



RESOLUTIONS

2020-2022 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

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PROPOSED GFWC RESOLUTIONS IN 2022

The following are proposed resolutions to be presented for consideration at the 2022 GFWC Annual Convention. Proposed additions are noted in **[bold green text and surrounded by brackets]**. Proposed deletions are noted in ~~strikethrough text~~.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTIONS:

[Crime Prevention (Includes 015-010 Abolishment of Pornography, Convention 1987; 015-130 Crime Prevention, Convention 1968; 015-915 Drug Trafficking, Convention 1990; and 017-060 Sex Offenders, Convention 1950)

WHEREAS, The international scope of many criminal enterprises threatens society, global security, and foreign relations; and

WHEREAS, Criminal activities damage families and communities, lead to violence and the exploitation of individuals, and generate hundreds of billions of dollars in illegal profits annually; and

WHEREAS, The impact of the crime on the survivor and/or their family is not always considered prior to the release of the criminal offender; therefore

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

- **International cooperation relating to the capture and punishment of criminals who attempt to use differing international laws to avoid prosecution;**
- **Strengthening laws prohibiting domestic and international money laundering;**
- **Community educational programs on crime prevention, personal safety, and the need to monitor all forms of media and communication for dangerous and/or illegal activity;**
- **Rigorous enforcement of existing criminal laws including the continued use of law enforcement, military, and economic sanctions to dismantle illicit organizations;**
- **Legislation requiring cross-reporting of violent crimes and interagency law enforcement cooperation;**
- **Enactment of statutes providing for incarceration based on the severity of the crime and its impact on the survivor and the family;**
- **Legislation that requires an in-depth review of the crime prior to granting parole and notification to survivors and/or families prior to every parole hearing.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Crime Prevention” above:



015-010 Abolishment of Pornography (Convention 1987; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017)

WHEREAS, Pornography is known to be addictive and progressive and has been associated with damage to families, violence, and the exploitation of children; and

WHEREAS, Pornographic materials are readily available on electronic devices, especially through 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;
- Encourage parents to monitor and prevent access to pornographic material on electronic devices.

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.

015-915 Drug Trafficking (Convention 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-020)

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 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.



017-060 Sex Offenders (Convention 1950; Reviewed 1979; Reviewed 1985; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2016; Reassigned Public Outreach 015-570)

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

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

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.

[Criminal Justice (Includes 015-050 Delays in Criminal Prosecution, Convention 1987; 015-180 Early Release of Violent and Habitual Prisoners, Convention 1994; 015-460 Prisoner Rehabilitation, Convention 1957; and 015-870 Modernization of Sentencing and Parole Policies, Convention 2018)

WHEREAS, Delays in criminal prosecutions lessen the chance of a fair and equitable trial and often violate the accused's Sixth Amendment Right to a speedy trial; and

WHEREAS, Mandatory sentencing guidelines limit a judge and/or jury's ability to fit the punishment to the crime; and

WHEREAS, Limiting the early release of violent and repeat offenders has been shown to reduce crime; and

WHEREAS, Rehabilitative services offered to incarcerated persons, including education,



employment, counseling, physical and mental wellness, and post-release support, have been shown to reduce the likelihood of re-incarceration; therefore

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

- **Increased funding for the criminal justice system to ensure all trials and appeals proceed in a fair and timely manner;**
- **Sentencing guideline modernization that includes flexibility to modify a recommended standard sentence based on the facts and circumstances of each case;**
- **Policies limiting opportunities for the early release of violent and repeat offenders;**
- **Legislation requiring all incarcerated individuals be offered the opportunity to participate in rehabilitative services, including educational advancement, employment training, counseling, physical and mental wellness, and post-release support.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Criminal Justice” above:

015-050 Delays in Criminal Prosecution (Formerly “Aging the Case”; Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, In many cases where a criminal defendant refuses to enter a negotiated guilty plea, his or her case is postponed repeatedly; and

WHEREAS, Such repeated postponements lessen the chance of a successful prosecution and endanger a defendant’s constitutional right to a speedy trial; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with other organizations and lawmakers to:

- Determine the frequency of significant delays in criminal prosecutions in local court systems, the reasons for such delays, and the need for any additional resources necessary to ensure timely criminal prosecutions;
- Advocate for any legislation required to provide additional resources.

015-180 Early Release of Violent and Habitual Prisoners (Convention 1994; Reviewed 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014; Reviewed 2018)

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.

015-460 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

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.

015-870 Modernization of Sentencing and Parole Policies (Convention 2018)

WHEREAS, Mandatory sentences can force a judge to impose a one-size-fits-all sentence without taking into account the details of an individual case; and

WHEREAS, Judges need flexibility and discretion to impose stiff sentences when appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Increased prison population strains infrastructure, budgets, and law enforcement resources; and

WHEREAS, States are implementing new regulations that will increase chances for early parole for prison inmates due to overpopulation in many prison systems; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation to modernize sentencing policies by providing judges more discretion in sentencing those convicted of non-violent offenses; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support initiatives to develop evidence-based practices/approaches and risk-assessment tools for parole that measure a broad spectrum of risk factors.

[Vehicle Safety (Includes 015-060 Vehicle Safety, Convention 1974; 015-090 Child Safety Seats, Convention 2001; and 015-160 Driver Education, Convention 1980)

WHEREAS, Many individuals are injured by motor vehicle accidents, and studies show that seat belts offer the best protection available for passengers; and



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

WHEREAS, Extensive driving practice and defensive driving training have been shown to significantly reduce both accidents and traffic law violations; therefore

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

- **Rigorous enforcement of laws that mandate the use of seat belts;**
- **Education on the proper use and installation of child safety seats;**
- **Stringent and consistent laws on child safety seat use and their rigorous enforcement;**
- **Quality driver education programs that include extensive driver practice and defensive driver training.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Vehicle Safety” above:

015-060 Vehicle Safety (Formerly “Vehicle Safety Systems”, “Automobile Restraint Systems”, and “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; Amended 2018)

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 that 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

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.

015-090 Child Safety Seats (Formerly “Child Car Seats”; Convention 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017)



WHEREAS, Motor vehicle crashes remain one of the leading causes 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 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 supports more stringent and consistent regulations on child safety seat use and enforcement of laws.

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; Reviewed 2018)

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 member 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 member clubs to supports-the enactment and enforcement of graduated drivers licensing laws; and

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

[Disaster Assistance and Preparedness (Includes 015-140 Disaster Service Planning, Convention 1984; and 015-935 Man-Made and Nuclear Disasters, Convention 1987)



WHEREAS, Natural and man-made disasters, including terrorism, may strike with little or no warning and result in the loss of life, health hazards, and contamination in the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, Successful emergency programs require awareness, preparedness, acceptance, and participation by individuals, families, and communities; and

WHEREAS, Individuals of lower socio-economic status, the elderly, and/or disabled individuals may lack the resources or ability to respond to a disaster; and

WHEREAS, Disaster preparedness for pets, livestock, and agricultural commodities is needed to protect animals and for the safety of emergency personnel; therefore

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

- **Support immediate reporting of disasters so that all nations may assist in aiding victims and families;**
- **Support implementation of world-wide safety measures to mitigate the effects and impact of disasters;**
- **Promote awareness and implementation of personal emergency planning;**
- **Promote public education and participation through club and community programs and projects;**
- **Support local emergency services;**
- **Support comprehensive local, state, and federal disaster evacuation policies that include plans for:**
 - **Individuals with disabilities or the elderly without access to transportation;**
 - **The humane collection, and/or evacuation, and care of animals.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Disaster Assistance and Preparedness” above:

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;
- The humane collection, shelter and/or evacuation of animals.

015-935 Man-made and Nuclear Disasters (Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Reviewed 1999; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-110)

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.

[Impaired and Distracted Driving (Includes 015-170 Impaired Operation of Vehicles, Convention 1987; and 015-300 Distracted Drivers, Convention 2001)

WHEREAS, Impaired and distracted drivers are a leading cause of injuries and deaths; therefore

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

- **Legislation to strengthen, update, and enforce state laws on impaired and distracted driving;**
- **Efforts to eliminate distractions while driving, including industry-led engineering solutions to reduce accidents;**
- **Installation of ignition interlock systems in vehicles operated by persons convicted of impaired driving.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Impaired and Distracted Driving” above:



015-170 Impaired Operation of Vehicles (Formerly “Driving Under the Influence” and “Drunk/Drugged Driving;”; Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018)

WHEREAS, Alcohol- and drug-related traffic crashes a leading cause of death for all ages; and

WHEREAS, Many crashes on common carriers (airlines, buses, trains, and any other forms of transportation) are caused by operators impaired by the use of alcohol and/or drugs; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation to strengthen, update and 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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support the enactment and strict enforcement of laws, which mandate:

- Administrative License Suspension or Administrative License Revocation (ALS/ALR);
- Installation of ignition interlock systems in vehicles operated by all convicted offenders;
- Standardized penalties, especially for repeat offenders; and further

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 alcohol and drug testing and therefore improve passenger safety.

015-300 Distracted Drivers (Convention 2001; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Various 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 cause death and injuries; therefore

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

- Efforts to eliminate distractions while driving, including industry-led engineering solutions to reduce crashes;
- Enforcing existing laws and new legislation prohibiting distracted driving
- Legislation creating increased penalties for distracted driving; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges government agencies to record crashes stemming from distracted drivers.

