

**AAUW Resolutions and Index**

**1933–2017**

## **AAUW RESOLUTIONS**

**1933**

In addition to resolutions expressing the appreciation of the association to the administrative officers, the speakers, the Minneapolis branch, and others who had contributed to the success of the convention, the following resolutions were adopted:

### **Emergency in Education**

WHEREAS, our public schools, colleges, universities, and libraries are facing a critical emergency unparalleled in our history,

WHEREAS, this emergency is essentially a financial one growing out of the current economic depression, with its elements of widespread unemployment, business losses, depreciated investments, and reduced incomes, and

WHEREAS, this economic condition has resulted in a deplorable retrenchment in the field of education, be it *Resolved*, that the American Association of University Women assembled in this eighth National Convention does hereby endorse the following recommendation of the Educational Policies Committee:

That the branches be encouraged to concentrate their efforts on keeping up educational standards in their respective communities; on supporting the superintendents of schools and presidents of state and city institutions of higher education in their efforts to hold important educational projects; in taking active part in supporting educational programs presented to state legislatures; in defending the prerogatives of qualified educational leadership to distribute the necessary reductions with due consideration for relative educational values.

Be it further

*Resolved*, that this association requests its National Legislative Committee to convey to the President of the United States and to his advisers the imperative need for the continued support of essential research in government departments.

### **Radio**

WHEREAS, radio and television as media for the advancement of education and culture are destined to become increasingly valuable, be it

*Resolved*, that this association in convention assembled urge state divisions and local branches to be alert to conserve in every feasible manner these agents for the purposes of education and culture, and to protect them and the public from undesirable development and exploitation.

**1935**

### **A Statement of Principles**

A statement of principles fundamental to the AAUW program was adopted by the convention. Resolutions embodying this declaration were submitted by the Educational Policies and International Relations Committees with the approval of the board of directors, who felt that in meeting the many problems arising between conventions some statement of policies and of focal interests of the association was essential.

The resolutions adopted by the convention place the association on record in support of four fundamentals of democracy: equal educational opportunity, freedom of speech, social and economic security, and a foreign policy directed toward international peace. While not intended to circumscribe the work of any branch, this statement of

policies will give direction to branch, state, and national programs.

## **RESOLUTION I**

That the following statement regarding democracy and a declaration of principles be and hereby is approved for adoption:

To ensure the continued integrity of a democracy in the United States of America outlined in the federal Constitution with its incorporation of the Bill of Rights as presented in the first ten amendments, there must be:

1. Free public instruction available to all since popular education is the basis of freedom and justice.
2. Full, free, and open discussion of any and all economic, political, and social issues and governmental acts, policies, and principles in our cultural agencies.
3. Social and economic security to ensure the individual's right to liberty and happiness.
4. Formulation and maintenance of a foreign policy by the United States of America directed toward the perpetuation of international peace and predicated on the assumption that human life and civilization are more important than material interests.

For AAUW this means the following things:

First, to take such steps as may be necessary to promote efforts to obtain equality of educational opportunity throughout the states.

Second,

- a. to protect cultural agents as teachers in their most essential professional obligation to face and discuss facts and theories fully and fearlessly;
- b. to see that adequate documentations and evaluation of factual statements and opinions are presented to or by students;
- c. to concert efforts to eliminate extraneous and dictatorial principals from control in schools and colleges;
- d. to support free speech and freedom of the press.

Third,

- a. to develop a better understanding of the socioeconomic forces operating at this time conditioning security as a necessary approach to a constructive educational program in the interests of oncoming generations;
- b. to recognize that the consumer's interest lies in the establishment and maintenance of adequate standards of living;
- c. to oppose discrimination that works to the detriment of women in the economic and social fields;
- d. to oppose the domination of thought by a dictatorial philosophy of the state.

Fourth,

- a. to emphasize the development of the educational approach to international peace;
- b. to support those administrative and legislative measures best calculated to uphold a national policy of peace in international affairs. (Resolution II develops this program.)

Fifth, that the appropriate committees and staff members of the association be directed by the board to take such steps as may be necessary to uphold these standards.

## **RESOLUTION II**

To amplify Paragraph 4b (part 2 of the resolution on democracy) and to interpret it specifically in the light of current international issues, the Committee on International Relations offers the following declaration in regard to the foreign

policy of the United States:

*Resolved*, that the American Association of University Women

A. In the Conduct of Foreign Policy

1. Support the continuance and extension of the good neighbor policy in the foreign policy of the United States.
2. Support proposals from the Department of State recommending means to conduct foreign affairs more efficiently.
3. Support the formulation of a new policy to govern the neutrality of the United States during periods of international armed conflict, the primary purpose of which should be to diminish the danger of our being involved in war, but which would leave open the possibility of cooperation in international efforts to suppress war by pacific methods.

B. Building Effective Peace Machinery

1. Support United States membership in the League of Nations on terms consistent with our commitments under the Pact of Paris.
2. Promote an understanding of the work and the value of the International Labor Organization in order that the United States may participate effectively in its activities.

C. Reducing War Machinery

1. Promote a widespread understanding of the findings of the Senate Munitions Investigating Committee.
2. Support the principle of control of the manufacture of and traffic in arms and munitions by both international treaty and national legislation.
3. Support treaties for the international reduction and limitation of land, air, and naval armaments, either by a general convention or by separate treaties covering subjects ripe for agreement.
4. Recommend that the state divisions work for legislation to provide that military training in schools and colleges supported by public funds be elective and not compulsory.
5. Work for curtailment of any military or naval program of the United States based upon policies not in accord with a doctrine of actual national defense.

D. Economic Policies of the Government

1. Urge the study of the relation of our domestic economic policies to the maintenance of international peace.
2. Urge that the government of the United States take the initiative in disposing of the war debts question as an issue in international economic and political relations.

**1937**

I

*Be it resolved*, that the American Association of University Women reiterate the following declaration of principles adopted at the national convention in Los Angeles in 1935:

To ensure the continued integrity of a democracy in the United States of America outlined in the federal Constitution with its incorporation of the Bill of Rights as presented in the first ten amendments, there must be:

1. Free public instruction of high quality available to all, since popular education is the basis of freedom and justice.
2. Full, free, and open discussion of any and all economic, political, and social issues and governmental acts, policies, and principles in our cultural agencies.
3. Social and economic security to ensure the individual's right to liberty and happiness.
4. Formulation and maintenance of a foreign policy by the United States of America directed toward the perpetuation of international peace and predicated on the assumption that human life and civilization are more important than material

interests.

## II

WHEREAS, the American Association of University Women has as one of its important aims the intellectual advancement of women, and

WHEREAS, certain opportunities or the realization of this ideal are in danger of being lost; be it *Resolved*, that this association renew its faith in one of its original purposes by working concertedly to enlarge the opportunities for women in academic life.

## III

WHEREAS, the enthusiasm shown in the sessions of the Arts Division in the Tenth National Convention at Savannah, Georgia, has been so marked and the demands for enlargement of the program so insistent, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the board of directors be asked to give the same recognition and support to the Committee on Arts as is afforded the other divisions of the activities of the American Association of University Women by the appointment on a full time basis at national headquarters of an associate in arts.

## 1939

Inasmuch as the American Association of University Women is dedicated to the promotion of a democratic education in the conviction that progress in civilization can best be advanced by the freedom for individual development inherent in true democracy, be it

*Resolved* that the following statement of principles be adopted as an interpretation of the fundamental position of this association in relation to the problems of the day:

1. A broad general education, equally accessible to all its people, and free of self-interested control, is basic to the solution of major problems arising within a democracy.
2. International peace, based upon collective responsibility, is essential to the progressive evolution of democracy.
3. The social and economic welfare of the individual underlies democratic philosophy and is essential to the perpetuation of democratic government.
4. Opportunity for the creative use of leisure, and the enjoyment of aesthetic experiences as embodied in the creative arts, are a part of the inalienable right of the individual to the pursuit of happiness, and are favorable to the development of national culture.
5. Full and free opportunity for women intellectually, socially, and economically, including the right to be employed according to abilities without regard to sex or marital status, should be allowed under a democratic form of government.

## 1941

A general statement of AAUW policy was approved by the convention in the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, the American Association of University Women has long been committed to the belief that civilization can progress only through the practice of democracy, and

WHEREAS, emergency conditions threaten to undermine basic ideals for which the association stands; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the following statement of principles be adopted as an interpretation of the position of this association with regard to contemporary problems and as a guide to its program of work.

1. Democratic education, a first responsibility of the American Association of University Women at all times, necessitates in the present emergency the development of a philosophy of education that recognizes the interdependence of educational institutions and the community; utilizes the heritage of differing groups; provides equal opportunity for all youth; and envisages the reconstruction of the world on a basis of respect for the dignity and worth of the individual.
2. To achieve these objectives it is necessary to mobilize public opinion and action for the advancement of education, formal and informal, in the nation, and for valid measures designed to equalize educational opportunities; and in general to assume responsibility as citizens for the adequate functioning of public schools.
3. To meet the present crisis and to build for the future, we need the trained mind and the inquiring spirit. The association's fellowship programs to encourage gifted women scholars are therefore more important than ever.
4. A foreign policy necessary to the establishment of the consolidation and further development of a stable democratic world order must include friendly relations among all nations of the Western Hemisphere for common defense and the support of all nations resisting aggression.
5. Personal and interorganizational relations among all nations should be fostered by continued support of the International Federation of University Women and by assistance to university women of other lands.
6. A coordinated welfare system; adequate labor standards, fair both to employer and employee; and community education on all social and consumer problems are essential to the maintenance of the democratic way of life.
7. Continuous effort toward the integration of the arts with society by study, practice, and the wide distribution among all elements of society of the opportunity for esthetic experience is important, for the arts are essential to a proper knowledge of our heritage and of contemporary life.
8. Women in a democracy should have opportunity to participate fully in the intellectual, social, economic, and political life of the nation according to their ability as persons without restriction because of sex or marital status.
9. It is the obligation of women to preserve and interpret their role by accepting responsibilities and by being alert to the contributions they may make to the welfare of society.
10. The American Association of University Women, as a means of protecting civilian standards and assisting in the defense program shall advocate: first, the practice of thrift; second, investment in Defense Savings; third, reduction in the number of patterns and styles of merchandise, wherever it is deemed necessary, in order that labor and machines may be more effectively and economically used.
11. Realizing the increasing gravity of the national emergency as the world crisis intensifies, and recognizing the responsibility of AAUW for its share in national leadership, this convention urges upon the board of directors the full exercise of its initiative during the period between conventions, including the appointment of whatever committee or committees the emergency may require.

**1943: No convention was held in 1943 due to travel restrictions imposed during World War II.**

**1945**

WHEREAS, the American Association of University Women believes in and has always supported the fundamental principles and processes of democracy, and

WHEREAS, our conviction is being deepened and given new meaning during these years of worldwide strife and adjustment, be it

*Resolved*, that this association adopt the following statement of principles as an interpretation of its position and as a guide in organizing its resources and directing the efforts of its members toward a practical program of work.

1. Democratic education is a first responsibility of the association at all times. Educational opportunities designed to achieve the maximum development of individual abilities and the best use of human resources should be available for all from early childhood through adult life.

2. To foster a world society in which individuals and nations may live in security, dignity, and peace, we must emphasize international cooperation as a practical test of domestic and foreign policies, and we must effectively work at the continuing task of establishing and maintaining international organizations.

3. To help restore intellectual life throughout the world, as well as to enlarge opportunities for women, American Association of University Women fellowships assume increasing importance.

4. To promote mutual assistance and understanding among university women of all lands, we must maintain and strengthen our work in the International Federation of University Women.

5. The social and economic welfare of every individual regardless of sex, creed, or race underlies democratic philosophy and is necessary for the perpetuation of democratic government. Full employment in a free economy at productive jobs for all who are willing and able to work, a greater degree of security against universal hazards, improvement in community services and facilities, and promotion of higher levels of living are essential to this social and economic welfare.

6. Women in a democracy should assume responsibilities and should be accorded the opportunity to participate fully in the intellectual, social, economic and political life of the community, state, and nation without restriction because of their sex or marital status.

7. The better realization of our culture demands growth in understanding the arts as universal language, exploration of their content, meaning, and function, and support of them as part of the undiscovered power of free speech.

**1947**

WHEREAS, the American Association of University Women believes that in this rapidly changing world, education for intelligent citizenship in a democracy must be its first concern, and that our concern must be international as well as national, and must be rooted in the community, we hereby

*Resolve*, to adopt these principles to guide study and action in all the fields of interest of the association:

1. To support the extension of general education, which enriches the mind and spirit, and cultivates the knowledge and judgment essential to good citizenship.

2. To find ways and means of making teaching more attractive, by enhancing the prestige and economic status of teachers, and by improving the conditions under which they work.
3. To continue our efforts to extend services to young children as essential functions of public education, to help children and young people in our communities by providing guidance and counseling services, facilities for recreation and social development, and education or wholesome family life.
4. To perceive the creative arts as new all over the world again, and to experience and further their development.
5. To give encouragement to gifted women by maintaining and developing our program of fellowships and International Study Grants and by supporting Reconstruction Aid as long as the need continues.
6. To act on our knowledge that the whole world is one by assuming our full share of responsibility in international problems, by educating ourselves and our communities in these problems and in their relation to community life, and by supporting UN, UNESCO, and other related agencies in promoting human welfare, international cooperation, and peace.
7. To strengthen our participation in the work of the International Federation of University Women, including the recommendation of the establishment of international student houses in key university centers in South America and in Europe.
8. To contribute to the solution of our economic and social problems through study and action, recognizing that the well-being of each is dependent on the well-being of all, seeking to eliminate discriminations against minority groups, and accepting the principle that the desirable standard of living is one which permits the full development of the capacities of each individual.
9. To further the status of women by seeking to remove discriminations against them because of sex or marital status; by encouraging their full participation in intellectual, economic, social, and political activities in the community, state, national, and international life; by endorsing and actively supporting qualified women for elective and appointive offices; and by opposing all attempts to exclude or limit the enrollment of women, on the basis of sex, in professional schools or coeducational colleges.

