

General Federation of Women's Clubs

2024 Resolutions

Updated July 2024



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GFWC STANDING RULE

13. RESOLUTIONS

General

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

Presentation of Resolutions

- a. The Resolutions Committee shall review all resolutions, including emergency resolutions, before presentation to the Executive Committee or the Annual Convention. Any proposed resolution presented to the Resolutions Committee, not approved for recommendation by that committee, may be presented as a motion to the convention body as a matter of new business, with the exception of a motion to rescind, which must be included in the Call to Convention to provide proper notice to the membership.
- b. Resolutions may be presented only by the following:
 1. The Executive Committee
 2. The Resolutions Committee
 3. A State Federation by convention action or at a statewide meeting in the event the state convention is held biennially.
 4. A Community Service Program, Standing, or Special Committee Chairman (who review current resolutions and/or initiate new resolutions, in accordance with their programs of work)
 5. An International Club, paying per capita dues, may present resolutions via the International Liaisons Chairman
- c. Proposed resolutions shall be submitted to the Resolutions Committee Chairman, typewritten and accompanied by proper supporting documents by November 1 each year. Only emergency resolutions shall be accepted after November 1 (Bylaws, ARTICLE XII Committees Section 12. 1 Standing Committees. M) Resolutions).

- d. Resolutions referring to a bill before the Congress of the United States or to a legal document shall be based upon the principles involved and shall be accompanied by two copies of the bill or document in question.
- e. Except for emergency resolutions and resolutions originating under new business, all resolutions to be presented to the Convention body shall be incorporated into the Call to Convention.

Resolutions Adopted by States

- a. Resolutions regarding national issues adopted at a state convention, or at a statewide meeting in the event the state convention is held biennially, may be referred to the Resolutions Committee Chairman (by November 1) for consideration at the Annual Convention the following year.
- b. Emergency resolutions adopted at state convention, or at a statewide meeting in the event the state convention is held biennially, shall follow rules governing emergency resolutions.

Emergency Resolutions

- a. Emergency resolutions are those whose subject matter has arisen since the preparation of the call to the upcoming convention, or those that are governed by a definite time value and upon which delayed action would be disadvantageous.
- b. Emergency resolutions may only be presented by those eligible to present resolutions.
- c. Emergency resolutions to be presented at the Annual Convention shall be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee Chairman by 12:01 a.m. of the first day of the Annual Convention. The Resolutions Chairman shall consult with the International President who in turn shall bring the Emergency Resolution to the Executive Committee for a vote. If approved, the Emergency Resolution shall be distributed to the voting delegates by the Resolutions Committee no later than 4:00 p.m. of the day before consideration of same by the Convention body. The Resolutions Committee Chairman will present the Emergency Resolution to the Convention body.

Life of Resolutions

- a. All resolutions will be reviewed on a four-year rolling basis in groups to retain the internal integrity of each of the Special and Community Service Program's relationship with its resolution.
- b. The rolling review will be in the following order:
 - Year 1: Arts and Culture, Education and Libraries, and Environment
 - Year 2: Health and Wellness

Year 3: Civic Engagement and Outreach

Year 4: Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention, and Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children

- c. Newly proposed resolutions or proposed amendments to an existing resolution shall be considered in the year in which they are timely submitted for consideration.
- d. An existing resolution that is amended out of cycle as the result of a newly proposed resolution or proposed amendment will be reviewed again as part of the scheduled annual review regardless of the date of its most recent amendment.
- e. The scheduled rolling review may be adjusted at the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee Chairman with the consent of the President.
- f. Resolutions establishing the general policy of GFWC shall continue active until rescinded by the delegate body or until their purpose has been accomplished.
- g. By recommendation of the Resolutions Committee, notice to rescind resolutions whose purpose has been accomplished shall be appended to the Call to Convention. Unless a motion is made from the floor to amend one or more of these resolutions, they shall be considered rescinded at the close of the Annual Convention.

Rescinding Resolutions

- a. Proposals to rescind a resolution shall come from those eligible to present resolutions, and such proposals shall follow the usual procedures for consideration of such resolutions.
- b. Intention to rescind shall be incorporated in the call to convention at which action is to be taken.

Minority Opinion

- a. A State Federation that wishes to differ with an adopted resolution and that expresses a minority opinion by a two-thirds vote at their State convention shall immediately register such action with GFWC by furnishing a copy of the minutes when such action was taken.
- b. A State Federation, holding a registered minority opinion and wishing to support its stand further, may do so provided it gives notice that its action represents the minority vote of GFWC.
- c. Any state changing its position on a minority opinion shall advise GFWC of such action.

LIST OF RESOLUTIONS

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SIGNATURE PROGRAM: DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

110-010 Campus Sexual Assault (Convention 2022)

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 and middle 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;
- Healthy relationship forums that include abstinence and consent topics;
- 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.

110-020 Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention (Convention 2022: Includes “Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention,” Convention 1987; and “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.

110-030 Elder Abuse Prevention (Formerly “Elder Abuse”; Convention 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Millions of older Americans are victims of physical, sexual, financial, emotional and psychological, and/or neglect each year; and

WHEREAS, Many nursing care facilities lack adequate staff to properly care for patients; and WHEREAS, Perpetrators of elder abuse are seldom identified or punished; therefore

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

- Programs that educate the community on identifying and reporting suspected elder abuse;
- Training for caregivers on identifying and reporting suspected elder abuse;
- Inter-professional geriatric education and training;
- Legislation that increases the prosecution of and penalties imposed on perpetrators of elder abuse.

110-040

Military Sexual Assault (Formerly “Sexual Assault of Those Serving in and with the Armed Forces”; Convention 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Those attending a military academy, on active duty, serving as reservists or in the national guard, and military family 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, Victims are fearful of reporting incidents due to the lack of privacy and confidentiality in military communities, fear of retaliation, and limited availability of victim services; 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:

- Expansion of services to address military sexual assault, including survivors’ unique needs in reporting sexual assault and accessing legal remedies;
- An independent and impartial justice system for service members by removing prosecution for sexual assault and domestic violence crimes from the chain of command;
- Efforts to improve the ability of veterans who are survivors of MST and domestic violence to seek and receive disability benefits;
- Enhancement of family services on military bases and development and communication of ways for victims of violence to report the abuse and seek services and support;
- Implementation of sexual assault prevention training of all personnel to improve military culture;
- The accessibility of trained Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) to ensure proper medical and psychological treatment, use of Rape Kits, and that victims be assured privacy and confidentiality to facilitate reporting assaults without fear of retaliation.

110-050 Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits (Convention 2022)

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.

110-060 Sexual Harassment (Formerly "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace"; Convention 1992; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018; Amended 2022)

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.

JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

120-010 **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; Amended 2022)

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

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

- Legislation and programs that facilitate recruitment, training, and retention of high-quality foster parents and kinship providers;
- Legislation mandating procedures for the orderly and timely out-of-state placement of children in foster care, including an electronic processing system;
- Efforts by agencies that have legal custody of foster children to keep siblings together and maintain their cultural heritage;
- Legislation for the expansion of Medicaid to ensure adequate medical and mental health services for children in foster care;
- Legislation providing adequate and equal financial support and services for foster parents and kinship providers.

120-020 Keeping Children Safe (Convention 2022: Includes “Safe Children,” Convention 2017; and “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.

120-030 Sexual Exploitation of Children (Convention 2022: Includes “Legal Reform in Sexual Abuse of Children,” Convention 1986; and “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.

120-040 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; Amended 2022)

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

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

- Increase awareness of behavioral characteristics, risk factors, and warning signs of at-risk youth to peer groups, parents, school personnel, and other concerned adults;
- Offer treatment, counseling, and other services;
- Build self-esteem and develop coping skills;
- Provide support groups and networks for youth who have survived an attempted suicide, and for family and friends of suicide victims;
- Fund and develop school plans to identify at-risk youth and provide staff training in recognizing risk factors and warning signs of suicidal behavior.

