

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

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

WHEREAS, Non-profit charitable organizations recognized by the IRS as holding a 501(c)(3) tax exemption have the right and responsibility to engage in advocacy and lobbying activities; and

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

RESOLVED, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support legislation that would simplify and interpret the advocacy and lobbying rights enjoyed by non-profit charitable organizations recognized as 501(c)(3) tax exempt entities.

140-020 Bicycle Safety (Convention 1973; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988, Amended and Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Amended 2017; Amended 2022)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

140-050

Citizenship Rights and Privileges (Convention 2022: Includes “Fundamental Freedoms,” Convention 1956; “Respect for the Flag of the United States,” Convention 1974; and “Citizenship,” Convention 1975)

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

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

- Freedom to express their will and to participate in fair elections;
- Protection of human rights, interests, and welfare;
- Active participation in both political and civic endeavors;
- Equal application of the law and procedures to all; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

140-070 Crime Prevention (Convention 2022: Includes “Abolishment of Pornography,” Convention 1987; “Crime Prevention,” Convention 1968; “Drug Trafficking,” Convention 1990; and “Sex Offenders,” Convention 1950)

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

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

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

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

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

140-080 Criminal Justice (Convention 2022: Includes “Delays in Criminal Prosecution,” Convention 1987; “Early Release of Violent and Habitual Prisoners,” Convention 1994; “Prisoner Rehabilitation,” Convention 1957; and “Modernization of Sentencing and Parole Policies,” Convention 2018)

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Rehabilitative services offered to incarcerated persons, including education, employment, counseling, physical and mental wellness, and post-release support, have been shown to reduce the likelihood of re-incarceration; therefore

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

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

140-090 Disaster Assistance and Preparedness (Convention 2022: Includes “Disaster Service Planning,” Convention 1984; and “Man-Made and Nuclear Disasters,” Convention 1987)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Households headed by women:

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

WHEREAS, The economic security of women:

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

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

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

140-110 Economic Stability (Formerly “Assistance to Economically Less Developed Areas” and “Technical Assistance of Economically Less Developed Areas”; Convention 1950; Reaffirmed 1961; Amended and Reaffirmed 1979; Reaffirmed 1985; Reaffirmed 1989; Amended 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2022)

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

WHEREAS, Cooperation among international and domestic aid organizations provides knowledge, information, skills training, and expertise that contribute to stabilization and economic improvement in impacted communities; therefore

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

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

140-120 Electoral Process (Convention 2022: Includes “Election Procedures,” Convention 1969; and “Political Campaign Finance Reform,” Convention 1995)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

140-140 Enhanced Opportunities for Women (Convention 2022: Includes “Equal Rights for Women,” Convention 1944; “Women in Public Policy-Making Decisions,” Convention 1922; and “Women in Transition,” Convention 1980)

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

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

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

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

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

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

140-150 Family Farms (Formerly “Agricultural Policy - Family Farms”; Convention 1989; Amended 1993; Reviewed 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Amended 2013; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2021)

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

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

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

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

140-160 Firearms Safety (Convention 2022: Includes” Gun Control”, Convention 1992; “Firearm Safety and Responsibility,” Convention 2015; and “3D Printed Gun Safety Act,” Convention 2019)

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

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

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

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

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

140-170 Fire Safety (Formerly “Fire Prevention and Protection from Fire Injury”; Convention 1994; Amended 1998; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Amended 2014; Amended 2018; Amended 2022)

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

WHEREAS, Smoke and heat detectors and flame retardants add an integral layer of protection by reducing the risk of fires or slowing their spread; and

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

WHEREAS, Public education programs prevent fires and protect against fire-related injuries; therefore

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

- Support the adoption, enforcement, and updating of fire safety codes and standards;
- Promote education on the protective value of smoke and heat detectors and flame retardants;
- Support the enforcement of the Flammable Fabric Act and other laws that require flammability standards for all textiles used to manufacture clothing and household items sold in the United States, and encourage reporting of violations to the Consumer Product Safety Commission;
- Promote educational programs on fire-survival techniques and fire safety.