[Electoral Process (Includes 015-190 Election Procedures, Convention 1969; and 015-440 Political Campaign Finance Reform, Convention 1995)]

WHEREAS, The democratic electoral process is a critical tenet of the American system of government; and



WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs recognizes the democratic principle of one-person, one-vote, and advocates for equality and access for all citizens to participate in the electoral process; and

WHEREAS, There is concern about the control, influence, and lack of transparency that special interests can exercise through the use of Political Action Committees (PACs) and Super PACs given their ability to raise and contribute funding to candidates and spend independently without disclosing the contributing persons or entities; therefore

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

- **Efficient and fair election procedures in every state, providing opportunities for all citizens to have access to voting;**
- **The enforcement of laws that limit contributions to candidates and PACs to increase transparency and accountability;**
- **The enactment and enforcement of laws that limit contributions from Super PACs and entities to increase transparency and accountability;**
- **Legislation mandating that sponsors of political and issue advertising be clearly identified within each announcement, including but not limited to broadcast and satellite radio, television, cable and satellite television, and digital media.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Electoral Process” above:

015-190 Election Procedures (Convention 1969; Amended 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs recognizes the democratic principle of one-person-one-vote is endangered by outdated election procedures and equipment; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the Federal Elections Commission and the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission to study, develop, and recommend uniform, efficient, and equitable election procedures are adopted by the states.

015-440 Political Campaign Finance Reform (Convention 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, there is a deep concern about the control and influence over the political process held by special interests as a result of the ability of individuals, corporations, and other entities to:

- Anonymously form and fund political action committees (“PACS”) that advocate directly for a candidate or a specific cause;
- Otherwise raise large sums of money to fund political campaigns; and

WHEREAS, escalating costs of political campaigns discourage individuals from seeking office, prevent candidates declining large donations from attaining office, and challenge the allegiance of elected officials; and

WHEREAS, Ongoing reform of 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:

- Enactment and enforcement of laws to curb unchecked campaign donations and restrict campaign spending, including laws that would require PACS to identify donors and that would limit the amount of money any single entity or individual may donate to a single PAC;
- Its member clubs to network with other organizations in support of enactment and enforcement of laws that will reform the funding of political campaigns.

[Enhanced Opportunities for Women (Includes 015-210 Equal Rights for Women, Convention 1944; 015-710 Women in Public Policy-Making Decisions, Convention 1922; and 015-720 Women in Transition, Convention 1980)

WHEREAS, Except for the right to vote, the United States Constitution does not guarantee women the same legal status and protections guaranteed to men, and will not do so until an amendment for that purpose is included therein; and

WHEREAS, Women are underrepresented in professional, scientific, and technical careers, and in public policy-making positions; and

WHEREAS, Women need enhanced employment and training opportunities, a non-discriminatory work environment, and access to public policy making positions to expand and support their opportunities for success; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs reaffirms its support of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) and urges its member clubs to work for its immediate ratification; and further

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

- **Support expanded educational resources and job training programs that encourage and support women;**
- **Encourage women to seek public policy-making positions and support their election and/or appointment.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Enhanced Opportunities for Women” above:

015-210 Equal Rights for Women (Formerly “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; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Except with regard to the right to vote, the United States Constitution does not guarantee women the same legal status and protections guaranteed to men, and will not do so until an amendment for that purpose is included therein; and

WHEREAS, The operative clause of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) states “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State, on account of sex;” and

WHEREAS, As of 2018, 37 of the required 38 states have ratified the ERA; and



WHEREAS, In the absence of the ERA, women’s ability to combat sexual harassment and to achieve parity with men in the areas of healthcare, education, and employment will continue to be impaired; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs reaffirms its support of the ERA and urges its member clubs to work for the immediate ratification of the ERA in the 13 states that have yet to ratify it.

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; Reviewed 2019)

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; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, An increasing number of women must transition from home to outside employment to provide economic security, and

WHEREAS, Women in transition are often underemployed because they:

- Are not adequately served by employment and training programs;
- Lack the skills needed for the current job market;
- Have no recent work experience; 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 and economic security.

[Citizenship Rights and Privileges (Includes 015-230 Fundamental Freedoms, Convention 1956; 015-480 Respect for the Flag of the United States, Convention 1974; and 015-500 Citizenship, Convention 1975)

WHEREAS, Citizenship provides certain rights, duties, and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, Democracy consists of several key elements providing protection to citizens by ensuring the:

- **Freedom to express their will and to participate in fair elections;**
- **Protection of human rights, interests, and welfare;**
- **Active participation in both political and civic endeavors;**



- **Equal application of the law and procedures to all; and**

WHEREAS, Citizens are entitled to the privileges of the fundamental freedoms found in the Bill of Rights, and to the inherent rights, including respect for the dignity of the individual and the freedom of thought, discussion, and belief; and

WHEREAS, The American flag, as a symbol of the United States of America, is representative of the rights and freedoms of its citizens; therefore

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

- **Encourage all citizens to actively participate in the democratic process;**
- **Promote civic engagement, including voting, serving jury duty, and contacting elected officials on issues of importance;**
- **Support equal opportunities for all citizens to participate in civic and political activities;**
- **Uphold the ideals of the United States of America and its freedoms;**
- **Respect the flag of the United States of America by:**
 - **Learning and practicing proper flag etiquette;**
 - **Promoting and endorsing the flying of the flag in a respectful manner.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Citizenship Rights and Privileges” above:

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.

015-480 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; Reviewed 2018)

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 every day; 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.

015-500 Citizenship (Formerly “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; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Many people decline to participate in the democratic process at any level; therefore

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

- Recognizes the obligation of all citizens to participate actively in the democratic process at some level;
- Urges its member clubs to provide programs that promote civic engagement and voting.

[Firearms Safety (Includes 015-240 Gun Control, Convention 1992; 015-810 Firearm Safety and Responsibility, Convention 2015; and 015-910 3D Printed Gun Safety Act, Convention 2019)

WHEREAS, A growing number of violent crimes, suicides, and accidental deaths involve firearms, and missing or stolen firearms are often used to commit crimes; and

WHEREAS, 3D printed firearms and firearms made from kits (ghost guns) are untraceable thereby avoiding the controls currently in place to legally obtain firearms; and

WHEREAS, The required use of firearm locks significantly reduces the risk of accidental discharge and use by someone who is not the legal owner of the firearm; therefore

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

- **Mandatory background checks, waiting periods, and firearms safety education prior to all purchases, including private sales;**
- **Legislation prohibiting the distribution and/or use of digital instructions and computer-aided design files used to produce 3D printed firearms, and the sale or use of kits used to create ghost guns;**
- **Educational programs to promote safe and secure storage and use of firearms;**
- **Legislation requiring the prompt reporting of firearm losses and/or thefts to local law enforcement agencies, and the creation of national firearms database to which losses and/or thefts can be reported;**
- **Legislation requiring firearms dealers to notify local and state law enforcement agencies when an individual convicted of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, or an individual subject to an order of protection, attempts to buy a firearm and fails**



the background check;

- **Legislation prohibiting the provision of firearms to an individual subject to an order of protection.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Firearms Safety” above:

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports legislation banning the importation, manufacture, and sale of assault-style weapons; and

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

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.

015-810 Firearm Safety and Responsibility (Convention 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, On an annual basis, more than 20,000 people in the United States die by suicide using a firearm and suicides by firearm count for approximately two-thirds of all gun deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that:

- An estimated 4.6 million American children live in homes with at least one gun that is loaded and unlocked;



- 65% of unintentional gun deaths of children occur in a home or vehicle that belongs to the victim’s family;
- In more than 50% of shootings in K-12 schools where the source of the firearm was known, the perpetrator obtained the gun from home;
- Safe and secure storage of firearms and ammunition in the home prevents accidental shootings, especially among children; and

WHEREAS, Prompt reporting of firearm thefts with the make, model, and serial number of the stolen firearm(s) assist law enforcement agencies in solving crimes and locating and arresting criminals; therefore

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

- Better public education regarding the need for, as well as, state and local programs that promote the safe and secure storage of firearms and ammunition;
- The enactment of laws requiring gun owners to secure and safely store firearms and ammunition;
- The enactment of laws requiring the prompt reporting of firearm thefts to local law enforcement agencies, with such reports to include the make, model, and serial number of the stolen firearm(s);
- Federal legislation that requires states and local law enforcement agencies to report gun thefts and crimes to the FBI’s national database.

015-910 3D Printed Gun Safety Act (Convention 2019)

WHEREAS, 3D printed guns are printed without serial numbers and are virtually untraceable; and

WHEREAS, 3D printed guns can be obtained without the controls required to obtain guns legally; and

WHEREAS, The quality of the 3D printed firearms will increase as the technology advances; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs, an organization of 80,000 concerned women in Convention assembled in June 2019, urges the United States Congress to pass the 3D Printed Gun Safety Act which will amend Chapter 44 of title 18 United States Code, to prohibit the publication of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms and other purposes; and further

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to President of the United States of America Donald Trump; Vice President of the United States of America Michael Pence; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer; Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi; House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy; Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary Lindsey Graham; Chairman of House Judiciary Committee Jerrold Nadler; Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Karen Bass; National Rifle Association President Carolyn D. Meadows; International Union of Police Associations International President Sam A. Cabral; National Association of Police Organizations President Mike McHale; National Fraternal Order of Police President Chuck Canterbury.