## **1949**

In this year of 1949 the whole world seems to be grounded between a still unfinished war and an as yet unachieved peace. It is hard as we approach the great divide of the mid-twentieth century to remember, let alone recapture, the high hopes for human progress with which this century opened. For the illusion that those hopes might be swiftly and painlessly realized has been burned away in the flames of two world wars. Now over the whole earth hangs a fog of fear and distrust and frustration that not only threatens the possibility of common action with our neighbors but saps the very faith in our own purposes and our ability to realize them that alone makes it possible for us to live with ourselves. It is not surprising that in such confusion the question is so often heard, "What can one individual do in a world at the mercy of such vast and inscrutable forces as this?"

As women who have enjoyed the advantages of higher education, who bring trained minds to the business of our daily personal and community lives, we should confront without fear the confusion of our times and set ourselves resolutely to understanding the forces that again threaten to make a battleground of our common earth. We have every reason to believe from the long history of the advancement of the human race that once we have nerved ourselves to the inevitable dislocations of any time of long-overdue change, we shall find in that understanding undreamed-of possibilities for constructive action and progress.



For example, all over the world today the most backward and least advantaged of contemporary peoples are demanding a share in the good things of life that modern science and technology have made possible, and the most forgotten and neglected children of man are insisting that they, too, be admitted to the common human heritage, and helped to take their place in the forward march of the race. And, on the other hand, the most advanced peoples of the world are so appalled by the magnitude of the problems that beset the Atomic Age that no longer is it tolerable that the potential contribution of any section of the human race be neglected or wasted for lack of access to modern education of hand and brain. This is a challenge to American readiness to share knowledge, skill, and experience that may well in the end open the most direct way to a friendly and stable world in which to live and work ourselves.

And an equal opportunity may well lie hidden in what at present seems an even grimmer predicament. For the first time in our history as an independent people we are confronted with a serious and unremitting challenge to our basic confidence in our own country as the world's most complete and successful exponent of democratic ideals.

To meet such a situation it is not enough to reaffirm our faith in our American ideals. It is no less essential that we freshly explore the meaning and implications of those ideals, and that we make every effort to bring the reality of daily American life into conformity with our democratic professions. For the only way to defend ideals is to put them into action. This is especially true with respect to the contemporary version of the age-old human problem of reconciling the freedom of the individual with the order and welfare of society as a whole. It is imperative that in responding to the brutality of dictatorship, we avoid the other extreme. A callous and irresponsible individualism is by no means a proper alternative to an inhuman collectivism. The informed and responsible cooperation of free men in the pursuit of the common good of all is the surest defense of the freedom of the individual and the security of the whole democratic society.

Finally, the extensive undertakings of our day in the field of international cooperation bring home to us as never before both the difficulties of group action and the still elementary state of our knowledge of the basic principles of group relations. We should address ourselves to the exploration of the basic problems of how and why groups of men interact as they do, and to the devising of techniques of group intercourse that will substitute for the suspicion and anxiety of the present a sense of common understanding of each other as differing but mutually respectful human beings.

To meet these fundamental demands of our time we at AAUW have a national program that is the fruit of 67 years of common effort to put the higher education that we have all enjoyed at the service of the world in which we live. It is the product of a constant democratic interaction of national vision and cooperation and local experiment and application. Its core is education. But so intimate and extensive are the involvements of education with the whole world that it serves that it is quite impossible to carry on any educational program without constant regard for the organization of the society in which we live, from the local to the international level. Our programs in social studies and international relations are, therefore, indispensable to the accomplishment of our central undertakings in education. It is in the light of this view of the frontiers to be attempted in the immediate future that we hereby

*Resolved*, to adopt these statements of basic principle as the foundation of our program of study and action for the next two years:

### **Education**

Recognizing education as the most powerful instrument of progress, leading properly to peaceful change, while ignorance readily leads to violence,

1. We shall seek to improve and extend education for all persons of all ages.
2. We shall endeavor to find ways and means of increasing the excellence of teachers by enhancing their prestige and by improving their working facilities and economic status.

3. We shall watch with vigilance emerging programs of legislation for education and the administration of education at local, state, and federal levels to be in readiness for appropriate action.
4. We shall as members educate ourselves by increasing study of the psychological means whereby men's understanding of each other is increased and fully based social judgment is made, and help to extend this kind of education.
5. We shall seek ways and means of conserving and promoting individual freedom and sense of obligation in the group activities essential to the present prevailing pattern of our society.
6. In the ideological stress and tension of the present we reaffirm our long-established support of academic freedom as indispensable to any form of creative activity in schools and universities.

### **International Relations**

1. Moving forward from the stands taken in wartime, looking to the creation of a viable international order, and keenly aware of the present dangers of a divided world, we reaffirm our belief in the methods of international cooperation, as exemplified in the United Nations, UNESCO, and other related agencies, seeing in them, and the people's support of them in this growing period, the principal hope of survival and integration of the civilized free world.
2. To advance these ends, we undertake to educate ourselves and our communities on world issues confronting the United States, assuming our full share of responsibility for the breadth of information and depth of comprehension on which intelligent action can rest; we seek the understanding mind in relation to all problems of an inevitably interacting world.
3. Accepting the postulate that the United Nations is and must remain the cornerstone of American foreign policy and taking account of the request of the General Assembly of the United Nations that member states acquaint their citizenry, particularly the children and youth of the land in the schools, with the ideals, aims, and purposes of the international organization, we call attention to the survey of current school practices regarding the United Nations, which the association, through its branches and state divisions, undertook and has carried through; and in its light we strongly urge the branches in their local communities and at the state level to exercise continually, against an informed background, active vigilance in relation to this field on which the future so largely depends. (The above crosses the international relations and education fields.)
4. Believing profoundly in the value of the interchange of knowledge and experience, we support and welcome the exchange of scholars and students on an ever-increasing scale.
5. We look forward gladly to strengthening ties within the International Federation of University Women, believing that its united forces can be a positive factor in international building; and to strengthening our participation within the federation, and increasing our knowledge of its objectives and our cooperation with member associations.

### **Social Studies**

We adopt the following statement of principle as an interpretation of our position and as a guide in organizing our resources and directing our efforts toward a practical program of work: The full functioning of democratic government is dependent upon (a) wider citizen participation, (b) the availability to greater numbers of people of the economic and cultural advantages of our society, and (c) the removal of barriers that restrict the free participation of all people in community life.

### **Status of Women**

Recognizing that during the first half of the 20th century there has been marked improvement in the legal and economic

position of women, and recognizing and rejoicing in the progress already made in achieving for women opportunity and treatment comparable to that afforded to men, and desiring to consolidate this advancement in all phases of the nation's life,

1. We give continued support and encouragement to the full participation of women in the intellectual, economic, social, and political activities of the community, state, nation, and international life of the country.
2. Both as individuals and as groups we undertake to seek out, endorse, and actively support qualified women for elective and appointive offices.
3. Recognizing that there still remain certain barriers to women because of their sex and marital status, we pledge continued work toward the removal of these obstacles.
4. Since an immediate concern of the association relates to the admission of women to many graduate and professional schools, the association shall through an appropriate committee explore this problem with graduate and professional school deans, pointing out the accomplishments of women scholars, the achievements of women in all of the professions, and asking for the younger, potentially able women fair and just treatment in the admissions policies of the institutions.

### **The Arts**

We shall continue our work in public art education, widen its distribution, and try to release the great natural endowments of the individual; we shall explore the arts as communication, as heritage, as interpretation of contemporary life, and as free expression.

### **Fellowships**

Because it is important to extend the scope of free inquiry, to increase the significance of the individual's contribution in a highly organized society, and to extend personal contacts among the scholars of the world as one means of promoting understanding, we dedicate ourselves anew to maintaining and extending our program of fellowships and grants.

### **Membership**

Since the sharing of ideas and cultural experiences by all university women in an educational association contributes to their understanding of the forces of the world and its people, and also to a fuller realization of democracy, and since such sharing enables university women to participate in the development of community, national, international, and intercultural cooperation, and to apply imagination and intelligence to the foundation of an ultimate structure of a united society in which the dignity, the abilities, and the responsibilities of the individual are respected, therefore, all women who meet the educational requirements for admission to the American Association of University Women shall upon application be entitled to membership and upon payment of dues shall receive admission to membership.

### **For carrying out this program**

1. We restate the importance of the branch and the individual in making these principles effective, and recommend that each branch, in study and in action, use its collective initiative and imagination in applying these principles in order to develop a local program suited to its community needs.
2. We recommend that each state division determine what application of these principles can and should be made at the state level.
3. We recommend to each branch wishing to apply these principles in the field of action at the national level, the

selection from the Legislative Program adopted at this convention, such items as seem appropriate to its needs, for intensive legislative work, bearing in mind the fact that legislative work requires study and the education of branch opinion as a preliminary to direct work with the Congress.

## **1951**

This convention is assembled with the conviction that human freedom is our primary concern. We believe that we should explore the meaning of freedom and the implications for free men of the issues which now confront us. We are convinced that we can earn the blessings of freedom only by assuming the responsibilities it entails. It is in the acceptance of these responsibilities that we hereby resolve to adopt these statements of basic principles as the foundation of our program of study and action for the next two years.

### **Education**

1. Recognizing that education is a continuing process, we shall persist in our efforts to improve and extend education for all persons of all ages.
2. Inasmuch as democratic education is of primary importance in any program of defense, it is essential that we maintain and improve the quality of our schools. Therefore we shall make the condition and conduct of the schools in our several communities the individual responsibility of each one of us.
3. Believing that the effective teacher is the essential element in education, we shall be continuously concerned with the prestige, the economic status, and the working facilities of teachers. We shall encourage recognition of excellence in teaching based on reasonable criteria.
4. We shall study the administration of education, especially in the local community.
5. We shall study emerging legislation for education at the local, state, and federal levels, to be in readiness for appropriate action.
6. In the ideological stress and tension of the present we reaffirm our long-established support of academic freedom as indispensable to creative activity in schools and universities.

### **The Arts**

We shall continue our work in community art education, widen its distribution, seek its restoring power, and try to release the great natural endowments of the individual: we shall explore the arts as communication, as heritage, as interpretation of contemporary life, and as free expression.

### **International Relations**

1. Reaffirming our faith in international cooperation as the principal hope of survival and integration of the free world, we shall study the functioning of the United Nations, UNESCO, and other related agencies, seeking to strengthen them.
2. Realizing that an informed and thoughtful public opinion is indispensable to the development of a constructive foreign policy which, dealing in long views, may lack the immediate popular appeal of purely defensive measures, we shall include in our program continued consideration of our foreign policy.
3. Believing that the united forces of the International Federation of University Women can be a positive factor in

international building, we look forward to strengthening the ties within that federation, as well as to increasing our participation within it, our knowledge of its objectives, and our cooperation with member federations.

4. Believing profoundly in the value of the interchange of knowledge and experience, we support and welcome the exchange of scholars and students on an ever-increasing scale.

### **Social Studies**

1. Recognizing that the impact of the international situation on society in the United States makes new demands upon all of us, and knowing that the full utilization of our material and human resources will be necessary to meet these expanded responsibilities, we shall work for the removal of barriers that restrict the free participation of all people in community life and shall endeavor to determine and maintain those services that are essential to the development of the full capacities of each individual.

2. Recognizing the disparity between the rapid development in physical sciences and our slower progress in social sciences and the study of human relations, and recognizing that this gap can be closed only by expenditures of time and money in the field of social sciences commensurate with the vast expenditures now being made in the field of physical sciences, we shall encourage the development of programs directed to increasing our knowledge and skill in the field of human relations.

3. Realizing the imminent danger inflationary trends bring to our economic system, we shall contribute by our practice to a public mood of voluntary austerity.

4. Noting the current interest and concern as to the proper method of securing adequate health protection and medical care, we shall undertake the earnest and thorough study of all proposed plans for health insurance with the objective of reaching an informed opinion.

### **Status of Women**

Recognizing the progress already made in achieving for women opportunity and treatment comparable to that afforded to men, and desiring to consolidate this advancement:

1. We shall give continued support and encouragement to the full participation of women in the intellectual, economic, social, and political activities of the community, state, and nation, and in international affairs.

2. Both as individuals and as groups we undertake to seek out, endorse, and actively support qualified women for elective and appointive offices, and, as individuals, to accept the responsibilities that this policy entails.

3. Recognizing that there still remain certain barriers to women because of their sex and marital status, we pledge continued work toward the removal of these obstacles.

### **Fellowships**

Because it is important to extend the scope of free inquiry, to increase the significance of the individual's contribution in a highly organized society, and to extend personal contacts among the scholars of the world, we dedicate ourselves anew to maintaining and extending our program of fellowships and grants to woman scholars.

### **For Carrying Out This Program**

We restate the importance of the branch and the individual in making these principles effective, and recommend that each branch in study and in action use its collective initiative and imagination in applying these principles in order to

develop a local program suited to its community needs.

We recommend that each state division determine what applications of these principles can and should be made at the state level.

### **Other Resolutions Adopted by the Convention**

In addition to the “guiding principles” resolutions, the convention went on record on several other matters.

#### **Wheat for India**

A resolution calling on Congress to pass the bill to send wheat to India came before the convention from the special interest group on international relations and was adopted.

