RESOLUTIONS

2018–2020 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE
Judi Stankowich, Chairman; Rosalie Dialessi, Mary Powell; Arleen Creeden; and Ida Dorvee, Legislation/Public Policy Chairman

PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTIONS

[EDUCATION OF YOUNG ADULTS RAISED IN FOSTER CARE]

WHEREAS, On an annual basis, more than 20,000 children in the United States foster care system reach the age of 18 and become ineligible for state-provided care; and
WHEREAS, Of all children in foster care:
• Only 50% obtain their high school diploma before reaching the age of 18;
• Between 30% and 50% exit the foster care system without obtaining a high school diploma; therefore RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:
• Advocate for legislation that allows young adults in foster care the option of remaining in such care until they obtain a high school diploma;
• Work with organizations that provide young adults raised in foster care with scholarships, education training vouchers, academic success coaching, personal mentoring, and student care packages;
• Provide scholarships for young adults raised in foster care to further their post-high school education.

Recommended by GFWC Montana
Proposed by the GFWC Resolutions Committee

[LIMIT LIABILITY FOR VOLUNTEER DRIVERS]

WHEREAS, Many senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and individuals undergoing medical procedures live in areas where public transportation is unavailable or limited, requiring the use of volunteer drivers for transportation; and
WHEREAS, Volunteers are reluctant to provide the needed transportation because of potential personal liability; therefore RESOLVED, That the General Federal of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for state legislation that:
• Requires law enforcement agencies and crime labs to inventory and test all untested rape kits in their possession;
• Mandates the timely testing of all newly collected Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits;
• Grants survivors the right to know the status of their Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits;
• Provides adequate funding for the testing of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits; and further
RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to contact the United States Congress to adopt and fund legislation that would assist states in eliminating the backlog of untested rape kits.

Recommended by GFWC South Carolina
Proposed by the GFWC Resolutions Committee

[CRISES INTERVENTION FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL]

WHEREAS, Emergency Services Personnel such as firefighters and ambulatory first responders are the first ones on the scene when a traumatic event happens; and
WHEREAS, As a direct result of their employment, Emergency Services Personnel may suffer aftereffects such as depression, anxiety, psychological-emotional disorders, and post-traumatic stress, which can lead to mental health issues, substance abuse, divorce, and suicide; therefore RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation to establish and maintain crisis intervention services for Emergency Services Personnel.

Recommended by New Jersey State Federation of Women’s Clubs of GFWC
Proposed by the GFWC Resolutions Committee

[UNTESTED SEXUAL ASSAULT EVIDENCE COLLECTION KITS (RAPE KITS)]

WHEREAS, statistics show that only 5 out of every 1,000 rapists will be convicted and serve time in prison; and
WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are thousands of untested Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits stored in police and crime labs in every state, and untested rape kits impede prosecution of perpetrators, prevent justice for survivors, and allow serial rapists to go free; therefore RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for state legislation that:
• Requires law enforcement agencies and crime labs to inventory and test all untested rape kits in their possession;
• Mandates the timely testing of all newly collected Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits;
• Grants survivors the right to know the status of their Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits;
• Provides adequate funding for the testing of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits; and further
RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to contact the United States Congress to adopt and fund legislation that would assist states in eliminating the backlog of untested rape kits.

Proposed by GFWC Resolutions Committee
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 [increases] food supply; and
Controlling [controls] 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 [declining] facing declines across the country due to the misuse [, overuse, and drift from spraying] of chemicals; and the drift from spraying; and [therefore]
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 [urges its member clubs to:]
• Supports legislation that regulates the proper use of chemicals [affecting pollinator species] and upholds a person’s rights to know about chemicals used in their community; and further
RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges
• [Advocate for] the private and public sectors to continue conducting research on the impact of chemicals on health and the environment;
• Educate the public current information on the wise and safe use of chemicals[s] and further
RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges public and private support of environmental biotechnology.
Rationale: To clarify


WHEREAS, Household hazardous waste is considered a major problem in our nation[ ]; and
• WHEREAS, [According to the EPA.] Americans generate more than half [1] million tons of household hazardous waste (household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable [flammable], 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 contaminate the environment by leaching into the soil and contaminating ground water and [therefore] pose[s] a threat to public health; and
WHEREAS, Household hazardous waste is often disposed of with regular household refuse, and indiscriminate mixing of these wastes can give off [may produce] toxic gases, be flammable [or spontaneous combustion] and pose a serious threat of injury to trash collectors and landfill operators; and [therefore]

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 [promote public awareness of the dangers of improper disposal of household hazardous waste and 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.
Rationale: To update

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 [addressing] responsible 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 can impact human life and the environment at risk and creates targets for terrorists; therefore
RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support:
• Support continued implementation [and education of the community about] of these laws;
• RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports a plan to [Legislation requiring the encasement of] cease spent nuclear rods in safe, solid storage containers;
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
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- Legislation providing for... 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.

Rationale: To update

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 [for wilderness areas included in the National Wilderness Preservation System, which is managed by four federal land management agencies: The National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management] 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[s] the preservation of Wilderness [such] areas for future generations; and [therefore]

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 enforcement of laws for protection and preservation of Wilderness Areas.

