The General Federation of Women's Clubs

2020 Resolutions

Revised and Updated July 2020

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GFWC Standing Rules: Resolutions

General

a. Resolutions, upon adoption, shall become an integral part of the policy of GFWC.
b. The subject matter of all resolutions shall be germane to the interests or work of GFWC and must be national or international in scope.
c. Specific methods of implementation shall be outlined in the resolutions when appropriate.
d. The International President and Community Service Program, Standing, and Special Committee Chairmen to whose work it is germane, the Legislation/Public Policy Chairman and the State Federation chairmen and member clubs shall be responsible for carrying out the intent of the resolutions and GFWC policies.
e. State Federations are 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 which have been in force for four years shall be automatically reviewed by the Resolutions Committee for timeliness, change of opinion, etc.

   PROVISO: Rule is suspended until the full revision of the Resolutions is completed, July 1, 2022.

b. Resolutions establishing the general policy of GFWC shall continue active until rescinded by the delegate body or until their purpose has been accomplished.

c. By recommendation of the Resolutions Committee, notice to rescind resolutions whose purpose has been accomplished shall be appended to the Call to Convention. Unless a motion is made from the floor to amend one or more of these resolutions, they shall be considered rescinded at the close of the Annual Convention.

Rescinding Resolutions

a. Proposals to rescind a resolution shall come from 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.

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ARTS AND CULTURE

010-010 **Funding for the Arts** (Convention 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

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

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

WHEREAS, Reduction and elimination of Arts programs in public schools, including music, performing arts, and technical art, have deprived students of the opportunity to develop creative and independent thinking skills; and

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

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

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

010-020 **Museums** (Convention 1986; Reviewed 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018)

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.

010-030 **Support of the Arts in Schools and Communities** (Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended 1989; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2017)

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Individuals of all ages who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other disabilities will benefit from the healing process provided by art therapy; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges that arts in the broadest sense be integrated into curricula of all; and

RESOLVED, That art therapy be incorporated in rehabilitation programs in hospitals, care facilities, and as many aspects of community life as possible; and further

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

ENVIRONMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO_2), the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, can be limited by increasing the amount of annual uptake by natural systems such as forest reservoirs; and

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

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

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

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

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

011-070 **Fuel Conservation** (Formerly "Petroleum Conservation"; Convention 1975; Reaffirmed 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

011-090 **Global Warming** (Convention 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

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

011-100 **Hazardous Wastes Disposal Sites** (Formerly "Disposal of Hazardous Waste"; Convention 1985; Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001, 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

011-140 **Ozone Depletion** (Convention 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2019)

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

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

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

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

- Reduce emissions of ozone depleting substances;
- Promote international cooperation to address the threats created by ozone depletion;
- Enter into, enforce, and comply with international treaties, relating to ozone depletion; and further

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

011-160 **Renewable Energy** (Convention 2007; Combined with "Global Energy" and Reaffirmed 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

011-170 **Soil Conservation** (Convention 1950; Amended 1984; Reaffirmed 1988, Amended 1991; Amended, 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed, 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Reviewed 2019)

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

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

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

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

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

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

011-190 **Waste Management and Recycling** (Convention 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017)

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

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

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

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

011-200 **Water Quality and Supply** (Convention 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017)

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, According to the World Health Organization, contaminated water can transmit diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and polio, and is estimated to cause over 500,000 diarrheal deaths each year; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support initiatives to upgrade water infrastructure to ensure safe water; and

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 water sources worldwide; and further

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

011-220 **Wilderness Areas** (Formerly "Wilderness"; Convention 1970; Amended 1983; Amended 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

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

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

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

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

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

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

011-230 **Wildlife Conservation** (Convention 1984; Reviewed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Reviewed 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017)

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

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

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

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

011-240 **Protection of Oceans** (Convention 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019)

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;
- Are critical to the world economy and national security; and

WHEREAS, Uptake of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere has been shown to cause ocean acidification which imperils the base of the food web and will if unchecked cause serious biological and economic harm to commercial fisheries; and

WHEREAS, The world's oceans and populations have been and continue to be degraded as a result of human activity, including pollution, the use of destructive fishing practices, and the destruction or damage of marine habitats resulting from offshore drilling; and

WHEREAS, Only 13% of the world's ocean waters constitute marine wilderness, (meaning they have suffered no human disturbance) and the preservation and study of such areas is necessary to understand how to restore degraded marine ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Government agencies and programs dealing with ocean resources, preservation, and restoration are poorly coordinated and do not reflect a unified approach towards preserving and restoring the oceans; therefore

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

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

011-250 **Conservation and Preservation of Natural Resources** (Includes 011-020 Conservation of Natural Resources: Education, Convention 1952; 011-150 Preservation and Beautification of Public Lands and National Forests, Convention 1987; 011-180 Support of Coastal Wetland Restoration, Convention 2006, Convention 2018)

WHEREAS, Coastal wetlands, public lands, national forests, and lands managed by the National Park Service are irreplaceable assets and a vital component of a healthy economy; and

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

WHEREAS, Although natural gas, oil, coal, and many nonfuel minerals are in public lands, environmental preservation and beautification is of great concern; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges support of sustainable development and management of the multiple resources of coastal wetlands, public lands, national forests, and lands managed by the National Park Service; and

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges Congress to safeguard coastal waterways, public lands, and national forests for the benefit of all, and to encourage and support proper protection, sustainable development, beautification, and management of these resources.

011-260 **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; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-100)

WHEREAS, As of October 2018, 107 countries are parties to the Outer Space Treaty, while another 23 have signed the treaty but have not completed ratification, which:

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

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

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

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

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

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

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

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

012-020 **Community Colleges, Vocational/Technical Education Institutions** (Formerly "Two-Year Community Colleges, Vocational and Technical Education Institutions"; Convention 1964; Amended 1981; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Reviewed 2018)

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

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

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

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

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

012-030 **Educational Equity** (Convention 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2004; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

012-050 **English, Official U.S.A. Language** (Convention 1986; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Amended 2017; Amended 2018)

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

WHEREAS, English is a world language which we share with many other nations and is the most widely used medium of international communication; and

WHEREAS, English is the national language of the United States of America by custom; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support programs for non-English speakers; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its U.S. member clubs to support the adoption of legislation that establishes English as the official language of the United States of America.