[Humane Treatment of Animals (Includes 015-260 Humane Treatment of Animals, Convention 1966; and 015-450 Pound Seizure, Convention 1987)

WHEREAS, The Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC 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, Unclaimed animals in public or private shelters may be released or sold for use in research; therefore

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

- **Use of animals to advance medicine and science only when there are no non- animal alternatives, and when it is carried out in an ethical and humane way;**
- **Rigorous enforcement of state, federal, and animal cruelty prevention laws;**
- **The AAALAC International accreditation program, the Animal Welfare Act, and the Public Health Service Policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals;**
- **Programs promoting the training of personnel in the area of laboratory animal care, lawful procurement of the animals, and construction of adequate animal care facilities.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Humane Treatment of Animals” above:

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.

015-450 Pound Seizure (Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Reviewed 1999; Amended 2003, Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Reviewed 2019)



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.

[Labor Exploitation and Human Trafficking (Includes 015-330 Labor Exploitation, Convention 1996; 015-820 Human Trafficking, Convention 2001; and 016-020 International Child Labor, Convention 1988)

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, involving victims who are typically forced, defrauded, or coerced into labor and/or sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Labor exploitation impacts more than 20 million people around the world, including children, by forcing individuals to provide labor, particularly in the areas of domestic work, construction, agriculture, garment production, drug trafficking, and as child soldiers; and

WHEREAS, The number of children aged 5 to 11 years forced into labor exploitation is increasing; therefore

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

- **Enactment and enforcement of laws, domestic and international, guaranteeing individuals, including children, the right to work without abuse and exploitation;**
- **Legislation to ensure that products made by forced labor are not imported into the United States;**
- **Aid, education, and public awareness campaigns to alleviate poverty, provide educational opportunities, and address unstable social and political conditions that are often the cause of commercial exploitation of individuals;**
- **Assistance to and protection of victims and prosecution of exploiters.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Labor Exploitation and Human Trafficking” above:

015-330 Labor Exploitation (Convention 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019)

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 basic rights; therefore

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

- Enactment and enforcement of laws, domestic and international, guaranteeing workers the right to work free of abuse and exploitation;
- Legislation to ensure that products made by forced labor in violation of international standards are not imported into the United States.

015-820 Human Trafficking (Formerly "The Trafficking of Women and Children" and "Trafficking in Persons"; Convention 2001; Amended 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.

016-020 International Child Labor (Convention 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1995; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-070)

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

WHEREAS, The United States Tariff Act prevents goods made by forced labor from being imported into the United States and requires the Commissioner of Homeland Security's Customs and Borders Protection (the "Commissioner") to file an annual report to Congress tracking the number of times goods made with forced labor were denied entry into the United States, but to date no such report has been filed; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations International Labour Organization Convention 182, Worst Forms of Child Labor, requires ratifying countries to take immediate action to prohibit and eliminate the worst forms of child labor defined as all forms of slavery, commercial sexual exploitation of children, and any work that by its nature is harmful to the health, safety, or morals of children; therefore

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

- Efforts seeking the Commissioner's compliance with the current law;



- Programs of aid, education, and public awareness to alleviate poverty, which is often the cause of commercial exploitation of children;
- The enactment and enforcement of legislation that strengthens domestic and international child labor laws;
- Research on child labor and forced labor to monitor and enforce labor provisions of trade agreements;
- Continued passage of legislation that prevents goods made with forced child labor from being imported into the United States.

[Transportation (Includes 015-520 Safety for Air Travel, Convention 1959; 015-610 Transportation, Convention 1983; and 015-760 Safe Highways and Infrastructure, Convention, 2011)

WHEREAS, Pavement and bridges in poor condition directly impact the lives of citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mobility is important to our national economy and defense; and

WHEREAS, Air and rail travel are critical to the transportation network; and

WHEREAS, The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) was created to improve airport security procedures; therefore

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

- **Continued development of various means of transportation to reduce the overuse and deterioration of our highways, bridges, and infrastructure;**
- **Continued development of government policies and spending criteria that will produce safe highways and transportation systems to support present and future needs;**
- **Continued research and development of better safety and regulatory activities for air and rail travel;**
- **Improved screening practices and regulations for TSA to process air travelers more efficiently.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Transportation” above:

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; Reviewed 2017)

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.

015-610 Transportation (Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2011; Reviewed 2015; Reviewed 2019)

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.

015-760 Safe Highways and Infrastructure (Convention 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Highway deterioration is a safety issue; and

WHEREAS, The National Bridge Inventory has classified over 20% of the bridges of the National Highway System as structurally deficient or 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;
- 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:

- The development of alternative means of transportation to reduce the overuse and deterioration of our infrastructure and highways;
- Programs that educate all drivers on the rights and responsibilities of sharing the highway with all types of vehicles.

[Volunteer Liability Protection (Includes 015-670 Volunteer Liability Protection, Convention 1987; and 015-976 Limited Liability for Volunteer Drivers, Convention 2021)]

WHEREAS, Non-profit public and private organizations and governmental entities, including voluntary associations, social service agencies, educational institutions, and other civic groups, have been adversely affected by the loss of volunteers due to the potential for civil liability; and

WHEREAS, The federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 (VPA) provides immunity to volunteers working for a non-profit or governmental entity from liability for certain good



faith volunteer acts that are neither reckless, willful, or criminal; and

WHEREAS, Injuries caused by a volunteer operating a vehicle are not covered by the VPA and the willingness of volunteers to offer their services is deterred by the potential for civil liability; and

WHEREAS, Legislation is needed in some states to protect volunteers fully from liability resulting from good faith but negligent volunteer acts; therefore

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

- **Expansion of the VPA to include volunteer licensed drivers;**
- **State laws to protect volunteers from civil liability for good faith volunteer acts that are neither reckless, willful, or criminal.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Volunteer Liability Protection” above:

015-670 Volunteer Liability Protection (Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Volunteers who in good faith perform volunteer duties may be subject to civil liability for negligent acts; and

WHEREAS, The threat of civil liability may discourage volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, The federal Volunteer Liability Protection Act of 1997 immunizes volunteers from liability under federal law for good faith volunteer acts that are neither reckless, willful, nor criminal; and

WHEREAS, Legislation in some states may be needed to protect volunteers fully from liability resulting from good faith but negligent volunteer acts; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support the enactment of any laws necessary to protect volunteers from civil liability for negligent conduct.

015-976 Limited Liability for Volunteer Drivers (Convention 2021)

WHEREAS, Many senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and individuals undergoing medical procedures live in areas where public transportation is unavailable or limited and require the use of volunteer drivers for transportation; and

WHEREAS, Volunteers are reluctant to provide transportation because of potential personal liability; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federal of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for the expansion of the federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 (VPA) to include volunteer licensed drivers who transport senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and individuals undergoing medical procedures.



[School Bus Safety (Includes 015-860 School Bus Safety, Convention 2017; and 015-900 Miranda’s Law, Convention 2019)

WHEREAS, School buses are the primary mode of transportation to and from school and school-related activities; and

WHEREAS, Each year, more than 100 people, including children, are killed and thousands visit emergency rooms due to school bus accidents; and

WHEREAS, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) recommendation is that every school bus seat should have lap-shoulder belts and other safety measures; and

WHEREAS, The lack of available qualified school bus drivers is a safety issue; and

WHEREAS, Driving infractions by school bus drivers are not reported in a timely manner to the schools they serve, allowing potentially unsafe drivers to operate buses; therefore

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

- **Improved school bus safety, including better practices in hiring, training, and supervision of school bus drivers and use of bus monitors;**
- **Legislation that would require lap-shoulder seat belts and other safety measures on school buses;**
- **Recruitment, training, and incentives to attract qualified school bus drivers;**
- **The Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s implementation of a nationwide Employer Notification Service (ENS) for school bus drivers;**
- **Automatic notification of driver violations to school districts and school bus companies within 24 hours.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “School Bus Safety” above:

015-860 School Bus Safety (Convention 2017)

WHEREAS, The vast majority of school-age children rely on buses for transportation to and from school and school related activities; and

WHEREAS, The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration’s (NHTSA) policy is that every school bus should have a three-point seat belt; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support measures to improve school bus safety, including better practices in hiring, education, training, and supervision of school bus drivers and use of bus monitors where needed; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation that would require three-point seat belts on school buses and stronger guidelines for hiring and monitoring school bus drivers.

**015-900 Miranda's Law (Convention 2019)**

WHEREAS, In the United States, 26 million students ride school buses each day driven by 480,000 bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, Each year, an average of 137 people are killed and about 17,000 children visit emergency rooms annually due to school bus-related accidents; and

WHEREAS, School districts and school bus companies should receive immediate notification of driver violations received by school bus drivers; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an organization of 80,000 concerned women in Convention assembled in June 2019, urges the United States Congress to pass Miranda's Law which would:

- Require the Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration agency to implement a nationwide employer notification service (ENS) for buses;
- Demand automatic notification of driver violations to school districts and school bus companies within 24 hours allowing immediate action to keep unsafe drivers off the road and away from children; and further

RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the following: President of the United States of America Donald Trump; Vice President of the United States of America Michael Pence; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer; Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi; House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy; Chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation Roger Wicker; Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Peter A. DeFazio; Senator Corey Booker, sponsor of Miranda's Law; Representative Josh Gottheimer, sponsor of Miranda's Law; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Deputy Administrator Heidi King; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Executive Director Jack Danielson; National PTA President Jim Accomando.