Rationale: To update

HOME LIFE

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

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control [and Prevention], diabetes is [a] 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 per 100 of the population, have diabetes, of which 6.1 are [many more cases are undiagnosed; and]

WHEREAS, Diabetes can cause and/or complicate [is known to be a causative factor in] other health problems in children and adults including[ but not limited to,] cardiovascular, renal, neurologic, and dental diseases, and may cause [some] complications [in] of pregnancy and obesity; and

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

WHEREAS, In order to manage their disease, those with diabetes must have access to [a healthy balanced diet] the means to... level; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Club 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 childcare personnel to identify symptoms and [facilitate] treatment options in order for students with diabetes to be medically safe;
• Education about the [role] benefits of a healthy diet and physical activity [play in treating and reducing] to reduce onset and treatment of diabetes;
• Increased funding for diabetes research and prevention programs[;]
• Improved awareness of prediabetes symptoms among healthcare providers and people at risk.

Rationale: To clarify


WHEREAS, The Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act [Act] 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 [its member clubs to support] the [continued] enforcement of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act law to ensure public safety at health clinics.

Rationale: To clarify

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;]

WHEREAS, Mental illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar 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 [more than $100 billion] hundreds of billions of dollars [annually] in lost productivity, healthcare, and societal costs; and

WHEREAS, A report of the Surgeon General’s states that fewer than one in five of the estimated 45 million children and adolescents, who suffer from a mental illness, receive treatment; and

WHEREAS, Discriminatory insurance coverage of mental illnesses [The failure of insurance plans to provide coverage for mental illnesses to the same extent they cover physical illnesses] limits treatments [options], can bankrupt [creates a
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significant financial burden for patients and families, and
deploy the burden on taxpayers; [therefore]
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
evaluate the need of mental health centers for timely referrals; 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 advocate for the passage of]
support legislation and regulations requiring equitable coverage for
mental and physical illnesses.
Rationale: To update

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:
- 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
healthcare 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.
[WHEREAS, The shortage of nurses is a threat to patient health and a contributing factor to higher healthcare
costs; therefore
RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support:
- Appropriate action to increase the number of nursing programs, qualified instructors, and enrollment
opportunities in the nursing profession;
- Regulations lowering the minimum nurse to patient ratio;
- Better remuneration and working conditions for nurses;
- Nursing school scholarships.]
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- Medicaid covers the cost of long-term care facilities only after a patient has exhausted personal financial resources; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to:
- Support uniform enforcement of legislation that sets standards for quality care and guarantees the rights of patients;
- Educate the public regarding the growing need for long-term care, long-term care services, and financing options;
- Cooperate with public and private sectors and advocate for legislation that:
  - Ensures all citizens access to quality institutional and community-based long-term care services;
  - Prior to hire, and annually thereafter, requires all staff receive training on signs of and the procedures for reporting suspected elder abuse, with such training provided by the facility;
  - Addresses elder abuse and financial long-term care issues.

Rationale: Merge and update

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 valuable potential 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, [healthcare] advice, and companionship;
- Employment and volunteer opportunities;
- Continuing education courses in schools, colleges, and community centers;
- Adequate housing, better nursing homes, and extended [long-term care] facilities;
- Reduced rates on goods and services; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support the enforcement of laws prohibiting age discrimination.

Rationale: To update

013-540 Tobacco and Young People
(Convention 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017)

WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking has declined among United States youth in recent years, however, the use of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products, such as cigarillos, hookah, and smokeless tobacco, is increasing among teens and young adults; and

[WHERExAS, These products are growing in popularity, particularly among teens and young adults, but the long-term impact on health is not fully understood; and]

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control [and Prevention] (CDC), youth [teens and young adults] who use multiple tobacco products are at a higher risk for developing nicotine dependencies [addiction] and might be more likely to continue using [continuing use of] tobacco into adulthood, and beginning the use of recreational drugs; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support:
- [Development and implementation of a public awareness campaign] education of young people [to educate teens and young adults] on the addictive qualities and [hazards of] long-term [tobacco] use of tobacco products; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports:
- [E]nforcement of legislation [existing laws] prohibiting the marketing and sale of tobacco to [minors;] young

- [Advocacy efforts for comprehensive clean indoor-air laws;
- Access to and insurance coverage for effective nicotine-addiction treatments;
- Legislation raising the e-cigarettes and tobacco products sales age to 21.]

Rationale: To expand

Recommended by GFWC Juniorette Diamonds and GFWC-Mississippi Federation of Women’s Clubs

Proposed by GFWC Resolutions Committee

013-560 HIV/AIDS

WHEREAS, According to the latest available data, the number of people estimated to be living [infected] with HIV [has declined] 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 an increase in use of illicit, injectable drugs]; and

WHEREAS, Countless people [are unaware of their HIV-positive status and therefore fail to seek] lack access to proper healthcare [or take preventative measures] 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.