012-070 **Humanities Education** (Convention 1985; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

012-100 **Literacy** (Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Amended 2017)

WHEREAS, Too many adults and job seekers in the United States suffer from functional illiteracy, and many school children cannot read or write well enough to make progress in school; and

WHEREAS, There has been increased public awareness of the problem of adult illiteracy, and teaching resources are not meeting demand; therefore

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

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

- Support curriculum within teacher certification programs that include methods to teach reading skills;
- Support increased school funding to include periodic evaluation of reading proficiency, school-wide adolescent literacy programs, as well as remedial special services and projects in improved reading comprehension for all grade levels;
- Support adult literacy programs in their communities;
- Volunteer with local literacy groups or libraries to teach children and/or adults with literacy problems; and
- Encourage corporate awareness of literacy problems and support of literacy programs.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

012-120 **Digital Media in Education** (Convention 1953; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Reviewed 2018;)

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

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

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

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

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

012-130 **Youth Employment** (Convention 1962; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Youth ages 14-26 who are not in school or working represent untapped potential; and

WHEREAS, Career and technical education (CTE), has the potential to improve students' post-school employment outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that workers who are unemployed as youth ages 14-26 earn lower wages for many years following period of unemployment due to forgone work experience and missed opportunities to develop skills; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an organization of 80,000 concerned women in Convention assembled in June 2019, urges the United States Congress to pass the Education and Workforce Innovation Act that would:

- Support Programs that offer comprehensive services, including vocational training and guidance to both in-school and out-of-school youth to encourage schooling and employment;
- Request federal and state governments to promote programs that provide direct skills and job training for young people to enter and advance in high-growth, emerging and in-demand industries;
- Support programs that create partnerships among local school districts, community colleges, apprentice program and joint-labor management training programs;
- Urge employment services, community organizations, media, schools and businesses to provide local listings of age appropriate, safe, and healthful work opportunities for young people, especially during vacation periods; and further

RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the following: President of the United States of America Donald Trump; Vice President of the United States of America Michael Pence; Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi; House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy; Chairman of the House Education in the Workforce Committee Bobby Scott; Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development Susan Davis; Representative Ron Kind, sponsor of the Education and Workforce Innovation Act; Secretary of Department of Education Betsy DeVos; Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross; National PTA President Jim Accomando.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

013-020 **Agricultural Policy Family Farms** (Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

013-030 **Breast Cancer** (Formerly "Breast Cancer Examination"; Convention 1986; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Reviewed 2018)

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to continue~~s~~ to raise awareness and encourage~~s~~ participation in breast cancer screening and early treatment; and further

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

013-040 Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillators (AED) (Formerly "Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training (CPR)"; Convention 1981; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2018)

WHEREAS, Sudden cardiac arrest is a serious and often lethal medical condition; and

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

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

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

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

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

013-060 Child Support Enforcement Program (Convention 1983; Amended 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018)

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

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

WHEREAS, Federal law mandates payment of child support and makes non-payment a felony; therefore

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

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

013-070 **Civil Rights in the Workplace** (Convention 1991, Amended 1995; Amended 1999; 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support all efforts and legislation to protect persons from employment discrimination based on a person's race, national origin, religion, gender identity, or sexual preference.

013-090 **Consumer Product Information** (Formerly "Consumer Safety;" Convention 1962; Amended 1967; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2018)

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

WHEREAS, A consumer hotline is maintained by the CPSC through which consumers can report product concerns or injuries that are not already addressed, or safety concerns may be submitted to SafeProducts.gov; therefore

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote programs of education and to support the CPSC hotline to ensure consumer safety.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

013-130 **Food, Drug, Cosmetics and Medical Products Regulation** (Formerly "Food and Drug Regulation"; Convention 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017)

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges Congress to provide funding to accelerate research efforts and make new therapies available to more patients, while improving the ability to prevent and detect disease at an early stage; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports strengthening consumer protection regulations including the ability of the Food and Drug Administration to regulate the ingredients in cosmetics, personal care products, and products such as sunscreen and insect repellant.

013-140 **Food Safety** (Convention 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017)

WHEREAS, According to the United States General Accountability Office, food and food products may be contaminated with microbial pathogens that cause food borne illnesses and death; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

013-170 **Gynecologic Cancer** (Convention 2006; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018)

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control reports that the five main types of gynecologic cancer are cervical, ovarian, uterine, vaginal, and vulvar; and

WHEREAS, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) may be the cause of gynecological cancer and the HPV vaccine is readily available for teenagers; and

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

WHEREAS, Continuous education about risk factors, symptoms, and diagnostic tools available to screen for these factors reduces late stage diagnoses and mortality; therefore

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

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

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

013-190 **Homelessness** (Formerly "Homeless"; Convention 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

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

013-200 **Humane Slaughter Enforcement** (Convention 2003, Reviewed 2007; Amended 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019)

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

WHEREAS, Evidence suggests that slaughterhouse employees who report inhumane handling and slaughter violations suffer retaliation by management; therefore

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

- Support the strong 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 enforcement of regulations and policies that protect United States Department of Agriculture slaughterhouse employees who report inhumane handling and slaughter violations.

013-210 **Immunization for Prevention of Childhood Diseases** (Convention 1992, Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2017)

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges implementation of the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) recommendations that a series of vaccinations for the most potentially crippling and killing childhood diseases as defined by the CDC be administered at the recommended age; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges health care providers to educate parents on the necessity for timely immunizations.

013-220 **Exploitation of Women in Media** (Formally "Improper Portrayal of Women" Convention 1981; Reviewed 1987; Amended 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018)

WHEREAS, Women are often depicted in ways that perpetuate gender-based discrimination and/or contribute to violence against women; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to take a stand against exploitation of women in all media, including but not limited to, movies, television, videos, radio, music, video games, advertisements, and the Internet; and further

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

013-240 **Retirement Savings** (Formerly "Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA)"; Convention 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Reviewed 2019)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Family units should be recognized and supported; therefore

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

013-260 **Tolerance** (Convention 1939; Amended 1952; Reaffirmed 1981; Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019 and merge 014-180 Support of UNESCO Day of Tolerance Convention 2000)

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

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

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

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

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

013-270 **Long-Term Care** (Convention 1989; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018)

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

WHEREAS, An individual turning age 65 has an almost 70% chance of needing long-term care services in their remaining years according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

013-280 **Mass Media** (Convention 1950; Amended 1985; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019 and merge 013-080 Communication Industry Convention 1984)

WHEREAS, Mass Media is the various means by which information, such as television, radio, movies, newspapers, and the internet, reaches large numbers of people; and

WHEREAS, Mass Media is a powerful communication tool with far-reaching influences; therefore

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

- Against media gratuitous portrayals of violence, which increases aggressive behavior, thoughts, and emotions;
- For public awareness that promotes responsible use of mass media.
- For the communication industry to demonstrate responsibility to the public by a continuous effort to broadcast information that is accurate, educationally sound and morally appropriate;
- For continuing studies and public awareness by public and private sectors that promotes responsible use of mass media.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

013-310 **013-310 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)

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.