[Immigration (Includes 015-920 Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Convention 1986; and 015-930 Human Rights, Convention 1984)]

WHEREAS, Human rights abuses and genocide continue to occur around the world leading to immigration to safe haven nations; and

WHEREAS, Undocumented immigrants account for almost a quarter of the United States' immigrant population; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for comprehensive immigration policy reform in the United States; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support comprehensive immigration policy reform to ensure:

- **Legal status of immigrant children brought to the United States, including a pathway to citizenship;**
- **Adequate allocation of labor visas to meet demand;**
- **Protection and preservation of the family unit throughout the documentation process;**
- **Reunification of parents/guardians separated from children;**
- **Protection of survivors of violence from further harm and traumatization;**



- Reasonable and enforceable border security;
- Uniform application and enforcement of immigration laws.]

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Immigration” above:

015-920 Comprehensive Immigration Reform (Formerly “Immigration Laws” and “Enforcement of Immigration Laws”; Convention 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-030)

WHEREAS, More than half of undocumented immigrants have lived in the U.S. for more than a decade and nearly one third are the parents of U.S.-born children, according to the Pew Research Center; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who overstayed their visas have outnumbered those who arrived by crossing the border illegally, according to the Center for Migration Studies; and

WHEREAS, Congress has been unable to reach an agreement on comprehensive immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, The fate of undocumented immigrants in the country, as well as rules for legal immigration, lie in the balance; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports maximum appropriations for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to carry out its mission; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support comprehensive immigration reform to address the following issues:

- Demand for high-skilled and low-skilled labor;
- Legal status of undocumented immigrants living in this country, including a path to citizenship;
- Protection and preservation of the family unit throughout the documentation process;
- Development of a plan to re-unite parents and children separated;
- Prohibition of further harm and traumatization of survivors of violence;
- Tough border security;
- Interior enforcement of immigration laws.

015-930 Human Rights (Convention 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Reviewed 2005; Reviewed 2009, Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-060)

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.

[Global Peacekeeping (Includes 015-940 Nuclear Arms Reduction, Convention 1993; and 015-950 Support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Convention 1961)

WHEREAS, The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was created to promote



security, peace, democracy, and stability in North America and Europe; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations (UN), along with its members, works collaboratively to maintain international peace and security; and

WHEREAS, These organizations are committed to inhibiting the use of nuclear arms that threaten the world and its inhabitants; therefore

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

- **NATO and the UN to safeguard the security of threatened members;**
- **Enactment and enforcement of treaties to further reduce nuclear threat.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Global Peacekeeping” above:

015-940 Nuclear Arms Reduction (Convention 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-130)

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.

015-950 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; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-170)

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.

[Support of the United Nations (Includes 015-945 Refugees, Convention 1979; 015-955 Support of the United Nations, Convention 1952; 015-970 Totalitarian Aggression, Convention 1961; and 015-975 United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention 1994)

WHEREAS, The United Nations is an organization that works for peace and harmony by solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian nature; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations 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, educational, employment, healthcare, and political rights; and

WHEREAS, Failure of the United States to ratify CEDAW allows countries with weak human rights records to neglect and undermine human rights for women and has hindered our country's leadership in promoting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, Civil strife, wars, persecution, and natural disasters endanger refugees; therefore

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

- **Continued participation by the United States in the United Nations;**
- **Membership by GFWC as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) accredited by the United Nations;**
- **Ratification and implementation of the United Nations CEDAW;**
- **Sanctions against aggressive totalitarian regimes;**
- **International programs that provide for the safety, nutrition, and security of refugees.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Support of the United Nations” above:

015-945 Refugees (Formerly “Reunification of Refugee Families”; Convention 1979; Reaffirmed 1985; Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-160)

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; and

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.

015-955 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; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-190)

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).

015-970 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; Amended 2019; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-230)

WHEREAS, The expansion and aggression of totalitarian regimes are threats to democracy and therefore to the peace and security of the world; and

WHEREAS, The continued military and economic pressures exerted by totalitarian regimes jeopardizes the stability of and solidarity among 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 and to implement sanctions against such actions.

015-975 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; Reviewed 2018; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-240)

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.

RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED:

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

WHEREAS, ~~Many~~ **[N]on[-]profits [charitable organizations recognized by the IRS as holding a 501(c)(3) tax exemption]** have the right and responsibility to engage in advocacy and lobbying activities; and

WHEREAS, These rights ~~are being~~ **[have been]** challenged formally and through **[threats of the loss of 501(c)(3) status and]** legislation that would limit **[their ability]** ~~nonprofits~~ to engage in advocacy **[and lobbying activities]**; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs ~~opposes any legislation that limits and/or prohibits the advocacy rights of charitable organizations~~ **[urges its member clubs to support legislation that would simplify and interpret the advocacy and lobbying rights enjoyed by non-profit charitable organizations recognized as 501(c)(3) tax exempt entities].**

Rationale: To update

015-070 ~~Balanced Budget~~ [Fiscal Responsibility] ([Formerly “Balanced Budget”;] Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018)

~~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 **[for]** programs of the government of the United States which **[that]** support national defense and **[the]** 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 **[a fiscally]** responsible **[annual]** federal budgets for the years ahead; and **[therefore]**

~~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 **[urges its member clubs to support:**

- **Elimination of fiscal waste in government programs;**
- **Adoption of a fiscally responsible annual federal budget.]**

~~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.

Rationale: To simplify and clarify

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; Amended 2017)

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

WHEREAS, The p**[P]**roper maintenance of bicycles and adherence to traffic laws can dramatically reduce the number of crashes**[accidents]**; and

[WHEREAS, Bicycle safety initiatives that encourage safer choices by bicyclists and motor vehicle drivers will reduce injuries and deaths on our roads; therefore]

WHEREAS, Studies show that while wearing a helmet can significantly reduce the risk of head injuries; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs promotes bicycle safety courses for all bicyclists; and **[urges its member clubs to support:**

- **Bicycle safety training for all bicyclists;**
- **Education awareness programs for motor vehicle drivers;**
- **Creation of public bicycle paths and lanes;**
- **Bicycle maintenance, appropriate safety equipment, and adherence to traffic laws.]**

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 equipment, and adherence to traffic laws.

Rationale: To update

015-200 Eminent Domain (Convention 2006; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Eminent domain is the power of the State**[government]** to take private property for public use with payment of just**[fair]** compensation to the owner; and

WHEREAS, Eminent domain proceedings are**[is]** critical in the development, maintenance, and revitalization of infrastructure in municipalities, counties, and states, but eminent domain may be exercised only where property is necessary for a legitimate public purpose; and

WHEREAS, Eminent domain has been used to condemn property otherwise legally occupied and maintained for the purpose of transferring the same to**[benefit of]** private developers; therefore

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



that[**to**]:

- ~~Limits the taking of private property, regardless of the proposed use, for transfer to individuals or entities for use in a private, rather than a public, development;~~
- Restricts the exercise of eminent domain to ~~those cases where the governmental entity in question can show both that the land is required for a legitimate public use and that the public will benefit from such use;~~ and
- Provides for adequate **[fair and timely]** compensation to the property owner.

Rationale: To update

015-220 Fire [Safety]Prevention and Protection from Fire Injury ([Formerly “Fire Prevention and Protection from Fire Injury”];]Convention 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2018)

WHEREAS, Fire causes death, injury, disfigurement, and financial loss; and

WHEREAS, Programs that educate the public help prevent fires and protect against fire-related injuries; and

WHEREAS, The use of s**[S]**moke and heat detectors and flame **[retardants add an integral layer of]**-resistant fabrics provides protection **[by reducing the risk of fires or slowing their spread];** therefore **[and**

WHEREAS, Fire safety codes and standards play a critical role in making individuals safer; and

WHEREAS, Public education programs prevent fires and protect against fire-related injuries; 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 **[codes and standards];**
- Promote education on the protective value of **[smoke and heat]**detectors and flame **[]**-retardant **[s]**-materials, including increasing public awareness of stricter children’s sleepwear standards and the need to report any infringements of that law;
- Work for **[Support]** 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 **[, and encourage reporting of violations to the Consumer Product Safety Commission];**
- Promote education **[al]** programs of **[n fire-]**survival techniques and fire safety laws.

Rationale: To expand

015-270 Identity Theft (Convention 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Identity theft is:

- ~~The stealing of someone’s personal identification for criminal purposes;~~
- ~~One of the fastest growing crimes;~~



- ~~An invasive crime that can severely damage the victim’s financial security and credit history~~ **[an invasive crime involving the theft of personal, financial, and/or medical information for criminal purposes that often results in civil and criminal liabilities];** and

WHEREAS,

- ~~The perpetrator’s actions may result in the victim being held civilly liable and having a record of criminal conviction;~~
- ~~Governments and businesses increasingly use personal identification numbers;~~
- ~~Technology expands and simplifies the dissemination of personal information;~~
- ~~Careful handling of personal information and documents, including the use of encrypted websites, can reduce the risk of identity theft~~ **[The expanded use of personal information for identification purposes increases the risk of identity theft due to the lack of encrypted websites and failure to implement computer network security protocols];** therefore

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

- ~~Government agencies and credit reporting bureaus to establish~~ **[Establishment of]** a simplified victim ~~[-]~~ fraud alert ~~[s] process;~~
- ~~Public and private industries to create methods of protecting personal information, especially records on the internet; and further~~

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

[• Enhanced security procedures that protect internet-based information sharing and storage;]

- ~~Support~~ **[I]** increased resources for **[the Federal Trade Commission]** and stringent **[for]** enforcement of ~~T~~ **[t]** he Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act and related laws;
- ~~Educate themselves and communities about the importance of prompt reporting of any suspicious activity in accounts and credit reports;~~
- ~~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;~~
- ~~Educate 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.~~

[• Consumer education about identity theft, how to address suspected theft, and the importance of diligent monitoring of personal, financial, and medical information.]

