Social Security will continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, There is concern about the system’s ability to meet the demands of future generations as the work force decreases and the number of Social Security beneficiaries increases; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges the review and revision of Social Security regulations to eliminate discrimination and to assure equitable treatment; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support educational awareness programs and legislation addressing the future of Social Security.

015-590 Statehood for Puerto Rico (Convention 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Reviewed 1994; Reviewed 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has been a United States territory since 1898, ceded by Spain as a result of the Spanish American War; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has proven to be a stable political community capable of assuming the responsibilities of statehood; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have been United States citizens since 1917, and the Puerto Rican Constitution declares in its preamble:

That we consider the Citizenship of the United States of America a determining factor in our lives, and that we have an aspiration to enrich continually our democratic traditions, individually and collectively, through the enjoyment of the rights and privileges of the American Citizenship.

An obvious declaration of intent to evolve into a State of the Union as the final outcome of the rights of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, The actual political status of Puerto Rico is one of political inequality, with no voting representation in the United States Congress, or voting privileges for the President and Vice President of our Nation, even though both exert absolute sovereignty over the territory; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America is committed to the principals of justice, freedom and equality for all its citizens; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the entrance of the commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a State of the United States of America.

015-600 **Strikes in Essential Public Services** (Convention 1977; Reaffirmed 1985; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, Strikes that affect essential public services are a vital concern to all people; and

WHEREAS, Strikes in essential public services can imperil lives, jeopardize jobs, endanger food supplies, interfere with education, impede transportation, hamper defense efforts and damage the economy; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports measures to prevent strikes in essential public services including contract negotiations, collective bargaining, mediation and arbitration.

015-610 **Transportation** (Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2011; Reviewed 2015)

WHEREAS, The mobility of our nation is important to our domestic economic growth and progress and vital to adequate national defense; and

WHEREAS, In order to save lives and accommodate projected needs, America's transportation system must be made safer and more adequate; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to study government transportation policies and to work for continued development of government policies and spending criteria that will produce safe highways and transportation systems to handle adequately the present and future needs.

015-620 **Uniform Probate Code** (Convention 1975; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, There is a need for the adoption of a uniform probate code within each state to reduce delays and excessive costs of estate settlements and many states have not adopted a uniform probate code; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its state federations and member clubs to work for the adoption of the Uniform Probate Code within their state.

015-630 Unionization of Members of the Military Services (Convention 1977; Amended 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992 Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, There has been pressure placed on Congress to unionize the members of the military services; and

WHEREAS, Unionization of the members of the military services would:

- Be a serious breach of national security;
- Impair the ability to maintain continuity and discipline within the military;
- Impair the ability to preserve the standards necessary for the nation's defense;
- Put control of the nation's defenses in the hands of a few union leaders;
- Give an overwhelming advantage to any power wishing to assault the nation's defenses and security; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly opposes unionization of the members of the military services.

015-640 United States Postal Service (Convention 1984; Reviewed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service delivers billions of pieces of mail each year; and

WHEREAS, A commercially and financially viable United States Postal Service remains vital to the American economy; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that an efficient and economical postal service be provided, which is consistent with the general welfare and responsive to the interests and the needs of the public; and

WHEREAS, The public has a right to expect prompt and safe delivery of all types of mail entrusted to the United States Postal Service; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to encourage the United State Postal Service to continue to work to ensure prompt, safe, economical delivery of mail entrusted to them; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs commends the United States Postal Service for continuing special postage stamps that benefit charitable causes.

015-650 **Victim/Witness Assistance** (Convention 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Reviewed 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, Victims and witnesses of violent crimes often suffer traumatic experiences after the occurrence of the crime as well as at the time the offense was committed; and

WHEREAS, They may need medical aid, counseling, emotional support, shelter or financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, To assure that justice is carried out, victims, and/or witnesses may require assistance in understanding court procedures or help in making it possible for them to appear in court; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to sponsor and support the implementation of victim/witness assistance projects.