#### **Voice of America**

The convention also endorsed a resolution from the international relations special interest group urging that the full appropriation requested for the Voice of America be authorized by Congress.

#### **Vote of Confidence in AAUW Leadership**

A resolution proposing a vote of confidence in the leadership of the association was offered from the floor, with the comment that one of the papers carried a news item—which said there was a rank-and-file movement at this convention to unseat the present leadership of AAUW on the ground that the leadership has used ruthless means. This newspaper story also gave a direct quote from one of our members saying that there was a left-wing leaning among present leaders of this organization. The press will pick up that kind of item because it is sensational news. I believe that we have voted as women of integrity and honesty, that we have not been pressured, and I think that we should go on record so that the papers may also report our confidence in our present administration—that they have not exerted any left-wing influence on us.

The delegates then gave a unanimous vote of “confidence in and high regard for our national officers.”

#### **Children’s Art Exchange**

A resolution asking that UNESCO arrange for exchange exhibits of the artwork of children of countries in the UN was proposed by the special interest group on the arts. A delegate stated that the American Junior Red Cross is sponsoring such a program, and the motion failed.

### **1953**

This convention is assembled with the conviction that human freedom is our primary concern. We have faith in the ability of the human mind to study and investigate. We are convinced that only by a careful consideration of diverse ideas, opinions, and facts can we arrive at wise choices of action. We are determined to eliminate the paralysis of fear and distrust and to face the problems of a free society with confidence and courage. Guided by these convictions we adopt this statement of basic principles as the foundation of our program of study and action for the next two years:

#### **Education**

Universal education is basic to the preservation of our form of government and to the well-being of our society. Therefore, the study, interpretation, and improvement of education have always been a primary concern of the

American Association of University Women. We will continue and intensify our interest in the public schools and in education at all levels.

1. We will continue to study the administration of education and will emphasize the value to teachers and staff, to children and youth, of democratic principles of administration.
2. Since the improvement of our schools depends not only on a vigilant and informed commitment to the ideals of democratic education, but also on a practical knowledge of the cost of education and the practical means by which it can be provided, we will inform ourselves fully and take action on the problems of taxation and of the financing of schools at the local and state level.
3. In order to recruit and retain the qualified teachers essential for effective education we will concern ourselves with the professional and economic status and the working facilities of teachers. We will encourage recognition of excellence in teaching, based on reasonable criteria.
4. We recognize the important effect that the mass media of communication have upon the education of American children, youth, and adults, and we will work to extend and improve the educational and cultural use of libraries, films, radio, and television.
5. We affirm our belief in the importance of an independent Office of Education. Until this can be achieved we will continue to support the United States Office of Education within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. We urge that it be adequately staffed and financed so that it can be held responsible for carrying out effectively the functions for which it was established.
6. We believe that freedom to learn and to teach is essential to the maintenance of a sound educational system. Therefore we urge that responsibility for preserving this freedom be placed on the educational institutions themselves, and that alleged violations of law be dealt with by our legally constituted law enforcement agencies and courts.

### **International Relations**

1. Through a continued study of international problems and foreign policy we will assist in creating the informed public opinion necessary for the support of immediate measures for defense and also of a constructive foreign policy that will lay the foundations for a more secure world.
2. We will support the existing constitutional provisions for the conduct of foreign policy.
3. Recognizing the responsibilities attached to the position of the United States as a great power, we reaffirm our faith in international cooperation as the best means for the preservation of the free world. We will support the United Nations and its affiliated agencies and will study ways of making their functioning more effective.
4. Our membership in the International Federation of University Women provides an effective opportunity for mutual understanding and cooperative work. We will avail ourselves fully of this opportunity.
5. Since knowledge can grow only by a free exchange of information and experiences, we will encourage the continued interchange of scholars and students.

### **Social Studies**

As university women who are wholeheartedly committed to the cause of freedom and democracy, we recognize that totalitarianism presents a double threat. There is a direct threat to national security through communist aggression, infiltration, and subversion, and there is an indirect threat to individual liberties through the growth among us of

suspicion, fear, and dissension. It is our responsibility to create an informed public opinion, which is the only defense against these threats.

1. We will seek to understand our national and local problems in the light of the complexities that underlie the world's present disorder.
2. We will keep in mind the long-term goal of a free world through which human values and aspirations may be realized.
3. We will endeavor to accept in our own lives the fact that freedom carries with it an equal measure of responsibility.
4. We will repudiate attempts to fight Communism that use totalitarian methods that would undermine free political, social, and economic institutions, and urge that our country continue to fight Communism by using democratic methods.

### **Status of Women**

1. We will support and encourage the full participation of women in the intellectual, economic, social, and political activities of the community, the state, and the nation, and in international affairs.
2. Both as individuals and as groups we undertake to seek out, endorse, and actively support qualified women for elective and appointive offices, and, as individuals, to accept the responsibilities that this policy entails.
3. We pledge continued work toward the removal of barriers to women based on sex and marital status.
4. We emphasize the importance of shared responsibilities for citizen service on the part of men and women.

### **The Arts**

We believe that art, an integral part of life, is the recognition and fulfillment of particular natural endowments, the ultimate synthesis of intellect and emotion, and offers unbounded opportunity for the free development of a culture or an individual.

We will make use of available resources to understand and appreciate art through critical analysis of the various art forms, to experience true creativity in the arts through studio programs and projects, and to assess communitywide needs for the arts and to seek to meet them.

### **Fellowships**

Because we have faith in the important part that women can and should play in increasing knowledge and promoting international understanding and goodwill in the making of a better world, we dedicate ourselves anew to the maintenance and extension of our program of fellowships and grants to women scholars in this country and in other countries.

### **For Carrying Out This Program**

The vitality of the American Association of University Women proceeds from the study and action of its members. We recommend that national committees hold these principles in mind in the formulation of their specific suggestions and that state divisions and branches be guided by them in developing programs that meet their particular needs.

### **Other Resolutions Relating to the AAUW Program**

**Narcotics.** Whereas, one of the major problems facing the country today, affecting our schools, public health, and social



welfare, is the sale and distribution of narcotics; therefore be it resolved: (1) That this convention go on record for the strengthening of existing federal penalties for the illegal sale and distribution of narcotics; (2) That branches and state divisions encourage educational and action programs to prevent the distribution and sale of narcotics; and (3) That the association utilize its facilities for the collection and dissemination of information to create a program to develop strong public opinion to prevent the traffic and sale of narcotics.

**Status of Women.** It is recommended that the association, through the Status of Women Committee, suggest standards for determining and selecting women qualified for public office and procedures for supporting them through branches and state divisions, report the result of such study to the branches for consideration and comments, and submit suggested standards and procedures to the next biennial convention as a resolution.

**Civil Defense.** Recognizing that civil defense has proved its peacetime value in certain cases of national disaster, as well as an insurance policy in times of international tension, and may be considered as a deterrent to enemy atomic attack, we support its program and encourage participation therein.

## 1955

WHEREAS, this convention is assembled with the conviction that we as educated women have a responsibility for studying the past, evaluating the present, and shaping the future, and  
WHEREAS, we have faith in the ability of the educated mind to retain that which is worth conserving, to reject that which is no longer meaningful, and to face courageously the building of a better future world, and  
WHEREAS, we are convinced that only by careful consideration of diverse ideas, opinions, and facts can we arrive at a wise course of action, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that we dedicate ourselves anew to the principles of democracy and consecrate ourselves to face the future without fear, and be it further

*Resolved*, that guided by these convictions, we adopt this statement of basic principles as the foundation of our program of study and action for the next two years.

### Education

Universal education is basic to the preservation of our form of government and to the well-being of our society. Therefore the study, interpretation, and improvement of education will continue to be a primary concern of the association.

1. We believe that freedom to learn, including freedom to travel, and freedom to teach are essential to the maintenance of sound education and we accept the responsibility of constant vigilance in the preservation of this freedom.
2. We reaffirm our interest in and intensify our support of the public schools as essential to our democratic way of life.
3. We will concern ourselves with the professional and economic status and the working conditions of all administrative and instructional personnel in order that the qualified personnel essential for effective education shall be recruited and retained.
4. We recognize the important effect that libraries, films, radio, and television have upon the education of American children, youth, and adults, and we will continue to work to extend and to improve their educational and cultural use.
5. Since the improvement of our schools depends not only on a vigilant and informed commitment to the ideals of

democratic education, but also on a practical knowledge of the cost of education and the practical means by which it can be provided, we will continue to inform ourselves fully, to interpret and to evaluate our findings, and will take action on the problems of taxation and of the financing of schools.

6. We will continue to study the administration of education and will emphasize the value to teachers and staff, to children and youth, of democratic principles of administration.

7. We affirm our belief in the importance of an independent Office of Education. Until this can be achieved we will continue to support the Office of Education within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. We urge that this office be adequately staffed and financed so that it can be held responsible for carrying out effectively the functions for which it was established.

8. We believe that it is important for the speedy solution of the problems confronting elementary and secondary education that the State and White House Conferences on Education be supported: Therefore, we will follow the work of these conferences, examine the recommendations, and support them in our states and nation where they are in line with AAUW policy.

9. We recognize that the coming growth of the college population will impose new problems on our colleges and universities. We therefore resolve to inform ourselves on the implications of these problems, and we express our continued concern that higher education be supported and strengthened.

### **International Relations**

1. Through a continued study of international affairs we will assist in creating the informed public opinion necessary for support of a constructive foreign policy.

2. We urge continued efforts to establish an effective system for worldwide limitation of arms and will support programs to achieve this objective so long as they are consistent with national security.

3. We reaffirm our faith in the United Nations as a flexible and viable institution for the achievement of international cooperation. We will support measures to make the U.N. and its affiliated agencies more effective but will oppose measures that would impair their present strength.

4. We will avail ourselves fully of the opportunities for mutual understanding and cooperative work provided by our membership in the IFUW.

5. We will continue to support UNICEF for its contribution to the health, welfare, and education of children of underdeveloped territories.

6. Since knowledge can grow only by a free exchange of information and experiences, we will encourage the continued interchange of scholars and students.

### **Status of Women**

Recognizing that substantial and definite progress has been made during the past biennium toward the goal of a fuller sharing by men and women of citizenship responsibilities and that broader opportunities for political and community service have been offered to women,

1. We pledge continued support and encouragement to the full participation of women in the intellectual, social, and political activities of the community, the state, and the nation, and in international affairs.

2. Both as individuals and as groups we undertake to seek out women qualified to hold elective or appointive public office and to endorse and support qualified women for such office.

3. Inasmuch as there still exist inequities of law and prejudices of social attitude toward women, we pledge our best efforts toward the removal of such barriers.

4. We accept the principle that the advancement of women depends primarily upon the continued and increased development of their own capacity for constructive leadership, and we pledge ourselves to the development of such capacity within our membership and our respective communities.

### **Social Studies**

The economic and social problems of the United States vary in importance, and because of their complexity, their interrelatedness, and the sacrifices necessary for the solution of any economic or social problem, thoughtful study is necessary for effective individual and association action. As university women we are beneficiaries of a free society in which differences of interests, of ideas, and of opinions have enriched our lives and strengthened the nation. We believe that the basic liberties outlined in the Bill of Rights will be preserved only through our continuous defense and our use of them individually and in association with others.

Guided by these beliefs, we will devote our major effort in the next biennium to the preservation of individual liberties:

1. We will study the origins and the significance of the guarantees of individual liberties provided in our Constitution.
2. We will remain alert to encroachments upon our individual liberties.
3. We will attempt to understand and to evaluate propaganda and pressure group activity in the light of their effect on these basic liberties, to the end that we may retain and use with intelligence the right of individual judgement.
4. We will recognize in our action on all problems affecting minorities that limitations on the rights and privileges of one group are threats to the rights and privileges of all.

Furthermore, we will continue to keep ourselves informed in the various areas of social studies interest with which the organization has concerned itself in recent years in order that we may be in a position to take intelligent action as the occasion requires.

### **The Arts**

1. We believe that art, an integral part of life, offers unbounded opportunity for the free development of an individual and a culture. In its simplest form it is an avenue of expression for the participant, and its cultivation depends upon the recognition and fulfillment of particular natural endowments. In its highest form, achieved through experience and discipline, it becomes the ultimate synthesis of intellect and emotion.
2. We will make use of available resources to understand and appreciate art through studio programs that provide creative experiences in the arts, through study groups that offer critical analysis of various art forms, and through projects that assess communitywide needs for the arts and seek to meet them.

### **Standards and Recognition**

We believe that AUW is an organization founded to bring together women who share a liberal education and who, through appreciation of its values, accept the responsibilities of that education; that by liberal education is meant an education designed to produce a knowledge and appreciation of our cultural heritage and to free the individual to think

independently and to act with choice, enlightenment, and imagination; that such a liberal education is based on a college program with objectives resting not only upon an understanding of facts but also upon ideals and theories that elicit judgement.

### **Fellowships**

Because we have faith in the important part, which women can and should play in increasing knowledge and promoting international understanding and goodwill in the making of a better world, we dedicate ourselves anew to the maintenance and the extension of our program of fellowships and grants to women scholars in this country and in other countries.

### **Civil Defense**

WHEREAS, We realize that civil defense is an important arm of national defense; that civil defense preparedness is an important influence for peace; that it is an individual responsibility of each of us; we affirm our intention to encourage and assist the members of our association in furthering the total defense program.

### **Legislation**

WHEREAS, one of the policies of AAUW as stated in the bylaws is "to implement its educational work by taking action on legislation, governmental measures, and policies in the public interest," and  
WHEREAS, our bylaws now provide that "branches and state divisions may use established channels to initiate or change policies and program," and  
WHEREAS, our duly accredited delegates have the responsibility for redrafting the legislative program at each biennial convention, therefore be it

*Resolved*, that we reaffirm our belief in the principles of delegated responsibilities as a democratic procedure, and be it further

*Resolved*, that we pledge ourselves to the continued search for practical techniques for obtaining membership interest and participation in expressing ideas and opinions concerning legislative items.

