

The 2021 WRJ Resolutions Committee is excited to propose two new resolutions to WRJ. We are attaching these two proposed resolutions, which will be voted on by the WRJ Legislative Body at the virtual Legislative Body Session on the evening of March 18, 2021.

1. Labor Issues Impacting Women in the 21st Century

This proposed resolution focuses on labor issues disproportionately impacting women, specifically domestic workers, tipped wage workers, and those impacted by nondisclosure agreements and mandatory arbitration clauses. This resolution seeks to fill gaps in the existing WRJ/URJ labor policy. It calls upon our sisterhoods, women's groups, and individual members to advocate for legislation to extend labor protections to these workers. It also calls upon our women to advocate for the phasing out of the tipped minimum wage and limiting the use of arbitration clauses, class action waivers, and nondisclosure agreements as a condition of employment.

2. Addressing a Legacy of Reproductive and Gender-Based Violence Against Black, Indigenous and Women of Color in North America

This proposed resolution focuses on three areas – (1) racial disparities in maternal health and mortality, (2) forced and coerced sterilizations disproportionately impacting Women of Color, and (3) violence against Indigenous women and girls in the United States and Canada. WRJ does not have an existing policy in these areas. Therefore, this will be an area where WRJ and our women's groups can lead the way in raising awareness about critical women's issues that are too often overlooked.

This resolution calls upon our women to urge elected officials to pursue solutions improving racial disparities associated with maternal health outcomes and to pursue legislation and policy ensuring transparency, accountability, and consent relating to sterilization, as well as reparations to victims. It also calls on our women to urge elected officials to support policies improving protocols and reporting statistics related to violence against Indigenous women and girls, to eliminate jurisdictional gaps resulting in the denial of services to Indigenous women and girls, and to provide assistance to Indigenous and tribal governments in this area. It includes a call for sisterhood and congregational programming on these issues and financial support of and partnering with organizations that work in these areas.

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In proposing these two resolutions, the Resolutions Committee was guided by the need for a new policy on a particular issue, taking into consideration how well the issue aligns with WRJ's strategic high priorities for advocacy and whether the issue is actionable by our women.

We strongly encourage all sisterhoods and women's groups to bring these proposed resolutions to their boards for discussion. On February 22, 2021, at 7:30 pm Eastern time, WRJ will be holding an informal, informational Zoom session on the proposed resolutions. Then, at the upcoming WRJ Fried Women's Conference from March 12 to 14th, there will be a workshop addressing the issues raised in the proposed resolutions. However, due to this year's virtual format for the WRJ Legislative Body session on March 18, the discussion at that time will be limited.

All concerns and comments should be addressed to the co-chairs of the Resolutions Committee: Karen Goldberg (kgoldgm@gmail.com) and Judy Wexler (judithmwexler@gmail.com). Please send any comments that are purely editorial or grammatical, or related to the “Background” sections of the proposed resolutions, by February 19, for review and consideration by the Resolutions Committee in advance of the Legislative Body meeting. Any substantive concerns and questions, or those related to the “Therefore” sections, should be sent to the co-chairs of the Resolutions Committee in advance of the Legislative Body Session, to expedite the process on March 18. We hope to receive all substantive concerns and issues by the February 22 Zoom session.