015-660 **Valuing Volunteers** (Formerly "Volunteer Effort;" Convention 1975; Amended 1984; Amended 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014)

WHEREAS, A volunteer is one who gives time, talent, knowledge, energy, money, resources and heart, with no thought of remuneration or recognition; and

WHEREAS, Individual engagement in volunteer activities has increased in the United States, building momentum at the local and state levels; and

WHEREAS, the charitable mileage rate that can be claimed as a deduction for income tax purposes remains at 14 cents per mile and has not increased in over a decade; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs forcefully affirms its reason for being, which is for charitable and educational purposes and without remuneration; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs is strongly committed to the promotion of volunteerism; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs opposes any policy that would pay a volunteer the minimum wage or more;

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs strongly urges Congress to pass legislation to amend the Internal Revenue Code to establish the standard mileage rate for charitable purposes at the same rate as that established by the Secretary of the Treasury for business purposes.

015-670 Volunteer Liability Protection (Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Volunteers, who in good faith, perform volunteer duties may be subject to civil liability; and

WHEREAS, The threat of civil liability may discourage volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, The Volunteer Liability Protection Act of 1997 provides that volunteers may offer services without detriment of the potential for liability actions against them; and

WHEREAS, Legislation on state levels may need reforming to protect volunteers for liability unless willful or criminal misconduct can be shown; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support reform of state tort laws to protect volunteers from civil liability and punitive damages.

015-680 Volunteer Participation in Federal Programs (Convention 1967; Reaffirmed 1984; Amended 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, There are federal programs designed to offer opportunities for education, training and jobs to economically or culturally disadvantaged persons; and

WHEREAS, The joint effort of voluntary organizations, businesses and industry with the government can reduce expenses and produce better results in federal programs; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages its member clubs to explore ways in which federal training programs, such as Head Start, Job Corps, and United We Serve, may be carried out more efficiently through volunteer participation.

015-690 Voter Registration and Voting (formerly "Voter Registration", "Young Adult Voter Registration"; Convention 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013)

WHEREAS, The election process is fundamental to the democratic process which assures the basic rights of United States citizens; and

WHEREAS, Eligible voters often fail to register or vote in elections; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs promotes education on the importance of voting and the electoral process; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to participate in credible voter registration drives; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages its members to register and vote in local, state, and federal elections.

015-700 Water Safety (Convention 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, Safe water practices save lives and prevents injuries; and

WHEREAS, Drowning remains the second leading cause of unintentional injury related death in children ages 14 and under and the leading cause of unintentional injury related death among children ages 1 to 4; and

WHEREAS, Accidents from the use of water sports products can result in serious personal injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, Alcohol and drug use impairs judgment, balance and coordination and is a contributing factor in up to 50% of drownings resulting from boating incidents; and

WHEREAS, Many states do not have safety legislation for water sports and water sports products; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to supports-the enactment and enforcement of laws, including alcohol and drug testing, promoting water, boating, swimming pool, and watercraft safety; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to educate and promote water safety guidelines including:

- Learning to swim;
- Never swimming alone;
- Swimming in areas supervised by a lifeguard;
- Utilizing Coast Guard-approved life jackets when boating and fishing;
- Swimming and boating only when weather conditions are safe.

015-710 Women in Public Policy-Making Positions (Convention 1922; Reaffirmed 1953; Reaffirmed 1973; Reaffirmed 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Reviewed 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs has long advocated election and appointment of qualified women to public policy-making positions; and

WHEREAS, Women are underrepresented in public policy-making positions at all levels; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to encourage qualified women to seek opportunities to serve in public policy-making positions at the local, state, national, and international level.

015-720 Women in Transition (formerly “Displaced Homemakers” Convention 1980; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, An increasing number of women find they must secure employment to support themselves and sometimes others; and

WHEREAS, Lack of economic equity, unequal pay, and noneconomic contributions to the family cause women to be inadequately covered by Social Security, pensions, health insurance, or unemployment compensation in their own right; and

WHEREAS, Women in transition often lack current skills or recent work experience, which leads to underemployment and are not adequately served by employment and training programs; and

WHEREAS, Education and training are essential to attaining self-sufficiency; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the Congress of the United States:

- To appropriate sufficient funding for laws which assist states in providing greater opportunities for women in transition;
- To continue and expand job training services and programs that encourages and support women in transition to prepare for careers that lead to self-sufficiency;
- To expand the nation's student financial aid system so that all female all students with financial needs qualify for aid.