### **1957**

WHEREAS, 75 years ago, 17 young college alumnae met here in Boston and united to work for the advancement of women and of education, and  
WHEREAS, today the 140,000 members of our nationwide association inherit this concept of working together, and  
WHEREAS, we have faith in the democratic process by which we, as individuals, unite in building a program that is an effective canopy for our diverse interests, and  
WHEREAS, we accept the challenge of creative, constructive leadership to work for the good life of all, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That guided by these convictions, we adopt this statement of basic principles as our program for study and action until the next convention.

### **Education**

Universal education is basic to the preservation of our form of government and to the well-being of our society. Therefore, the study, interpretation, and improvement of education will continue to be a primary concern of the American Association of University Women.

1. We believe that freedom to learn, including freedom to travel and freedom to teach, are essential to the maintenance of sound education, and we accept the responsibility of constant vigilance in the preservation of this freedom.
2. We reaffirm our interest and intensify our support of the public schools as essential to our democratic way of life.
3. We will concern ourselves with the professional and economic status and the working conditions of all administrative and instructional personnel in order that the qualified personnel essential for effective education shall be recruited and retained.
4. We recognize the important effect that libraries, films, radio, and television have upon the education of American children, youth, and adults and we will continue to work to extend and to improve their educational and cultural use.
5. Since the improvement of our schools depends not only on a vigilant and informed commitment to the ideals of democratic education, but also on a practical knowledge of the cost of education and the practical means by which it can be provided, we will continue to inform ourselves fully, to interpret and to evaluate our findings, and will take action on the problems of taxation and of the financing of schools.
6. We will continue to study the administration of education and will emphasize the value to teachers and staff, to children and youth, of democratic principles of administration.
7. We affirm our belief in the importance of an independent Office of Education. Until this can be achieved we will continue to support the Office of Education within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. We urge that this office be adequately staffed and financed so that it can be held responsible for carrying out effectively the functions for which it was established.
8. We recognize that the coming growth of the college population has imposed new problems on our colleges and universities. We therefore resolve to inform ourselves on the implications of these problems and to work to strengthen higher education.

## **International Relations**

1. Through a continued study of international affairs, we will assist in creating the informed public opinion necessary for support of a constructive foreign policy.
2. We endorse continued efforts to establish an effective system for worldwide limitation of arms and will support programs to achieve this objective so long as they are consistent with national security. We also favor United States efforts toward an international agreement to suspend testing of nuclear weapons.
3. We reaffirm our faith in the United Nations as a flexible and viable institution for the achievement of international cooperation. We will continue to support measures to make the UN and its affiliated agencies more effective and will oppose measures that would impair their present strength. We approve the establishment of the Organization for Trade Cooperation and the worldwide sharing of the peaceful development and use of atomic energy through the International Atomic Energy Agency.
4. Since knowledge can grow only by a free exchange of information and experiences, we will encourage the continued interchange of scholars and students around the world.
5. We endorse continued support for sound bilateral and multilateral programs of economic development and technical aid to help in building a stable and peaceful world.

6. We will avail ourselves fully of the opportunities for mutual understanding and cooperative work provided by our membership in the International Federation of University Women.

### **Status of Women**

The status of women means stature of women in measuring up to their fullest responsibilities and capacities in every field of activity and service.

1. We pledge our continued and consistent endeavor to increase productive participation of women in the intellectual, social, and political affairs of the world at every level—community, state, national, and international.

2. We accept the responsibility of developing along practical lines the maximum leadership potential of women in all strata of our society.

3. We pledge ourselves to encourage the fullest participation of women in public office and on policy-making boards and commissions and to support qualified women in seeking election or appointment to such offices, boards, or commissions.

4. We accept as a fundamental responsibility the effort to remove inequities of law and social prejudices that create barriers preventing the full participation of women in citizenship responsibilities or that violate, in its application to women citizens, that principle of democracy that recognizes the human worth and dignity of the individual.

### **Social Studies (Social and Economic Issues)**

We believe that the individual is the ultimate and sole source of the understanding, creativity, and skill that will enable us to meet the social and economic problems of the United States. We therefore dedicate ourselves to the following principles:

1. We will continue to inform ourselves on the meaning and the contemporary nature of our individual liberties and to study the effects of a changing economic and social environment on them. Through an informed public opinion we will strive to maintain these liberties for all citizens and to prevent their limitation by the state or their restriction by society;

2. We will endeavor to understand the tensions of 20<sup>th</sup>-century living in relation to the development of human personality, to foster those conditions that contribute to mental health and orient the individual to a rapidly changing society, and to support measures for the care and treatment of the mentally ill;

3. Recognizing the new social and economic problems created by the lengthening span of life, we urge that attention be given to the creative use of the skills and abilities of the aging, to their care and housing, and to the maintenance of retirement income.

### **The Arts**

Art is a never-ending search revealed in ever-changing forms that we believe calls for a perceptive spirit, a receptive mind, a willingness to explore, and courage to experience the new and the unfamiliar.

We will seek to meet this principle in the Arts Program by making use of available resources to understand and appreciate art (1) through studio programs that provide creative experience; (2) through study groups that offer critical analysis of various art forms; and (3) through projects that will increase the opportunities for community appreciation and participation.

## **Fellowship Program**

Because we have faith in the important part that women can and should play in increasing knowledge and promoting international understanding and goodwill in the making of a better world, we dedicate ourselves anew to the maintenance and extension of our program of fellowships and grants to women scholars in this country and in other countries.

## **Standards and Recognition**

We believe that AAUW is an organization founded to bring together women who share a liberal education and who, through appreciation of its values, accept the responsibilities of that education; that by liberal education is meant an education designed to produce a knowledge and appreciation of our cultural heritage and to free the individual to think independently and to act with choice, enlightenment, and imagination; that such a liberal education is based on a college program with objectives resting not only upon an understanding of facts but also upon ideals and theories that elicit judgment.

## **Civil Defense**

1. We believe that adequate civil defense of our nation is a powerful force for peace and is necessary to the well-being and survival of the greatest number of people in case of a natural or man-made disaster.
2. To be effective this civil defense demands the intelligent respect and confidence of the American public in a strong nonmilitary defense plan at all levels of government.

## **Survey Committee Resolution**

At the Wednesday morning session of convention, the statement of principle recommended by the Survey Committee was unanimously adopted by the delegates as follows:

WHEREAS, we who are assembled here in convention inherit the 75-year-old faith of the American Association of University Women that democracy thrives only when its citizenry is enlightened and free, and  
WHEREAS, we realize that the 20th century is an era in which the enlightened, free spirit is endangered. Therefore be it

*Resolved*, that we take as a common concern the preservation of the individual and of the creative spirit in the midst of the acknowledged stresses of contemporary life, and that we join in a nationwide program to explore the role of individuality in the community of our experience, and to strengthen it for personal and social achievement, and be it further

*Resolved*, that this principle be basic to the association program in the years ahead.

## **1959**

Universal education is basic to the preservation of our form of government and to the well-being of our society. Therefore the study, interpretation, and improvement of education will continue to be a primary concern of the American Association of University Women.

## **Education**

### **Elementary and Secondary Education**

1. We believe that freedom to learn and freedom to teach are essential to the maintenance of sound education, and we accept the responsibility of constant vigilance in the preservation of these freedoms.
2. We affirm our conviction that our system of public education is essential to the survival of freedom in this country. Therefore we resolve to intensify our support of the public schools.
3. We urge the cooperation of democratic administrators, instructors, and laymen in the continuous improvement of curriculum and teaching.
4. We recognize the important educational effect of libraries, films, radio, and television, and we will continue to work to extend and to improve their use.
5. We will continue to inform ourselves fully, to interpret and evaluate our findings, and to take action on the problems of taxation and financing of schools as they relate to the local, state, and federal fiscal systems.
6. We believe that qualified and effective personnel for teaching can be recruited and retained only if the professional, economic, and working conditions are improved, and we accept responsibility for working toward such improvements.
7. We affirm our belief in the importance of an independent Office of Education. Until this can be achieved we will continue to support the Office of Education within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.
8. We believe that it is important that the state and national White House Conference on Children and Youth be supported in order that these conferences take into consideration the educational implications involved.

### **Higher Education**

1. We believe in liberal education designed to produce a knowledge and appreciation of our cultural heritage and to free the individual to think independently, to serve society, and to act with choice, enlightenment, and imagination. We dedicate ourselves to furthering college programs that rest not only on an understanding of facts, but also on ideals and theories that elicit judgment.
2. We recognize the personnel shortage facing institutions of higher learning and we will promote the recruitment of qualified college faculties and administrators.
3. We recognize the increasing financial difficulties of our institutions of higher learning and we will support measures to help meet the problems created by higher costs and mounting enrollments.

### **International Relations**

1. We favor a positive attitude in the conduct of American foreign policy in order to build a world atmosphere of harmony and cooperation. Through a continued study of international affairs we will assist in creating the informed public opinion necessary for support of a constructive foreign policy.
2. We endorse continued efforts to establish an effective system for worldwide limitation of arms and will support programs to achieve this objective so long as they are consistent with national security. We favor constructive efforts toward an international agreement to control testing of nuclear weapons and to establish the principle of freedom of outer space subject to regulations for its use.
3. We reaffirm our faith in the United Nations as a flexible and viable institution for the achievement of international cooperation. We will continue to support measures to make the United Nations and its affiliated agencies more effective.



We approve the establishment of the Organization for Trade Cooperation.

4. We endorse expansion of support for sound bilateral and multilateral programs of economic development and technical aid to foster mutual assistance in building a world of progress and peace.

5. We encourage national and international programs seeking to develop improved world health.

6. Since knowledge is indivisible and can grow only by a free exchange of information and experiences, we will encourage an increased interchange of technicians, professionals, scholars, and students.

7. We will avail ourselves fully of the opportunities for mutual understanding and cooperative work provided by our membership in the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

### **Status of Women**

The status of women means stature of women in measuring up to their full responsibilities and capacities in every field of activity and service.

1. We accept as a fundamental responsibility the effort to remove inequities of law and social prejudices that create barriers preventing the full participation of women in citizenship responsibilities or that violate, in its application to women citizens, that principle of democracy that recognizes the human worth and dignity of the individual.

2. We pledge our continued and consistent endeavor to increase productive participation of women in intellectual, social, civic, and political affairs at every level—community, state, national, and international.

3. We accept the responsibility of developing, along practical lines, the maximum leadership potentialities of women in all strata of our society.

4. We pledge ourselves to encourage full participation of women in public office and on policy-making boards and commissions and to support qualified women in seeking election or appointment to such offices, boards, or commissions.

### **Civil Defense**

1. We believe that adequate civil defense of our nation is a powerful force for peace and is necessary to the well-being and survival of the greatest number of people in case of a natural or man-made disaster.

2. To be effective, this civil defense demands the intelligent respect and confidence of the American public in a strong nonmilitary defense plan at all levels of government.

We believe that the social and economic problems of the United States are solved best by those means that are based on respect for human dignity, growth, and creativity, and that a denial of human rights damages the moral fiber of our nation. We therefore dedicate ourselves to study and action in the following areas, which we view as aspects of change in American society:

1. The threat both of our internal unity and to our leadership among free nations made by the denial of constitutional rights to minority groups;

2. The attack upon the American system of justice under law and the rights of an individual in a free society;

3. A creative program for the aging, utilizing their abilities, assuring their proper care and housing, providing adequate

retirement income, and exploring the possibilities of a retirement system geared to individual abilities rather than chronological age;

4. The relation of mental health to the tensions inherent in our modern society with regard to ways in which we may foster conditions that contribute to better mental health, support measures for the care and treatment of the mentally ill, and continue to explore opportunities for volunteer services to psychiatric patients in the hospital and in the community;

5. Measures for ensuring a dynamic equilibrium based on study of change and stability in the national economy, with due regard for the economic and social needs of the expanding population.

## **The Arts**

Art can be viewed as both a personal experience and a cultural record. The artist and art lover are involved in the personal experience. The critic and curator define and preserve art as a cultural record.

To accomplish these acts man requires a freedom beyond and within himself to seek and experience the new, the unfamiliar. This is the freedom of awareness. The extent to which he is free to sharpen his awareness marks the richness of man's culture.

Recognizing these truths, we dedicate our efforts in the AAUW Arts Program to

- Making information available on arts resources;
- Encouraging important creative work in the arts;
- Providing opportunity for reflective appreciation of the arts;
- Continual self-probing as to the value of our work in terms of a cultural record.

## **Fellowships**

We pledge ourselves to improve the quality of educational undertakings, to assist women in gaining professional recognition, and to maintain and extend our program of fellowships and grants to women in the United States and in other countries whose associations of university women are members of the International Federation of University Women.

## **Mass Media**

Recognizing the influence and power of mass media in our society today, we accept our responsibility

1. To study and be aware of the functioning of mass media;
2. To assist in improving the quality of their content;
3. To participate in increasing their effective use as they relate to the American Association of University Women's educational and cultural values.

## **Legislative Program Resolution**

To implement effectively the foregoing statement of principles we reaffirm our intent to continue study of proposed legislation and to support or oppose legislative measures as is appropriate in accordance with the convention-adopted Legislative Program in each of these areas of interest at the local, the state, and the national level.

Universal education is basic to the preservation of our form of government and to the well-being of our society. Therefore, the study, interpretation, and improvement of education will continue to be a primary concern of the American Association of University Women.

