

**GFWC Virginia Resolutions Committee
Clubwoman & Call for Convention February 2024**

This document is provided to the GFWC Virginia membership to provide the full details of the recommended actions from the GFWC Virginia Resolutions Committee.

In accordance with our Bylaws and the Standing Rules 10. Resolutions, the actions outlined in this report shall be presented in the Call to Convention and presented for action to the Convention delegates in April. The GFWC Virginia Resolutions Committee did not receive any requests or recommendations for new Resolutions this Administration. As outlined in the GFWC Virginia Bylaws and Standing Rules 10. Resolutions, the Committee has reviewed all existing GFWC Virginia and GFWC Resolutions and has the following recommendations for consideration and action:

Resolutions with Proposed Changes:

Note on format of the changes: Edits are presented in line. Text in red is proposed for deletion, items in green are new text. An overview of changes is presented at the end of each resolution and a rationale is also documented.

Civic Engagement & Outreach

4. ECONOMIC WORTH OF HOMEMAKERS ~~PARENT~~

WHEREAS, ~~The Homemakers parent~~ provides an invaluable service to ~~her~~ their home and family; and

WHEREAS, Laws affecting homemakers, including those dealing with property ownership, divorce, and death, may exclude or understate recognition of the homemaker’s contribution to the family, especially because they receive no income; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia works to change existing laws affecting homemakers that undervalue their economic value; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia supports legislation that fully recognizes the economic worth of homemaking.

Adopted 1979	Reviewed 1997	Reviewed 2014
Reviewed 1985	Reviewed 2003	Amended 2018
Reviewed 1989	Reviewed 2007	Reviewed 2022
Reviewed 1994	Reaffirmed 2009	

Rationale: Original wording mixed use of home parent and homemaker. A person can be a homemaker without being a parent. Definition of Homemaker: a person who spends their time looking after a home and doing housework rather than being employed outside the home (typically applied to a woman).

7. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is considered to be a modern-day form of slavery involving victims typically forced, defrauded, or coerced into sexual and/or labor exploitation; and

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a \$150 billion global criminal enterprise and a fastest growing global crime that cuts across race, nationality, gender, age, and socio-economic background; and

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WHEREAS, The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally; and

WHEREAS, In 2023~~18~~, Virginia ranked ~~1~~20th in the US for reported cases of human trafficking; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to:

- promote awareness and prevention by educating their members and communities about the seriousness, prevalence, and warning signs of human trafficking
- advocate for victims' support, protection and recovery, and support related legislation
- work towards ending human trafficking

Adopted 2018
Amended 2020
Reviewed 2022

Rationale: To update with current statistics

9. PRISON REFORM AND RE-ENTRY EFFORTS

WHEREAS, The concept of punishment alone as a deterrent to crime has been outmoded by statistics and by modern scientific studies of treatment of criminals which take into account the physical, sociological, mental and spiritual aspects of personality; and

WHEREAS, Use of **evidence-based** methods often develops reasonable, law abiding citizens with consequent reduction of repeated offenses and recommitments; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to continue study, and to urge their legislators to study recent advances in the conservation of human resources through psychological evaluation and wise use of all available methods of rehabilitation, and further, to encourage prison boards and administrators to take advantage of every possible resource in order that prisoners may be provided with and make use of:
Psychological evaluation and psychiatric treatment when indicated;
Adequate health standards and correction of physical defects where possible;
Remedial education;
Suitable job training;
Opportunity for substance abuse counseling and education;
Opportunity for religious education and counseling;
Opportunity for development of constructive use of leisure time; and further

RESOLVED, That efforts be made to improve rehabilitative services through raising educational and training standards of prison personnel and to provide adequate follow-up services upon release of prisoners in order to assist them in their adjustment as productive members of society.

Adopted 1974	Reviewed 1994	Edited 2003	Reviewed 2022
Reviewed 1978	Reviewed 1997	Reviewed 2007	
Reviewed 1985	Edited 1998	Reviewed 2014	
Reviewed 1989	Reviewed 2003	Reaffirmed 2018	

Rationale: To update to reflect new language and expand to include substance abuse counseling

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11. TEMPORARY ~~AID~~ ASSISTANCE TO NEEDY FAMILIES

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia has always been deeply concerned that adequate care be provided for all children; and

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia recognizes the family unit as basic to our society; and

WHEREAS, There is need for continuing study, reevaluation, and supervision of the temporary aid to needy families to assure wise and proper use of funds; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to support legislation that encourages program oversight and fiscal responsibility, ~~cooperate with proper authorities to avoid misuse of funds and and~~ to support efforts that correct inadequacies and inequities where they exist in the ~~temporary aid to needy families~~ distribution and utilization of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges that related state/local agencies and community resources be used to maintain a complete family unit and to assist the family to achieve economic independence.