015-730 Sexual Assault of Those Serving in and with the Armed Forces (Convention 2009; Amended 2013)

WHEREAS, Sexual assault in the U.S. military has affected a percentage of those serving in and with the armed forces; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Veterans Affairs reports that a large majority of sexual assaults are not reported; and

WHEREAS, A very small percentage of reported sexual assaults results in court martial of the perpetrator; and

WHEREAS, the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office of the Department of Defense was created to serve as the single point of accountability and oversight for sexual assault policy, provide guidance to the Department of Defense components, and facilitate the resolution of issues common to all Military Services and joint commands; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges civilian and military authorities to ensure the safety and human rights of those serving with our military worldwide by:

- Immediate revision of the Uniform Code of Military Justice to standardize the military definitions of sexual assault and rape to coincide with civilian definitions;
- Strong leadership, standard policies and sexual harassment training to improve culture in the Armed Forces thereby preventing sexual assaults and assuring just, professional treatment of all its members;
- Making sexual assault in the military a crime punishable to at least the same extent prevalent in civilian law;
- Deploying trained sexual assault nurse examiners to ensure proper medical and psychological treatment for those who have been assaulted, sexual assault evidence collection kits are utilized, and victims be assured privacy and confidentiality so they can report assaults without fear of reprisal.

015-740 Elder Abuse (Convention 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The number of people aged 65 or older is expected to double by the year 2030; and

WHEREAS, Millions of older Americans are victims of physical, sexual, financial, psychological, or other forms of abuse and neglect each year; and

WHEREAS, Many nursing care facilities lack adequate staff to properly care for patients; and

WHEREAS, Caregivers committing crimes against the elderly are seldom identified or punished; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members clubs to support legislation and programs directed toward justice for the elderly; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports education of technology and other programs to eliminate elder abuse and neglect.

015-750 Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing and Bullying (Convention 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, Harassment, intimidation, hazing, and bullying include any written, verbal, graphic, or physical act that intentionally causes mental and/or physical harm; and

WHEREAS, Acts of harassment, intimidation, hazing, and bullying can create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive environment for the victim; and

WHEREAS, Cyberbullying occurs through electronic technology; and

WHEREAS, Victims of bullying suffer long term emotional and behavioral problems as well as increased vulnerability to illness; and

WHEREAS, Bullying has been identified as a cause of youth suicides; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Educate members and their communities through club programs about the serious issues of harassment, intimidation, hazing, and bullying; and;
- Contact local school districts to become educated about the district's anti-harassment, intimidation, hazing, and bullying policies and plans that specifically address these behaviors; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to take action to increase resources for prevention and to ensure the sustained funding of effective intervention and prevention programs.

015-760 Safe Highways and Infrastructure (Convention 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs is concerned by increasing hazards on the highways; and

WHEREAS, Highway deterioration, caused by heavy use and underfunded repairs, is a safety issue; and

WHEREAS, the National Bridge Inventory has classified over 20 percent of the bridges of the National Highway System as structurally deficient or structurally obsolete, increasing the risk of bridge failure; and

WHEREAS, Oversized vehicles have longer stopping distances, reduced maneuverability, and increased risk of rollovers and fatal crashes; therefore

RESOLVED, The General Federation of Women's Clubs urges continued development of governmental policies that produce safe highways, infrastructure, and bridges; and further

RESOLVED, The General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the development of alternative means of transportation to reduce the overuse and deterioration of our infrastructure and highways; and further

RESOLVED, The General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to carefully research and to review proposed regulations of oversized vehicles to ensure adoption of appropriate legislation; and further

RESOLVED, The General Federation of Women's Clubs supports programs that educate all drivers on the rights and responsibilities of sharing the highway with all types of vehicles.

015-770 TSA Loose Change Act (Convention 2015)

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces and their families spend many hours in United States airports awaiting transport; and

WHEREAS, In 2012 the United States Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) collected more than \$531,000 in unclaimed pocket change at airport security checkpoints which was transferred to the TSA operating budget; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate passage of the TSA LOOSE CHANGE ACT, enabling unclaimed monies recovered at security checkpoints be transferred to nonprofit organizations, such as the United Service Organization (USO), to provide places of rest and recuperation for members of the United States Armed Forces and their families.