### **Elementary and Secondary Education**

1. We believe that freedom to learn and freedom to teach are essential to the maintenance of sound education and we accept the responsibility of constant vigilance in the preservation of these freedoms.
2. We affirm our conviction that our system of public education is essential to the survival of freedom in this country. Therefore we resolve to intensify our support of the public schools.
3. We urge the cooperation of administrators, teachers, and laymen in the continuous improvement of curriculum and teaching.
4. We will work to strengthen and improve the intelligent use of libraries, mass media, and mechanical aids in the education program.
5. We will continue to inform ourselves fully, to interpret and evaluate our findings, and to take action on the problems of taxation and financing of schools.
6. We will assist in recruiting and retaining qualified and effective teaching personnel by working toward the improvement of professional, economic, and working conditions.
7. We affirm our belief in the importance of increased prestige for education. As a means to this end we believe the Office of Education should be a separate department in the federal government. Until this objective can be achieved, we will continue to support the Office of Education within the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.
8. We will study and implement through our programs those educational recommendations of the White House Conference on Children and Youth that are germane to the AAUW program.

### **Higher Education**

1. We believe in liberal education designed to produce a knowledge and appreciation of different cultural heritages and to free the individual to think independently, to serve society, and to act with choice, enlightenment, and imagination. We dedicate ourselves to furthering college programs that rest not only on an understanding of facts, but also on ideals and theories, which elicit judgment.
2. We recognize the personnel shortage facing institutions of higher learning and we will promote the recruitment of qualified college faculty members and administrators.
3. We recognize the increasing financial difficulties of our institutions of higher learning and we will support measures to help meet the problems created by higher costs and mounting enrollments.

### **Fellowships**

We reaffirm our belief in the importance of the participation of women in the expansion of knowledge and we therefore reaffirm our support of an expanding program of fellowships that has brought worldwide recognition to the association and is one of our most glorious achievements.

## **International Relations**

1. We favor a positive attitude in the conduct of American foreign policy in order to build a world atmosphere of harmony and cooperation. Through a continued study of international affairs, we will assist in creating the informed public opinion necessary for support of a constructive foreign policy.
2. We endorse continued efforts to establish an effective system for worldwide limitation of arms and will support programs to achieve this objective so long as they are consistent with national security. We favor constructive efforts for an international agreement to control testing of nuclear weapons and to establish the principle of freedom of outer space subject to regulation for its use.
3. We reaffirm our faith in the United Nations as a flexible and viable institution for the achievement of international cooperation. We will continue to support measures to make the UN and its affiliated agencies more effective, and will oppose measures that would impair their present strength.
4. We endorse expansion of support for sound bilateral and multilateral programs of economic and social development and technical aid in order to foster mutual assistance, to promote the development of emerging nations, and to help in building a world of progress and peace.
5. Since knowledge is indivisible, and can grow only by a free exchange of information and experience, we will encourage an increase of interchange of technicians, professionals, scholars, and students.
6. We will avail ourselves fully of the opportunities for mutual understanding and cooperative work provided by our membership in the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).

## **Mass Media**

We recognize the dynamic force in our society of the leading mass media—radio, television, film, press, and periodicals. We accept the responsibility to

1. Study and be aware of the functioning of mass media;
2. Assist in improving the quality of their content;
3. Promote their effective educational cultural use.

## **Social and Economic Issues**

We believe that the social and economic problems of the United States are solved best by those means that are based on respect for human dignity and that a denial of human rights damages the moral fiber of our nation. We therefore dedicate ourselves to study and action in the following areas, which we view as aspects of change in the American society:

1. The threat both to our internal unity and to our leadership among free nations made by the denial of constitutional rights to minority groups;
2. The attack upon the American system of justice under law and the rights of an individual in a free society;
3. A creative program for the aging, utilizing their abilities, assuring their proper care and housing, providing adequate retirement income, and exploring the possibilities of a retirement system geared to individual abilities rather than chronological age;
4. The relation of mental health to the tensions inherent in our modern society with regard to ways in which we may foster conditions that contribute to better mental health, support measures for the care and treatment of the mentally

ill, and continue to explore opportunities for volunteer services to psychiatric patients in the hospital and in the community;

5. Measures to protect the consumer in this era of scientific and technical change;

6. Measures to promote growth in the national economy with due regard for the economic and social needs of an expanding population.

### **Status of Women**

The status of women means stature of women in measuring up to their full responsibilities and capacities in every field of service.

1. We accept as a fundamental responsibility the effort to remove social prejudices and inequities of law that create barriers preventing women's full participation in citizenship responsibilities and violate the principle of democracy which recognizes the human worth and dignity of the individual.

2. We pledge our continued and consistent endeavor to increase productive participation of women in intellectual, social, civic, and political affairs at every level—community, state, national, and international.

3. We accept the responsibility of developing, along practical lines, the maximum leadership potential of women in all strata of our society.

4. We pledge ourselves to encourage full participation of women in public office and on policy-making boards and commissions. We further pledge ourselves, both as individuals and as groups, to seek out and actively support qualified women for election and appointment to such offices, boards, and commissions.

### **The Arts**

We *resolve* to bring our AAUW arts program into focus with the basic principles of AAUW.

In order to continue our own intellectual growth we will undertake work that aims to deepen our experience in the arts—whether by sensory, creative, or analytical means.

In order to discharge our special responsibilities to society we will provide for repeated exposure to excellence in the arts, thereby developing an informed and interested public and encouraging the artist.

### **Legislative Program**

1. In the light of current world tensions, we reaffirm our belief in constitutional government and our intent to work for the rights of the individual and the preservation of the democratic way of life.

2. To ensure the right of self-government to the residents of the District of Columbia, we pledge ourselves to work in the states for home rule for the District of Columbia.

3. To implement effectively all the foregoing statements of principles, we reaffirm our intent to continue study of proposed legislation and to support or oppose legislative measures at the local, the state, and the national level, as is appropriate in accordance with the convention-adopted Legislative Programs in each of the areas of interest.

1. We believe that universal education is basic to the preservation of our society. We resolve that support of the public schools and the improvement of education and the strengthening of library facilities and programs will continue to be of primary concern.
2. We believe that freedom to learn and freedom to teach are essential to the maintenance of sound education, and we accept the responsibility of constant vigilance in the preservation of these freedoms.
3. We believe in liberal education designed to produce a knowledge and appreciation of different cultural heritages and to free the individual to think independently, to serve society, and to act with choice, enlightenment, and imagination. We dedicate ourselves to furthering college programs that rest not only on an understanding of facts, but also on ideals and theories that elicit judgment.
4. We will promote the recruitment of qualified college faculty members and administrators, and will support measures to help meet the problems of higher education created by higher costs and mounting enrollments.
5. We will strive to emulate the idealism of the founders of the AAUW Fellowships Program and to implement it with the necessary financial support. We will work to complete long-unfinished endowments so that they will support annual stipends; to create new and greatly needed endowments; and to expand the special program for women teachers of the new nations within Asia and Africa.
6. We believe in the importance of creative work that is nourished by or that extends the association's purpose.
7. We recognize the need to analyze contemporary behavior and values in relation to the past.
8. We recognize the need to work toward a communications system that will contribute to the enlightenment of our society and preservation of its basic freedoms.
9. We recognize the need to evaluate specific uses of the new media and to promote those that will contribute to the improvement of education and the expansion of educational opportunities.
10. We recognize the need to be alert to the effects of the rapidly changing patterns of mass communications, especially as they relate to international understanding and to cultural exchange.
11. We favor a positive attitude in the conduct of American foreign policy in order to build a world atmosphere of harmony and cooperation. We believe an informed public opinion is necessary for support of a constructive foreign policy.
12. We endorse continued efforts to establish an effective system for worldwide limitation of arms and will support programs to achieve this objective so long as they are consistent with national security. We favor constructive efforts toward an international agreement to control testing of nuclear weapons and to establish the principle of freedom of outer space subject to regulation for its use.
13. We reaffirm our faith in the United Nations as a flexible and viable institution for the achievement of international cooperation. We will continue to support measures to make the UN and its affiliated agencies more effective, and will oppose measures that would impair their present strength.
14. We endorse expansion of support for sound bilateral and multilateral programs of economic and social development and technical aid in order to foster mutual assistance, to promote the development of emerging nations, and to help in building a world of progress and peace.

15. Since knowledge can grow only through the free exchange of information and experience, we will encourage an increase in the international interchange of technicians, professional workers, scholars, and students.
16. We will avail ourselves fully of the opportunities for mutual understanding and cooperative work provided by our membership in the International Federation of University Women (IFUW).
17. We recognize that the demands of an expanding population necessitate the development of our total social and economic resources; we recognize further that this development must take place within the framework of modern conservation methods and in accordance with sound federal fiscal policy.
18. We accept as a fundamental responsibility the effort to remove social prejudices and inequities of law that create barriers to women's full participation in citizenship responsibilities and violate the principle of democracy which recognizes the human worth and dignity of the individual.
19. We accept the responsibility of developing, along practical lines, the maximum leadership potential of women.
20. We will continue to promote the effective participation of women in public office and on policy-making boards and commissions. We, as individuals and as groups, will seek out and actively support qualified women for election and appointment to such offices, boards, and commissions, and to this end branches and State Divisions will be encouraged to continue to develop rosters of women qualified for public offices.
21. In the light of current world tensions, we reaffirm our belief in constitutional government and our intention to work for the rights of the individual and of minority groups, and for the preservation of the democratic way of life.
22. To ensure the right of self-government to the residents of the District of Columbia, we will work in the states for home rule for the District of Columbia.
23. To implement effectively all of the foregoing statements of principle we reaffirm our intent to continue study of proposed legislation and to support or oppose legislative measures at the local, the state, and the national level, as is appropriate in accordance with the convention-adopted Legislative Programs in each of the areas of interest.

## **1965**

1. We believe that educational opportunity designed to achieve the best use of human resources is basic to the preservation of our society and its fundamental freedoms. We believe that support of universal democratic education is a prime responsibility of the association. Therefore we will promote those methods, programs, and media that contribute to the improvement of educational opportunities for all. We will support measures designed to meet problems created by higher costs and mounting enrollments. We will continue to work for the strengthening of library facilities. We will promote the recruitment of qualified faculty members, administrators, and boards or commissions of education at all levels. We will extend opportunity for research and creative achievement through the programs of the AAUW Educational Foundation. We will foster creativity at all levels and endorse education that rests not only on an understanding of facts but also on the responsibility for self-discipline and the development of the ability to make value judgments.
2. We believe that the Fellowships Program of the association is one of its strongest instruments in the achievement of its purpose. Therefore we will work to support its expanding program of fellowships to enable women of the United States and other countries to use their intellectual powers for the good of humanity.

3. We recognize the need to increase the breadth and depth of intellectual interests and to encourage creative expression in our society. Therefore we will encourage efforts to stimulate imagination and original thinking, to recognize excellence, to foster individuality, and to encourage communication in all its aspects among people of different disciplines, interests, and cultural backgrounds.

4. We recognize the responsibility of educated women to society. Therefore we will encourage active efforts to identify community needs and to select and work toward the solution of those community problems that fall within AAUW objectives and program. We will attempt to interpret the significance of institutions that are essential in protecting the individual and in strengthening family and community life. We will work to develop understanding and utilization of these resources.

5. We endorse a constructive foreign policy dedicated to the promotion of understanding, cooperation, and peaceful relations among nations. Therefore we will support actions that contribute to this policy. We will continue to support the United Nations, with particular emphasis upon International Cooperation Year, which marks its 20th anniversary. We will work through IFUW for better international understanding and for support and encouragement of women in the emerging nations as they strive to broaden their roles in their various societies.

6. We recognize the advancement of women as one of the goals of AAUW. Therefore we will work to increase leadership opportunities for women and encourage them to accept opportunities for service at home and in the larger community. We will search out and support qualified women for positions of responsibility.

## **1967**

1. We believe that educational opportunity designed to achieve the best use of human resources is basic to the preservation of our society and its fundamental freedoms. We believe that support of universal democratic education is a prime association responsibility. Therefore we will promote those methods, programs, and media that contribute to the improvement of educational opportunities at all ages. We will support measures designed to meet problems created by higher costs and mounting enrollments. We will continue to work for the strengthening of libraries as a key to educational growth. We will promote the recruitment of qualified faculty members, administrators, and boards or commissions of education at all levels. We will extend opportunity for research and creative achievements through the programs of the AAUW Educational Foundation. We will further education that promotes an understanding of facts, responsibility for self-discipline, and development of critical and creative thinking.

2. We are convinced that the solution to many of society's complex problems lies in greater understanding of these problems and fuller utilization of intellectual capacities. We will therefore work to support an expanding program of fellowships to enable women to use their intellectual talents for the good of humanity.

3. We endorse a foreign policy dedicated to the promotion of understanding, cooperation, and peaceful relations among nations. Therefore we will support actions that contribute to this policy. We will continue to support the United Nations, with particular emphasis upon International Human Rights Year, 1968. We will work through IFUW for better international understanding and support and encouragement of all women, particularly those in the emerging nations, as they strive to broaden their roles in their various societies.

4. We recognize the responsibility of educated women to society. Therefore we will encourage active efforts to identify mounting community needs and select and work toward the solution of those problems that fall within AAUW objectives and program. We will attempt to interpret the significance of institutions that are essential in protecting the individual and in strengthening family and community life. We will work to develop understanding and utilization of these resources.



5. We recognize the need, in the flood of present cultural activities, to foster reflection and sensibility. Therefore we will encourage efforts to stimulate imagination and original thinking, recognize excellence, nurture individuality, and strengthen communication in all its aspects among people of different disciplines, interests, and cultural backgrounds.