Rationale: To update

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; Reviewed 2017)

WHEREAS, Juvenile crime remains a very serious concern; and



WHEREAS, Children can **[Minors may]** be status offenders **[criminally charged]** for offenses including chronic truancy, disobedience to parents, running away, and other types of “incorrigible” 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 A) 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 A.

Rationale: To update

015-370 National Defense (Formerly “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; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, The deterrence of attacks on and the successful defense of the United States are important national objectives that require well-trained and well-equipped military, intelligence, and federal law enforcement forces; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the United States to:

- Provide members of its military, intelligence, and federal law enforcement forces with exceptional training and equipment;



- Refuse to enter any treaty that would allow another nation to ~~obtain or retain~~ **[assert]** military superiority over this country; therefore

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

- Maintenance of exceptionally trained and equipped military, intelligence, and federal law enforcement forces;
- Establishment of incentives in salaries and benefits sufficient to attract, recruit, and retain qualified individuals to serve in the military, intelligence agencies, and federal law enforcement agencies;
- Continuation and preservation of health benefits for veteran members of the military and federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies, including mental health benefits;
- Provision of services to assist military families during deployment and reintegration; ~~and further~~

~~RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs opposes any treaty~~

- **[Opposition to entering into treaties]** that would allow any nation to ~~obtain or retain~~ **[assert]** military superiority over the United States.

Rationale: To update

015-470 Prosecution of Hate Crimes (Convention 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Hate crimes, which target individuals, institutions, or property based on the perpetrator's bias against race, ~~color,~~ religion, national origin, **[gender or]**gender identification, sexual orientation, **[ethnicity, political affiliation, age,]**or disability, poses a threat to the principles upon which this country was founded; and

[WHEREAS, The definition of what qualifies as a hate crime varies widely from state to state and in federal law; and]

WHEREAS, Victims of h**[H]**ate crimes suffer **[traumatize the victim, as well as the community, causing]** significant **[financial, emotional, and social]**harm; 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.~~ **[:**

- **Legislation that establishes a uniform definition of a hate crime;**
- **Increased penalties when a hate crime is committed as part of another crime;**
- **Better training of law enforcement personnel in the recognition and investigation of hate crimes;**
- **Rigorous enforcement of laws prohibiting hate crimes.]**

Rationale: To update and expand

015-490 Responsibility of the Media and Individuals Pertaining to [Uphold]National Security (Formerly **["Responsibility of the Media and Individuals Pertaining to National Security" and]** "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 **[should]** be taken to preserve the utmost secrecy concerning matters which, if disclosed, would imperil **[of]** national defense and national security; and

WHEREAS, Responsibility for maintaining secrecy concerning critically important **[of classified and sensitive]** information relating to national **[defense and]** security rests jointly with administrative officers in charge, the media and related agencies **[government representatives, employees and/or contractors, mainstream and internet-based media]**, and individual **[s]** citizens who come into **[gain]** possession of such information; and

WHEREAS, Increased **[Growing]** use of technology has made penetrating of our Nation's **[may compromise the]** information infrastructure by outsiders a very serious and real threat to security; and **[through cyber threats and other vulnerabilities, leading to security breaches; therefore]**

WHEREAS, Classified information can be misused as a weapon against democracy and security; therefore

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

- **[S]** supports protection of classified **[and sensitive]** information; and further

RESOLVED, That acts of purposely obtaining or failure to protect classified information be subject to

- **[Advocate for]** the severest censure, legal action **[,]** and/or punishment **[for acts of purposely compromising or failing to protect classified and sensitive information].**

Rationale: To update and expand

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 **[T]** theft, vandalism, weapons, bombs **[explosive devices]**, **[and]** personal assaults and threats, some with deadly force, on students, teachers and personnel in our schools are alarming **[increasing]**; 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; **[and]** therefore

[WHEREAS, Collaborative efforts by teachers, administrators, law enforcement, students, parents, and community members may reduce violence and improve the school environment; therefore]

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

- **[P]** promote programs to reduce school crime **[, violence,]** and disruptions **[in schools;]** 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;
- **[Support collaborative solutions among schools and the community to prevent crime, violence, and disruptions in schools.]**
- 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 update

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 **[eligible individuals]**; 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 **[its member clubs to support:]**

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

- [•]** support e**[E]**ducational awareness programs **[on the future of Social Security;]** and
- [• L]** legislation addressing **[to stabilize]** the future **[viability]** of Social Security.

Rationale: To clarify

015-590 Statehood for Puerto Rico (**[Formerly “Statehood for Puerto Rico”;]** Convention 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Reviewed 1994; Reviewed 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2019)

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.~~

[WHEREAS, The political status of the District of Columbia and United States Territories is one of political inequality with limited representation in the United States Congress; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America is committed to the principals of justice, freedom, equality, and congressional representation for its citizens; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges Congress to consider statehood for the District of Columbia and United States Territories.]

Rationale: To update and broaden

015-640 United States Postal Service (Convention 1984; Reviewed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Reviewed 2019)

~~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 States 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.~~

[WHEREAS, The public has a right to the prompt and safe delivery of all types of mail entrusted to the United States Postal Service (USPS); and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that an efficient and economical postal service be provided to serve the interests and needs of the public; and

WHEREAS, A commercially and financially viable USPS is vital to the American economy; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support the USPS and its prompt, safe, and economical delivery of mail.]

Rationale: To update



015-650 [Rights of Crime]Victim[s]/Witness Assistance ([Formerly “Victim/Witness Assistance”];]Convention 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Reviewed 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017)

~~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.~~

[WHEREAS, Victims of crime are often overlooked by the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, Information, support, and the ability to participate in the criminal justice system strengthens the transition from victim to survivor; and

WHEREAS, Witnesses of crime may also become victims as a result of traumatic experiences and should receive support and access to services to help them with the physical, psychological, financial, and other devastating effects of crime; and

WHEREAS, Victims of crime often experience significant delays in receiving personal property held as evidence after the conclusion of court proceedings; and

WHEREAS, Victims protected by a No Contact Order, Protection Order, Restraining Order, Protection From Abuse (PFA) Order or any other similar type of order of protection are not kept informed of the status of the offender subject to such orders; therefore

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

- Crime victims are provided with information about available services, restitution, victim compensation programs, and court events;**
- Witnesses receive support and access to services to help them with the physical, psychological, financial, and other devastating effects of crime;**
- Crime victims have the opportunity to participate in the criminal justice system, if they choose to do so, including being present at the trial and execution of the offender;**
- Crime victims be kept informed of the status of the offender and court events including, but not limited to notice of the arrest, information on bail, escape and re-apprehension, imminent release, and details of the final disposition of the criminal case;**
- Crime victims have the right to be accompanied to all criminal proceedings by a family member, victim advocate, or support person;**
- Crime victims have the right and assistance necessary to comment on sentencing and post-sentencing decisions, and receive help preparing an oral and/or written victim impact statement detailing the physical, psychological, and economic effects of the crime;**



- **Prompt return of the crime victims’ property seized as evidence when it is no longer needed for prosecution;**
- **Prompt notice to crime victims of the arrest and/or release of an offender for violating any order of protection.]**

Rationale: To expand and strengthen

015-700 Water Safety (Convention 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2018)

WHEREAS, ~~Safe water practices save lives and prevents injuries; and~~

WHEREAS, ~~Accidents from~~ **[T]**he improper use of **[watercraft and/or]**water-sports equipment 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 drownings; ~~therefore~~**[and**

WHEREAS, Drowning is the leading cause of injury-related death among children between 1 and 4 years old; therefore]

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

- ~~the enactment and~~**[Rigorous]** enforcement of laws that promote water safety **[rules and regulations];** ~~and further~~

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

- ~~educate and promote~~ **[W]**ater safety **[educational programs, especially for parents and caregivers of young children]** ~~guidelines.~~

Rationale: To strengthen

015-750 Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing, Bullying, and Cyber-bullying (Formerly “Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing, and Bullying”; Convention 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Harassment, intimidation, hazing, bullying, and cyber-bullying are intentional efforts to harm one or more individuals, through written, verbal, **[and electronic communication,]** ~~graphic~~**[gestures,]** and **[/or]** physical acts that causes mental and/or physical harm **[and/or damage to property];** and

WHEREAS, ~~Bullying may also include acts based on actual or perceived characteristics of students who have historically been targets of bullying and is not always based on any particular characteristic; and~~

WHEREAS, ~~Although many~~**[All fifty]** states have anti-bullying **[bullying prevention]** legislation and policies that provide guidance to schools, ~~bullying is not illegal~~, **[but not all states have made bullying a criminal offense];** therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to educate ~~clubwomen and communities about~~**[support:**