Adopted 1990
Reviewed 1994
Edited 2003

Reviewed 2007
Reviewed 2014
Reaffirmed 2018

Reviewed 2022

Rationale: Update language and references to federal assistance program

17. CHRONIC ~~ABSENTEEISM-TRUANCY~~ –

WHEREAS, ~~Chronic Truancy is often indicative of possible substance abuse/mental health problems, and often leads to juvenile criminal behavior, and it is imperative that it be addressed as soon as possible; and~~

Chronic Absenteeism is defined by the Virginia Department of Education as missing more than 10% or more of the school year (e.g. 18 or more days) and

WHEREAS, Chronic Absenteeism correlates to low academic achievement, is a powerful predictor of dropout rates, has been linked to poor economic outcomes later in life, and increases the risk of involvement in the criminal justice system, and

WHEREAS, Chronic Absenteeism is worse since the pandemic, with 19.3% of students chronically absent during the 2022-23 school year, and

WHEREAS, Disadvantaged students are the most likely to miss school, furthering their disadvantages, and

~~WHEREAS, There is a need to strengthen and clarify the definition of chronic truancy in the Virginia Code)); and~~

WHEREAS, In cases of Chronic Absenteeism assistance is available through intervention of the Juvenile Court pursuant to Virginia Code 16.1-278.1 through 16.1-278.14; and **Code of Virginia § 22.1-258; and**

WHEREAS, Chronic ~~Truancy~~ Absenteeism cannot be addressed effectively without vigorous support of the parents, guardians, public and the complete commitment of the school system; therefore

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RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges all Virginia clubs to support local School System programs for chronic absenteeism awareness and prevention, and encourage parents, guardians, and communities ~~and School Systems~~ to make a ~~determined~~ concerted effort to ~~attaek~~ combat chronic absenteeism. ~~truancy as delineated in the Virginia Code, and if that effort fails to seek Juvenile Court intervention pursuant to Virginia Code 16.1-278.1-14.~~

Adopted 1994	Edited 2004	Reaffirmed 2015	Reviewed 2022
Substituted 1996	Reviewed 2007	Reaffirmed 2018	
Reviewed 2001	Reviewed 2014	Moved from Education 2021	

Rationale: Update to reflect current language and legal references, denote definition and additional statistics related to chronic absenteeism

21. SCAM AND FRAUD TACTIC AWARENESS

WHEREAS, Scam artists and fraudsters perpetuate a variety of creative scams that dupe the trusting, unsuspecting, uninformed members of society; and

WHEREAS, ~~The elderly are particularly trusting and vulnerable to flimflam tactics~~ One in ten adults in the United States fall victim to a scam or fraud event annually; and

WHEREAS, Scam ~~artist and fraud~~ incidents often are not reported due to victims being embarrassed, ashamed, or fearful ~~that the con artist will retaliate~~; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its members clubs to educate their members ~~mselves~~, the general public, and particularly the elderly, to recognize scam and fraud schemes, avoid and report incidents of scam and fraud ~~con games of scam artists~~; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges federal (Consumer Financial Protection Board (CFPB), Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Federal Reserve Board, and Office of Justice Programs), state (Attorney General of Virginia – Consumer Protection) and local agencies and community resources be used to publicize the types of scams and fraud to help prevent their perpetuation.

Adopted 1992	Reviewed 2007	Reaffirmed 2018
Reviewed 1996	Reaffirmed 2009	Moved from Home Life 2021
Reviewed 2003	Amended 2014	Reviewed 2022

Rationale: Update to reflect current language and add resources for combating fraud.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

15. SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS DISEASES

WHEREAS, Sexually transmitted ~~diseases~~ infections constitute a major health problem in the world today; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control states that the fastest growing population for sexually transmitted disease ~~infections~~ is in the elder community; and

WHEREAS, Education can help to prevent and to control the spread of these ~~diseases-~~ infections; and

WHEREAS, Further research is needed to identify the causes and to develop prevention education of

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sexually transmitted **infections diseases**; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia endorses a comprehensive education program in the school system, elder community and the community on sexually transmitted - **infections**; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs, health care providers and health care workers, parents, youth advisors, educators, and all other responsible persons to support research and public education on sexually transmitted **infections**.