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

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

WHEREAS, Recent studies confirm:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

013-340 **Nutrition** (Convention 1976; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Reviewed 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

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

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

WHEREAS, Health care programs should educate providers and patients on good nutrition; therefore

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

- Support the inclusion of good nutrition in the planning, organization, and implementation of health care programs;
- Encourage the food industry to provide reasonable food and beverage portions;
- Support the establishment of food cooperatives in areas with underserved populations;
- Promote programs on healthy and nutritional habits.

013-350 **Organ and Tissue Transplants** (Convention 1988; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

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

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

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

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

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

- Medical standards defining brain death;
- Procurement programs that enlist voluntary registered organ and tissue donors to increase the supply of donated organs;
- Legislation establishing priorities, eligibilities, and financial support to cover transplant costs for people who are without means to pay for a transplant;
- Regulation of businesses involved in organ and tissue transplantation;
- Programs to educate members and communities about transplants and the dire need for donors;
- The establishment of standardized best practices for the organ donation process, including a rule requiring that organs be assigned based on a patient's medical status.

013-360 **Persons with Disabilities** (Formerly "People with Disabilities"; Convention 1980; Amended 1984; Reviewed 1988; Amended 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2016; Reviewed 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

013-400 **Prevention, Detection, Control and Cure of Diseases and Illnesses** (Formerly "Prevention, Control and Cure of Diseases"; Convention 1977; Reaffirmed 1981; Amended and Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994 Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018)

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

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

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

013-410 **Product and Services Liability Reform** (Convention 1986; Amended 1990; Reviewed 1994; Reviewed 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Support increasing the federal child care tax credit for working parents;
- Support measures requiring early childhood training and increasing the wages of child care providers;
- Encourage self-supporting, independent after school programs in specified areas of school facilities;
- Encourage the enactment of legislation mandating that all child care facilities establish a two-way notification system when a child scheduled to be in attendance is absent from the facility.

013-430 **Quality Long-Term Care** (Formerly "Quality Nursing Home Care"; Convention 1988; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Amended 2016)

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That current law be amended to require:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

013-490 **Specially Trained Dogs and Other Animals For People with Disabilities** (Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018**)**

WHEREAS, People with disabilities may use service animals and emotional support animals for independence and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, Specially trained dogs and other animals are tasked to achieve independence; therefore

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) recognizing and protecting the use of all licensed, specially trained, and certified service dogs and other animals.

013-500 **Stem Cell Research** (Convention 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

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 supports:

- Continued human stem cell research according to the guidelines established by the National Institutes of Health;
- The periodic examination and revision of NIH standards on human stem cell research to reflect the most-current knowledge; and
- The use of human stem cell science in medical treatments; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges education about the specifics of human stem cell research and related NIH guidelines.

013-510 **Substance Abuse and Rehabilitation** (Convention 1983; Amended and Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Combined with 013-520 "Substance Abuse Rehabilitation" and Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2018)

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.

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

WHEREAS, Cigarette smoking has declined among United States youth in recent years, but the use of some other tobacco products (electronic cigarettes, hookahs, and smokeless tobacco) has increased; and

WHEREAS, According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), youth who use multiple tobacco products are at a higher risk for developing nicotine dependencies and might be more likely to continue using tobacco into adulthood; therefore

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

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

013-550 **Tuberculosis Prevention** (Convention 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Tuberculosis is

- A contagious disease with millions infected annually;
- One of the top ten causes of death in the world and represents a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization's "Stop TB" Partnership has released a Roadmap to scale up the engagement of public and private health care providers to end tuberculosis; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations General Assembly is committed to ensuring individuals receive the necessary care and to providing preventative treatment to protect others from developing tuberculosis; therefore

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

- The World Health Organization's program "Stop TB" program;
- Increased testing;
- Funding for medical care, training of personnel, and world-wide education about tuberculosis to reduce its threat.

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

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

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

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

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

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

013-590 **Autism Spectrum Disorder** (Convention 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Approximately 1 in 59 (or 1.5%) children born in the United States live with Autism Spectrum Disorder; and

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

WHEREAS, A number of states have passed laws requiring ASD coverage by private health insurers resulting in more children with ASD receiving treatment; therefore

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

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

013-600 **Cancer** (Convention 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Cancer is a complex group of diseases with multiple causes including:

- Certain infections;
- Genetic factors;
- Sun and UV exposure;
- Environmental exposures to certain chemicals and radiation;
- Lifestyle choices such as tobacco use, diet, and physical inactivity; and

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

WHEREAS, According to the American Cancer Society, more than one million people develop cancer each year, and over half of all cancer deaths could be prevented through education, healthy lifestyle choices, and early detection; therefore

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

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

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

013-610 **Heart Disease in Women** (Convention 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, Heart disease is the number one killer of women worldwide with increased risk at menopause and is deadlier than all forms of cancer combined; and

WHEREAS, Two-thirds of women 25-44 years of age who suffer heart attacks never fully recover; and

WHEREAS, Studies show:

- Women often present with different heart attack symptoms than men;
- Women wait longer than men to go to an emergency room when having a heart attack;
- Physicians are slower to recognize the presence of heart attacks in women; therefore

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

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

013-620 **Obesity Prevention** (Convention 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization estimates that today more than half of all adults in the United States are overweight; and

WHEREAS, Obesity:

- Is defined as having a Body Mass Index of 30 or above;
- Has reached epidemic proportion in the United States;
- Increases the risk for many chronic diseases;
- And its related health problems are placing a burden on the United States health care system;
- Is generally caused by inactivity and unhealthy eating, with genetics playing a role; therefore

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

- Supports a national strategy to reduce obesity;
- Encourages businesses to develop products and activities that promote increased physical behaviors;
- Calls upon insurance providers to cover nutrition and fitness counseling and programs;
- Supports a continuing educational and accredited program for medical personal that would include prevention, management, and reversal of obesity; and further

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

013-630 Religious Freedom (Convention 2014; Reviewed 2018)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