- **Educational programs on harassment, intimidation, hazing, bullying, and cyber-bullying;**
- **Legislation to make bullying a criminal offense;]**



- ~~The serious issues of harassment, intimidation, hazing, bullying and cyber bullying;~~
- ~~The local school district's [A] anti-harassment, intimidation, hazing, and bullying, [and cyber-bullying] policies and the enforcement of same [in educational, social, and workplace settings.]; and further~~

~~RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Woman's Clubs advocates for legislation requiring local school districts to provide a procedure for maintaining written records of all incidents of bullying and the resolution, which would include a detailed description of a graduated range of consequences and sanctions for bullying and a procedure for referring the victim, perpetrator and others to counseling and other health services, as appropriate.~~

Rationale: To broaden

015-830 Opioids (Convention 2016; Amended 2017)

~~WHEREAS, Opioids are commonly prescribed natural or synthetic chemical pain killers, such as [including] oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, [and] 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, Overdose is a leading cause of non-intentional death in the United States and naloxone, a drug that rapidly reduces an opioid overdose, prevents death; and

WHEREAS, Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) are among the most productive state-level interventions to reduce the prescription of opioids, inform clinical practice, and protect patients at risk; 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 [necessary and] effective form of pain [-] management [aid] but it is important to understand the benefits and risks; and [for cancer, surgical recovery, and painful chronic diseases; therefore]~~

~~WHEREAS, The immediate treatment for overdose can reverse the impact of morbidity and mortality; therefore~~

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

- ~~the d[D]evelopment of educational awareness programs for providers, patients, and the community [about the benefits and risks of opioids]; and~~
- [• Development and implementation of a national PDMP;]**

~~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 [Funding] for all police officers and first responders to carry naloxone to be used when answering any call. [to be used to reverse an opioid overdose;**



- Insurance coverage for naloxone for all individuals with an opioid prescription;
- Ready availability, which does not create an unnecessary burden or impediment to patient care, of prescription opioids for cancer, surgical recovery, and painful chronic diseases.]

Rationale: To strengthen

015-840 Traumatic Brain Injury Prevention (Includes “Safety Helmets”, Convention 1976; Convention 2017)

WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury (TBI) occurs when a sudden trauma causes damage to the brain [**and injury can be eliminated or significantly reduced with the use of safety equipment in vehicles, sports, and recreational activities**]; and

~~WHEREAS, Studies show that wearing a helmet can significantly reduce the risk of TBI; and~~

WHEREAS, Every TBI is different, and [with] symptoms [ranging from] can be mild [to]; moderate, or severe, depending on the extent of the damage to the brain; and

[WHEREAS, Properly fitted helmets reduce the likelihood of TBI, broken facial bones, and/or death; and]

WHEREAS, The best practices for TBI are prevention and education; therefore

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

- [• Encourage the proper use of a seat belt while in a motor or recreational vehicle;
- Emphasize the importance of vehicle maintenance, use of appropriate safety equipment, and adherence to traffic laws;
- Encourage the wearing of a properly fitted helmet when participating in appropriate sports and recreational activities.]
- ~~Wearing a seatbelt while in a motor vehicle; and~~
- ~~Wearing a properly fitted helmet when participating in contact sports and recreational activities, including motorcycles and mopeds.~~

Rationale: To update, broaden, and clarify

015-880 Broadband Authority & Utilization (Convention 2019)

~~WHEREAS, Broadband is a high-capacity transmission technique using a wide range of frequencies, which enables many messages to be communicated simultaneously; and~~

WHEREAS, Broadband technology is a key component to economic development, education, and government efficiency; and

WHEREAS, GFWC [The General Federation of Women’s Clubs] recognizes that citizens [individuals], schools, and businesses benefit from the availability and utilization of affordable broadband internet access; [and

WHEREAS, Availability of broadband technology in the United States is over-estimated, with rural and tribal areas underserved;] therefore



RESOLVED, That GFWC **[the General Federation of Women’s Clubs]** urges its member clubs to advocate for **[support:**

- **L] legislation [and funding] that supports [for] broadband planning [technology deployment in underserved areas;]** and efforts to continue the growth of broadband infrastructure.
- [• Availability and affordability to increase access to broadband technology;**
- **Educational opportunities to assist individuals in the use and understanding of technology.]**

Rationale: To update

015-890 Social [Internet-based] Media (Convention 2019)

WHEREAS, Social **[Internet-based]** media are computer-mediated technologies **[communications]** that facilitate the creation and sharing of information, ideas, career interests, political views, and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks; and

WHEREAS, Social **[Internet-based]** media are an integral part of life online as social websites and applications proliferate; ~~statistics in 2018 show 77% of Americans have a profile on and 62% receive news from social media;~~ and

WHEREAS, Social **[Internet-based]** media exert **[may impact]** culture **[e]al**, educational, politic **[s]al**, religio **[n]us**, and soci **[ety]al** ~~impact on countless users~~ without regard to truth or validity of statements; and

WHEREAS, The potential exists for the abuse of social **[internet-based]** media by governmental and nongovernmental entities, commercial and public interests, and individuals; therefore

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

- ~~Educate communities~~ **[Educational programs]** about **[on]** the benefits and dangers of social **[internet-based]** media;
- ~~Advocate that governments and private industry research ways to ensure privacy of social media accounts~~ **[The expanded use and availability of, and training on, end-to-end encryption to increase privacy of internet-based media;]**; and
- [• A] accuracy of information distributed through social [internet-based] media; [.]**
- ~~Conduct a legislative action campaign in support of legislation that establishes guidelines to prevent the manipulation of users.~~

Rationale: To update and broaden

015-960 [Economic Stability] Assistance to Economically Less Developed Areas (Formerly **[“Assistance to Economically Less Developed Areas” and]** “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; Reviewed 2017; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-200)

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

[WHEREAS, Economic instability threatens the survival of communities around the world, especially in under-developed areas; and



WHEREAS, Cooperation among international and domestic aid organizations provides knowledge, information, skills training, and expertise that contribute to stabilization and economic improvement in impacted communities; 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~~**urges its member clubs to:**

- **Support] programs** ~~which~~**[that]** provides basic technical**[non-financial]** assistance to less**[under]-**developed areas of the world;**[communities;**
- **E]ncourage [public and]**private investment of capital ~~needed for this economic development [in under-developed areas];~~ and which uses carefully screened, qualified staff, and volunteers.

Rationale: To update and broaden

015-965 Terrorism (Convention 1981; Amended and Reaffirmed 1986; Reviewed 1990; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-210)

WHEREAS, Terrorism continues to be a threat to all persons**[individuals]** throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, The Office**[Department]** 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**[prosecute]** those who have perpetrated terrorist acts must be multilateral, multi-agency**[,]** and tightly coordinated; ~~and~~**[therefore]**

~~WHEREAS, National, state, and local governments need to combat and respond to terrorism; therefore~~

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

- Maintain a**[n up-to-date foreign and]** domestic anti-terrorism strategy, with ~~continuing~~**[ongoing]** improvement and reform as necessary;
- Provide training and financial aid**[support]** to state and local government agencies and emergency response teams preparing for terrorist attacks;
- ~~Educate members to better understand the various forms of terrorism in order to be better prepared;~~
- ~~Support legislation providing strong counter terrorism programs; and~~
- Encourage enhanced communication and cooperation ~~among~~**[of]** participating agencies within the U-**[nited]S-;[tates]** and internationally; ~~and~~

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

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

- [• Advocate]** ~~reaffirms its conviction~~ that any terrorist act against the United States or **[an]**other countr**[y]**ies be investigated and necessary action taken to identify**[,]** and apprehend**[, and prosecute]** those responsible ~~and to have them prosecuted.~~

Rationale: To update



RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED TO BE RESCINDED:

015-620 Uniform Probate Code (Convention 1975; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017)

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.

Rationale: Uniform Probate Code has been in place since 1969, with the latest revision in 2008. Only 18 states have adopted (at least in part). Differences in state law do not allow for uniformity.

015-770 TSA Loose Change Usage (Formerly "TSA Loose Change Act"; Convention 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces and families spend many hours in United States airports awaiting transport; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate that unclaimed monies recovered at security checkpoints be transferred to nonprofit organizations, that operate multiple airport centers throughout the United States to provide places of rest and recuperation for the Armed Forces members and families, such as the United Service Organization (USO).

