



Public Affairs Digest

Issue 61: May 2021

Dear Member,

Welcome to the NFWI *Public Affairs Digest*, an e-update on all the latest WI campaigning news, delivered directly to your inbox.

If you know anyone in your WI who is interested in our campaigns, please direct them to the campaigns area of [MyWI](#) to sign up to receive this Public Affairs Digest.



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The main priority for the NFWI is the safety and wellbeing of our members. If you haven't already, please visit [this link](#) for the latest, up to date government guidelines.

See more information about support [at the end of this Digest.](#)



Get on Board report: A New Route for Local Bus Services

On 20 April 2021 the NFWI (National Federation of Women's Institutes) launched its new report into the impacts of a reduction in bus services.

A New Route for Local Bus Services aims to help build understanding of the impacts of cuts to bus services on women and people living in rural areas. In particular the report explores the impacts of a significant reduction in local bus services on mental health, isolation and social exclusion, and sets out recommendations for future action.

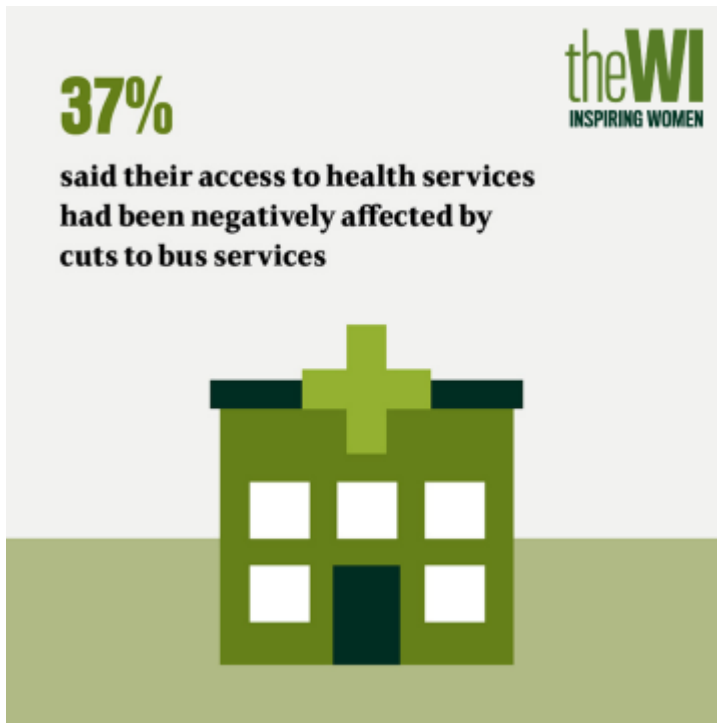
The findings showed that only 18 % - less than one in five – of survey respondents living in rural areas in the UK say they have access to a frequent, reliable bus service. Furthermore, 25% of those respondents said that cuts to bus services have made them feel more isolated, and 19% said their mental health had been negatively affected. Cuts to bus services have also meant a decrease in being able to connect to other transport services and, as a result, 72% said that their dependency on using a car and reliance on family and friends had increased.

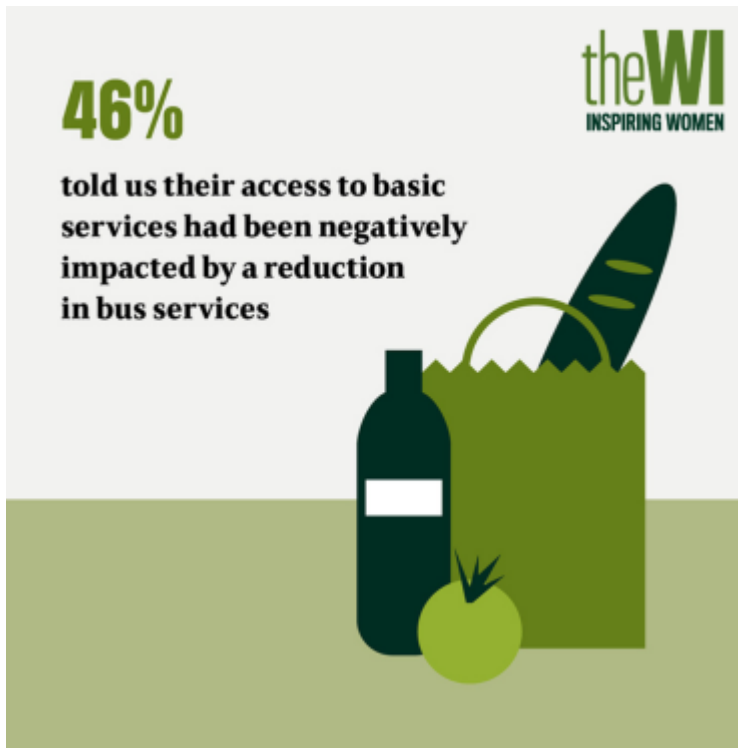
[You can download the report here.](#)

We are calling on members to use our template letter and email your local councillor, asking them to support our recommendations and implement them in Bus Service Improvement Plans, which will need to be published by Local Transport Authorities by October 2021.