013-650 **Health Care and Research** (includes Health Care, Convention 1993; Women's Health Research, Convention 1993; Convention 2017)

WHEREAS, There is a need for a full range of medical and mental health care services, including prescription drugs, to meet health care needs; and

WHEREAS, Everyone needs basic knowledge and understanding of health care options as well as living wills and health care powers of attorney; and

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

WHEREAS, Women are not routinely included in Phase I and II stages of National Institutes of Health (NIH) funded clinical trials; therefore

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

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

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

- Discrimination for pre-existing conditions in determining insurance eligibility and rates;
- Gender discrimination in insurance rating and medical research; and
- Lifetime caps; and

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

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

013-660 Reducing Obesity in Youth (Convention 2019)

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 childhood obesity has more than quadrupled in children and tripled in adolescents in the past 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Infants as young as 7 months exposed to healthy foods are more likely to prefer those foods and develop healthy eating habits; and

WHEREAS, Healthy eating can improve a child's learning ability, higher academic performance, and mental, social and physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, The financial implications of childhood obesity pose a financial burden to the economy and healthcare system, carrying up to $14,000,000,000 per year in direct healthcare cost, with people in the United States spending approximately 10 percent of their total medical costs on obesity-related illnesses; therefore

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

- Establish a program that will influence practices, policies, and environments in early care and education settings to support healthy eating, physical activity, and screen time reduction for children ages birth through 5;
- Enhance the training and knowledge of early care and education providers on strategies for promoting healthy eating (including early feeding best practices), physical activity, and screen time reduction in early care and education settings; and further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the following: President of the United States of America, Donald Trump; Vice President of the United States of America Michael Pence; Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer; Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi; House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy; Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Lamar Alexander; Chairman of House Committee on Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Tim Walberg; Senator Cory Booker; Representative Steve N. Cohen; Alex M. Azar II, Secretary of Health and Human Services; Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Department of Education; Kyle Yasuda, MD, President of the American Academy of Pediatrics; Marilyn J. Krajicek, EdD, Director of the National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Childhood Education; Damon Carson, Chairman, National Head Start Association; Rhian Evans Allvin, Chief Executive Officer, National Association for the Education of Young Children.

013-670 **Child Survival in Developing Countries** (Formerly "Child Survival"; Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Amended 2017; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-010)

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

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

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

- Educate and engage GFWC members in promoting and supporting health care including prenatal care and immunizations for children;
- Provide basic treatment for childhood diseases;1
- Teach parents how to care for sick children;
- Provide living conditions that meet children's physical and mental needs particularly with regard to food, clothing, and housing; and further

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

013-680 **Population Growth** (Convention 1966; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-140)

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

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

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

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

013-690 **World Hunger** (Convention 1989; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-260)

WHEREAS, Hunger exists both domestically and internationally; and

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

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

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

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

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

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

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

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

WHEREAS, Pornographic materials are readily available on electronic devices, especially through the Internet; therefore

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

015-060 **Vehicle Safety** (Formerly "Vehicle Safety Systems;" "Automobile Restraint Systems;" "Automobile Safety Systems;" Convention 1974; Amended 1980; Amended 1985; Amended 1987; Amended 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2009; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

015-070 **Balanced Budget** (Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018)

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

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

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

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

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

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

015-080 **Bicycle Safety** (Convention 1973; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988, Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, There are hundreds of Americans still missing; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That peace with honor demands that the United States government continue to insist that all the missing in action be accounted for, that all prisoners who may be detained by the enemy be freed immediately and that honorable burial for our dead be provided, consistent with the wishes of their families; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the United States government to call upon the nations of the world, and particularly to signatories of the Geneva Conventions, to assist in providing a full accounting for prisoners of war, the dead and missing in action.

015-130 **Crime Prevention** (Convention 1968; Amended 1972; Amended and Reaffirmed 1984; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with other organizations and law enforcement agencies to study the crime situation in their communities, examine the resources available to prevent and reduce crime, and to initiate and promote programs, such as cross-reporting of animal cruelty and violent crimes in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, that combat crime.

015-140 **Disaster Service Planning** (Convention 1984; Reviewed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015)

WHEREAS, natural and other disasters may strike with little or no warning; and

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

WHEREAS, Many people would not be able to evacuate a disaster area due to lack of resources; and

WHEREAS, Many elderly and disabled individuals, including those in hospitals and nursing homes, would be physically incapable of leaving on their own; and

WHEREAS, Terrorists are working to obtain biological, chemical, nuclear and radiological weapons, increasing the threat of attacks; therefore

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

- Be aware of emergency service programs, accept personal responsibility and take positive action toward ensuring family survival;
- Promote public education and participation through club and community programs and projects;
- Assess and assist in the establishment and support of local emergency services; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support comprehensive national, state and local policies that require evacuation plans that include:

- People with disabilities, in institutions, or without access to transportation; and
- The humane collection, shelter and/or evacuation of animals.

015-160 **Driver Education** (Convention 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2006; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014; Reviewed 2018)

WHEREAS, Many people in the United States are injured or killed by motor vehicle accidents caused by human error, and motor vehicle crashes are one of the leading causes of teen death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Extensive driving practice and defensive driving courses have been shown to assist drivers in significantly reducing both accidents and traffic law violations; and

WHEREAS, Drivers over 65 are more likely to be involved in crashes due to declining perception and motor skills; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support~~s~~ extensive driving practice and driver education; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to contact local legislators and school officials to retain or implement, and fund driver education within schools; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support~~s~~ the enactment and enforcement of graduated drivers licensing laws; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support~~s~~ quality driver education including courses designed for teen drivers, new drivers, and those over 55; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its individual members to participate in a defensive driving course and its member clubs to sponsor such courses for the benefit of their communities.

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation to strengthen, update and enforce state laws regarding alcohol and drug sales and driving under the influence; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to cooperate with other organizations, including local school systems, in supporting community-based alcohol and drug programs and projects; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the Federal Railroad Administration to work in conjunction with the respective Union and Management officials to enforce mandatory alcohol and drug testing and therefore improve passenger safety.