Rationale: Congress has declined to act since 2017.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH/(ARTS AND CULTURE)

RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED:

015-250 Historic Preservation (Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended; 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017)

WHEREAS, **[Historic preservation is the identification, evaluation, physical preservation, and interpretation of historically and culturally significant sites contributing to the economic, social, and cultural health of communities]** ~~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~~

[WHEREAS, The preservation of GFWC history is important for the understanding of women's history and the rise of volunteerism, and the future of the organization; 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

- [• P]** partner with other civic organizations and government agencies to **[record the history of and]** ~~help preserve historic buildings and landmarks~~ **[historically and culturally significant sites];** ~~and further~~



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

~~[• S]study and preserve the history of their club and GFWC, including [their]written and oral histories, buildings[,] and artifacts.~~

Rationale: To update

015-510 Rosie the Riveter Memorial Project (Convention 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018)

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 **[urges its member clubs to]**supports[:

- **T]the Rosie the Riveter Memorial Project; and**

~~RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs~~

~~[•] supports identifying [Identification of locations] 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 [Establishment of] museums honoring the home[-]front efforts of women in all war[defense] industries.~~

Rationale: To update

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH/(JUNIORS’ SPECIAL PROGRAM – ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN)

PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTION:

[Keeping Children Safe (Includes 015-850 Safe Children, Convention 2017; and 013-420 Child Care, Convention 1988)

WHEREAS, A safe, educational, and nurturing environment is essential to the wellbeing and development of children at home and/or in childcare; and

WHEREAS, Millions of children are alone in the home before and/or after school; and

WHEREAS, Young children are left unattended due to the lack of available, affordable, accessible, and quality childcare, thus putting them at risk; and

WHEREAS, Unexplained absences of young children may be overlooked and under-reported; and

WHEREAS, Unattended children are vulnerable to the misuse of mass media and/or other forms of technology; therefore

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



support:

- **Availability of affordable, accessible, and quality childcare;**
- **Health, training, and safety standards for children at home and/or in childcare;**
- **Legislation expanding the availability and amount of childcare tax credits;**
- **A living wage for childcare providers;**
- **Community awareness of the need to ensure children’s safety;**
- **Establishment of designated neighborhood safe houses;**
- **Education of parents and/or guardians, and childcare providers, on the importance of monitoring children’s use of mass media and/or other forms of technology;**
- **Establishment of out-of-school programs and workplace childcare facilities;**
- **State and federal legislation to ensure recovery of unlawfully abducted, detained, or concealed children.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Referred Back to Resolutions Committee 2021 GFWC Annual Convention

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Keeping Children Safe” above:

015-850 Safe Children (Includes “Latch Key Children”, Convention 1985 and “Missing Children”, Convention 1984; Convention 2017)

WHEREAS, Millions of children under the age of twelve are alone in the home before and/or after school, with few employers providing on-site child care and limited school-based programs; and

WHEREAS, Children may be at risk of abduction by strangers, parents, and/or other individuals who are known to the child; and

WHEREAS, The misuse of modern technology, especially the Internet, contributes to the vulnerability of children; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support state and federal 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 work within their communities to:

- Create community awareness of school-aged children’s safety through the utilization of technology such as digital photo fingerprinting and identification cards;
- Establish designated neighborhood safe houses;
- Encourage parents and/or guardians to monitor their children’s Internet activities;
- Encourage school administrators to establish out-of-school programs and employers to provide on-site child care facilities.

013-420 Child Care (Formerly “Child Care”; Convention 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2017)



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, The high cost and lack of available quality care contributes to young children being placed in mediocre child care or being left unattended; and

WHEREAS, Unexplained absences of young children may be attributed to abductions, serious injury, or death; 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:

- 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;
- Encourage the enactment of legislation mandating that all child care facilities establish a two-way notification system when a child scheduled to be in attendance is absent from the facility.

JUNIORS’ SPECIAL PROGRAM – ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTIONS:

[Sexual Exploitation of Children (Includes 016-030 Legal Reform in Sexual Abuse of Children, Convention 1986; and 016-040 Sexual Abuse of Children, Convention 1978)

WHEREAS, Sexual exploitation of children, including child sex trafficking, child sex tourism, and child pornography, refers to a range of crimes and activities involving the sexual abuse or exploitation of a child for the benefit of an individual or in exchange for anything of value; and

WHEREAS, All children should reach the age of majority without suffering sexual trauma, exploitation, or forced marriage; and

WHEREAS, Child sexual exploitation may occur in or outside the home, or on the internet; therefore

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

- **A national strategy for child exploitation prevention that reaffirms our unwavering commitment to ensure that all children are protected from violence and abuse;**
- **Counseling programs for survivors of child sexual exploitation and their families;**
- **Medical services and assistance programs for the survivor.]**



Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Sexual Exploitation of Children” above:

016-030 Legal Reform in Sexual Abuse of Children (Formerly “Legal Reform in Sexual Abuse Cases Involving Children”; Convention 1986; Amended 1990; Reviewed 1994; Reviewed 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018; Reassigned 2020 Public Outreach 015-350)

WHEREAS, The sexual victimization of a child is a traumatic and devastating crime affecting the victim and family; and

WHEREAS, Child victims of sexual abuse who are questioned during an investigation or required to testify in open court may suffer long-term psychological damage; and

WHEREAS, The incidence of childhood marriage varies by state, with half the states in the U.S. setting no legal minimum age for marriage; 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

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

- Raise the minimum marriage age to 18 to prevent forced marriages of children;
- Increase understanding of forced marriage as a form of family violence and abuse, and build the capacity of existing programs to assist victims;
- Dedicate funding for specific forced-marriage resources and programs;
- Ensure access to civil protection orders and the criminal justice options for forced-marriage victims; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports counseling programs for the victim and family.

016-040 Sexual Exploitation of Children (Convention 1978; Amended 1985; Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017; Reassigned 2020 Public Outreach 015-560)

WHEREAS, The age of consent refers to the age at which a young person can legally consent to sexual activity and all sexual activity, without consent, is a criminal offense; and

WHEREAS, Sexual exploitation, includes but is not limited to: pornography, solicitation, prostitution, and sex trafficking; and

WHEREAS, Sexually exploited children can suffer lifelong sexual, physical, and emotional damage, such as unwanted pregnancies, and sexually transmitted diseases; therefore

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

- Support educational and awareness programs designed for children to increase understanding of sexual exploitation and to encourage communication with a responsible adult;



- Support counseling programs and medical services for survivors;
- Support enforcement of existing laws and development of new legislation;
- Support aggressive prosecution, stringent pre-trial supervision, and strict sentences for convicted individuals.

RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED:

016-010 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; Amended 2018; Reassigned 2020 Home Life 013-050)

WHEREAS, According to the Department of Health and Human Services, **[more than half a million]** the number of children **[in the United States are]** 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; and

[WHEREAS, In some states, children in foster care may not have access to adequate medical and mental health services under Medicaid statutes; and]

WHEREAS, Placement of children in out-of-state foster care is a slow and time-consuming process due to antiquated systems; therefore

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

- Support **[L]** legislation and programs that facilitate recruitment, training **[,]** and retention of high-quality foster parents and kinship providers;
- Advocate for **[L]** legislation requiring **[mandating]** procedures for the orderly and timely interstate **[out-of-state]** placement of children in foster care **[, including]** ~~to include an electronic interstate case-processing system;~~
- Encourage **[E]** efforts by state and/or local agencies who **[that]** have legal custody of foster children to **[keep siblings together and]** maintain their cultural heritage and family relationships, ~~making every effort to keep siblings together;~~

[• Legislation for the expansion of Medicaid to ensure adequate medical and mental health services for children in foster care;]

- Advocate for **[L]** legislation providing adequate and equal financial reimbursement and support **[and]** 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.

Rationale: To update

016-050 Youth Suicide Prevention (Formerly “Youth Suicide”; Convention 1986; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017; Reassigned 2020 Home Life 013-580)

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, Suicide attempts are the greatest predictor of death by suicide and major risk factors include abuse of alcohol and/or drugs, mental disorders, and self-destructive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is complex and tragic, but may be preventable; therefore]

~~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 [to]:~~

- ~~• Provide information to [I] increase awareness about [of] behavioral characteristics, risk factors [,] and warning signs of at-risk youth to peer groups, parents, school personnel, and other concerned adults;~~
- ~~• Provide information about [Offer] available treatment, counseling resources, and [other] services;~~
- ~~• Teach youth to [B] build self-esteem and to develop coping skills;~~
- ~~• Emphasize building [Provide] 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~~

- ~~[• F] fund and develop [school] plans of action for to identify at-risk youth and provide staff training in recognizing risk factors and warning signs of suicidal behavior.~~

Rationale: To update and clarify

SIGNATURE PROGRAM – DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

PROPOSED NEW RESOLUTIONS:

[Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits

WHEREAS, Statistics show that less than 1% of alleged rapists will be convicted and serve time in prison; and

WHEREAS, Hundreds of thousands of untested Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits, often referred to as Rape Kits, are stored in police and crime labs in every state, and untested Rape Kits impede prosecution of perpetrators, adversely affect survivors and prevent healing, and allow serial rapists to avoid identification; therefore

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

- Require law enforcement agencies and crime labs to inventory and test all untested Rape Kits in their possession;**
- Mandate the timely testing of all newly collected Rape Kits;**
- Grant survivors the right to know the status of their Rape Kits;**
- Provide adequate funding for the testing of Rape Kits;**
- Establish a nationwide tracking system for Rape Kits and requires DNA profile from the kits be entered into the FBI’s Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) forensic database.]**



Proposed by 2018-2020 GFWC Resolutions Committee

[Campus Sexual Assault

WHEREAS, Sexual assault on college and university campuses impacts 1 in 5 women and 1 in 15 men during their college years; and

WHEREAS, Sexual assault on high school campuses is on the rise; and

WHEREAS, Only a small percentage of campus sexual assaults are reported due to confusion about the reporting process and a lack of confidence that the perpetrator will be held accountable; and

WHEREAS, Campus sexual assault survivors suffer high rates of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), depression, and drug and/or alcohol abuse that can adversely impact their health and productivity; therefore