140-180 Fiscal Responsibility (Formerly “Balanced Budget”; Convention 1983; Reaffirmed 1987; Reviewed 1991; Reviewed 1995; Amended 1999; Amended 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2018; Amended 2022)

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

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

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

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

140-190 Global Peacekeeping (Convention 2022: Includes “Nuclear Arms Reduction,” Convention 1993; and “Support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO),” Convention 1961)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, All states have bullying prevention legislation and policies, but not all states have made bullying a criminal offense; therefore

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

140-230 Humane Treatment of Animals (Convention 2022: Includes “Humane Treatment of Animals,” Convention 1966; and “Pound Seizure,” Convention 1987)

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

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

WHEREAS, Unclaimed animals in public or private shelters may be released or sold for use in research; therefore

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Identity theft is an invasive crime involving the theft of personal, financial, and/or medical information for criminal purposes that often results in civil and criminal liabilities; and

WHEREAS, The expanded use of personal information for identification purposes increases the risk of identity theft due to the lack of encrypted websites and failure to implement computer network security protocols; therefore

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

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

140-260 Immigration (Convention 2022: Includes “Comprehensive Immigration Reform,” Convention 1986; and “Human Rights,” Convention 1984)

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

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

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

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

- Legal status of immigrant children brought to the United States, including a pathway to citizenship;
- Adequate allocation of labor visas to meet demand;
- Protection and preservation of the family unit throughout the documentation process;
- Reunification of parents/guardians separated from children;
- Protection of survivors of violence from further harm and traumatization;
- Reasonable and enforceable border security;
- Uniform application and enforcement of immigration laws.

140-270 Impaired and Distracted Driving (Convention 202: Includes “Impaired Operation of Vehicles,” Convention 1987; and “Distracted Drivers,” Convention 2001)

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

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

- Legislation to strengthen, update, and enforce state laws on impaired and distracted driving without the use of mandatory minimum sentencing;
- Efforts to eliminate distractions while driving, including industry-led engineering solutions to reduce accidents;
- Installation of ignition interlock systems in vehicles operated by persons convicted of impaired driving;
- Implementation of substance abuse treatment in lieu of incarceration where appropriate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

140-300 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency (Formerly “Juvenile Crime and Justice”; Convention 1989; Reviewed 1993; Amended 1997; Amended 2001; Amended 2005; Amended 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2022)

WHEREAS, Juvenile crime remains a very serious concern; and

WHEREAS, Minors may be criminally charged for offenses, including chronic truancy, disobedience to parents, running away, and other types of “incorrigible” or “ungovernable” behavior; and

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

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

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

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

- Compliance with the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A) and adoption of best practices that improve outcomes for youth and communities;
- Development and strengthening of partnerships that expand training, technical assistance, research and evaluation, and encourage transparency, timeliness, public notice, and communication;
- Expansion of juvenile crime prevention efforts by reauthorization of and increased funding for JJDP A.

140-310 Labor Exploitation and Human Trafficking (Convention 2022: Includes “Labor Exploitation”, Convention 1996; “Human Trafficking,” Convention 2001; and “International Child Labor,” Convention 1988)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

140-340 National Defense (Formerly “Maintenance of Strong United States Armed Forces”; Convention 1957; Reaffirmed 1975; Reaffirmed 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Reviewed 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2003; Reviewed 2007; Amended 2011; Amended 2015; Amended 2019; Amended 2022)

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

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

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

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

- Maintenance of exceptionally trained and equipped military, intelligence, and federal law enforcement forces;
- Establishment of incentives in salaries and benefits sufficient to attract, recruit, and retain qualified individuals to serve in the military, intelligence agencies, and federal law enforcement agencies;
- Continuation and preservation of health benefits for veteran members of the military and federal intelligence and law enforcement agencies, including mental health benefits;
- Provision of services to assist military families during deployment and reintegration;
- Opposition to entering into treaties that would allow any nation to assert military superiority over the United States.

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

WHEREAS, Opioids are commonly prescribed natural or synthetic chemical pain killers, including oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone, and fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, Overdose is a leading cause of non-intentional death in the United States and naloxone, a drug that rapidly reduces an opioid overdose, prevents death; and

WHEREAS, Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMP) are among the most productive state-level interventions to reduce the prescription of opioids, inform clinical practice, and protect patients at risk; and

WHEREAS, Prescription opioids can be a necessary and effective pain-management aid for cancer, surgical recovery, and painful chronic diseases; therefore

