

This resolution reads like a call to women everywhere today. It stood ahead of its time in 1953, and continues to challenge ACWW members now. Women must take responsibility for making their voices heard, and those of us in positions of privilege must amplify the voices of our sisters all over the world.

Citizenship - Women's Responsibilities 1953

Whereas orderly world government depends upon good and informed citizenry in the community, the state (or its equivalent), and the nation, as well as internationally, and an understanding of how governments affects the family unit, it is recommended that ACWW work towards interesting women to assume their responsibilities as informed and active citizens of their own countries and of the world and that they:

- a. be informed on major legislation, which affects the home and the family;
- b. be prepared to accept local, state (or its equivalent) and national offices, and to serve the UN and its Specialised Agencies in any way possible;
- c. vote in all elections wherever that opportunity is given to women and work for that privilege wherever it has been denied;
- d. study the qualifications and programmes of candidates who seek to represent the people;
- e. encourage the training of leaders in citizenship and foster citizenship training for all.



Today, we see the outcome of the implied warning in this resolution. Governments, companies, and society as a whole have not invested enough in reducing pollution, and we are suffering the consequences. If this was relevant in 1971, it is even more so now.

Environmental Pollution 1971

That in view of the ever-increasing danger from pollution of man's whole environment, the members of ACWW undertake to do all they can to prevent further damage in their own neighbourhood and to urge their Governments to take immediate preventative and remedial action.



As urban areas struggle to cope with the effects of overpopulation, and society suffers from lack of investment in sustainable agriculture, this ACWW resolution from 1974 remains relevant. As younger generations migrate to opportunities in urban areas, rural areas and, by default, rural people are forgotten. Not only must we call for governments to invest in older, rural communities, we must also do our best to ensure that younger generations have opportunities to pursue education and work in their own community.

Rural Areas 1974

That societies of ACWW study means of promoting projects to encourage rural residents to remain in rural areas by increasing educational opportunities and helping to create jobs.



This topic is still seen as controversial, even more so in 1974. However, ACWW member societies, knowing the importance of informed decision-making in all areas of life, advocated for family planning education and resources to be widely available. This is still relevant today, and we should seek to make sure that every woman and girl has access to sexual health education and services.

Population 1974

That ACWW through its Member Societies be recommended to take effective steps to promote information and education on the responsibilities of planning families and urge their governments to provide family planning education and facilities for all women and men.



These 2 resolutions stand in stark contrast to one another - in 1950, 5 years after WW2, society as a whole was seeking peace. ACWW, along with organisations around the world called for an end to war and the pursuit of peace in all international relations. We then see that 9 years later, ACWW societies made a pleading call to governments to suspend nuclear tests that were driving the world to live in fear. ACWW notes with horror that this resolution remains relevant, and we will continue to call on governments in the same spirit of these resolutions: we must pursue peace.

Peace 1950

That freedom from want, freedom of thought, freedom of expression, and freedom of conscience for all individuals be accepted as the fundamental concept of peace by the ACWW.

Thermonuclear Tests 1959

Noticing with feelings of genuine fear the increase of nuclear tests destructive to humanity, and the potential dangers of total annihilation to which the world today stands exposed; seeing the incalculable damage that these nuclear tests destructive to humanity have already done to the peaceful population of the places near which such tests are being carried out; This Ninth Triennial Conference of the ACWW pleads in all humility with all the nations of the world in the interests of the great civilizations that they have evolved, in the interests of safeguarding the human race from extinction, in the name of millions of innocent women and children of the world, to suspend voluntarily all nuclear tests destructive to humanity and in doing so earn the gratitude of an ailing humanity revitalised with the hope of possible survival.