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

WHEREAS, Early release of violent and habitual offenders often results in disaster; and

WHEREAS, States which prohibit early release have shown reduced crime; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to pursue all avenues to effect changes in legislation regarding early release of violent and habitual prisoners.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

015-210 **Equal Rights for Women** (Convention 1944; Reviewed 1950; Amended 1967; Reviewed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Reviewed 1999; Amended 2003, Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Reviewed 2015; Amended 2019; Formerly "Equal Rights and Responsibilities for Women")

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

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

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

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

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

015-220 **Fire Prevention and Protection from Fire Injury** (Convention 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2018)

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

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

WHEREAS, The use of smoke and heat detectors and flame-resistant fabrics provides protection; therefore

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

- Support the adoption, enforcement, and updating of fire safety laws;
- Promote education on the protective value of detectors and flame-retardant materials, including increasing public awareness of stricter children's sleepwear standards and the need to report any infringements of that law;
- Work for the enforcement of the Flammable Fabric Act and other laws that require flammability standards for all textiles used to manufacture clothing and household items sold in the United States;
- Promote education of survival techniques and fire safety laws.

015-230 **Fundamental Freedoms** (Convention 1956; Amended 1968; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The future depends on the vision, courage, faith and devotion of those who believe that freedom must underlie any satisfying personal life, political order or productive economy; and

WHEREAS, Our country and the documents guaranteeing our freedom are sources of inspiration to people in many lands, giving them strength and guidance in their aspiring efforts toward freedom because they are based on the doctrine of freedom of the individual, limited only by transgression of the freedom of others; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote programs of education especially in schools to reiterate devotion to those ideals which have made this country a sanctuary of freedom: namely, those freedoms set forth in the Bill of Rights, and such inherent rights as respect for the dignity of the individual and freedom of thought, discussion, and belief.

015-240 **Gun Control** (Formerly "Handgun Control"; Convention 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, One of the most alarming crises the nation faces today is the number of violent crimes involving firearms, and

WHEREAS, A waiting period and background check on purchase of handguns has reduced crime and violence by providing impetuous gun buyers a cooling off period; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports effective gun control legislation regulating the indiscriminate sale and possession of weapons including:

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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports mandatory penalties for anyone convicted of using a firearm during the commission of a crime; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation allowing law enforcement officials free access to Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives gun trace information; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the enforcement of existing gun laws and urges its member clubs to work with their legislators and firearm authorities on all levels to implement improved methods of safe gun control.

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

WHEREAS, Appreciation of cultural heritage and knowledge of history shape a nation's identity; and

WHEREAS, Historic landmarks contribute to the economic, social and cultural well-being of communities, yet countless historic properties are being ignored, destroyed and abandoned; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to record the history of and help preserve historic landmarks and artifacts; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages its member clubs to partner with other civic organizations and government agencies to preserve historic buildings and landmarks; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to study and preserve the history of their club and GFWC, including written and oral histories, buildings and artifacts.

015-260 **Humane Treatment of Animals** (Convention 1966; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs continues to support humane treatment of animals; and

WHEREAS, The Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International accredits institutions that demonstrate a commitment to responsible animal research and good science; and

WHEREAS, The procurement and utilization of animals for use in experimentation are essential for the advancement of medical science; and

WHEREAS, There are animal cruelty prevention laws in all 50 states; therefore

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

- Support the use of animals to advance medicine and science only when there are no non-animal alternatives, and when it is done in an ethical and humane way;
- Support the vigorous enforcement federal, state, and animal cruelty prevention laws;
- Encourage and support the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International accreditation program;
- Support programs promoting the training of personnel in the area of laboratory animal care, for legitimate procurement of the animals and construction of adequate animal care facilities.

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

WHEREAS, Identity theft is:

- The stealing of someone's personal identification for criminal purposes;
- One of the fastest growing crimes;
- An invasive crime that can severely damage the victim's financial security and credit history, and

WHEREAS,

- The perpetrator's actions may result in the victim being held civilly liable and having a record of criminal conviction;
- Governments and businesses increasingly use personal identification numbers;
- Technology expands and simplifies the dissemination of personal information;
- Careful handling of personal information and documents, including the use of encrypted websites, can reduce the risk of identity theft; therefore

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

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

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

- Support increased resources for and stringent enforcement of The Identity Theft and Assumption Deterrence Act and related laws;
- Educate themselves and communities about the importance of prompt reporting of any suspicious activity in accounts and credit reports;
- Advocate for legislation allowing a victim of identity theft to make an application to the court for expungement of any records reflecting that the victim was charged or convicted of a crime committed by the perpetrator;
- Educate communities about identity theft, including child identity theft, its serious ramifications, and the importance of, and methods for, protecting personal information, including the use of encrypted websites for the transfer of personal information.

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

WHEREAS, Various distractions take a driver's attention away from operating a motor vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Recent statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show distracted drivers cause death and injuries; therefore

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

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

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

015-310 **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency** (Formerly "Juvenile Crime and Justice"; Convention 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017)

WHEREAS, Juvenile crime remains a very serious concern; and

WHEREAS, Children can be status offenders for offenses including chronic truancy, disobedience to parents, running away and other types of "incorrigible" or "ungovernable" behavior; and

WHEREAS, Juvenile crime can be reduced by encouraging prevention through positive parental involvement, participation in extracurricular activities and supportive adult mentoring thus decreasing risk factors such as drug use, poor school performance and unstable homes; and

WHEREAS, There are inadequate detention and probation services in many juvenile court jurisdictions; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages the establishment and increased public awareness of children at-risk programs including family support, school dropout prevention, out of school programs, substance abuse prevention, gang membership prevention, and other community-based programs; and further

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

- Adequate programs of probation and rehabilitative services in humane juvenile facilities using supervision and counseling to promote positive behaviors and prevent recidivism;
- Alternative living situations, such as shelter care, group and foster homes, with adequate programs for nonviolent juveniles;
- Protection of all youth under the age of 18 held pre-trial, whether charged in juvenile or adult court;
- Placement of youth convicted in adult court in juvenile;
- Steps to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in the juvenile justice system;
- Prohibition of the locked detention of status offenders;
- Safe and humane conditions of confinement for youth in state and/or local custody;
- Compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention ACT (JJDPA) 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 JJDPA

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

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs was instrumental in the establishment of the first U.S. labor laws; and

WHEREAS, Evidence exists that laborers, domestic and international, continue to work in sweatshop conditions violating basic rights; therefore

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

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

015-370 **National Defense** (Convention 1957; Reaffirmed 1975; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Formerly "Maintenance of Strong United States Armed Forces")

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

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

- Provide members of its military, intelligence, and federal law enforcement forces with exceptional training and equipment;
- Refuse to enter any treaty that would allow another nation to obtain or retain military superiority over this country; therefore

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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs opposes any treaty that would allow any nation to obtain or retain military superiority over the United States.