Rationale: To update

013-640 Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare

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 [and Prevention] estimates more than 20 million new sexually [states that 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 [Children born to] teen mothers face [increased health] higher risks; and

WHEREAS, Postpartum depression is a serious and disabling condition that frequently goes [is] 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 healthcare for teens and adults;
- Research to develop treatments and cures [for sexually-transmitted infections];
- Programs, services, and workshops on sex education, family planning, perinatal care, well-baby and well-childcare, 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.

Rationale: To clarify

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 urges its member clubs to support [the endorsement of participation by the United States.] this organization and urges strong leadership within the member nations to safeguard the security of threatened members.

Rationale: To update

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 [urges its member clubs to support the United Nations by endorsing] 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 [promoting] programs on [of] the United Nations, and events, such as United Nations Day (October 24).

Rationale: To update

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.

Rationale: To condense

015-240 Gun Control [Firearms Safety]

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 urges its member clubs to support effective gun [firearms safety] control legislation regulating the indiscriminate sale and possession of weapons including:

• Mandatory waiting periods and gun [firearms] safety education prior to purchase;
• Improved licensing requirements for gun [firearms] dealers;
• Requirements that purchasers produce identification and bear the cost of a background check;
• Requirements for background checks on [and] a firearm owner’s identification card to purchase a gun [firearms] at gun shows;
• Increased penalties for the sale of firearms to minors; [and further]

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

• Banning the importation, manufacture, and sale of assault-style weapons; [and further]
• [Outlawing the manufacture of firearms using a 3-D plastic printer, as well as the distribution of plans for making such a firearm;]
• Allowing law enforcement officials free access to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives firearms trace information.]

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 firearms 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.

Rationale: To condense for clarity

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; [Incidents of theft, personal assaults and threats, and use of firearms, bombs, and other weapons in schools, some with deadly force, are increasing;] and

WHEREAS, Incidents of crime[,] threats[,] 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.]

• 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.

Rationale: To clarify

015-550 Sexual Assault
(Convention 1987; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993, Amended 1997, 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017)

WHEREAS, Sexual violence[, including genital mutilation,] is a serious and widespread societal issue that has a lasting impact on individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Programs, including law enforcement personnel training, counseling and services for survivors, and court monitoring in sexual assault cases, are needed in all communities; and

WHEREAS, Victims of sexual assault require specialized medical treatment and counseling services; and

WHEREAS, Campus sexual assault survivors suffer high rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, and drug or alcohol abuse, which can hamper both the ability to succeed in school and future employment; therefore [and

WHEREAS, Female genital mutilation, although illegal:
• Is on the rise in the United States;
• Has negative effects on sexual and reproductive health;
• Increases risk of infertility, childbirth complications, and newborn deaths;
• Often goes unreported and unprosecuted; therefore]

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports the establishment and/or strengthening of comprehensive, [community-based,] sexual assault programs to include prevention, education, [counseling,] and [other] services for survivors; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports legislation which will:
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, [According to the U.S. Department of Defense, h]uman trafficking is the world’s fastest growing global crime and second largest source of illegal income worldwide[, ] exceeded only by drug trafficking[ ]; and

WHEREAS, According to The International Labour Organization, there are approximately 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally 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 [prevalence] of human trafficking;
- Advocate for the support and protection of victims and the prosecution of traffickers [traffickers];
- Support law enforcement coordination between [among] countries;
- Encourage mandatory enforcement of existing laws in the United States.

Rationale: To update

PROPOSED TO BE RESCINDED

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

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;

Rationale: To clarify


WHEREAS, Social Security has become a major source of income for many people, especially [for] 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 [its member clubs to:

- Advocate for 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.

Rationale: To clarify
• 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) 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.

Rationale: All resolved statements of original resolution have been achieved.

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)

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 implements 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.

Rationale: All resolved statements of original resolution have been achieved.

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

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 healthcare 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 healthcare workers.

Rationale: All resolved statements of original resolution have been achieved.


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.

Rationale: All resolved statements of original resolution have been achieved.

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)

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.

Rationale: All resolved statements of original resolution have been achieved.

013-270 Long-Term Care (Convention 1939; Amended 1952; Reaffirmed 1981; Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019)

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs 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 that increases the eligible premium tax deduction for long term care insurance;
• Encourage the development of programs that support 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.

Rationale: Merged with 013-430

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)

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.

Rationale: All resolved statements of original resolution have been achieved.
RESOLUTIONS

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

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.

Rationale: All resolved statements of original resolution have been achieved.

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

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.

Rationale: All resolved statements of original resolution have been achieved.

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

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.

Rationale: All resolved statements of original resolution have been achieved.

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)

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.

Rationale: All resolved statements of original resolution have been achieved.

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)

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.

Rationale: All resolved statements of original resolution have been achieved.

PROPOSED FOR EDITORIAL CHANGES
012-090 Lifelong Learning
015-040 Advocacy Rights of Charitable Organizations
015-260 Humane Treatment of Animals
015-460 Prisoner Rehabilitation
015-490 Responsibility of the Media and Individuals Pertaining to National Security

PROPOSED TO REMAIN UNCHANGED
011-060 Forest Resources
011-120 Local Parks and Recreation Areas
015-130 Crime Prevention