ARTS AND CULTURE

130-010 Historic Preservation (Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2022)

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; and

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:

- Partner with other civic organizations and government agencies to record the history of and preserve historically and culturally significant sites;
- Study and preserve the history of their club and GFWC, including their written and oral histories, buildings, and artifacts.

130-020 Museums (Convention 1986; Reviewed 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018; Reviewed 2021)

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

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

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

130-030 Rosie the Riveter Memorial Project (Convention 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018; Amended 2022)

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 Club urges its member clubs to support:

- The Rosie the Riveter Memorial Project;
- Identification of locations across the United States where women actively engaged in home-front activities during World War II;
- Establishment of museums honoring the home-front efforts of women in all defense industries.

130-040 Support of the Arts (Convention 2021: Includes “Funding for the Arts,” Convention 1991; and “Support of the Arts in Schools and Communities,” Convention 1983)

WHEREAS, The arts enhance life and encourage expression, imagination, and creativity, which stimulates learning; and

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that participation in the arts improves confidence, social and learning skills, and test scores, and individuals who participate in art programs are more likely to continue their education and adopt appropriate social behavior; and

WHEREAS, Reduction and elimination of arts programs by community service agencies and schools deprive individuals of the opportunity to develop creative and independent thinking skills; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other physical and mental disorders benefit from the healing process provided by art therapy; and

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

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

- Support the integration of arts programs in the broadest sense into the curricula of all educational programs;
- Support the inclusion of art therapy in rehabilitation programs in hospitals, care facilities, and as many aspects of community life as possible;
- Urge Congress to support funding for the National Endowment for the Arts to enhance state and local programs that help transform communities into beautiful and resilient places through strategies that incorporate arts and culture;
- Advocate for local, state, and federal funding of art programs.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

140-010 Advocacy Rights of Charitable Organizations (Convention 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Non-profit 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 have been challenged through threats of the loss of 501(c)(3) status and legislation that would limit their ability to engage in advocacy and lobbying activities; therefore

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

140-020 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; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, The number of bicyclists on the roads continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, Proper maintenance of bicycles and adherence to traffic laws can dramatically reduce the number of 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

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

140-030 Broadband Authority and Utilization (Convention 2019; Amended 2022)

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

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs recognizes that 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 the General Federation of Women’s Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

- Legislation and funding for broadband technology deployment in underserved areas;
- Availability and affordability to increase access to broadband technology;
- Educational opportunities to assist individuals in the use and understanding of technology.

140-040 Child Support Enforcement (Formerly “Child Support Enforcement Program”; Convention 1983; Amended 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Children and custodial parents suffer from financial insecurity due to non- payment of child support; and

WHEREAS, Child support enforcement programs administered by states and local authorities encourage parental responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Federal law designates non-payment a felony, but limits the ability for enforcement by federal authorities; therefore

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

- Advocate for legislation that allows prompt and timely federal enforcement of child support delinquencies;
- Support local, state, and federal cooperation in the enforcement of child support obligations.

140-050 **Citizenship Rights and Privileges** (Convention 2022: Includes “Fundamental Freedoms,” Convention 1956; “Respect for the Flag of the United States,” Convention 1974; and “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.

140-060 Consumer Product Safety (Convention 2021: Includes “Consumer Product Information,” Convention 1962; and “Product and Services Liability Reform,” Convention 1986)

WHEREAS, The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is responsible for the research, promotion, and regulation of safety standards for a variety of products to reduce injury to consumers; and

WHEREAS, Other types of consumer products are under the jurisdiction of additional federal agencies; therefore

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

- The reporting of dangerous or unsafe products to the CPSC hotline or through SaferProducts.gov;
- Full disclosure of product information, including industry reports and consumer complaints.

140-070 Crime Prevention (Convention 2022: Includes “Abolishment of Pornography,” Convention 1987; “Crime Prevention,” Convention 1968; “Drug Trafficking,” Convention 1990; and “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.

140-080 Criminal Justice (Convention 2022: Includes “Delays in Criminal Prosecution,” Convention 1987; “Early Release of Violent and Habitual Prisoners,” Convention 1994; “Prisoner Rehabilitation,” Convention 1957; and “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.

140-090 Disaster Assistance and Preparedness (Convention 2022: Includes “Disaster Service Planning,” Convention 1984; and “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.

140-100 Economic Equity (Convention 2021: Includes “Civil Rights in the Workplace,” Convention 1991; and “Economic Equity,” Convention 1988)

WHEREAS, U.S. government statistics demonstrate there is a significant gap between the wages paid to men and the wages paid to women, as well as differences in wages to those of different races, national origin, religion, sex or gender identity, and/or sexual preference; and

WHEREAS, Households headed by women:

- Are more likely to live below the poverty level than households headed by men;
- Run a greater risk of impoverishment due to career interruptions, sex or gender discrimination, divorce, death of spouse, or inadequate medical and retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, The economic security of women:

- Affects the welfare of all families;
- Is illustrated by the National Equal Pay Day that marks the additional days women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year; therefore

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

- Encourage passage of legislation that would improve the economic status of women through workforce training, expanded business opportunities, and affordable and high-quality child care services;
- Advocate for equal access for women to higher paying and managerial positions with salaries equal to those of men in like positions through enforcement of economic equity laws;
- Promote awareness of the wage gap and National Equal Pay Day;
- Support efforts and legislation to protect individuals from wage discrimination based on an individual's race, national origin, religion, sex or gender identity, and/or sexual preference.

140-110 Economic Stability (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; Amended 2022)

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 urges its member clubs to:

- Support programs that provide basic non-financial assistance to under-developed communities;
- Encourage public and private investment of capital for economic development in under-developed areas.

140-120 Electoral Process (Convention 2022: Includes “Election Procedures,” Convention 1969; and “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.

140-130 Eminent Domain (Convention 2006; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2022)

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

WHEREAS, Eminent domain is critical in the development, maintenance, and revitalization of infrastructure in municipalities, counties, and states; and

WHEREAS, Eminent domain has been used to condemn property for the benefit of private developers; therefore

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

- Restrict the exercise of eminent domain to cases where the government can show the land is required for a legitimate public use and the public will benefit;
- Provides for fair and timely compensation to the property owner.

140-140 Enhanced Opportunities for Women (Convention 2022: Includes “Equal Rights for Women,” Convention 1944; “Women in Public Policy-Making Decisions,” Convention 1922; and “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.

140-150

Family Farms (Formerly “Agricultural Policy - Family Farms”; Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, A family farm is a business enterprise in which the ownership and daily business management decisions are made by members of the same family, which is engaged in farming and ranching activities with the intent to make a profit; and

WHEREAS, Many family farmers rely on off-farm revenue to feed their families, secure health insurance, and keep their farms solvent; and

WHEREAS, The lack of income stability is jeopardizing the future of family farms that produce quality foods, benefit communities by contributing to the local economy, and are good stewards of the land; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support local, state, and federal legislation and programs that create financial incentives for family farms to continue their operations, enhance the family farmers’ ability to compete in the marketplace, and earn a living wage.

140-160 Firearms Safety (Convention 2022: Includes” Gun Control”, Convention 1992; “Firearm Safety and Responsibility,” Convention 2015; and “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 banning the sale of military-style assault weapons for civilian use;
- 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.

140-170

Fire Safety (Formerly “Fire Prevention and Protection from Fire Injury”; Convention 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2018; Amended 2022)

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

WHEREAS, Smoke and heat detectors and flame retardants add an integral layer of protection by reducing the risk of fires or slowing their spread; 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 codes and standards;
- Promote education on the protective value of smoke and heat detectors and flame retardants;
- 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 educational programs on fire-survival techniques and fire safety.

140-180

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; Amended 2022)

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

WHEREAS, A strong and healthy economy depends on the adoption of a fiscally responsible annual federal budget; 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.