015-790 Direct Dial 911 (Convention 2015)

WHEREAS, In December 2013, the death of Kari Hunt Dunn in her hotel room resulted from the lack of an enhanced 911 system allowing a direct call for assistance providing the exact location of the emergency; and therefore

RESOLVED That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate installation of enhanced 911 systems in public facilities to the Federal Communications Commission.

015-800 Shop Locally (Convention 2015)

WHEREAS, According to the latest United States Census findings, about three quarters of all United States business firms have no payroll, most are self-employed persons operating unincorporated businesses, and may be the owner's principal source of income; and one quarter of all United States business firms have under 10 employees; and

WHEREAS, The Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy funded data and research shows that small, independently owned local businesses represent 99.7 percent of all firms, create more than half of the private non-farm gross domestic product, and 60 to 80 percent of the new jobs; and

WHEREAS, The "Local Works!" study found that for every \$100 spent in independently owned local businesses \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll, donations to local charities and other means versus only \$43 to the community from national chains and \$0 to the community for online purchases; and

WHEREAS, the study showed that shopping locally reduces urban sprawl, congestion, habitat loss and pollution; is a more efficient use of public services, and that skilled workers are more likely to invest and settle in communities that preserve one-of-a-kind businesses and distinctive character, and

WHEREAS, The New Economics Foundation found that by shopping independently owned local businesses consumers prevent blight, maintain shopping choices and distinctive community character, and circulate money more quickly throughout the community; therefore

RESOLVED, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support independently owned local businesses by consciously shopping local first; and further

RESOLVED, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs support "shop local" programs and legislation favorable to independently owned local businesses.

015-810 Firearm Safety and Responsibility (Convention 2015)

WHEREAS, All residents of and visitors to the United States have an expectation of safety; and

WHEREAS, Firearm suicides and accidental discharges cause a large number of deaths annually; and

WHEREAS, Prompt reporting of firearm thefts with make, model, and serial number information could help law enforcement agencies locate and arrest criminals; and

WHEREAS, Safe and secure storage of firearms and ammunition in the home prevents accidental shootings, especially among children; and

WHEREAS, Crimes involving firearms are often committed by individuals with pending charges for other violent crimes, including domestic abuse; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Better public education and state and local programs that promote safe and secure storage of firearms and ammunition;
- Laws requiring the prompt reporting of firearm thefts, including the make, model, and serial number information, to law enforcement agencies; and
- Legislation that requires states to report gun thefts and crimes to the FBI's national database.

015-820 Human Trafficking (formerly “The Trafficking of Women and Children” and “Trafficking in Persons” 2001; Convention 2016)

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Department of State and UNICEF, human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, involving victims who are typically forced, defrauded, or coerced into sexual and/or labor exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is the world’s fastest growing global crime and second largest source of illegal income worldwide exceeded only by drug trafficking. Annually:

- 1.2 million children are trafficked worldwide;
- 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders;
- At least 20.9 million people are victims of forced labor worldwide; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:

- Educate members and the public about the seriousness of human trafficking;
- Advocate for the support and protection of victims and the prosecution of exploiters;
- Support law enforcement coordination between countries;
- Encourage mandatory enforcement of existing laws in the United States.

015-830 Opioids (Convention 2016)

WHEREAS, Opioids are commonly prescribed natural or synthetic chemical pain killers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, fentanyl, and other painkillers; and

WHEREAS, Overdose slows a person's breathing, may cause brain damage and death, and a multitude of other acute and chronic conditions; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, legal prescription opioid overdoses and addictions have reached epidemic proportions; and

WHEREAS, Opioid abuse is a serious public health issue and drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of non-intentional injury deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Prescription opioids can be an effective form of pain management but it is important to understand the benefits and risks; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for the development of educational awareness programs for providers, patients, and the community; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote legislation and regulations to combat opioid overdose and addiction; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs advocate for all police officers and first responders to carry naloxone to be used when answering any call.

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