The letter is available to send to your local authority/ transport authority.

To request the letter fill out the form on [this page](#).





There's still time to register! The WI presents 'Women in Leadership: Climate Change, Gender Equality & Covid-19 Recovery'

The WI is hosting an exciting webinar on the topic of women in leadership and there are a few spaces left. You will have the chance to hear from a fantastic panel of speakers who will come together to discuss the importance of having more women in leadership in tackling climate change, achieving gender equality and building towards Covid-19 recovery.

Discussion topics include:

- What role does women in leadership play in climate change, gender equality and Covid-19 recovery?
- Why is it important and necessary that we have more women in leadership positions and at decision-making levels?
- How do we get more women involved at decision-making levels?

The event will also include a Q&A session at the end, where you will have the opportunity to ask the panel members your questions.

We will be sharing the details of the fantastic line up of speakers soon.

Please note, this event is open to members and non-members. Don't worry if you can't make it- the webinar will be recorded and available to watch on **our YouTube channel**.

To book your place, click here.



MAKE A MATCH

Get ready for World Blood Cancer Day 28 May

As a part of our newest campaign, the WI will be marking World Blood Cancer Day on 28 May with a brand new action pack, which will be launched on the day. This will highlight a range of actions WIs can take to help increase awareness of the need for more stem cell donors and the donation process. The action pack includes a guide to holding your own (virtual) Make a Match events.

If you want to be the first to receive the action pack, when it's ready, please email the Public Affairs team by [clicking here](#).

On 28 May, Suffolk West WI is arranging a virtual Make a Match event to mark World Blood Cancer Day. The event is open to all members, but spaces are limited.

Hannah Thomas, from DKMS UK will talk about the importance of stem cell donation and the process for registering as well as donating, and Suffolk West

WI member Eirween Phillips will share her first-hand experience.

To read more and join the event, [click here.](#)

Later this summer, the NFWI will also publish a series of educational videos to be used alongside the event toolkit. These will be available on the Make a Match campaign page on My WI.

If you would like to be notified when these are launched, please email the Public Affairs team



This week: Join the online Food Power Festival

From Monday 17 - Thursday 20 May you can take part in a four-day celebration filled with workshops, panels, performances and more, all hosted by Sustain and Church Action on Poverty. If you're working to tackle the root causes of food poverty then this event is for you.

[Check out the final programme](#) to find the sessions that suit you and get your free ticket today.

[Find out more here.](#)

FULL TIME: Get Cooking with Marcus & Tom

No child should ever have to go to bed hungry. Today, far too many do.



In response to the UK Government's April 2021 uplift of the Healthy Start voucher scheme, Marcus Rashford MBE and Michelin-starred chef, Tom Kerridge, have joined forces to launch 'FULL TIME: Get Cooking with Marcus & Tom'. This nationwide initiative is in support of the #EndChildFoodPoverty campaign and the goal is to call 'Full Time' on child food poverty.

Each week, they will share an easy to follow recipe on IGTV, Instagram's video app and recipe cards will also be available in selected supermarkets. The scheme will offer the skills and confidence to cook proper food, guaranteeing everyone goes to bed with full tummies.

Follow @fulltimemeals on Instagram to keep up with the latest updates.



Save the Date: Wednesday4Women 9 June 2021

On Wednesday 9 June, we will be joining a day of action as part of #CracktheCrises.

Crack the Crises is asking for action to tackle 4 crises – climate change, inequality, covid-19 and nature. Across these crises women and girls are disproportionately impacted. Women play a leading role during crises – in our families, communities and workplaces. They are also the hardest hit by both COVID-19 and the climate crisis. Yet women are still largely absent from decision-making roles. This year the UK hosts the G7 and COP26 where decisions will be made that could benefit or hinder progress for gender equality

and women's rights in all their diversity.

#Wednesday4Women will unite people and organisations to come together (virtually) just before the G7 summit to challenge the G7 countries to act on gender equality and particularly to tackle the 3 Es – Education, Ending Violence Against Women and Girls and Empowering Women.

Keep an eye on social media for more details coming soon.

@WomensInstitute



PA Digest on My WI

Missed an issue of the Digest? You can now access previous issues on My WI.

[You can find them here.](#)



We want to hear about local WI campaign activities. Please email us with your news!



Support and help during pandemic

This can be a particularly difficult and worrying time for adults and children living with domestic abuse. **[This link](#)** will take you take a page of support sources, please share as widely as possible. It is important that survivors know that they are not alone.

This can also be a difficult and worrying time if you require additional assistance. If you need emergency food or support you can find the contact details of your local food bank using your postcode [here](#).

If you are able to support your local food bank with donations or by volunteering, click here to visit the [FareShare website](#).

You can also visit [this section](#) of our website for information from the NFWI on ways you can help your community, sources of support and other helpful information such as setting up a virtual meeting.

We have a PDF versions of the digest available, that you can share with the people around you. Please [get in touch](#) with the Public Affairs department if you would like a copy.

Please also encourage other members of your WI to sign up to receive this monthly digest.

Kind regards,

The NFWI Public Affairs team.

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