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Ongoing reform of campaign finance laws is necessary to ensure transparency and to safeguard the democratic process; therefore

RESOLVED, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges:

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

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

WHEREAS, Unclaimed animals in pounds and shelters are released or sold for use in research, product safety and development, or educational demonstrations; and

WHEREAS, This practice subjects animals to the pain and stress of laboratory experimentation; and

WHEREAS, The threat of pound seizure of animals used for research may make citizens fearful of taking animals to a local shelter, thereby undermining animal control efforts; and

WHEREAS, Animals from shelters often have diseases and/or have received medications which could invalidate experimental results; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support local, state and federal legislative initiatives to ban pound seizure.

015-460 **Prisoner Rehabilitation** (Formerly "Prison Reform", Convention 1957; Reaffirmed 1972; Reaffirmed 1984; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Reviewed 2000; Amended 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that punishment alone is not a deterrent to crime; and

WHEREAS, The effectiveness of rehabilitation programs differ by gender and age of inmates; and

WHEREAS, Use of modern methods of incarceration could develop responsible, law-abiding citizens; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to encourage prison boards and administrators to take advantage of every possible resource in order that prisoners, regardless of gender, may be provided with and make use of:

- Psychological evaluation and psychiatric treatment, when indicated;\
- Adequate medical treatment, including treatment for substance abuse;
- Remedial education, vocational and life skills training, and counseling to prevent recidivism;
- The opportunity for spiritual guidance;
- Domestic violence counseling;
- Preparation for returning to their communities; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages its member clubs to develop, implement, and participate in programs to provide volunteer services to inmates; and further

RESOLVED, That efforts be made to provide adequate follow-up services upon release of prisoners in order to assist them in their full adjustment as productive members of society.

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

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

WHEREAS, Victims of hate crimes suffer significant harm; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support enactment and enforcement of federal and state legislation against hate crimes.

015-480 **Respect for the Flag of the United States** (Formerly "Public Display of the Flag of the United States of America"; Convention 1974; Amended 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018)

WHEREAS, The American flag is a rallying point for Americans and stands for patriotism and love of country; and

WHEREAS, For generations Americans have dedicated and given their lives to preserve the freedoms represented by the flag; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its U.S.A. member clubs to learn and practice proper flag etiquette; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its U.S.A. member clubs to promote and endorse the flying of our flag in a correct and respectful manner in their communities every day; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs expresses its strongest objections to the improper burning of and to any manner of desecration of the American Flag.

015-490 **Responsibility of the Media and Individuals Pertaining to National Security** (Formerly "Responsibility of the Media Pertaining to National Security"; Convention 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs expresses its conviction that every precaution possible be taken to preserve the utmost secrecy concerning matters which, if disclosed, would imperil national defense and national security; and

WHEREAS, Responsibility for maintaining secrecy concerning critically important information relating to national security rests jointly with administrative officers in charge, the media and related agencies, and individual citizens who come into possession of such information; and

WHEREAS, Increased use of technology has made penetrating of our Nation's information infrastructure by outsiders a very serious and real threat to security; and

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports protection of classified information; and further

RESOLVED, That acts of purposely obtaining or failure to protect classified information be subject to the severest censure, legal action and/or punishment.

015-500 **Citizenship** (Convention 1975; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Formerly "Rights and Responsibilities of the Individual")

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The National Park Service has established the Rosie the Riveter Memorial/ World War II Home Front National Historic Park honoring women who worked during World War II in shipyards and other defense industries; and

WHEREAS, More than six million women contributed to the war effort by working in aircraft plants, ordnance factories, shipyards and other related defense industries; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the Rosie the Riveter Memorial Project; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports identifying areas across the United States where women actively engaged in home front activities during World War II; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourages its member clubs to provide assistance and support in establishing museums honoring the home front efforts of women in all war industries.

015-520 **Safety for Air Travel** (Convention 1959; Amended and Reaffirmed 1983; Amended and Reaffirmed 1987; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017)

WHEREAS, Air travel is a major means of transportation; and

WHEREAS, There have been numerous accidents and near accidents involving military, commercial, and private planes; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Federal Aviation Administration to control and direct air traffic and to establish and enforce structural, mechanical, and safety standards on the runway and in the air; and

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Transportation Security Administration to strengthen the security of the nation's transportation systems and ensure the freedom of movement; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges that proper safety measures be enforced by responsible government agencies to ensure the highest possible degree of safety for air travel.

015-540 **School Violence and Disruptions** (Convention 1977; Amended 1981; Reaffirmed 1986; Reviewed 1990; Reviewed 1994; Reviewed 1998; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016)

WHEREAS, The theft, vandalism, weapons, bombs, personal assaults and threats, some with deadly force, on students, teachers and personnel in our schools are alarming; and

WHEREAS, Incidents of crime and violence disrupt our schools, endanger students and school personnel and interfere with the safe atmosphere conducive to the educational process; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote programs to reduce school crime and disruptions by working with representatives from the school and community to:

- Study the local situation and determine a course of action involving parents, educators and school administrators, religious and community leaders, law enforcement agencies, and students;
- Provide families with access to early educational childcare programs proven to reduce crime;
- Implement programs of prevention and correction;
- Enforce zero-tolerance policies toward the presence of weapons, alcohol, and illegal drugs;
- Encourage school systems to prosecute offenders through the appropriate channels.

015-580 **Social Security** (Convention 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2004; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Amended 2016 to include "Discrimination in Social Security Benefits" Convention 1969)

WHEREAS, Social Security has become a major source of income for many people, especially women and those with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, The older population of America is projected to grow to 6.6 million in 2020 and the number eligible for Social Security will continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, There is concern about the system's ability to meet the demands of future generations as the work force decreases and the number of Social Security beneficiaries increases; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges the review and revision of Social Security regulations to eliminate discrimination and to assure equitable treatment; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support educational awareness programs and legislation addressing the future of Social Security.

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

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has been a United States territory since 1898, ceded by Spain as a result of the Spanish American War; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico has proven to be a stable political community capable of assuming the responsibilities of statehood; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Ricans have been United States citizens since 1917, and the Puerto Rican Constitution declares in its preamble:

> *That we consider the Citizenship of the United States of America a determining factor in our lives, and that we have an aspiration to enrich continually our democratic traditions, individually and collectively, through the enjoyment of the rights and privileges of the American Citizenship.*

An obvious declaration of intent to evolve into a State of the Union as the final outcome of the rights of citizenship; and

WHEREAS, The actual political status of Puerto Rico is one of political inequality, with no voting representation in the United States Congress, or voting privileges for the President and Vice President of our Nation, even though both exert absolute sovereignty over the territory; and

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports the entrance of the commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a State of the United States of America.