RESOLVED, the GFWC Virginia support comprehensive screening and treatment programs for sexually transmitted **infections**.

Adopted 1976	Reviewed 1994	Reviewed 2014
Reviewed 1979	Edited 1997	Amended 2018
Reviewed 1985	Edited and Amended 2003	Reviewed 2022
Reviewed 1989	Amended 2007	

Rationale: Update language to reflect current terminology

Recommendation to submit Amendment to GFWC Resolution

The GFWC Virginia Resolutions Committee moves that GFWC Virginia submit a recommendation to GFWC Resolutions Committee to amend Resolution 140-310 by adding an additional provision to the RESOLVED: promote awareness and prevention by educating their members and communities about the seriousness, prevalence, and warning signs of human trafficking

Rationale: GFWC Resolution as currently stated does not recommend clubs educate their members and communities about the concerns of Human Trafficking. The Committee felt the GFWC Virginia Resolution is stronger in this area and it has a broader scope that aligns to the intent of the GFWC Resolution.

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.

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Resolutions recommended to be moved from Civic Engagement & Outreach to Education:

17. CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM (see above)

20. SUPPORT OF THE TEACHING PROFESSION

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia recognizes the value and importance of good classroom teachers in the achieving of excellence in education; and

WHEREAS, The impact of a teacher on the individual child is invaluable in the development of a sense of self-worth in that child; and

WHEREAS, Retention of good teachers is necessary for quality education; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia declares its continued support of teachers' salaries that are commensurate with ability; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges the Governor and the Virginia General Assembly to appropriate adequate funding for teachers' salaries.

Adopted 1995	Reaffirmed 2009	Moved from Education 2021
Edited 2003	Reviewed 2014	Reviewed 2022
Reviewed 2007	Reaffirmed 2018	

Resolutions recommended for rescension:

Note on format: Current resolution is presented, followed by the Rationale for Rescinding. If a Resolution is recommended to be rescinded because a GFWC Resolution is applicable, it is presented in blue.

Civic Engagement & Outreach

2. COMMUNITY GROUP HOMES FOR JUVENILES

WHEREAS, Juvenile delinquency and youth in need of services are increasing at an alarming rate; and

WHEREAS, The best hope of preventing and controlling juvenile delinquency is through programs of adequate community-based services; and

WHEREAS, The juvenile court has too few alternatives to the commitment of children into State care because of the absence of local treatment and training programs; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that some children presently being committed to the State can be rehabilitated within the locality if adequate resources are available; therefore

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RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia recommends that State reimbursements, similar to those provided in the development of juvenile detention facilities, be made available to communities for the promotion of family-oriented community group homes programs, which will work, insofar as possible in conjunction with the Family Courts, Probation Departments and the Department of Social Services.

Substituted for Resolution “Halfway Houses”

(Adopted 1969, Reviewed 1973) 1978

Reviewed 1985	Reviewed 2003	Reaffirmed 2015
Reviewed 1989	Reviewed 2007	Reaffirmed 2018
Reviewed and Edited 1994	Reaffirmed 2009	Reviewed 2022
Edited 1997	Reviewed 2014	

Rationale: Community Group Homes no longer operate in Virginia as described in the Virginia resolution. GFWC Resolution 140-300, Juvenile Justice and Delinquency, is a broader resolution that speaks to community-based programs and services and funding for services through the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP A).

GFWC 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 “incurable” 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.

3. CRIME PREVENTION

WHEREAS, One of the most important functions of government is to protect the inalienable right of the citizen to be secure in person and property within his home and in his movement through the streets, parks and countryside; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia 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, initiate and promote programs, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, that combat crime.

Adopted 1972	Reviewed 1994	Amended 2014
Amended 1979	Reviewed 1997	Reaffirmed 2018
Reviewed 1985	Amended 2003	Reviewed 2022

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Reviewed 1989

Reviewed 2007

Rationale: GFWC Resolution 140-70 Crime Prevention is stronger and broader than the Virginia Resolution.

GFWC 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.