140-190 Global Peacekeeping (Convention 2022: Includes “Nuclear Arms Reduction,” Convention 19 93; and “Support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO),” Convention 1961; Amended 2023)

WHEREAS, The United States Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) are the agencies that lead humanitarian efforts; and

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 with every member state legally obligated to pay their respective share towards peacekeeping; 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:

- Peacemaking initiatives that promote the use of nonviolent intervention, structured mediation, and peaceful resolution of international conflicts;
- NATO and the UN to safeguard the security of threatened members;
- The timely payment of the United States’ share of the UN peacekeeping budget;
- Enactment and enforcement of treaties to further reduce nuclear threat.

140-200 Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing, Bullying, and Cyber-bullying (Formerly “Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing, and Bullying”; Convention 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2022)

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

WHEREAS, All states have bullying prevention legislation and policies, 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 support:

- Educational programs on harassment, intimidation, hazing, bullying, and cyber-bullying;
- Legislation to make bullying a criminal offense;
- Anti-harassment, intimidation, hazing, bullying, and cyber-bullying policies and enforcement in educational, social, and workplace settings.

140-210 Homelessness (Formerly “Homeless”; Convention 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2021)

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

WHEREAS, Major causes of homelessness include poverty, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, access to affordable healthcare, domestic violence, incest and/or sexual abuse, mental illness, and substance abuse; and

WHEREAS, Services are needed to address the needs of the homeless; therefore

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

- Contact local homeless coalitions to identify current needs and services available, including access to public education, healthcare, and substance abuse treatment for the homeless population in their communities;
- Support local, state, and federal funding for services for the homeless population;
- Support transitional living programs to include education, life skills, and workforce training for homeless individuals;
- Support efforts to develop affordable and permanent housing to break the cycle of homelessness for families and individuals.

140-220 Humane Slaughter Enforcement (Convention 2003; Reviewed 2007; Amended 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The Humane Slaughter Act does not protect all food animals from inhumane treatment during the slaughter process; and

WHEREAS, Investigations reveal that slaughterhouse employees who report inhumane handling and slaughter violations suffer retaliation by fellow employees and business operators; therefore

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

- Support the rigorous enforcement of the Humane Slaughter Act to protect animals from inhumane treatment;
- Advocate for inclusion of all food animals in the Humane Slaughter Act;
- Promote rigorous enforcement of the laws and regulations that protect slaughterhouse employees who report inhumane handling and slaughter violations.

140-230 Humane Treatment of Animals (Convention 2022: Includes “Humane Treatment of Animals,” Convention 1966; and “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.

140-240 Hunger and Food Insecurity (Formerly “World Hunger”; Convention 1989; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Hunger, malnutrition, and food insecurity exist throughout the world, and are currently on the rise; and

WHEREAS, Hunger and malnutrition are the biggest risks to health, impacting over two billion people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, The primary cause of hunger is poverty, with civil conflict and natural disasters contributing to the increase in the numbers of those suffering from hunger; therefore

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

- Support efforts of private organizations, governments, and the United Nations to end hunger both domestically and internationally;
- Encourage the availability of nutritious food resources and the eradication of food deserts;
- Support programs that promote long-term food security of low-income people.

140-250 Identity Theft (Convention 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Identity theft is 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 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:

- Establishment of simplified victim-fraud alerts;
- Enhanced security procedures that protect internet-based information sharing and storage;
- Increased resources for the Federal Trade Commission for enforcement of the Identity
- Consumer education about identity theft, how to address suspected theft, and the importance of diligent monitoring of personal, financial, and medical information.

140-260 Immigration (Convention 2022: Includes “Comprehensive Immigration Reform,” Convention 1986; and “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.

140-270 Impaired and Distracted Driving (Convention 202: Includes “Impaired Operation of Vehicles,” Convention 1987; and “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 without the use of mandatory minimum sentencing;
- 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;
- Implementation of substance abuse treatment in lieu of incarceration where appropriate.

140-280 Individuals with Disabilities (Formerly “Persons with Disabilities” and “People with Disabilities”; Convention 1980; Amended 1984; Reviewed 1988; Amended 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2016; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Individuals with disabilities are entitled to be meaningful to society; and

WHEREAS, Many individuals who have disabilities are unable to reach their full potential due to social, educational, and structural barriers; therefore

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

- Support existing laws and further legislation to protect and secure the rights of all individuals with disabilities;
- Work within their communities to uphold the provisions set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in all community programs.

140-290 Internet-based Media (Formerly “Social Media”; Convention 2019; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Internet-based media are computer-mediated 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, Internet-based media are an integral part of life as social websites and applications proliferate; and

WHEREAS, Internet-based media may impact culture, education, politics, religion, and society without regard to truth or validity of statements; and

WHEREAS, The potential exists for the abuse of 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:

- Educational programs on the benefits and dangers of internet-based media;
- The expanded use and availability of, and training on, end-to-end encryption to increase privacy of internet-based media;
- Accuracy of information distributed through internet-based media.

140-300 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; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Juvenile crime remains a very serious concern; and

WHEREAS, Minors may be 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:

- 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.

140-310 Labor Exploitation and Human Trafficking (Convention 2022: Includes “Labor Exploitation”, Convention 1996; “Human Trafficking,” Convention 2001; and “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.

140-320 Mass Media (Convention 2021: Includes “Exploitation of Women in Media,” Convention 1981; and “Mass Media,” Convention 1984)

WHEREAS, Mass media is the various means by which information reaches large numbers of people and is a powerful communication tool with far-reaching influences; and

WHEREAS, Individuals are often depicted in stereotypical ways that contribute to violence and/or perpetuate discrimination; therefore

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

- Responsible use of mass media;
- Elimination of gratuitous portrayals of violence;
- Elimination of prejudicial portrayals of individuals that perpetuate discrimination.

140-330 **Migrant Worker Families** (Formerly “Migrant Families and Transient Youth”; Convention 1951; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019; Reviewed 2021)

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

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

140-340 **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; Amended 2022)

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 assert military superiority over this country; therefore

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

- 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;
- Opposition to entering into treaties that would allow any nation to assert military superiority over the United States.

140-350 Opioids (Convention 2016; Amended 2017; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Opioids are commonly prescribed natural or synthetic chemical pain killers, including oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, and fentanyl; 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, Prescription opioids can be a necessary and effective pain-management aid for cancer, surgical recovery, and painful chronic diseases; therefore

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

- Development of educational awareness programs for providers, patients, and the community about the benefits and risks of opioids;
- Development and implementation of a national PDMP;
- Funding for all first responders to carry naloxone 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.

140-360 Prosecution of Hate Crimes (Convention 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Hate crimes, which target individuals, institutions, or property based on the perpetrator’s bias against race, religion, national origin, gender or gender identification, sexual orientation, ethnicity, political affiliation, age, or disability, pose 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, Hate crimes 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:

- 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.

140-370 Responsibility 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; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Every precaution should be taken to preserve secrecy concerning matters of national defense and security; and

WHEREAS, Responsibility for maintaining secrecy of classified and sensitive information relating to national defense and security rests with government representatives, employees and/or contractors, mainstream and internet-based media, and individuals who gain possession of such information; and

WHEREAS, Growing use of technology may compromise the information infrastructure through cyber threats and other vulnerabilities, leading to security breaches; therefore

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

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

140-380 Retirement (Convention 2021: Includes “Retirement Savings,” Convention 1984; and “Retired Persons,” Convention 1963)

WHEREAS, The population of individuals over 65 years of age is increasing faster than the general population and retirement may result in inadequate income, loss of dignity and/or self- respect, diminished morale, and deteriorating physical and mental health; and

WHEREAS, Retirement planning is a necessity for long-term financial security; therefore

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

- Availability of retirement counseling, healthcare advice, employment and volunteer opportunities, and personal enrichment programs;
- Education promoting the early participation in retirement savings programs;
- Legislation that allows for maximum individual participation in retirement plans.

140-390

Rights of Crime Victims (Formerly “Victim/Witness Assistance”; Convention 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Reviewed 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2022)

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.

140-400 School Bus Safety (Convention 2022: Includes “School Bus Safety”, Convention 2017; and “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.