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

- Development of educational awareness programs for providers, patients, and the community about the benefits and risks of opioids;
- Development and implementation of a national PDMP;
- Funding for all first responders to carry naloxone to be used to reverse an opioid overdose;
- Insurance coverage for naloxone for all individuals with an opioid prescription;
- Ready availability, which does not create an unnecessary burden or impediment to patient care, of prescription opioids for cancer, surgical recovery, and painful chronic diseases.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Hate crimes traumatize the victim, as well as the community, causing significant financial, emotional, and social harm; therefore

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

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

140-370 Responsibility to Uphold National Security (Formerly “Responsibility of the Media and Individuals Pertaining to National Security” and “Responsibility of the Media Pertaining to National Security”; Convention 1984; Reaffirmed 1988; Reviewed 1992; Amended 1996; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Amended 2012; Reviewed 2016; Amended 2022)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

140-390 Rights of Crime Victims (Formerly “Victim/Witness Assistance”; Convention 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1989; Reviewed 1993; Reviewed 1997; Reviewed 2001; Reviewed 2005; Reviewed 2009; Reviewed 2013; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2022)

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Crime victims are provided with information about available services, restitution, victim compensation programs, and court events;
- Witnesses receive support and access to services to help them with the physical, psychological, financial, and other devastating effects of crime;
- Crime victims have the opportunity to participate in the criminal justice system, if they choose to do so, including being present at the trial and execution of the offender;
- Crime victims be kept informed of the status of the offender and court events, including but not limited to notice of the arrest, information on bail, escape and re-apprehension, imminent release, and details of the final disposition of the criminal case;
- Crime victims have the right to be accompanied to all criminal proceedings by a family member, victim advocate, or support person;
- Crime victims have the right and assistance necessary to comment on sentencing and post-sentencing decisions, and receive help preparing an oral and/or written victim impact statement detailing the physical, psychological, and economic effects of the crime;
- Prompt return of the crime victims’ property seized as evidence when it is no longer needed for prosecution;
- Prompt notice to crime victims of the arrest and/or release of an offender for violating any order of protection.

140-400 School Bus Safety (Convention 2022: Includes “School Bus Safety”, Convention 2017; and “Miranda’s Law,” Convention 2019)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

140-410 School Violence and Disruptions (Convention 1977; Amended 1981; Reaffirmed 1986; Reviewed 1990; Reviewed 1994; Reviewed 1998; Amended 2000; Reviewed 2004; Amended 2008; Reviewed 2012; Reviewed 2016; Amended 2022)

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Social Security has become a major source of income for many eligible individuals; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

140-440 Statehood (Formerly “Statehood for Puerto Rico”; Convention 1980; Reaffirmed 1986; Amended 1990; Reviewed 1994; Reviewed 1998; Reviewed 2002; Reviewed 2006; Reviewed 2010; Reviewed 2014; Reviewed 2019; Amended 2022)

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

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

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

140-450 Support of the United Nations (Convention 2022: Includes “Refugees,” Convention 1979; “Support of the United Nations,” Convention 1952; “Totalitarian Aggression,” Convention 1961; and “United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW),” Convention 1994)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

140-480 Transportation (Convention 2022: Includes “Safety for Air Travel,” Convention 1959; “Transportation,” Convention 1983; and “Safe Highways and Infrastructure,” Convention, 2011)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Every TBI is different, with symptoms ranging from mild to severe, depending on the extent of the damage to the brain; and

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

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

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

- Encourage the proper use of a seat belt while in a motor or recreational vehicle;
- Emphasize the importance of vehicle maintenance, use of appropriate safety equipment, and adherence to traffic laws;
- Encourage the wearing of a properly fitted helmet when participating in appropriate sports and recreational activities.

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

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

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

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

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

140-510 Vehicle Safety (Convention 2022: Includes "Vehicle Safety," Convention 1974; "Child Safety Seats," Convention 2001; and "Driver Education," Convention 1980)

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

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

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

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

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

140-520 Volunteer Liability Protection (Convention 2022: Includes “Volunteer Liability Protection,” Convention 1987; and “Limited Liability for Volunteer Drivers,” Convention 2021)

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

WHEREAS, The federal Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 (VPA) provides immunity to volunteers working for a non-profit or governmental entity from liability for certain good faith volunteer acts that are neither reckless, willful, or criminal; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The improper use of watercraft and/or water-sports equipment can result in serious personal injuries and fatalities; and

WHEREAS, Alcohol and drug use impairs judgment, balance, and coordination, and is a contributing factor in drownings; and

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

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

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