6. We recognize the advancement of women as one of the goals of AAUW. Therefore we will work to broaden leadership roles for women and encourage them to accept opportunities for service at home and in the larger community. We will search out qualified women, urge them to seek positions of responsibility, and support them in their efforts to attain such positions.

## **1969**

1. We believe that a prime responsibility of AAUW is the promotion and support of universal educational opportunity designed to achieve the best use of human resources. Therefore, we will encourage those methods, programs, and media that contribute to the improvement and expansion of educational opportunity for people of all ages. We will further all educational forms that promote an understanding of facts, responsibility for self-discipline, development of critical and creative thinking, and that contribute to a unified, democratic society.

2. We reaffirm our conviction that the solution to many of society's complex problems lies in greater understanding of these problems and the development of leadership to contribute to their solution. We will therefore work to support an expanding program of AAUW Fellowships to enable women to use their intellectual talents for the good of humanity.

3. We believe that the United States foreign policy should seek to promote viable and peaceful relations with and between all other countries. To this end we support participation in such intergovernmental bodies as the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and such measures as the nonproliferation treaty, mutually supported reduction of armaments, and the peaceful use of atomic and nuclear power to reduce tensions among nations. As the essential complement, we urge constructive programs of financial and economic aid for the developing countries to support their effort to build sound economies on which stable political systems can rest. Through the IFUW we will work to broaden opportunities for women everywhere to contribute to the advancement of human well-being.

4. We recognize the responsibility of educated women to society. Therefore, we will encourage members to become actively involved in the identification of mounting community needs, the development of programs to meet these needs, the renewal of community life, and the planning for future needs of all people. We will work for programs and institutions that are essential in protecting the individual and strengthening family and community life and that the Legislative Program Committee give highest priority and emphasis to legislation in the area of education.

5. We reaffirm the importance of the individual in a rapidly changing technologically oriented society. Therefore, we will encourage efforts to stimulate imagination, original thinking, flexibility, and creative endeavor. We encourage the recognition and development of cultural opportunities for all groups and for all people.

6. We recognize the advancement of women as one of the goals of AAUW. Therefore, we will work to broaden leadership roles for women and encourage them to accept opportunities for public service. We will search out qualified women, urge them to seek positions of responsibility, and support them in their efforts to attain such positions.

## **Resolutions on Policy and Program**

1. WHEREAS, 1970 has been designated as International Educational Year and; WHEREAS, the educational opportunity is a prime responsibility of the association; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that all members give special attention to the need to implement the goals of International Educational Year.

2. WHEREAS, the Conventions on the Genocide, Political Rights of Women, and Forced Labor were passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of these conventions are in accord with the objectives of our association; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that the American Association of University Women undertake every possible effort to obtain ratification of these conventions.

3. WHEREAS, the betterment of society and the development of the individual is a major responsibility of AAUW's program; therefore be it

*Resolved* that AAUW support medical research, sociological study, and action programs designed to make available information and facilities for population control.

4. WHEREAS, the success of a democratic society is dependent upon an educated citizenry and WHEREAS, education is the prime responsibility of AAUW; be it therefore

*Resolved* that AAUW reaffirm the need for adequate funding of educational programs for all people.

5. WHEREAS, a major problem in our urbanized society is the renewal of American cities and its implication for all citizens, and

WHEREAS, the meeting of community needs is a program thrust of the association; be it therefore

*Resolved* that the AAUW undertake all possible efforts to resolve the problems of urbanization on long-term rather than short-term consideration.

6. WHEREAS, association conventions are increasingly large, cumbersome and expensive, and

7. WHEREAS, the association needs to find more varied and more effective ways to encourage and facilitate membership participation in the making of Association-wide policies and decisions; therefore be it

*Resolved*, that this convention instruct the association board of directors to make a thorough study of alternatives to the biennial convention, its cost, facilities, and its accomplishments in relation to its goals, and report recommendations for action to the 1971 convention in Dallas.

## **1971**

1. AAUW urges the United States government to participate fully in the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment.

2. AAUW supports United States approval of the Geneva Protocol of 1925.

3. AAUW opposes the military use of such new chemical and biological warfare agents as herbicides and defoliants.

4. AAUW favors the establishment by the United Nations of a permanent peacekeeping force.

5. AAUW asks the United States government to vote to admit the People's Republic of China to the United Nations.

6. AAUW supports withdrawal of the United States from the Southeast Asia War.

7. We reaffirm AAUW's belief in the right of citizens to all forms of peaceful dissent without fear of official surveillance or reprisal. We further resolve that copies of this resolution be sent to the president and attorney general of the United States.

8. AAUW favors abolition of the death penalty throughout the United States.

9. AAUW endorses the principle of zero population growth.

10. AAUW encourages its members and state divisions to work for repeal of restrictive laws on abortion, making abortion legal for those who wish it after medical consultation.

11. AAUW supports the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution without crippling amendments.

12. AAUW endorses the November 1969 resolution of the board of directors concerning "alternatives for women," and further directs the board and staff to seek full implementation of this declaration, including the development of an effective roster of qualified women.

13. The Nominating Committee is instructed to develop procedures for submitting to the state divisions and branches a short summation of the qualifications and goals for AAUW of all candidates whose names have been presented for association office in order to facilitate any endorsements of potential candidates that branches or state divisions or members may wish to make.

14. AAUW opposes further dilution of support for public elementary and secondary schools through appropriation of public funds for nonpublic schools.

15. AAUW endorses in principle the development of a statement of standards for women in higher education.

16. The 1971 convention of AAUW condemns in strongest terms the repressive and cruel treatment of prisoners and petitions the governments of North and South Vietnam and all Southeast Asian forces holding prisoners to observe the International Accords of the Geneva Convention.

17. AAUW requests the president of the United States to order the Atomic Energy Commission to cancel its plans for a 10-megaton underground test at Amchitka (Alaska).

18. AAUW urges the government of the United States to endorse and help implement the following recommendations:

- a. that the United Nations establish an international seabed resources authority;
- b. that this authority act as trustee of the seabed, supervise its use, and guide its development and exploration to conserve and protect the marine environment against damage;
- c. that the seabed be used for peaceful purposes only;
- d. that the arms race not be extended to the seabed; and
- e. that all nations, including the United States, agree to a ban on testing underwater weapons.

19. AAUW supports legislation to improve conditions of migrant farm workers, including the extension of child labor laws to agriculture.

## **1973**

1. AAUW regards human needs in such areas as education, health, employment, housing, and environmental protection

as the most critical issues facing our country and urges all branches of the federal government to give these needs first priority by necessary budgetary appropriations.

2. AAUW reaffirms its support for the creation of a separate cabinet post for education.

3. AAUW recommends the inclusion and incorporation of women's studies into the curriculum of higher education in such a form that high standards of academic excellence can be maintained.

4. AAUW urges branches and state divisions to work to establish career counseling as a service made available for all students and to secure more effective career education programs.

5. AAUW supports the principle that every child having physical or mental handicaps or learning disabilities is entitled to publicly supported education to the limits of his or her abilities.

6. AAUW expresses concern about the practice of corporal punishment in many schools and institutions and urges divisions and branches to work for laws and policies that will ensure individual rights, deter physically and mentally abusive punishment, and enhance mutual respect between school and institutional personnel and students.

7. AAUW supports comprehensive programs to assure adequate shelter care for dependent, neglected, and abused children, including diagnostic and treatment services.

8. AAUW supports the concept of public broadcasting as a necessary component of mass media to provide educational, cultural, and public affairs programming beyond that characteristic of or feasible in commercial broadcasting. AAUW considers long-range financing essential, and also urges that substantial resources and broadcast time be allocated to public affairs programming. This public affairs programming should be accomplished without government censorship either overt or covert.

9. AAUW reaffirms its support for the right of nonprofit citizen organizations to publicly express their views on federal, state, and local legislation and public issues and to engage in a reasonable degree of lobbying activity without loss of tax exemptions or threat of tax reprisals.

10. AAUW, recognizing the need for balanced use of all land, with special attention to open space, prime agricultural land, housing, population, and industry, carrying capacity, and transportation, urges the development and support of comprehensive state land use policies and promotion of programs of environmental education to gain public participation and support.

11. AAUW recommends establishment of a national seashore commission to study and develop policies for protection and preservation of the natural shorelines and coastal boundaries.

12. AAUW encourages continued attention to national needs for new energy sources with due regard for human safety and environmental protection.

13. AAUW recommends the establishment of a joint state-federal program to restore unreclaimed land and to require that henceforth all applications for permits to area strip mine must guarantee control, strip costs, and reclamation.

14. AAUW urges federal, state, and local governments to maximize efforts to stop the illegal importation and distribution of drugs by strict enforcement and stringent penalties.

15. AAUW urges continued strong financial participation in the work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

## 1975

1. AAUW shall assign top priority to achieving ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and shall commit appropriate personnel and funds to that goal.
2. AAUW, in recognition of 1975 as International Women's Year, urges President Ford to sign the UN's International Convention on the Political Rights of Women to be followed up with prompt U.S. Senate ratification of the convention.
3. AAUW encourages its members to actively promote and support qualified women for policy-making positions in all sectors and levels of American life.
4. AAUW shall continue to work for the elimination of sex discriminatory practices, particularly in employment, social security, media, and education, with emphasis on full funding and strict enforcement of affirmative action programs and reevaluation of traditional sex role stereotypes.
5. AAUW affirms the importance of continuing programs of recognition of women's achievements and contributions to society.
6. AAUW encourages the establishment of endowed professorships for women in fields traditionally dominated by men.
7. AAUW urges focusing attention on the subject of volunteerism to give a fresh direction to the question of the place of volunteers in our society, their training, and recognition.
8. AAUW supports further development and expansion of the community education philosophy as a dynamic process for coordinating community resources with community wants and needs.
9. AAUW supports comprehensive child protective laws and services that include provision for the reporting of child abuse and maltreatment and provisions for preventive and rehabilitative services.
10. AAUW urges adequate recognition of the educational needs of gifted and talented children and supports the principle of publicly financed education to the full potential of each child.
11. AAUW recommends a thorough study and evaluation by the television industry of its programming in the areas of children's television and urges measures to (1) limit the amount and type of violence, (2) upgrade the quality of cartoons and programs, (3) eliminate deceptive advertising, (4) limit the time per hour of commercials.
12. AAUW realizes that enforcement of strict energy conservation programs and growing scarcity of food may adversely affect many lifestyles, particularly those of persons with low and moderate income, and endorses measures that will minimize regressive effects.
13. AAUW recognizes that food is a basic human need rather than a political issue and recommends support of measures to cope with world hunger that will minimize the use of food as a political tool, ensure more efficient distribution beginning with establishment of worldwide food reserve programs and the sharing of technological agricultural assistance.
14. AAUW supports the comprehensive study and assessment both of foreign investments in the United States and of American investments abroad with the purpose of achieving a more complete knowledge of the dynamics of cash flow and the loci of control.
15. AAUW calls for open, accessible, accountable, and responsive government at all levels. We support full public

disclosure of campaign expenditures and contributions. We support mixed public and private funding of primary and general elections, with limitations on the total expenditures by candidates and contributions by individuals, regulated by an independent supervisory board.

16. **Added by board of directors:** That the convention request the board of directors to develop an appropriate plan to enable AAUW to assist in the sponsorship of Vietnamese refugees.

17. That AAUW declare its support for the U.S. and UN position for a 10-year moratorium on the commercial killing of whales; and that the association support those measures, both private and governmental, which will provide the economic sanctions necessary to convince all other countries of our intentions; said sanctions to continue until such time as the governments of our respective countries come to agreements on the protection of whales.

18. That AAUW initiate and work for change now in the economic and financial status of women, including the equal rights of women to all money earned and saved during the course of marriage.

## 1977

**1. ERA.** AAUW reaffirms as its highest priority ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and will continue to commit appropriate personnel and funds to that goal.

**2. Extension of Membership.** AAUW directs the Bylaws Committee to propose the necessary changes, in time for the 1979 AAUW Convention, to open membership to all persons holding baccalaureate or higher degrees from institutions on AAUW's list of qualified institutions, while retaining the name of the organization.

**3. Joint Telephone Listing.** AAUW supports appropriate action to meet the community need for joint listing in telephone directories by given name or initial of each spouse.

**4. Woman Abuse.** AAUW urges adequate protection under the law, as well as shelter and counseling, for the abused woman and child.

**5. Consumer Protection.** AAUW supports continuing research by industry and federal agencies in order to determine the cumulative and synergistic effect of food additives, and urges that results of the research and full ingredient food product labeling be available to the consumer.

**6. Probate.** AAUW urges its members in those states that have not adopted the Uniform Probate Code to study its procedures and support legislation that will permit the use of this simplified code for the transfer of property after death to the spouse or from one generation to another.

**7. Federal Government Efficiency.** AAUW supports congressional measures requiring positive decisions to eliminate unnecessary proliferation of agencies; reorganizing government oversight committees to pinpoint and eliminate wasteful spending; and establishing finance procedures for government agencies, so that they can plan and operate more efficiently.

**8. Genetic Engineering.** AAUW urges its members to study the potential, implications, and possible regulation of emerging genetic technology.

**9. Water Quality.** AAUW reaffirms its support for measures that control environmental pollution and urges strict enforcement of regulations that affect water quality; AAUW supports affirmative action by the United States Department of State in negotiations which will prevent pollution of U.S. waters by sources originating beyond U.S. borders;

furthermore, we support U.S. involvement in the International Joint Commission, which seeks to maintain or improve the waters that adjoin or originate beyond U.S. borders.

**10. Supersonic Transports.** AAUW supports work to prevent permanent permission for SSTs to land in the United States.

**11. Conservation.** AAUW urges members to work at all levels to encourage recycling or reuse of all possible materials in order to conserve energy and resources, and to discourage use of vital resources for overpacking and the creation of new throwaways.