140-410 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; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Theft, vandalism, weapons, explosive devices, and personal assaults and threats in schools are increasing; and

WHEREAS, Incidents of crime and violence disrupt schools, endanger students and school personnel, and interfere with the educational process; and

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:

- Promote programs to reduce crime, violence, and disruptions in schools;
- Support collaborative solutions among schools and the community to prevent crime, violence, and disruptions in schools.

140-420 Social Security (Convention 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2004; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Amended 2016 to include “Discrimination in Social Security Benefits,” Convention 1969; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Social Security has become a major source of income for many eligible individuals; 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 urge its member clubs to support:

- Educational awareness programs on the future of Social Security;
- Legislation to stabilize the viability of Social Security.

140-430 Specially Trained Dogs and Other Animals for Individuals with Disabilities (Formerly “Specially Trained Dogs and Other Animals For People with Disabilities”; Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Individuals with disabilities may use service animals and emotional support animals for independence, therapeutic needs, and emotional wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, Specially trained dogs and other animals are necessary for many individuals to achieve independence; and

WHEREAS, Service animal fraud is a serious and growing problem that causes confusion with the law and can pose a serious threat to the safety of working animals; therefore

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

- The training and certification of dogs and other animals for individuals with disabilities;
- The expansion and enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act provisions recognizing and protecting the use of all licensed, specially trained, and certified service animals;
- Education and advocacy efforts to prevent service animal fraud.

140-440 Statehood (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; Amended 2022)

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.

140-450 Support of the United Nations (Convention 2022: Includes “Refugees,” Convention 1979; “Support of the United Nations,” Convention 1952; “Totalitarian Aggression,” Convention 1961; and “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.

140-460 **Terrorism** (Convention 1981; Amended and Reaffirmed 1986; Reviewed 1990; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018; Amended 2022)

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

WHEREAS, The 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 prosecute those who have perpetrated terrorist acts must be multilateral, multi-agency, and tightly coordinated; therefore

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

- Maintain an up-to-date foreign and domestic anti-terrorism strategy, with ongoing improvement and reform as necessary;
- Provide training and financial support to state and local government agencies and emergency response teams preparing for terrorist attacks;
- Encourage enhanced communication and cooperation of participating agencies within the United States and internationally;
- Advocate that any terrorist act against the United States or another country be investigated and necessary action taken to identify, apprehend, and prosecute those responsible.

140-470 **Tolerance and Diversity** (Convention 2021: Includes "Tolerance," Convention 1939; and "Religious Freedom," Convention 2014)

WHEREAS, The unchecked growth of prejudice, incitement to violence, racism, stereotyping, terrorism, and intolerance endangers members of society, leads to violation of the rights of others, and destruction of property; therefore

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

- Promote community awareness about the unique diversity of other cultures;
- Foster tolerance, acceptance, and benefits of diversity;
- Support the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) International Day for Tolerance.

140-480 Transportation (Convention 2022: Includes “Safety for Air Travel,” Convention 1959; “Transportation,” Convention 1983; and “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.

140-490 Traumatic Brain Injury Prevention (Includes “Safety Helmets,” Convention 1976; Convention 2017; Amended 2022)

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, Every TBI is different, with symptoms ranging from mild to 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:

- 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.

140-500 United States Postal Service (Convention 1984; Reviewed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Reviewed 2019; Amended 2022)

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.

140-510 Vehicle Safety (Convention 2022: Includes "Vehicle Safety," Convention 1974; "Child Safety Seats," Convention 2001; and "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.

140-520 Volunteer Liability Protection (Convention 2022: Includes “Volunteer Liability Protection,” Convention 1987; and “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.

140-530 Water Safety (Convention 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2018; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, The 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; 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:

- Rigorous enforcement of water safety rules and regulations;
- Water safety educational programs, especially for parents and caregivers of young children.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

150-010 Community Colleges and Vocational/Technical Education Institutions (Convention 2021: Includes “Community Colleges and Vocational/Technical Education Institutions,” Convention 1964; and “Youth Employment,” Convention 1962; Amended 2023)

WHEREAS, Community colleges and vocational/technical education institutions offer quality education, employment training, personal enrichment opportunities, and flexible scheduling at a lower cost than traditional four-year colleges; and

WHEREAS, Many states currently allow a limited number of bachelor-degree programs at community colleges; and

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

WHEREAS, Vocational/technical education is multifaceted focusing around a wide variety of careers; therefore

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

- Community colleges and vocational/technical education institutions;
- Increased bachelor-degree programs at community colleges;
- Local, state, and federal funding for financial assistance for community college and vocational/technical education students;
- Scholarships for students enrolled in community college or vocational/technical education programs.

150-020 Digital Media in Education (Convention 1953; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Reviewed 2018; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs recognizes:

- The impact of digital media, including its importance in educational programs;
- Both the successes and challenges presented by technological advancements;
- The staggering impact of pandemic and other catastrophic events on global education resulting in the delivery of education programs remotely via digital platforms;
- The vast majority of today’s careers require at least some digital media skills; therefore

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

- Work with educational and governmental institutions to provide quality education through digital media, including ensuring access to necessary technology;
- Support the continued development of digital educational programs;
- Ensure that students possess the necessary skills to utilize the digital media programming available to them;
- Support local, state, federal, and private funding of digital educational programs.

150-030 Education (Convention 2021: Includes “Basic Education,” Convention 1990; and “Humanities Education,” Convention 1985; Amended 2023)

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

WHEREAS, Solutions to national educational deficiencies must be addressed by local school districts, parents, and the community together for students to achieve their academic goals; and

WHEREAS, The needs of all students, including those with learning, social, mental, and physical disabilities, must be integrated into educational programs at all levels; and

WHEREAS, A humanities education includes disciplines that study aspects of human society and culture, and contains content and methods that encourage creativity, curiosity, and empathy, which foster good writing and critical thinking skills; and

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

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

- Support strong educational programs with challenging academic curricula for all students, including those with learning, social, mental, and physical disabilities;
- Encourage students to study science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM), humanities, and foreign languages;
- Establish scholarships for students attending postsecondary institutions;
- Support programs that encourage high school drop-outs to pursue a general equivalency diploma (GED);
- Establish scholarships for students to participate in GED programs;
- Encourage parents to be actively involved in their children’s academic lives;
- Support funding for the National Endowment for the Humanities.

150-040 Education of Children Raised in Foster Care (Convention 2021)

WHEREAS, More than 20,000 children in the United States foster care system annually reach the age of 18 and become ineligible for state-provided care; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that:

- Approximately 40% of children in foster care have educational difficulties;
- Children in foster care are three times more likely to drop out of high school when compared to other low-income children;
- Only 50% of children in foster care obtain a high school diploma; therefore

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

- Advocate for legislation that allows children in foster care the option of remaining in the foster care system until they either obtain a high school diploma or reach the age at which they are no longer entitled to a free public education;
- Collaborate with local school districts and foster care agencies to provide children raised in foster care with access to scholarships to complete a general equivalency diploma (GED) program and obtain post-secondary education, education training vouchers, academic success coaching, personal mentoring, and student care packages.

150-045 Educational Professional Support and Appreciation (Convention 2024)

WHEREAS, Educational professionals, including teachers, teacher assistants, and other educational staff, are often underpaid, overworked, and under-appreciated resulting in burnout and shortages; and

WHEREAS, Wages directly affect the ability of school districts to recruit and retain educational professionals; and

WHEREAS, Educational professionals regularly purchase essential school supplies in excess of the deduction allowed by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS); therefore

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

- Advocate for increased local, state, and federal funding to offer educational professionals a living wage, which will encourage quality teacher candidates as well as the retention of all educational professionals;
- Endorse increasing the allowable deduction for essential school supplies;
- Support educational professionals through donations of classroom supplies, adopt-a-classroom-type programs, and recognition events.

150-050 English Language in the United States (Formerly “English, Official Language U.S.A.”; Convention 1986; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Amended 2017; Amended 2018; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The United States of America has always been a multilingual nation, enriched by the cultural contributions of immigrants from many traditions; and

WHEREAS, English is a global language shared with many other nations and is the most widely used medium of international communication; and

WHEREAS, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is in place to protect the rights of individuals who do not speak fluent English, as is the custom; therefore

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

- Language programs for non-English speakers;
- Adoption of legislation that establishes English as the official language of the United States of America.

