

Arguments for the resolution.

- This is a current and timely issue and, with an increasingly ageing population, is likely to become more acute. Despite this, there are relatively few organisations working on the issue nationally, and those who are tend to represent it through the lens of older people.
- With this resolution, the WI has the opportunity use its influence and network to help catalyse a movement to bring awareness, understanding and action to a widespread problem.



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Arguments against the resolution.

- Could this resolution be seen as inviting WIs and WI members to impose themselves on other people, in situations where that attention may be unwelcome?
- Is this resolution more a local, rather than a national issue? WIs can work on this issue without the need to invoke a national resolution, and many will be doing some of this work already.
- Would this resolution reinforce stereotypes about the WI as focusing on older people?

Further information

National organisations:

- Age UK: www.ageuk.org.uk/
- Campaign to End Loneliness: <http://www.campaigntoendloneliness.org/>

Organisations that might be able to help with speakers locally:

- Contact your local authority, local health / wellbeing board – they might have someone who could talk on the issue or be familiar with charities that offer befriending or similar services in your area.
- Do you know health or social care workers who work in the community? They may encounter loneliness in their day to day job and be happy to speak on the issue, or point you in the direction of someone who can.
- Ask members of your WI – they might be involved with initiatives locally or have good ideas of people to ask.

Interesting video clips on the issue, available online:

Victoria Derbyshire report discussing the BBC documentary 'The Age of Loneliness' and featuring individuals who took part in the programme. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03dsrv3>

TED talk on emotional health which talks about loneliness.

https://www.ted.com/talks/guy_winch_the_case_for_emotional_hygiene?language=en#

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