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

WHEREAS, The mobility of our nation is important to our domestic economic growth and progress and vital to adequate national defense; and

WHEREAS, In order to save lives and accommodate projected needs, America's transportation system must be made safer and more adequate; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to study government transportation policies and to work for continued development of government policies and spending criteria that will produce safe highways and transportation systems to handle adequately the present and future needs.

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

WHEREAS, There is a need for the adoption of a uniform probate code within each state to reduce delays and excessive costs of estate settlements and many states have not adopted a uniform probate code; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its state federations and member clubs to work for the adoption of the Uniform Probate Code within their state.

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

WHEREAS, The United States Postal Service delivers billions of pieces of mail each year; and

WHEREAS, A commercially and financially viable United States Postal Service remains vital to the American economy; and

WHEREAS, It is imperative that an efficient and economical postal service be provided, which is consistent with the general welfare and responsive to the interests and the needs of the public; and

WHEREAS, The public has a right to expect prompt and safe delivery of all types of mail entrusted to the United States Postal Service; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to encourage the United State Postal Service to continue to work to ensure prompt, safe, economical delivery of mail entrusted to them; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs commends the United States Postal Service for continuing special postage stamps that benefit charitable causes.

015-650 **Victim/Witness Assistance** (Convention 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993: Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Reviewed 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017)

WHEREAS, Victims and witnesses of violent crimes often suffer traumatic experiences after the occurrence of the crime as well as at the time the offense was committed; and

WHEREAS, They may need medical aid, counseling, emotional support, shelter or financial assistance; and

WHEREAS, To assure that justice is carried out, victims, and/or witnesses may require assistance in understanding court procedures or help in making it possible for them to appear in court; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to sponsor and support the implementation of victim/witness assistance projects.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Accidents from the improper use of water-sports equipment can result in serious personal injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, Alcohol and drug use impairs judgment, balance and coordination and is a contributing factor in drownings; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to supports the enactment and enforcement of laws that promote water safety; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to educate and promote water safety guidelines.

015-710 **Women in Public Policy-Making Positions** (Convention 1922; Reaffirmed 1953; Reaffirmed 1973; Reaffirmed 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Reviewed 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Amended 2010; Amended 2014; Reviewed 2019)

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs has long advocated election and appointment of qualified women to public policy-making positions; and

WHEREAS, Women are underrepresented in public policy-making positions at all levels; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to encourage qualified women to seek opportunities to serve in public policy-making positions at the local, state, national, and international level.

15-720 **Women in Transition** (Formerly "Displaced Homemakers" Convention 1980; Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Reviewed 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019)

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

WHEREAS, Women in transition are often underemployed because they:

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

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

- To appropriate sufficient funding for laws which assist states in providing greater opportunities for women in transition;
- To continue and expand job training services and programs that encourages and support women in transition to prepare for careers that lead to self-sufficiency and economic security.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Although many states have anti-bullying legislation and policies that provide guidance to schools, bullying is not illegal; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to educate clubwomen and communities about:

- The serious issues of harassment, intimidation, hazing, bullying and cyber-bullying;
- The local school district's anti-harassment, intimidation, hazing, and bullying policies and the enforcement of same; and further

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

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

WHEREAS, Highway deterioration is a safety issue; and

WHEREAS, The National Bridge Inventory has classified over 20% of the bridges of the National Highway System as structurally deficient or obsolete, increasing the risk of bridge failure; and

WHEREAS, Oversized vehicles have longer stopping distances, reduced maneuverability, and increased risk of rollovers and fatal crashes; therefore

RESOLVED, The General Federation of Women's Clubs urges:

- Continued development of governmental policies that produce safe highways, infrastructure, and bridges;
- Its member clubs to carefully research and to review proposed regulations of oversized vehicles to ensure adoption of appropriate legislation; and further

RESOLVED, The General Federation of Women's Clubs supports:

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, research shows that:

- An estimated 4.6 million American children live in homes with at least one gun that is loaded and unlocked;
- 65% of unintentional gun deaths of children occur in a home or vehicle that belongs to the victim's family;
- In more than 50% of shootings in K-12 schools where the source of the firearm was known, the perpetrator obtained the gun from home; and
- Safe and secure storage of firearms and ammunition in the home prevents accidental shootings, especially among children; and

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

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

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

015-820 **Human Trafficking** (Formerly "The Trafficking of Women and Children" and "Trafficking in Persons" 2001; Convention 2016)

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Department of State and UNICEF, human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, involving victims who are typically forced, defrauded, or coerced into sexual and/or labor exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is the world's fastest growing global crime and second largest source of illegal income worldwide exceeded only by drug trafficking. Annually:

- 1.2 million children are trafficked worldwide;
- 800,000 men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders;
- At least 20.9 million people are victims of forced labor worldwide; therefore

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

- Educate members and the public about the seriousness of human trafficking;
- Advocate for the support and protection of victims and the prosecution of exploiters;
- Support law enforcement coordination between countries;
- Encourage mandatory enforcement of existing laws in the United States.

015-830 Opioids (Convention 2016; Amended 2017)

WHEREAS, Opioids are commonly prescribed natural or synthetic chemical pain killers such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, fentanyl, and other painkillers; and

WHEREAS, Overdose slows a person's breathing, may cause brain damage and death, and a multitude of other acute and chronic conditions; and

WHEREAS, According to the United States Department of Health and Human Services, legal prescription opioid overdoses and addictions have reached epidemic proportions; and

WHEREAS, Opioid abuse is a serious public health issue and drug overdose deaths are the leading cause of non-intentional injury deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Prescription opioids can be an effective form of pain management but it is important to understand the benefits and risks; and

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to advocate for the development of educational awareness programs for providers, patients, and the community; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote legislation and regulations to combat opioid overdose and addiction; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs advocate for all police officers and first responders to carry naloxone to be used when answering any call.

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

WHEREAS, Traumatic brain injury (TBI) occurs when a sudden trauma causes damage to the brain; and

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

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

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

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

- Wearing a seatbelt while in a motor vehicle; and
- Wearing a properly fitted helmet when participating in contact sports and recreational activities, including motorcycles and mopeds.