150-060 Libraries (Convention 1948; Reaffirmed 1978; Reaffirmed 1985; Amended and Reaffirmed; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Libraries are the preeminent self-help community asset, providing traditional and electronic access to information for everyone, especially poor, minority, immigrant, and rural populations who may have limited resources at home; and

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

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs was credited with the establishment of approximately 75 percent of the nation's public libraries by 1933; and

WHEREAS, There is a strong relationship between public libraries and early reading success at school; and

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

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

- Existing libraries and library programs;
- Expansion of library services and programs to underserved areas;
- Use of library facilities and services;
- Local, state, and federal funding of libraries;
- The GFWC Disaster Relief - Library Replenishment Fund.

150-070 Lifelong Learning (Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Amended 2016; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The educational needs of individuals do not end when the formal education process has ended; and

WHEREAS, Lifelong learning is the on-going voluntary and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional purposes; and

WHEREAS, Lifelong learning enhances skills, knowledge, and employability; therefore RESOLVED,

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

- Sponsor discussion groups and forums in their communities;
- Support adult educational programs in their communities;
- Encourage all adults to participate in lifelong learning programs.

150-080 Literacy (Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Amended 2017; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Many adults suffer from functional illiteracy and cannot read or write well enough to take advantage of educational and occupational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Educational resources are not meeting the needs of literacy programs; therefore RESOLVED,

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

- Advocate for the inclusion of basic reading skills training in all teacher certification programs;
- Support literacy programs in their communities and volunteer to teach children and adults to read and write;
- Encourage private-sector awareness, support, and funding of literacy programs;
- Support local, state, and federal funding of literacy programs.

150-090 Sex and Gender Equity in Education (Formerly “Educational Equity”; Convention 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2004; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2021; Amended 2023)

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

WHEREAS, Research indicates that students are being negatively impacted in educational programs by sex and gender role stereotyping; and

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

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

- Support expanded accountability in reporting all Title IX programs to the Department of Education;
- Support programs for all persons involved with the educational process, especially teachers and counselors, to learn effective gender-neutral teaching and counseling methods;
- Urge school districts to review and adopt curricula and textbooks to eliminate gender identity stereotyping;
- Undertake other activities that will make education equity a reality for all students.

ENVIRONMENT

160-010 Chemicals in the Environment (Formerly "Chemicals in Agriculture"; Convention 1970; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Amended 2016; Amended 2021; Amended 2023)

WHEREAS, The use of chemicals increases food supply and controls insects; and

WHEREAS, Chemical controls indiscriminately kill insects and damage habitats; and

WHEREAS, Vital pollinator species, such as butterflies and bees, and their habitats, are declining due to misuse, overuse, and drift from spraying of chemicals; therefore

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

- Advocate for private and public sectors to continue research on the impact of chemicals on the environment;
- Educate the public regarding:
 - Prudent and safe use of chemicals and pest control;
 - Efforts to conserve, protect, and create pollinator habitats;
 - Restoration of land to protect biodiversity and slow species loss, enhance pollination, and prevent losses of nutrients and water from soil.

160-020 Climate Change (Convention 2021: Includes “Global Warming,” Convention 1991; and “Ozone Depletion,” Convention 1991)

WHEREAS, Scientific studies indicate that emissions of greenhouse gases are depleting the earth’s stratospheric ozone layer and adding to global warming; and

WHEREAS, The ozone layer acts as a shield against harmful solar radiation that can negatively impact individuals and biological processes in nature; and

WHEREAS, Greenhouse gases contribute to changes in the world’s climate resulting in substantially altered weather patterns, increases in sea levels, loss of soil moisture, and dangerous tropical storms, droughts, and floods, adversely affecting agriculture, forests, wetlands, water resources, and coastal areas; therefore

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

- Encourage actions by lawmakers and private industry worldwide to:
 - Reduce emissions of harmful greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide;
 - Research and develop economically feasible alternative energy sources;
 - Enter into, enforce, and comply with international treaties relating to ozone depletion;
 - Promote international cooperation to address the effects of greenhouse gases and changes to the climate;
 - Promote efficient use of energy;
- Educate individuals about:
 - The dangers of greenhouse gases and their effect on ozone depletion and global warming;
 - Personal choices that reduce this effect, including personal transportation, electricity usage, and waste recycling.

160-030 Conservation of Natural Resources (Convention 2021: Includes “Forest Resources,” Convention 1984; “Wilderness Areas,” Convention 1970; and “Conservation and Preservation of Natural Resources,” Convention 2018; Amended 2023)

WHEREAS, Coastal wetlands, rangelands, public lands, national forests, and wilderness areas provide environmental, economic, educational, scenic, and recreational benefits and should be managed and utilized to their utmost potential; and

WHEREAS, These natural resource areas need to be protected to:

- Provide habitat to a variety of plant and animal life;
- Preserve resources for present and future generations;
- Provide environmental protections that prevent contamination, flooding, erosion, and preserve the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, These areas should be maintained through forest, rangelands, and wetland resource management to ensure their conservation and sustainability while providing access as necessary for the many beneficial resources found within these areas; therefore

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

- Advocate for protection, rehabilitation, and restoration of these areas affected by fire, waste, insects, and disease through enactment and enforcement of legislation;
- Support and encourage participation in conservation education;
- Support and encourage actions to safeguard coastal wetlands, rangelands, public lands, national forests, and wilderness areas;
- Encourage private industry and governmental agencies to work together to identify ways to support the proper protection, development, and rehabilitation of our national resources.

160-040 Conservation of Wildlife (Convention 2021: Includes “Endangered Species,” Convention 1987; and “Wildlife Conservation,” Convention 1987; Amended 2023)

WHEREAS, Natural ecosystems and their diversity of wild animals are disappearing at a rapid rate and many species have been so depleted in number or threatened by the loss of habitat that they are in danger of becoming extinct; and

WHEREAS, Wildlife is in danger of possible extinction because of poaching, destructive fishing practices, the introduction or spread of invasive species, climate change, and the destruction of or damage to terrestrial and marine habitats; and

WHEREAS, Congress has recognized the importance of conservation of such species by enacting the Endangered Species Act; therefore

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

- Support the reauthorization and implementation of the Endangered Species Act with the appropriation of sufficient funding and the flexibility to recognize personal property rights;
- Support the enactment and enforcement of laws for the protection and conservation of wildlife.

160-050 Disposal of Hazardous and Nuclear Waste (Convention 2021: Includes “Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites,” Convention 1985; and “Nuclear Waste Disposal,” Convention 1984)

WHEREAS, Hazardous and nuclear waste generated by commercial, industrial, agricultural, and medical processes are potentially perilous to human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, Disposal sites are necessary for responsible and proper disposal of waste; and

WHEREAS, Disposal sites and the necessary transportation of waste can impact human life and the environment; therefore

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

- Legislation and funding providing for the safe, responsible disposal and transportation of hazardous and nuclear waste products;
- Continued implementation and education of the community about these laws;
- Implementation of processes to reduce the creation and necessary transportation of waste;
- Promotion of cooperative action and communication between regulatory agencies and those in waste disposal generation and management;
- Legislation for a comprehensive national plan for the transportation and disposal of nuclear waste that accommodates local, state, and tribal concerns.

160-060 Energy Resources (Convention 2021: Includes “Fuel Conservation,” Convention 1975; and “Renewable Energy,” Convention 2007)

WHEREAS, National security, economic wellbeing, and environmental concerns demand a balanced use of renewable energy resources and reduced consumption of fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, Renewable energy resources reduce the dependence of the United States on foreign energy, are environmentally sensitive, create economic opportunities for American families, and are necessary in meeting the nation’s future energy sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Renewable energy can play an important role in reducing the use of the finite supply of fossil fuels; therefore

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

- Promote and conduct conservation programs that relate to reducing the level of energy consumption;
- Encourage and support funding for research into greater fuel efficiencies and encourage more fuel-efficient and renewable energy sources;
- Support legislation to fund and expand renewable energy resources, including a higher national renewable energy standard and decreasing consumption of all non-renewable fuels;
- Encourage lawmakers, private industry, and consumers to focus public attention on the need for alternative energy and coordinated energy policies;
- Encourage balance between the interests of proper management of resources, adequate water supplies, protection of wildlife, and the interests of energy production.