**12. Homemaker/Volunteer.** AAUW supports appropriate actions to achieve legal recognitions of marriage as an equal partnership, and to measure in an equitable and legal way the social and economic contributions of homemakers in order to provide Social Security benefits and retirement and disability plans in their own right, and to recognize homemaking and volunteer skills as valid employment qualifications.

**13. Economic Pressure for ERA.**

WHEREAS, the national association has adopted the policy of not holding conventions in unratified states; and WHEREAS, economic pressure is a vital means of promoting a favorable lobby for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment; be it

*Resolved*, that the directors and planners of all regional association conferences shall be required to comply with national policy in holding conferences only in ratified states, such compliance to begin immediately.

**14. Recruitment for Minority Membership.** AAUW supports and encourages the positive and vigorous recruitment of minority women as members of the organization.

**Nuclear Power/Energy Resolution**

WHEREAS, nuclear power as a source of electrical energy has raised environmental, economic, and safety issues; and WHEREAS, other methods of energy production are limited by supply, environmental constraint, high cost, or underdeveloped technology; be it

*Resolved*, that AAUW support strong conservation measures as the primary energy requisite;

*Resolved*, that AAUW encourage the development of alternate sources of energy, support diversification of our sources of energy, and recognize the significant contributions that local sources can make;

*Resolved*, that AAUW urge the development of coordinated and comprehensive energy planning on the national, regional, and state and local levels that emphasize these principles;

*Resolved*, that AAUW urge stringent limitations on the use of nuclear reactors and assign high priority to the solutions of safety questions and waste disposal problems; nuclear energy should be considered only as an interim source of electrical power in cases in which conservation and alternate energy sources cannot meet reasonable demands; and

*Resolved*, that AAUW encourage vigorous research for new sources of energy by the Energy Research and Development Administration (ERDA).

**1979**

**1. ERA.** AAUW reaffirms as its highest priority ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and will continue to commit

appropriate personnel and funds to that goal.

**2. Educational Equity through Title IX.** AAUW reaffirms its commitment to achieve educational equity for women, particularly focusing on women in higher education, will continue actively to monitor and pursue implementation of Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, and will take action against attempts to undermine such implementation.

**3. Women's Conferences.** AAUW endorses and urges its membership to pursue actively the goals of the National Plan of Action that relate to the program of AAUW.

Furthermore, AAUW urges Congress and the president to support fully the aims of the World Conference of the UN Decade for Women of 1980 in order to continue vigilance on behalf of women's rights and efforts to pursue these rights in all countries. Such support should include the early appointment of the delegation and its advisory personnel with expertise in the issues of the decade and with emphasis on health, employment, and education; such participation should include congressional funding activities attendant to that conference.

**4. Voting Rights for DC.** AAUW supports the proposed Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to give voting representation to the District of Columbia in Congress.

**5. Rights of the Child.** AAUW urges the U.S. government to support the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child through legislation and programs ensuring that all children enjoy these rights regardless of race, color, sex, religion, and national or social origin.

**6. Constitutional Amending Process.** AAUW supports the time-honored process of amending the U.S. Constitution for single subject changes; therefore, AAUW opposes the calling of a Constitutional Convention.

**7. AAUW Internships.** AAUW directs the Educational Foundation and the Association Legislative Program Committee to study the feasibility of establishing internships within the state and federal government under the Fellowships or Research and Projects Programs. These internships would enable women with a high interest in effective government to acquire political expertise. A report of this study shall be presented at the 1981 Association Convention and shall include a plan of action provided feasibility is confirmed.

**8. Use of Chairman/Chair.** AAUW recognizes the desire of AAUW members to use the term chairman and chair interchangeably in AAUW correspondence. Therefore, the Association Bylaws Committee is instructed to bring a bylaws change to the 1981 convention to allow this optional use of chair and chairman.

**9. Review of Nuclear Power/Energy Resolution.** AAUW reaffirms the energy policy as stated in the 1977 resolution, except that we oppose the issuance of permits for new construction of nuclear power facilities for two years. In the meantime, a review shall be carried out by the membership working with the Managing Resources for Tomorrow Topic Committee and the AAUW experts from scientific and humanistic fields with special attention to diverse regional needs. Results of this review shall be reported to the 1981 Association Convention with interim reports issued prior to that time.

**10. Politics of Food.** AAUW adopts the food policy statement as presented by the Association Politics of Food Topic Committee.

The American Association of University Women recognizes that the United States is the world's major food supplier. AAUW acknowledges the importance of a comprehensive and holistic approach to policy in the area of food and agriculture. In the development of such a policy, AAUW affirms the following food policy statement:

#### **Environmental Impact**

The following should be encouraged:

1. Long-range innovative land use planning with the emphasis on maintaining agricultural land in agricultural use;



2. Recognition of the finiteness of natural resources, and a commitment to conservation and reclamation, including education in alternatives and economic and social incentives to protect the environment;
3. Research (with widely disseminated results) on pollution control and agricultural use of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources—with specific attention to increased and more efficient use of renewable resources as an alternative to continued depletion of nonrenewable resources.

### **Adequate Nutrition at Home and Abroad: A Domestic Right to Food**

1. Programs providing adequate information about good nutrition for all phases of the lifecycle (prenatal to elderly) should be encouraged, including
  - (a) utilization of the school curricula from kindergarten through postsecondary;
  - (b) use of TV, other media, and nonformal learning groups;
  - (c) reinforcement of knowledge about a good diet and opportunities for nutrition education as a part of all government programs of food assistance, (for example, school lunch, food stamps, Title VII program for elderly, WIC, et cetera);
  - (d) training of medical, dental, and other health professionals in the prevention and treatment of disease;
  - (e) intensified research on human nutrient needs and subsequent development of human nutritional guides.
2. A commitment to the eradication of malnutrition (both too much and too little nutrient intake) should be encouraged in the United States and throughout the world, including
  - (a) the basic right to an adequate, safe, and nutritious diet for all people;
  - (b) stabilization of population growth;
  - (c) increased employment opportunities so that food assistance programs can be substantially decreased.
3. Conservation measures should be supported, including reduction of waste of food and water in food service establishments and in the home.
4. Comprehensive labeling of processed foods by industry to indicate all intentional additives, warnings of any need for refrigeration after opening, and warnings against any inappropriate dilutions should be assured.

### **Production and Distribution**

- Production, adequate to meet domestic and international nutritional requirements, and United States trade needs should be stimulated and sustained, to include
- (a) reassessing which areas of agriculture will be supported;
  - (b) investigating implications of rising land costs for the future;
  - (c) assuring to the farmer adequate elements of production, (agricultural supplies, equipment, et cetera);
  - (d) providing incentives for adequate competition in marketing;
  - (e) developing a policy of grain reserves that reflects the interests of both producers and consumers;
  - (f) incentives for both governmental and private research of food products that would provide higher nutrient content;
  - (g) educating both consumers and businesses on the advantages of appropriate packaging and appropriate and truthful advertising.

### **Multinational Corporations**

- There should be national and international accountability of multinational corporations to ensure the development of viable agricultural processes and distribution within a humanitarian context, to include
- (a) establishing an international code of conduct;
  - (b) developing import and export policies cognizant of human needs;
  - (c) recognizing human, social, and economic responsibilities to host countries in such areas as technology transfer, training, and employment policies.

### **United States Foreign Food Policy**

This policy should address itself to the basic right of the individual to food within the context of an international economic order that includes a basic human needs approach. Recognizing that world hunger can be alleviated, an appropriate assistance policy to include the following should be pursued, based on a dialogue with developing nations:

- (a) taking steps toward food self-sufficiency of developing nations;
- (b) giving greater visibility to the significant role of rural women as primary food producers;
- (c) encouraging international cooperation in agricultural trade to benefit both United States farmers and consumers, while providing trade opportunities for developing nations;
- (d) providing for the eventual participation of the United States in international grain reserves, taking into account their use for disaster relief;
- (e) cooperation with the United Nations and other multilateral agencies in food and hunger programs.

**11. IFUW.** AAUW supports the joint recommendations of the AAUW and Canadian Federation of University Women concerning the IFUW.

**12. ERA—Unratified States.** AAUW, at its 30th biennial convention in the ratified state of New Mexico, deplores the failure of legislatures of the unratified states—Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Utah, and Virginia—to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and reaffirms its stand taken in 1977 against holding national or regional conventions in unratified states; and further resolves that the association, in session, urge the elected representatives of the women of those unratified states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, that copies of this resolution be sent to the respective state governors and other elected officials, and that the request be made that this message be read in both houses of those state legislatures.

## 1981

**1. ERA.** AAUW reaffirms as its highest priority ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and will continue to commit appropriate personnel and funds to that goal.

**2. Women’s History Week.** AAUW supports and actively promotes a nationwide proclamation, celebration, and observance of Women’s History Week annually, during the week containing March 8.

**3. Campus Programs.** AAUW Membership Committee and the Corporate Member Relationships Committee shall cooperate to develop and establish campus programs that would lead to future membership in AAUW.

**4. Separation of Church and State.** AAUW affirms the doctrine of separation of church and state.

**5. Domestic Violence.** AAUW reaffirms its support for adequate protection under the law, as well as the establishment of shelters and counseling services for victims of domestic violence and abuse.

**6. Families and Work.** AAUW supports a national project exploring families and work.

**7. Consistent Refugee Policy.** AAUW supports the development of a consistent policy toward refugees that acknowledges their social, economic, and political needs, and supports those local programs that facilitate the transition of refugees into American life.

**8. Energy.** AAUW supports a program of conservation of all energy resources, directed at maximum efficiency and aimed at both users and suppliers that addresses the appropriateness of the energy source for the use intended. AAUW

1. Gives full support to programs that prolong the availability of finite resources.
2. Supports those energy systems that, from production through pricing, include and account for the impact on people and their environment.

3. Encourages the development of energy options through both public and private research.
4. Supports emergency and long-term planning and policies designed to forecast future demand and supply, reflecting unique regional characteristics.
5. Supports the use of renewable energy sources, with active advocacy for those methods that have minimal long-term deleterious effects.
6. Shall actively promote development, technological advances, and support programs that foster increased use of renewable energy sources, with emphasis on full-cycle analysis of benefits as well as harmful effects.
7. Supports the active participation of the public sector in deciding the nation's energy policy.

**9. Hazardous Wastes.** AAUW supports stringent regulations for the safe management of hazardous and radioactive wastes.

AAUW supports programs that 1) recognize that the community has the right and responsibility to be involved in local siting of hazardous and radioactive waste management facilities; 2) involve local committees early in the siting process; and 3) provide a public education process to accomplish these goals.

**10. Marriage Tax Penalty.** AAUW strongly advocates the passage of legislation to end all tax discrimination against married couples with two incomes.

**11. Woman's Appointment to U.S. Supreme Court.** AAUW urges President Ronald Reagan to name a qualified woman to serve as a justice of the United States Supreme Court.

## 1983

**1. ERA.** AAUW reaffirms as its highest priority the passage and ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and will continue to commit appropriate personnel and funds to that goal.

**2. Feminization of Poverty.** AAUW directs the Association Legislative Program Committee to work 1) to create public awareness of the tragedy and urgency of the increasing "feminization of poverty," 2) to correct the inequities and economic burdens of women who head households, and 3) to develop a plan of action toward a national policy that recognizes women's need for economic independence and financial security.

**3. Support for Public Education.** AAUW implements as quickly as possible the issue Guaranteeing Adequate Public Support for Public Education.

**4. Nuclear Freeze.** AAUW supports a multilateral, verifiable, and immediate freeze on nuclear forces, including a complete halt to the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons, missiles, and new aircraft designed primarily to deliver nuclear weapons.

**5. Legal Advocacy Fund.** AAUW directs the Board of Directors to establish a permanent Legal Advocacy Fund and directs the association Bylaws Committee to present appropriate bylaws amendments to the 1985 association convention.

**6. Censorship/Book Banning.** AAUW vigorously resists any attempts, whether by special interest groups, branches of government, or other sources, to ban or censor books or other media.

**7. Technology.** AAUW supports the development and use of technology to achieve equity and advancement for women.

AAUW supports 1) programs to improve computer literacy of members, 2) activities that encourage policy makers to assess the equity implications of technological development, and 3) measures to increase the percentage of women in

science, telecommunications, computer science, engineering, and related professions.

**8. Court Stripping.** AAUW opposes legislation that strips federal courts of the historical and independent authority guaranteed them by the U.S. Constitution.

**9. Drunken Driving.** AAUW supports programs and legislation to combat driving while intoxicated.

**10. UN Decade for Women.** AAUW supports U.S. participation in the 1985 World Conference of the UN Decade for Women. Official participation should represent the diverse leadership of American women with appropriate financial and programmatic support. Official reports and positions should be based upon principles defined in the National Plan of Action of the 1977 National Women's Conference.

**11. Peace Academy.** AAUW supports the establishment of a U.S. Academy of Peace.

**12. Voting Rights for Guam.** AAUW supports an act of Congress to give the U.S. citizens of Guam the right to vote for president and vice president of the United States.

**13. Violence Against Women in Media.** AAUW uses all appropriate means to eliminate portrayal of violence against women and children in all forms of the media.

**14. Local Scholarships.** AAUW directs the Board of Directors to appoint an ad hoc committee to study the nature and administration of local scholarship programs and to report its findings to the 1985 association convention.

**15. Chairman/Chair.** The association Bylaws Committee is directed to present to the 1985 AAUW biennial convention a bylaws amendment that proposes the substitution of the word chair for chairman throughout the association Bylaws.