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support state and federal legislation dealing with the secure recovery of unlawfully abducted, detained, or concealed minor children; and further

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

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

015-860 School Bus Safety (Convention 2017)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

015-880 Broadband Authority & Utilization (Convention 2019)

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

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

WHEREAS, GFWC recognizes that citizens, schools, and businesses benefit from the availability and utilization of affordable broadband internet access; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC urges its member clubs to advocate for legislation that supports broadband planning and efforts to continue the growth of broadband infrastructure.

015-890 Social Media (Convention 2019)

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

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

WHEREAS, Social media exert cultural, educational, political, religious, and social impact on countless users without regard to truth or validity of statements; and

WHEREAS, The potential exists for the abuse of social 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:

- Educate communities about the benefits and dangers of social media;
- Advocate that governments and private industry research ways to ensure privacy of social media accounts and accuracy of information distributed through social media;
- Conduct a legislative action campaign in support of legislation that establishes guidelines to prevent the manipulation of users.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

015-910 3D Printed Gun Safety Act (Convention2019)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

015-925 **Geneva Convention on Protection of Civilians in Wartime** (Convention 1950; Amended 1958; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016; Reassigned 2020 International Affairs 014-040)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

015-950 **Support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** (Convention 1961; Reaffirmed 1983; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Reviewed 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-170)

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

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

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

015-955 **Support of the United Nations** (Convention 1952; Amended 1969; Reaffirmed 1984; Amended and Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Reviewed 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-190)

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

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

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

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

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

015-960 **Assistance to Economically Less Developed Areas** (Formerly "Technical Assistance of Economically Less Developed Areas"; Convention 1950; Reaffirmed 1961; Amended and Reaffirmed 1979; Reaffirmed 1985; Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-200)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

015-970 **Totalitarian Aggression** (Formerly "Communist and Totalitarian Aggression"; Convention 1961; Amended 1972; Amended 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Amended 1991, 1995; Reviewed 1999; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Reviewed 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-230)

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

WHEREAS, The continued military and economic pressures exerted by totalitarian regimes jeopardize~~s~~ the stability of and solidarity among established and emerging democratic nations; therefore

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

015-975 **United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)** (Formerly "United Nations Conferences on Women"; Convention 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018; Reassigned 2020 International Outreach 014-240)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM: ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

016-010 **Child Foster Care** (Convention 1976; Reaffirmed 1980; Amended 1981; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Amended 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Amended 2006; Amended 2010; Reviewed 2014; Amended 2018; Reassigned 2020 Home Life 013-050)

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

WHEREAS, The Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 establishes national goals for children in the child welfare system including safety, permanence, and well-being; 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;
- Advocate for legislation requiring procedures for the orderly and timely interstate placement of children in foster care to include an electronic interstate case-processing system;
- Encourage efforts by state and/or local agencies who have legal custody of foster children to maintain their cultural heritage and family relationships, making every effort to keep siblings together;
- Advocate for legislation providing adequate and equal financial reimbursement and support services for foster parents and kinship providers; and further

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges legal reform in sexual abuse cases of children through improved investigative techniques and courtroom and cross examination procedures; and

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

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

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

016-050 **Sexual Exploitation of Children** (Convention 1978; Amended 1985; Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Reviewed 2001; Amended 2005; Reviewed 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017; Reassigned 2020 Public Outreach 015-560)

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

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

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

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

- Support educational and awareness programs designed for children to increase understanding of sexual exploitation and to encourage communication with a responsible adult;
- Support counseling programs and medical services for survivors;
- Support enforcement of existing laws and development of new legislation;
- Support aggressive prosecution, stringent pre-trial supervision, and strict sentences for convicted individuals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNATURE PROGRAM: DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

017-010 **Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention** (Formerly "Abused Persons"; Convention 1987; Reviewed 1991; Amended 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2003; Amended 2007; Amended 2009; Amended 2011; Amended 2013; Amended 2016; Amended 2017; Reassigned 2020 Public Outreach 015-020)

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, American Indian and Alaska Native women residing on tribal lands and in Alaska Native villages suffer domestic violence and physical assault at rates far exceeding women of other ethnicities and locations; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Millions of older Americans are victims of physical, sexual, financial, psychological, or other forms of abuse and neglect each year; and

WHEREAS, Many nursing care facilities lack adequate staff to properly care for patients; and

WHEREAS, Caregivers committing crimes against the elderly are seldom identified or punished; therefore

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

- Advocate for state legislation and programs directed toward identifying and prosecuting perpetrators of elder abuse;
- Support programs that provide inter-professional geriatric education, training and research to develop a geriatric-capable workforce that would improve health outcomes for a growing and diverse American population.

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

WHEREAS, Women and men on active duty, military families, 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 within the military continues to occur at alarming levels; and

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support the accessibility of trained sexual assault nurse examiners (SANE) to ensure proper medical and psychological treatment, utilization of sexual assault evidence collection kits, and victims be assured privacy and confidentially to facilitate reporting assaults without fear of retaliation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Guarantee the right of confidentiality to survivors regarding all reports and conversations with investigators and counselors;
- Support the enforcement of existing laws and criminal penalties dealing with sexual assault;
- Provide funding for the training of law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, judicial officers, court staff, medical professionals, and educators in handling sexual assault cases; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, There is an alarming number of sex offenses and many states and communities lack adequate laws, personnel, and facilities to cope with this dangerous situation; and

WHEREAS, Technology provides opportunities for sexual predators to target victims; and

WHEREAS, The crime's impact upon the victim is not always taken into consideration by the criminal justice system; therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to promote educational campaigns about sexual crimes, sex offenders, and their impact on the victims and their families; and

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

- The enactment of statutes providing for incarceration;
- That the severity of the crime and its impact to the victim and the family be brought to the attention of the court before plea bargains are accepted and sentences are imposed;
- Strengthened requirements for medical and psychiatric treatment for both adult and youthful offenders;
- An in-depth review of the crime be considered prior to granting parole to sex offenders;
- That the victims and/or families be notified prior to a parole hearing and before release of sex offenders;
- Public access to sex offender release and registration information, including the nature and date of the offense; and

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports enactment of legislation that defendants convicted of a sexual offense against children, be prohibited for life, from participating in any occupation or volunteer activity involving children; and further

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation which imposes penalties for crimes of a sexual nature committed using technology to create, distribute, or solicit child pornography.

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