160-070 Household Waste Management (Convention 2021: Includes “Household Hazardous Waste (HHW),” Convention 1988; and “Waste Management and Recycling,” Convention 1997; Amended 2024)

WHEREAS, The disposal of household waste, including the disposal of household hazardous waste (HHW), which contains corrosive, toxic, flammable, or reactive ingredients, can:

- Pollute the environment;
- Harm plant and animal life;
- Leach into soil and ground water;
- Produce toxic gases or spontaneously combust; and

WHEREAS, The use of green products and recycling conserves natural resources and helps protect the environment by preserving the quality of the environment and reducing the quantity of solid waste; and

WHEREAS, Single-use plastics are generally not compostable or biodegradable, and can make their way into the food chain and water supply generating a threat to the environment, marine life, wildlife, and humans; and

WHEREAS, The reduction of packaging used on products for the household decreases the amount of household waste; therefore

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

- Support the use of green products and substitution of non-hazardous products for household cleaners, yard care, and car maintenance;
- Support public education regarding alternatives to single-use plastics and encourage the elimination of single-use plastic products by individuals and businesses;
- Promote public awareness of the dangers of improper disposal of household hazardous waste;
- Encourage local and state agencies to provide and promote public participation in recycling, household hazardous waste “drop off” programs, collection days, and permanent collection sites, and to provide educational materials through the classroom, publications, and the media;
- Encourage retailers and manufacturers to reduce over-packaging, to promote recycling within their businesses, and to provide information to households on safe disposal and recycling;
- Support legislation that encourages continued development of and standards for green products, and encourages efforts to increase appropriate recycling.

160-080 Local Parks and Recreation Areas (Convention 1964; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Many communities face increased demand for outdoor activities to improve quality of life and equitable access to public recreation areas; and

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with their communities to maintain established recreational areas, increase sustainability and enhance environmental stewardship, and support the creation of new parks, playgrounds, and diverse recreational facilities.

160-090 Management of Outer Space (Formerly "Control of Outer Space"; Convention 1959; Amended 1983; Reviewed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Reviewed 1999; 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space:

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

WHEREAS, The use of outer space for research and commercial development is unregulated; therefore

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

- Support the United Nations' efforts to prohibit the militarization of outer space;
- Encourage responsible and safe use of outer space to achieve advances in space technology and the emerging commercial development in outer space.

160-100 Protection of Oceans (Convention 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2021; Amended 2024)

WHEREAS, Oceans contain approximately 97% of the earth's water supply, generate approximately 50% of the earth's oxygen, and provide almost 20% of the animal protein humans eat, provide vital natural resources, are a frontier for scientific exploration, and are critical to the world economy and national security; and

WHEREAS, Carbon dioxide from the atmosphere has been shown to cause ocean acidification, which may cause serious biological and economic harm; and

WHEREAS, Only 13% of the world's ocean waters constitute marine wilderness and the preservation and study of such areas is necessary to understand the restoration of degraded marine ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, 90% of the ocean trash is generated by single-use plastics resulting in serious harm to the deep seas, coral reefs, beaches, rivers, and ocean life including birds and turtles; and

WHEREAS, Programs dealing with ocean resources, preservation, and restoration do not reflect a unified approach towards preserving and restoring the oceans; therefore

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

- The development of an international ocean policy that unifies and coordinates ocean preservation and restoration efforts;
- Policy decisions to ensure the conservation and long-term sustainability of marine resources;
- Efforts to manage fisheries, protect marine habitats, and maintain and restore marine ecosystems;
- Elimination of the use of non-essential single-use plastic products;
- Efforts by the State Department and US Agency for International Development to address global problems of ocean-borne plastic waste and other pollution debris, including plastic waste cleanup, waste management, and recycling.

160-110 Soil and Water Conservation (Formerly “Soil Conservation”; Convention 1950; Amended 1984; Reaffirmed 1988, Amended 1991; Amended, 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed, 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Reviewed 2019; Amended 2021)

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

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

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

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

- Periodic inventories by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, to provide complete factual information about our land in cooperation with conservation farm planning done in soil and water conservation districts and as an aid to industry, utilities, wildlife organizations, and recreational users;
- The work of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture, which gives technical assistance in developing and applying farm conservation plans for soil and water conservation districts and urges the continued expansion of practical, on-the-farm assistance needed by farmers to implement sound conservation measures.

160-120 Water Quality and Supply (Convention 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, A dependable water supply is essential to the survival of the world's plant and animal life, and domestic, commercial, agricultural, industrial, and environmental needs; and

WHEREAS, Pollutants entering our streams, lakes, and underground water supply may contribute to food shortages, disease, and severe environmental degradation; and

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

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

- Conservation and proper management of the world's water supply;
- Enforcement of laws protecting water quality;
- Development and implementation of systematic plans to prevent groundwater contamination;
- Procedures to prohibit and prevent pollution of streams and water supplies, and require local communities, landlords, and businesses in violation of pollution laws to remediate their pollution;
- Development of a means for individuals and businesses to pay their fair share of the cost of maintaining clean water supply;
- Testing and conservation of water supplies, including groundwater, rivers, coastlines, watersheds, wetlands, and forests;
- Implementation of an overall program to ensure the necessary supply of water by encouraging research into water filtration and desalination methods;
- Enactment of legislation and enforcement of regulations at all levels to protect and expand the existing supply of clean water.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

170-010 Autism Spectrum Disorder (Convention 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2021; Amended 2024)

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability with a wide variation in the type and severity of symptoms and occurs in all ethnic, racial, and economic groups; and

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

WHEREAS, While all states have passed laws requiring ASD coverage by private health insurers for children, some states limit coverage by age, dollar, or hour maximums resulting in disparities; therefore

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

- Legislation requiring private and public-sponsored comprehensive health insurance coverage for ASD intervention programs;
- Expanded insurance coverage for services, therapies, and treatment of individuals of all ages with ASD;
- Continued research into the causes, treatment, and prevention of ASD.

170-020 Breast Cancer (Formerly “Breast Cancer Examination”; Convention 1986; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Reviewed 2018; Amended 2021; Amended 2024)

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that one in eight women and one in more than 800 men will develop breast cancer in their lifetime; and

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

WHEREAS, Screening methods for average-risk women, including clinical breast examination, self-examination, and mammography, all assist in early breast cancer detection; and

WHEREAS, Supplemental screening methods and additional diagnostic tests, including but not limited to, ultra-sound, breast Magnetic Resonance Imaging, genomic blood tests, and biomarker analysis are recommended and appropriate for women at greater than average risk for breast cancer and women diagnosed with breast cancer; and

WHEREAS, Common treatments of breast cancer, including mastectomies, breast-conserving surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, sentinel node biopsy, lymph node removal, and dissections extend lives; and

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

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

- Educational campaigns raising awareness of diagnostic and screening tools available to detect breast cancer earlier, available treatment options, and the increased risk associated with dense breasts;
- Research exploring the delivery of screening and diagnostic services to women with increased risk of breast cancer and addressing improvement in screening and diagnostic imaging sensitivity for women with dense breast tissue;
- Legislation that requires health plans and health insurance coverage for appropriate supplemental screening and diagnostic examinations for individuals with a greater than average risk of breast cancer and for women with dense breast tissue;
- Codification requiring insurance coverage for a 48-hour minimum hospital stay for mastectomy and a 24-hour minimum hospital stay for all other breast cancer surgery.

