



The Catholic Women's League of Canada

MEMO

DATE: November 30, 2024
FROM: Glenda Carson, National Chairperson of Social Justice
TO: Provincial Chairpersons of Social Justice
THROUGH: Provincial Presidents and Secretaries
CC: National executive
National Life Member Liaison
RE: National Resolutions Update – Revised and New Resources

Are resolutions worth it? Do they really have an impact?

This question was part of the feedback from members during the 2024 annual national convention in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and reflects a common concern I have received from some members throughout my term as national chairperson of social justice. The resolution process is commonly viewed as lengthy, frustrating and sometimes overwhelming. So, are they worth the effort?

Determining whether a resolution has directly impacted legislation or societal concerns is challenging, as many factors influence a bill's success or the prioritization of issues. However, one thing is clear—without advocacy, change is impossible.

Advocating to governments and organizations drives meaningful change by promoting equity, amplifying marginalized voices and fostering accountability. Public pressure compels leaders to prioritize fairness, human rights and timely action on critical issues like poverty, racism, climate justice and access to healthcare or education. Members' combined voices carry strength in numbers for a women's organization as large as the League.

Advocacy also raises awareness, inspiring others to act and create a ripple effect. It challenges systemic inequalities, promotes inclusivity and empowers communities, demonstrating the power of collective action. Even small efforts can lead to significant outcomes, helping shape a society rooted in equity, justice and dignity.

Resolution Resources: New and Revised

Indeed, developing a resolution can be challenging and rigorous criteria must be met. Resolutions represent the League as public documents to all members, the public and legislators. Therefore, League resolutions must be consistent in form, factually accurate in their rationale and clear in their purpose. Barriers to having resolutions accepted for consideration for adoption at the various council levels most often relate to the resolution needing to meet the criteria for acceptance. In recent years, significant efforts have been made to provide members with updated and relevant resources for drafting resolutions and educational materials to encourage resolution initiatives. It is an ongoing effort to work towards current and effective resources.

The [Resolutions Handbook](#) and [Resolutions Guide](#) are currently being updated in areas as needed. Planned enhancements include a resource for Modern Language Association (MLA) citations and exploring alternative formats for education for members on key aspects of resolution development. Many of these changes are a response to member feedback and concerns.

Stay tuned for updates, revisions and new materials. The timeline for releasing the revisions and new resources is set for the end of December. Any new educational tools will appear by spring 2025. By equipping members with robust tools and support for developing resolutions, we can strengthen advocacy efforts and drive positive change.