5. FAMILY VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, Family violence in the United States is widespread, cutting across age, ethnic, racial, educational, and socio-economic lines, resulting in physical abuse and deaths within the family and among law enforcement officials responding to situations of domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Family violence is a cause of emotional and behavioral disturbance in children and adults and battering and battered spouses often batter their children who, in turn, may become violent adults, thus perpetuating the cycle; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for emergency shelters for victims of family violence as well as confidentiality of address; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia shall initiate and actively support legislation and programs which will:

Identify violence-prone families and suspected cases of child abuse and battered spouses;

Provide emergency aid and shelter for those who are forced to leave family settings; and

Provide treatment for victims and perpetrators of family violence; and

Provide for a system to assure confidentiality of addresses of victims of family violence; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia will enlist the help of health care professionals, legal and law enforcement agencies, court advocates, religious and civic organizations, and the general public to recognize and eventually eradicate family violence.

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Adopted 1979	Reviewed 1997	Reviewed 2007	Reviewed 2022
Reviewed 1985	Amended 1998	Reaffirmed 2009	
Reviewed 1989	Reviewed 1999	Amended 2014	
Reviewed 1994	Reviewed 2003	Reaffirmed 2018	

Rationale: GFWC 110-020 - Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention is broader

GFWC 110-020 Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention (Convention 2022: Includes “Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention,” Convention 1987; and “Sexual Assault,” Convention 1987)

WHEREAS, Domestic and sexual violence, including but not limited to verbal, physical, emotional, mental, and sexual abuse, continues to increase, regardless of race, religion, gender and/or gender identity, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, educational and socioeconomic status, and may result in emotional distress, physical injury, and/or death to victims; and

WHEREAS, Domestic and sexual violence has many aspects requiring society’s attention, including:

- Financial dependence on the abuser, forcing the victim to remain in dangerous situations;
- Human trafficking for sexual exploitation of victims who are forced, defrauded, or coerced;
- Dating violence, particularly among teens, where a person in a dating relationship is harmed, threatened, intimidated, or controlled;
- Increased risk of future domestic and sexual violence actions by children and youth who witness and/or are victimized by domestic and sexual violence, including emotional trauma;
- Increased risk to native women residing on American Indian tribal land and in Alaskan Native villages who suffer domestic and sexual violence at a greater rate than other populations; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that domestic violence abusers and stalkers with firearms are five times more likely to kill their victims, and firearms further exacerbate the power dynamic used by abusers to inflict emotional abuse and coercive control over their victims; and

WHEREAS, Prevention and prosecution of domestic and sexual violence may be provided through collection of evidence and legal protections; and

WHEREAS, State laws and available legal remedies only address certain areas of abuse and may be applied inconsistently, and the need for law enforcement and judicial training, emergency shelters, and counseling services for survivors of abuse continues to grow; therefore

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

- Support survivors of domestic and sexual violence without discrimination;
- Identify at-risk families and suspected cases of domestic and sexual violence;
- Increase awareness of the risks of financial dependence and provide necessary resources to become financially self-sufficient;
- Advocate for increased awareness and education on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence, including dating violence prevention programs in schools;
- Provide emergency aid, shelter, and transitional housing for those who are forced to leave or flee violent settings;
- Authorize Tribal governments to have jurisdiction under federal law to prosecute and hold domestic and sexually violent offenders accountable and provide services to survivors;
- Strengthen state laws prohibiting possession of firearms by individuals charged with domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking until the charges have been resolved or their complete sentence has been

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served, and requiring the relinquishment of firearms to law enforcement while a valid order of protection is on record against them;

- Ensure the timely entry of all domestic violence, sexual assault, and/or stalking criminal records and orders of protection into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS);
- Provide survivors access to Rape Kits, medical testing, and treatment;
- Advocate for legal support and assistance for victims;
- Expand the legal protection for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) to include both current and former spouses and dating partners, as in the definition provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
- Advocate for law enforcement and judicial training, and rape crisis centers, emergency shelters, and specially trained medical and counseling service providers for victims and survivors.

10. RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR WOMEN

WHEREAS, Women often have to face the prospect of poverty when they grow old; and

WHEREAS, Working women often have found that their retirement benefits are inadequate; and

WHEREAS, Many private pension plans have no provisions for income payments for a widow of any age;

RESOLVED That GFWC Virginia urges the government, at all levels, to enact legislation to assure equitable security benefits for women in all pension plans.