170-030 Cancer (Convention 2021: Includes “Gynecologic Cancer,” Convention 2006; and “Cancer,” Convention 2011; Amended 2024)

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

WHEREAS, According to the National Cancer Institute more than 1.9 million people develop cancer each year and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates the annual cost of treatment exceeds \$209 billion; and

WHEREAS, Approximately half of all cancer deaths are linked to modifiable lifestyle factors; and

WHEREAS, Education about risk factors, symptoms, and diagnostic tools available to screen for cancer reduces late-stage diagnoses and mortality; therefore

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

- Educational awareness campaigns that target modifiable risk factors and the availability of screening and treatment options;
- Funding for the research and development of prevention strategies, comprehensive screening methods, treatment options, and cures.

170-040 Child Survival in Developing Countries (Formerly “Child Survival”; Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Amended 2017; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, A dependable, usable water supply is essential to the world’s health and population sustainability, especially in developing countries; and

WHEREAS, According to the World Health Organization (WHO), contaminated water and poor sanitation are linked to transmission of diseases such as cholera, diarrhea, dysentery, typhoid, and polio, with diarrheal deaths the second leading cause of death each year among children under the age of five; and

WHEREAS, Many children’s lives could be saved by providing a healthy and safe environment, safe drinking water, access to quality medical care, proper nutrition, education, adequate clothing, and shelters; therefore

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

- Promote and support projects and organizations in the development of clean, safe water sources worldwide;
- Work with existing international organizations to provide and support prenatal care, immunizations, handwashing, and improved sanitation practices;
- Provide living conditions that meet children’s physical and mental needs particularly with regard to water, food, clothing, and housing;
- Urge Congress to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

170-045 Dementia (Convention 2023)

WHEREAS, Millions of individuals are living with cognitive decline, Alzheimer’s Disease, and other forms of dementia; and

WHEREAS, Deaths increase due to isolation and lack of medical care; and

WHEREAS, Most assistance to those with dementia comes from family, friends, and other unpaid caregivers, with the majority of caregivers being women; and

WHEREAS, Cost of care is increasing annually; therefore

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

- Education on recognition of cognitive decline and other forms of dementia;
- Funding for caregivers, respite care, and facilities that provide memory care;
- Legislation and research to improve treatments, access to treatment, prevention, and cures for all forms of dementia.

170-050 Diabetes (Convention 2003; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2016; Amended 2021; Amended 2024)

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, diabetes is a leading cause of death in the United States, the number of children and adults with diabetes is rising, and statistics show many more cases are undiagnosed; and

WHEREAS, Diabetes is known to be a causative factor in other health problems, including but not limited to cardiovascular, renal, neurologic, vision, and dental diseases, as well as complications in pregnancy and dementia; and

WHEREAS, To manage their disease, those with diabetes must have access to a healthy, balanced diet and medication, and must maintain a level of physical activity; therefore

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

- Enforcement of laws prohibiting discrimination against those with diabetes;
- Insurance coverage for comprehensive medical care for those with diabetes;
- Programs that train education and childcare professionals and home-based providers to identify symptoms and facilitate treatment options for students with diabetes;
- Education about the role a healthy diet and physical activity play in treating and reducing the onset and control of diabetes;
- Increased funding for diabetes research and prevention programs;
- Improved awareness of prediabetes symptoms among healthcare providers and people at risk.

170-060 Family Caregivers (Convention 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2016; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Many people provide emotional and personal care support on a regular basis to a child, parent, or other family member with aging, medical, or special needs; and

WHEREAS, Family caregiving-demands impact the health of caregivers; and

WHEREAS, The majority of family caregivers have a job or career in addition to their caregiving duties; and

WHEREAS, Individualized care options in a community-based program relieve the burden faced by family caregivers; therefore

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

- Development of community-based services for those with chronic diseases, the elderly, people with disabilities, and family caregivers;
- Legislation establishing uniform training standards, including CPR and background checks for all paid family caregivers;
- Legislation requiring flexible employment policies for family caregivers;
- Educational programs for family caregivers about caregiver wellbeing.

170-070 Food, Drug, Cosmetic, and Medical Product Regulation and Safety (Convention 2021: Includes “Food, Drug, Cosmetics,” and “Medical Products Regulation,” Convention 1989; and “Food Safety,” Convention 2005; Amended 2024)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women’s Clubs was instrumental in the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act, which led to the establishment of the Food and Drug Administration to protect the health and safety of consumers; and

WHEREAS, The Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture regulate items, including food, drugs, cosmetics, and medical devices, and guard against foodborne illnesses; and

WHEREAS, There is ongoing demand for consumer protection from serious illness or health complications; therefore

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

- Funding to accelerate research and development to ensure availability of new medical treatments and to provide protection to consumers;
- Strengthening the consumer protection regulations of the Food and Drug Administration and the Food Safety Modernization Act;
- Reasonable public health and safety laws.

170-080 Freedom of Access to Health Clinics (Convention 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016; Amended 2021)

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

WHEREAS, Incidences of intimidation and violence at health clinics continue to be reported; and

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support rigorous enforcement of the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act to ensure public safety at health clinics.

170-090

Healthcare and Research (Convention 2017: Includes “Health Care,” Convention 1993; and “Women’s Health Research,” Convention 1993; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Individuals need a basic knowledge and understanding of available healthcare options and the documents used to make personal decisions such as Advance Health Care Directives (Living Wills) and Health Care Powers of Attorney; and

WHEREAS, Healthcare insurance coverage and medical treatment should not discriminate based on pre-existing conditions, sex, gender, race, or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, The inclusion of women and minorities in research studies is important for the generalization of results to the entire population, with data provided by sex, gender, race, or ethnicity; therefore

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

- Discrimination in determining insurance eligibility and rates;
- Discrimination in medical research;
- Annual and lifetime coverage limits; and further

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

- Legislation that prohibits caps on annual and lifetime coverage limits and discrimination in determining insurance eligibility, insurance rates, and medical research;
- Improved accessibility, quality, and affordability of healthcare services and the availability of insurance for all;
- The use of Advance Health Care Directives (Living Wills) and Health Care Powers of Attorney;
- Continued funding of healthcare programs and research with the equal inclusion of women and minorities.

170-100 Cardiovascular Disease in Women (Formerly “Heart Disease in Women;” Convention 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2021; Amended 2024)

WHEREAS, Cardiovascular disease, which includes stroke, is the number one killer of women and is deadlier than all forms of cancer combined; and

WHEREAS, Studies show:

- Many women do not recognize cardiovascular disease as their greatest health threat;
- Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of new mothers;
- Menopause can accelerate cardiovascular disease risk factors;
- Most cardiac and stroke events can be prevented through education and lifestyle changes;
- Women often present with different heart attack symptoms than men, resulting in a delay in diagnosis and treatment when a heart attack occurs;
- Women account for less than one-third of all subjects in cardiovascular disease studies; therefore

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

- Public awareness campaigns on women’s cardiovascular risk factors, including heart attack and stroke symptoms;
- Efforts to improve research, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of heart disease and other cardiovascular diseases in women.

170-110 Long-Term Care (Convention 2021: Includes “Long-Term Care,” Convention 1989; and “Quality Long-Term Care,” Convention 1988)

WHEREAS, The aging population coupled with longer life expectancy is creating an increased demand for a full range of long-term care services, including skilled nursing and assisted-living services; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, an individual turning age 65 has an almost 70% chance of needing long-term care services; and

WHEREAS, The cost of long-term care services is rarely covered by Medicare and personal financial resources must be depleted to be eligible for skilled nursing services through the Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, The limited availability of public funding sources for assisted-living services puts patients at risk for homelessness; therefore

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

- Public awareness campaigns on the need for early and responsible financial planning, long-term care insurance, and the limitations of the Medicare and Medicaid programs;
- Access to quality long-term care, including assistance with activities of daily living, adult day programs, home medical and nursing care, skilled nursing and assisted-living facilities, and specialized memory care units;
- Legislation increasing the eligible tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums.