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

- **Comprehensive campus sexual assault programs that include prevention, education, bystander intervention, and services for survivors including the provision of an independent, on-campus advocate;**
- **Legislation that ensures coordinated, confidential support and serves the needs of survivors in a non-judgmental environment;**
- **Funding for training of students, faculty, and campus staff in reporting and responding to sexual assault cases;**
- **Sexual assault policies that are transparent, have clear procedures for reporting sexual assault, and penalties that hold perpetrators accountable;**
- **Legislation that permits survivors to choose whether the sexual assault is handled through the campus non-judicial system, the criminal justice system, or both.]**

Proposed by the GFWC Resolutions Committee

[Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention (Includes 017-010 Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention, Convention 1987; and 017-040 Sexual Assault, Convention 1987)

WHEREAS, Domestic and sexual violence, including but not limited to verbal, physical, emotional, mental, and sexual abuse, continues to increase, regardless of race, religion, gender and/or gender identity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, educational and socioeconomic status, and may result in emotional distress, physical injury, and/or death to victims; and

WHEREAS, Domestic and sexual violence has many aspects requiring society’s attention, including:

- **Financial dependence on the abuser, forcing the victim to remain in dangerous situations;**
- **Human trafficking for sexual exploitation of victims who are forced, defrauded, or coerced;**



- **Dating violence, particularly among teens, where a person in a dating relationship is harmed, threatened, intimidated, or controlled;**
- **Increased risk of future domestic and sexual violence actions by children and youth who witness and/or are victimized by domestic and sexual violence, including emotional trauma;**
- **Increased risk to native women residing on American Indian tribal land and in Alaskan Native villages who suffer domestic and sexual violence at a greater rate than other populations; and**

WHEREAS, Research shows that domestic violence abusers and stalkers with firearms are five times more likely to kill their victims, and firearms further exacerbate the power dynamic used by abusers to inflict emotional abuse and coercive control over their victims; and

WHEREAS, Prevention and prosecution of domestic and sexual violence may be provided through collection of evidence and legal protections; and

WHEREAS, State laws and available legal remedies only address certain areas of abuse and may be applied inconsistently, and the need for law enforcement and judicial training, emergency shelters, and counseling services for survivors of abuse continues to grow; therefore

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

- **Support survivors of domestic and sexual violence without discrimination;**
- **Identify at-risk families and suspected cases of domestic and sexual violence;**
- **Increase awareness of the risks of financial dependence and provide necessary resources to become financially self-sufficient;**
- **Advocate for increased awareness and education on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence, including dating violence prevention programs in schools;**
- **Provide emergency aid, shelter, and transitional housing for those who are forced to leave or flee violent settings;**
- **Authorize Tribal governments to have jurisdiction under federal law to prosecute and hold domestic and sexually violent offenders accountable and provide services to survivors;**
- **Strengthen state laws prohibiting possession of firearms by individuals charged with domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking until the charges have been resolved or their complete sentence has been served, and requiring the relinquishment of firearms to law enforcement while a valid order of protection is on record against them;**
- **Ensure the timely entry of all domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking criminal records and orders of protection into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS);**
- **Provide survivors access to Rape Kits, medical testing, and treatment;**
- **Advocate for legal support and assistance for victims;**



- **Expand the legal protection for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) to include both current and former spouses and dating partners, as in the definition provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;**
- **Advocate for law enforcement and judicial training, and rape crisis centers, emergency shelters, and specially trained medical and counseling service providers for victims and survivors.]**

Rationale: To update, broaden, and consolidate into a more effective resolution

Proposed to be rescinded pending adoption of New Resolution “Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention” above:

017-010 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; Amended 2017; Reassigned 2020 Public Outreach 015-020)

WHEREAS, Domestic violence, which includes, but is not limited to physical, emotional, mental, and sexual abuse, continues to increase within our society spanning race, 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, American Indian and Alaska Native women residing on tribal lands and in Alaska Native villages suffer domestic violence and physical assault at rates far exceeding women of other ethnicities and locations; 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, intimate 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;
- 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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support authorization for Tribal governments to have jurisdiction under federal law to hold offenders accountable and provide services to victims; 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.

017-040 Sexual Assault (Convention 1987; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993, Amended 1997, 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017; Reassigned 2020 Public Outreach 015-550)

WHEREAS, Sexual violence 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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports legislation which will:

- Guarantee the right of confidentiality to survivors regarding all reports and conversations with investigators and counselors;



- Support the enforcement of existing laws and criminal penalties dealing with sexual assault;
- Provide funding for the training of law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, judicial officers, court staff, medical professionals, and educators in handling sexual assault cases; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs supports funding for rape crisis centers and comprehensive services for sexual assault survivors; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to establish and/or support community awareness programs for sexual assault survivors to seek counseling and support as well as to alleviate the stigma affecting survivors; and further

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

- Encourage all colleges and universities to educate survivors on how to advocate for themselves and provide information about resources available, such as Section 504 accommodations, to assist them in continuing to pursue their chosen course of study;
- Increase emphasis on prevention of sexual assault and dating violence through programs focused on bystander invention;
- Ensure that colleges and universities have comprehensive and easily accessible policies and clear procedures for reporting sexual assault.

RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED TO BE AMENDED:

017-020 Elder Abuse Prevention (Convention 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Formerly “Elder Abuse”; Reassigned 2020 Public Outreach 015-740)

WHEREAS, Millions of older Americans are victims of physical, sexual, financial, **[emotional and]psychological[, and/]**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 **[Perpetrators of]** committing crimes against the elderly **[elder abuse]** are seldom identified or punished; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges it member clubs to **[support]:**

- ~~Advocate for state legislation and programs directed toward identifying and prosecuting perpetrators of elder abuse;~~
- [• Programs that educate the community on identifying and reporting suspected elder abuse;**
- Training for caregivers on identifying and reporting suspected elder abuse;]**
- ~~Support programs that provide i[]inter-professional geriatric education;[and] training[;] and research to develop a geriatric capable workforce that would improve health outcomes or a growing and diverse American population.~~
- [• Legislation that increases the prosecution of and penalties imposed on perpetrators of elder abuse.]**

Rationale: To clarify



017-030 Military Sexual Assault (Formerly “Sexual Assault of Those Serving in and with the Armed Forces” Convention 2009); Amended 2013; Amended 2017; Reassigned 2020 Public Outreach 015-730)

WHEREAS, ~~Women and men~~ **[Those attending a military academy]**, on active duty, **[serving as reservists or in the national guard, and]** military famil[y]ies **[members]**; and civilian personnel~~[,]~~ are particularly vulnerable to abuse and assault due to geographical isolation, distance from family and friends, and the potential for social isolation within the military culture; and

WHEREAS, Sexual assault **[and domestic violence]**within the military continues to occur at alarming levels; and

WHEREAS, ~~These~~ **[V]**victims are frequently fearful of reporting incidents due to the lack of privacy and confidentiality in military communities, **[fear of retaliation,]**as well as **[and]**limited availability of victim services ~~for active duty, military families, and civilian personnel;~~ and

[WHEREAS, Military Sexual Trauma (MST) may negatively affect an individual’s current and long-term mental and physical health; therefore]

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

- Support the **[E]**expansion of targeted services to address gender-based violence **[military sexual assault]**in the military, including survivors’ unique needs regarding**[in]** reporting **[sexual assault]**and accessing legal remedies;
- Support **[A]**an independent and impartial justice system for service members by taking**[removing]** prosecution for sexual assault and domestic violence crimes out of **[from]**the chain of command;
- Support **[E]**efforts to improve the ability of veterans who are survivors of ~~military sexual trauma~~**[MST]** and domestic violence to seek and receive disability benefits;
- Encourage the military to **[E]**enhance**[ment of]** family services on military bases and to develop**[ment]** and communicate**[ion of]** clear pathways for victims of violence to report the abuse and seek services and support;
- Encourage **[I]**implementation of sexual assault prevention training of all personnel to improve **[military]**culture ~~in the military; and further~~

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

- **[T]**the accessibility of trained **[S]**sexual **[A]**assault **[N]**nurse **[E]**examiners (SANE) to ensure proper medical and psychological treatment, utilization**[use]** of sexual assault evidence collection**[Rape K]**kits, and **[that]**victims be assured privacy and confidentiality to facilitate reporting assaults without fear of retaliation.

Rationale: To update

017-050 Sexual Harassment (Formerly “Sexual Harassment in the Workplace”; Convention 1992; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018; Reassigned 2020 Home Life 013-460)

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment is any unwanted behavior linked to gender or sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment affects the lives and careers of millions of women and men; and

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



~~WHEREAS, Sexual harassment may not be reported due to the fear of retaliation; therefore~~

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

- ~~• Behaviors that may be considered sexually harassing;~~
- ~~• Workplace awareness and training;~~
- ~~• Legal remedies when harassment or retaliation occurs; and further~~

~~RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote consistent enforcement of laws against sexual harassment.~~

[WHEREAS, Sexual harassment involves the use of explicit or implicit sexual overtones, including but not limited to the promise of rewards in exchange for sexual favors; and

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment includes a range of actions from verbal transgressions to sexual abuse or assault; and

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment may occur in many different settings, including but not limited to workplaces, businesses, homes, schools, and churches; and

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

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

- New and existing programs to educate individuals on recognizing and reporting sexual harassment**
- Legislation strengthening penalties and reporting procedures for sexual harassment.]**

Rationale: To update