**Make your voice heard in the general election!**

**Launch of our general election hub and guidance on campaigning in the general election period**

Participating in the general election is a powerful way to make your voice heard and influence the direction of our country. With the general election taking place on 4July, it is vital that women get involved and use this moment to influence policies that impact our lives.

We have launched a hub on My WI setting out lots of ways that you can get involved in the general election. Included in this memo and also on the hub is important information about how to campaign within charity rules during the general election.

You can find on the hub:

* How to contact your candidates about our new Dental Health Matters campaign, following the vote at last week’s AM
* The End Violence Against Women coalition manifesto and some questions you could ask candidates about their commitment to ending male violence.
* A range of ways to take action on our Climate Change campaign
* Sources of information and guidance on how to ensure your activity stays within charity rules

Visit the [General Election hub on My WI](https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/generalelection) at <https://mywi.thewi.org.uk/generalelection>

**Points to remember**

The WI is an organisation that works to influence political decisions and policies in line with our campaigns and charitable objects whilst staying non-party political. If you’re engaging in the election as a WI, federation, or representing the organisation, you’ll need to take care not to express a party preference or be seen to encourage anyone to vote a particular way.

In the run up to the general election, there are additional electoral regulations in place when undertaking campaigning activities, and it is important that the WI does not engage in any activity which would be regulated under this legislation.

There are some important rules that apply to NFWI, WIs and federations and we include here sources of guidance which we would encourage you to check before planning or engaging with any activity to ensure you stay on the right side of charity law.

* The NFWI, WIs and federations are all charities, and as such do not engage in party political activity. This means that in accordance with charity law, the WI does not lend support to a party, politician, candidate or group of candidates.
* The NFWI, WIs and federations must not do anything which would reasonably be regarded as intended to influence people to vote for or against a political party, parties, or category of candidate at an upcoming election.
* The NFWI will be checking all nationally promoted activities in the run-up to the election to ensure that they are not regulated. Federations and WIs should familiarise themselves with the sources of guidance on this page and the rules that charities must follow in relation to campaigning, and in particular, the rules within their particular jurisdiction.

**Sources of guidance**

* [**Charity campaigning in a general election year**](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-campaigning-in-a-general-election-year) **(England and Wales)**
* [**Campaigning and political activity guidance for charities (England and Wales)**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/speaking-out-guidance-on-campaigning-and-political-activity-by-charities-cc9/speaking-out-guidance-on-campaigning-and-political-activity-by-charities)
* [**Electoral Commission guidance on non-party campaigners**](https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/our-guidance/campaigner/non-party-campaigner)
* [**Electoral Commission guidance on holding a hustings**](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/are-you-holding-a-hustings)

Further advice on particular activities will be provided alongside campaigns materials on My WI.

If you have any questions about this, or about planned activities, please contact the Public Affairs Department on pa@nfwi.org.uk

Best wishes,

Emma Holland-Lindsay

Head of Public Affairs