170-120 Mental Health Parity (Convention 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2014; Amended 2016; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The National Institute of Mental Health:

- Reports one in five adults suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder;
- Estimates untreated mental illnesses cost more than \$100 billion annually in lost productivity; and

WHEREAS, Significant barriers, including lack of mental health providers, higher out-of-pocket costs for mental healthcare, limited treatment options, and significant financial burdens for patients and families prevent many Americans from accessing mental health treatment; therefore

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

- Public awareness campaigns on available mental health counseling services in the community;
- Efforts to provide resources for patients and families.

170-130 Nursing Shortage Crisis (Convention 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, The shortage of nurses is a threat to patient health and a contributing factor to higher healthcare costs caused by high turnover rates and avoidable errors; therefore

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

- Appropriate action to increase the number of nursing programs, qualified instructors, and enrollment opportunities in the nursing profession;
- Regulations lowering the minimum nurse to patient ratio;
- Better remuneration and working conditions for nurses;
- Nursing school scholarships.

170-140 Nutrition and Obesity (Convention 2021: Includes “Nutrition,” Convention 1976; “Obesity Prevention,” Convention 2011; and “Reducing Obesity in Youth,” Convention 2019; Amended 2024)

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

WHEREAS, Overweight adults and children are at increased risk of multiple health problems and chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, Obesity has reached epidemic numbers placing a burden on the healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, Research has shown that early childhood is an important time for developing dietary and physical activity behaviors that support health and may help prevent obesity, and

WHEREAS, Healthy eating can improve a child’s learning ability, academic performance, and mental, social, and physical wellbeing; therefore

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

- Support a national strategy to reduce obesity;
- Promote development and implementation of programs on healthy nutritional habits and fitness counseling;
- Encourage the restaurant industry and school nutrition programs to provide reasonable food and beverage portions to enhance overall healthy living and improved quality of life;
- Engage local, state, and national leaders to promote and sponsor salad bars in schools to promote increased consumption of fruits and vegetables and to help children develop good eating habits;
- Support the inclusion of prevention, management, and reduction of obesity in medical, nursing, and allied health training programs.

170-150

Organ and Tissue Transplantation (Formerly “Organ and Tissue Transplants”; Convention 1988; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2021; Amended 2024)

WHEREAS, The transplantation of vital organs and tissues, including vascularized composite allografts (i.e., hands, fascial tissue, limbs, etc.), is an accepted medical procedure; and

WHEREAS, Tissue banking is an unregulated business venture that has become lucrative through fees charged for processing and handling; and

WHEREAS, Only 60% of potential organ and/or tissue donors execute an organ and/or tissue donor card,-and inform healthcare providers and family members of their desire to be a donor; therefore

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

- Public awareness campaigns that educate individuals about the need for organ and tissue donation and the ability to express their personal preferences by signing a donor card, Advance Health Care Directive (Living Will), and/or Health Care Power of Attorney, and designating donor status on their driver’s license;
- Legislation requiring The Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) allocate available donations that take into consideration the patient’s medical status and the likelihood of a successful transplant;
- Legislation requiring insurance coverage for all aspects of the organ and tissue transplantation process and the long-term costs associated with the transplant;
- Legislation regulating tissue banking operations and the disposal of excess tissue.

170-160

Preventable Disease (Convention 2021: Includes “Immunization for Prevention of Childhood Diseases,” Convention 1992; “Prevention, Detection, Control and Cure of Diseases and Illnesses,” Convention 1977; and “Tuberculosis Prevention,” Convention 1992; Amended 2024)

WHEREAS, The incidence of disease is costly to society; and

WHEREAS, Preventable diseases have surged due to the lack of vaccinations, resulting in epidemics and needless loss of life; therefore

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

- Support legislation mandating medical insurance companies cover consumers with pre-existing conditions;
- Promote and support education and research on prevention, control, and cure of disease, including the necessity and safety of immunizations;
- Support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations for vaccinations;
- Support the World Health Organization’s *Immunization Agenda 2030* strategies and core principles;
- Support local, state, and federal health departments, health care providers, and health organizations in the early detection of diseases.

170-170 Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (Convention 2021: Includes “HIV/AIDS,” Convention 1992; and “Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare,” Convention 1997; Amended 2024)

WHEREAS, Sexually-transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS and Human Papillomavirus (HPV), continue to spread due to lack of education, symptoms, and access to contraceptives and vaccines, refusal to be vaccinated, and risky sexual and behavioral choices; and

WHEREAS, Health issues are increased by risk factors including inadequate prenatal care, low infant birth weight, premature birth, and neonatal, infant and maternal mortality, the age of the mother, and postpartum depression; therefore

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

- Legislation and funding for access to comprehensive healthcare;
- Research to develop treatments and cures for sexually-transmitted infections;
- Development and implementation of programs and services on reproductive health and rights such as sex education, sexually-transmitted infections, family planning, perinatal care, well-baby and well-children, and family-life parenting.

170-180 Stem Cell Research (Convention 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2021)

WHEREAS, Human stem cell research has resulted in improved medical treatment and cure rates for several types of cancer, spinal cord injuries, Type 1 Diabetes, Parkinson's disease, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, stroke, burns, osteoarthritis, lung diseases, sickle-cell anemia, and other conditions; therefore

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

- Continued human stem cell research according to the guidelines established by the National Institutes of Health (NIH);
- The periodic examination and revision of NIH standards on human stem cell research to reflect new advancements;
- The use of human stem cell science in medical treatments;
- Education about human stem cell research and related NIH guidelines.

170-190 Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation (Convention 1983; Amended and Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Combined with “Substance Abuse Rehabilitation” and Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2018; Reviewed 2021)

WHEREAS, Substance abuse, including alcohol, prescription, over-the-counter, and illegal drugs, continues to be a threat to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, Therapeutic programs and services are necessary for abusers to return to healthy and productive lives; therefore

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

- Work with other organizations in supporting and promoting substance abuse education and prevention programs;
- Support the enactment and strict enforcement of laws against the production, distribution, and possession of illegal substances;
- Support the continued development of programs and increased availability of services to substance abusers through private and public means;
- Support local, state, and national program initiatives for the proper and environmentally safe disposal of unused prescription medications to prevent future abuse.

170-200 Support for Emergency Services Personnel (Convention 2021)

WHEREAS, Emergency first responders such as police officers, fire and rescue service personnel, EMTs, and paramedics are the first ones on the scene when a traumatic event happens; and

WHEREAS, Emergency first responders, especially volunteers, incur significant costs to purchase and/or pay for equipment, training, and educational classes in order to be properly trained to respond to emergencies; and

WHEREAS, The increasing mental health problems in the United States require first responders to identify and assist persons undergoing a mental health crisis when it is difficult to quickly interpret the situation; and

WHEREAS, According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 30% of first responders suffer from depression, anxiety, psychological-emotional disorders, and post-traumatic stress as a result of their service that may lead to mental health issues, substance abuse, divorce, and/or suicide; therefore

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

- Legislation to establish and maintain crisis intervention services for first responders;
- Local, state, and federal funding for equipment, training, and educational courses for first responders;
- Legislation that establishes specialized training for first responders on how to identify and deescalate situations involving an individual suffering a mental health crisis.

170-210 Tobacco and E-Cigarettes (Formerly “Tobacco and Young People”; Convention 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017; Amended 2021, Amended 2024)

WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking has declined in the United States in recent years, but use and popularity of e-cigarettes, vaping devices, smokeless tobacco, and other tobacco products are increasing, and their long-term impact on health is not fully understood; and

WHEREAS, Every day in the United States, thousands of youth smoke their first cigarette or e-cigarette, and many become daily smokers; and

WHEREAS, All states have passed legislation prohibiting the sale of e-cigarettes to underage individuals, and most states require a retail license to sell e-cigarettes over the counter; and

WHEREAS, Proven cessation treatments continue to be underutilized by individuals who smoke; therefore

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

- Development and implementation of a public awareness campaign to address the addictive qualities and hazards of long-term tobacco and e-cigarette use;
- Enforcement of existing laws prohibiting the marketing and sale of tobacco and e-cigarettes to minors;
- Access to and insurance coverage for effective nicotine-addiction treatments that are comprehensive, barrier-free, and widely promoted.