Adopted 1979	Edited 1991	Reaffirmed 2009
Reviewed 1983	Reviewed 1995	Reviewed 2014
Reviewed 1995	Reviewed 2003	Reaffirmed 2018
Edited 1987	Reviewed 2007	Reviewed 2022

Rationale: GFWC Resolution 140-380 Retirement is broader and stronger

GFWC 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

12. DRUNK/DRUGGED DRIVING

WHEREAS, Alcohol/Drug related traffic crashes are the greatest single cause of death for young people and a leading cause of death for persons of all ages; and

WHEREAS, concerned persons are demanding permanent solutions to the problem of drunk/drugged driving; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to cooperate with other organizations in

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supporting community-based alcohol and drug prevention programs/projects; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to support legislation to strengthen, update, and strictly enforce state laws regarding alcohol/drug sales and driving under the influence; and further

RESOLVED, that GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to support laws which guarantee immediate arrest and speedy trial of offenders and tough, standardized penalties assessed by the courts.

Adopted 1990	Amended 2003	Reaffirmed 2018
Reviewed and Edited 1994	Reviewed 2007	Moved from Safety 2021
Edited 1998	Reviewed 2014	Reviewed 2022

Rationale: GFWC Resolution 140-270 Impaired and Distracted Driving is broader and also covers distracted driving.

GFWC 140-270 – broader to cover distracted driving as well

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.

13. LICENSING STANDARDS FOR DRIVERS

WHEREAS, Loss of life and property from accidents involving drivers on our streets and highways have reached alarming heights; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia endorses improved and more rigid licensing standards and procedures, which will permit on Virginia roads only those who are competent drivers; and further

RESOLVED, That driver education continue to be a prerequisite for a driver’s license.

Edited 1979	Reviewed 1997	Reaffirmed 2018
Reviewed 1985	Reviewed 2003	Edited by 2018-20 Resolutions Committee
Edited 1989	Reviewed 2007	Moved from Safety 2021
Reviewed and Edited 1994	Reviewed 2014	Reviewed 2022

Rationale: Work completed. Drivers Education required for all public-school students. Regulations have been updated.

14. ROADSIDE REFLECTIVE MARKERS

WHEREAS, GFWC Virginia has been active in accident prevention on our highways and streets; and

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WHEREAS, The painted white lines on our highways and streets are highly ineffective at night when driving in inclement weather; and

WHEREAS, The Raised Reflective Markers have been tested extensively and found to be an outstanding driving guide at night and during rain and fog, and have proven to be a major factor in the reduction of accidents involving injuries and fatalities; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia calls upon its member clubs to urge the Commonwealth of Virginia to continue in an acceptable scientific manner its study, research and use of Raised Reflective Markers on State and Federal highways in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Adopted 1974	Reviewed 1994	Reaffirmed 2009	Reviewed 2022
Reviewed 1978	Reviewed 1997	Reviewed 2014	
Amended 1985	Reviewed 2003	Reaffirmed 2018	
Reviewed 1989	Reviewed 2007	Moved from Safety 2021	

Rationale: Work has been completed. Federal regulations require use of reflective markers.

15. TERRORISM

WHEREAS, Terrorism continues to be a grave 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, National, state and local governments need to be better prepared for fighting and responding to terrorism; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to support anti-terrorism efforts including:
Educating members to better understand the vast forms of terrorism in order to be better prepared
Supporting legislation that develops and implements a domestic anti-terrorism strategy providing strong counter-terrorism programs, and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges members be vigilant and observant of their surroundings at all times; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges the United States to work collaboratively with international organizations and governments to combat terrorism; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia strongly 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.

Adopted 2003	Reviewed 2014	Moved from Safety 2021
Reviewed 2007	Reaffirmed 2018	Reviewed 2022

Rationale: GFWC Resolution 140-460 Terrorism is broader and stronger.

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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.

18. SCHOOL VIOLENCE

WHEREAS, The theft, vandalism, personal assaults and bullying on students, teachers, and personnel in the schools are alarming; and

WHEREAS, Incidents of crime and violence disrupt schools and interfere with the educational process; therefore

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges it member clubs to promote programs to reduce school crime and disruption by working with representatives from the school and community to:

- Study the local situation;
- Determine a course of action;
- Implement programs of prevention and correction when needed; and further

RESOLVED, That GFWC Virginia urges its member clubs to participate actively in local government and school board meetings, urging the regulations and policy be more direct and specific in response to discipline situations resulting in stricter control and more timely solutions, including expulsion.

Adopted 1978	Reviewed and edited 1995	Reviewed 2014	Reviewed 2022
Reviewed 1985	Edited 2003	Reaffirmed 2018	
Reaffirmed 1989	Reviewed 2007	Moved from Education 2021	

Rationale: GFWC Resolution 140-410 School Violence and Disruptions is stronger and broader.

GFWC 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

GFWC Virginia Resolutions Committee
Clubwoman & Call for Convention February 2024

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.