**1985: No resolutions were reported to, nor adopted by, convention delegates.**

**1987**

**1. AAUW's Long-Standing Principles and Resolutions.** AAUW calls for the development of a comprehensive record of AAUW's long-standing philosophical beliefs and principles, its resolutions, and its public policy activities to be presented to the 1989 association convention.

**2. Women's Work/Women's Worth.** AAUW encourages its branches and divisions to explore organizational structures, that make the most effective use of the time, talents, energies, and resources of leader members and to report the results of such explorations to the association.

**3. Women's Unpaid Work.** AAUW will promote studies assessing the monetary value of women's unpaid work to the U.S. economy and incorporating results into official statistical measures.

**4. International Development.** To implement the Nairobi *Forward-Looking Strategies*, AAUW supports international technological exchanges promoting equity for women.

**5. Teen Pregnancy.** AAUW supports measures that promote the prevention of teenage pregnancy. In addition, AAUW supports community and school-based programs and services including sex education, family life education, substance abuse prevention programs, and support services for teen parents.

**6. College/University Branches.** AAUW directs the College/University Relations and Membership Committees to investigate the feasibility of establishing branches at college/university member institutions.

**7. Marriage as an Equal Partnership.** AAUW advocates a legal definition of marriage as an equal partnership that recognizes the value of unpaid and paid work of both partners.

**8. Equity Action Vote Project.** AAUW affirms its strong commitment to the Equity Action Vote Project as a continuing strategy for achieving the goals embodied in the AAUW mission.

## 1989

**AAUW Bylaws Revision.** AAUW directs the Bylaws Committee to prepare a revision of the AAUW Bylaws to be presented at the 1991 convention.

**Women in Science and Technology.** AAUW will strive to increase the number of women involved in scientific and technological careers through programmatic efforts aimed at motivating and inspiring women and girls to pursue mathematical, scientific, and engineering studies.

**Women and Homelessness.** AAUW supports branch and division efforts that address the problem of homelessness with emphasis on the status of women and children.

**English Proficiency and Civil Rights.** To ensure the ability of all individuals to exercise the rights of full participation in society, AAUW opposes all attempts to restrict civil rights on the basis of one's proficiency in English.

**The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the *Forward-Looking Strategies*.** In preparation for the 1990 lengthened meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which will assess progress on the *Forward-Looking Strategies* (the document that came out of the UN Decade for Women Conference in Nairobi), AAUW urges the United States government to give full support for the work of that commission and the implementation of the *Forward-Looking Strategies* and to provide adequate funds and staff resources for the U.S. delegation. AAUW will work with other U.S. women's organizations to reinforce the local, state, national, and international collaboration on the *Forward-Looking Strategies*.

**The Environment and Sustainable Development.** AAUW supports efforts at all levels to promote *Our Common Future* (the report of the World Commission on Environment and Development) and will work with the United Nations and the International Federation of University Women to promote global acceptance of sustainable development in order to address present needs without compromising future resources. AAUW will also advocate working in local and regional coalitions to adopt laws, practices, and lifestyles that respect the environment and promote sustainable development.

**Blue Ribbon Campaign.** The American Association of University Women will launch a national Blue Ribbon Campaign in which all members, as well as the general public, will be encouraged to wear a blue ribbon—beginning AAUW Week 1990 and thereafter—to generate public awareness and action for teen pregnancy prevention.

## 1991

**1. AAUW's Commitment to Diversity.** The association, states, and branches will commit time and resources to develop and implement a five-year plan to reduce barriers to underrepresented groups and to expand access to leadership opportunities with the intent of strengthening our diverse communities on a local, national, and global level. The

association, states, and branches will produce a biennial report of progress toward the goal of becoming a more diverse organization.

**2. Elimination of Hate Violence and Harassment.** AAUW condemns and combats prejudicial harassment and violence against individuals based on sexual orientation, race, religion, creed, national origin, age, physical characteristics, disability, and gender. Additionally, AAUW supports the right of all students and staff to an affirmative, positive, equitable, and safe educational environment.

**3. Minimum Wage Increases.** AAUW supports periodic increases in the minimum wage to ensure that the income of women and girls keeps pace with inflation.

**4. Waste Minimization through Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling.** AAUW promotes waste minimization through reduction, reuse, and recycling at association, state, and branch levels by modeling change in our personal and organizational lives, by encouraging AAUW members to serve on boards and planning commissions, and by monitoring units of government that are responsible for managing waste. AAUW encourages branches and states to participate in community education efforts.

**5. World Literacy for Women.** AAUW supports the United Nations goal of 100 percent worldwide literacy for women by the year 2000 and urges the United States government to support UNIFEM, UNESCO, and other national and international organizations and agencies working toward this goal.

**6. Legal Availability of RU486.** The association, states, and branches advocate the legal availability of RU486 for appropriate research and clinical testing and work in collaboration with other organizations to reinforce the effort.

**7. Convention on the Rights of the Child.** AAUW urges the president of the United States to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to send it to the U.S. Senate for its ratification; and that AAUW members communicate to the president and the U.S. Senate strong support for its ratification, and work with other organizations in promoting the United States' adherence to it.

**8. UN Conference on Environment and Development.** AAUW supports the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to be held in Brazil in June 1992 by encouraging branches and states to publicize this conference and educate their members and communities about it.

## 1993

**AAUW Institutional Membership.** The AAUW Board of Directors will investigate and determine the feasibility of additional categories of membership and/or affiliation by institutions, corporations, and other organizations. Such a feasibility study shall include a recommended fee structure and shall be forwarded to the AAUW Bylaws Committee for presentation to the 1995 association convention.

**Diversity.** AAUW states and branches are strongly encouraged to include the four AAUW vision priorities for diversity in their strategic plans: 1) AAUW will reflect the demographics of the community in both membership and leadership at all levels; 2) AAUW will foster open access to leadership; 3) AAUW will enhance its power and strength as the leading advocate for education and equity for all women and girls by making diversity a priority. 4) AAUW will welcome and affirm every member as a human being of worth and dignity.

**Designated Funds for Nontraditional Students.** AAUW encourages its members to designate their alumni contributions to colleges and universities to be allocated to a sequestered and continuing fund to aid nontraditional (reentry or independent) women students and to work with colleges and universities to establish such funds.

**Women and HIV/AIDS.** AAUW will advocate appropriate measures in the public and private sectors to prevent and cure HIV/AIDS, in women as well as in men, and for programs and funding to care for AIDS sufferers and their dependent children.

**Health Care.** AAUW supports health care reform that addresses the specific needs of women and includes access for all persons to affordable health care. National health research should include a focus on issues specific to women.

**International Violence Against Women.** Recognizing that the association has written to President Clinton and UN Ambassador Madeline Albright, the 1993 AAUW convention urges its members collectively and individually to: 1) demand that rape not only be explicitly defined as a war crime in various UN Conventions and 4th Geneva Convention and Protocols but that systematic rape and violence be vigorously prosecuted as a war crime; and 2) urge their senators and representatives to pass S. Res. 35 and H.R. Res. 32.

**Extremism.** AAUW supports intellectual and academic freedom and the right of individuals to self-determination. We urge states and branches to identify and challenge extremist groups, candidates for public office, and tactics that would restrict these rights.

**Beijing Conference.** AAUW will build upon historic international links that extend the focus of the AAUW *Initiative for Educational Equity* and cooperative efforts with IFUW by promoting public awareness of the 1995 Fourth World Conference for Women in Beijing and the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

**Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF).** The LAF Board is strongly urged to change its bylaws during 1993–94 so that candidates for officers of the LAF Board be nominated by the association Nominating Committee and be elected by the 1995 convention delegates, and at conventions thereafter.

## 1995

### 1. Domestic Violence.

*Resolved*, that AAUW reaffirms its opposition to domestic violence by supporting the implementation of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act, encouraging states and branches to support inclusion of violence prevention skills in the pre-K–12 curriculum, and opposing discrimination against victims of domestic violence in insurance reform and health care reform.

**2. Mission Statement.** AAUW will revise its mission statement to read as follows: “AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.”

### 3. Avenues to Membership.

*Resolved*, that AAUW affirms the central importance of branches to the work of AAUW while also acknowledging the changing lifestyle and needs of women and that AAUW recognizes and appreciates several avenues to membership. AAUW will analyze the results of the current national, state, and branch direct mail pilot and develop a plan to better integrate recruitment strategies by the 1997 association convention.

### 4. Legal Advocacy Fund.

*Resolved*, that the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) board of directors be strongly urged to change its bylaws in advance of the 1997 association convention to require the election by the AAUW membership at the association convention of the LAF president and two board members, all three of whom shall not be association board members during their LAF board term of service, and that the association Bylaws Committee shall prepare appropriate changes for consideration at the 1997 association convention.

## **5. Diversity on Association Board.**

*Resolved*, that the Nominating Committee be directed to make a concerted effort to recruit the widest possible pool of diverse candidates for association board positions.

## **6. Commending President Clinton and Senators Who Supported the Nomination of Henry Foster, M.D.**

*Resolved*, that the AAUW send a letter to President Bill Clinton and to the senators who supported Dr. Henry Foster, commending them for their untiring efforts to approve his nomination as surgeon general of the United States.

The letter should express our denunciation of the unfair tactics used by some senators to prevent a vote on Dr. Foster's nomination. We believe their actions were motivated by tenets contrary to AAUW positions on the right to choose, on prevention of teenage pregnancies, and on comprehensive health care for women.

We urge President Clinton to nominate a candidate of similar qualifications for surgeon general. We further recommend that a news release be prepared by the association and that similar letters be sent to senators by state AAUWs, local branches, and individual members.

## **1997**

**1. Early Tobacco Addiction in Women and Girls.** Recognizing the need to combat the long-term health consequences of early tobacco addiction, particularly in women and girls, AAUW supports the promotion of comprehensive school-based health education, including effective tobacco use prevention curricula and measures to protect youth from purchasing tobacco products.

**2. Membership Requirement Dialogue.** AAUW will undertake an association-wide dialogue on the suitability of current membership requirements, to include legal and fiscal implications, culminating in a forum at the 1999 association convention.

**3. International Dialogue.** AAUW will provide international information through AAUW's *Outlook* with dialogue on critical questions relating to AAUW membership and dues in IFUW in preparation for a discussion forum at the 1999 association convention.

**4. Seneca Falls Convention.** AAUW encourages each branch in the nation to recognize the importance of the sesquicentennial of the Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention in whatever way the branch deems most appropriate.

## **1999**

**1. Anniversary of the 1850 First National Women's Rights Convention.** The American Association of University Women will encourage each branch to recognize the sesquicentennial of the 1850 National Women's Rights Convention, to address the unfinished agenda of equality for women, and to continue living the legacy of our foremothers into the 21st century.

## **2001**

**1. Gun Control.** The American Association of University Women will promote the establishment of meaningful gun



violence prevention in the United States by encouraging states and branches to initiate discussion in their communities and to contact lawmakers on the issue.

**2. Resolution on the Statues of Women in the United States Capitol Building.** The American Association of University Women will support the legislation by United States Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) to have a statue of a woman who is not of European origin placed in the United States Capitol Building by contacting Rep. Davis' office to communicate AAUW's support and offer to help in selecting just which woman would be appropriate for this honor and by encouraging AAUW states and branches to request their representatives to become cosponsors.

**3. Urging support for the renaming of "squaw" geographic areas.** AAUW will encourage state and local AAUW organizations to encourage and support efforts to persuade appropriate government agencies to eliminate the use of the derogatory word "squaw" in geographic names and replace with other neutral or inoffensive names.

**4. Supporting the Girl Scouts in their policy on nondiscrimination.** We move that the American Association of University Women stand firmly behind the Girl Scouts of the USA in their decision to remain nondiscriminatory concerning membership and leadership. AAUW's diversity statement is, "In principle and in practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or class." We commend the Girl Scouts of the USA for holding fast to such principles, and we urge others to do so as well.

**5. Creating a Standing Committee on International Relations.** We move that the Bylaws Committee be directed to bring forward a provision for a standing committee on international affairs for consideration at the next convention to take effect July 1, 2003.

## **2003**

### **1. Post-9/11, when national security concerns encroach on civil liberties.**

*Resolved*, that

- 1) AAUW encourage AAUW states and branches to analyze and discuss ways to balance the need to combat terrorism while protecting our vital civil liberties, and
- 2) AAUW work to oppose legislation and administrative directives that threaten our civil liberties.

### **2. To continue the discussion on AAUW's membership requirement and categories.**

*Resolved*, that members of AAUW hold an association-wide structured dialogue on the suitability of current membership requirements and categories to be completed by June 30, 2004.

### **3. Because only three states are needed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in the United States.**

*Resolved*, that AAUW urges all states, branches, and members to take action to bring about ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in three more states.

### **4. To increase underrepresented populations, including women, in economic decision-making positions worldwide.**

*Resolved*, that AAUW will encourage international institutions based in the United States to include women in economic decision-making positions. AAUW will also propose a resolution to the International Federation of University Women that would encourage national federations and associations to urge their governments to encourage national and international financial institutes and governments at all levels to include women in economic decision making positions.

### **5. Because many women are unfamiliar with the limited time in which they may file a complaint.**

*Resolved*, that AAUW will support efforts to extend the legal statute of limitations in cases of gender discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

**2005**

**1. Federal Communications Commission Resolution**

Be it *Resolved*, that the American Association of University Women request that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) exercise its powers over all broadcast licensees to assure the fair presentation of objective, comprehensive coverage and discussion of all important political, social, scientific, and environmental issues facing the country including full coverage of local, national, and world news events.

Further be it *Resolved*, that the American Association of University Women request that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) cease drafting new rules that would permit greater consolidation of broadcast media that would control the amount of comprehensive news coverage available to the citizens of this country.

**2. IFUW Resolution**

WHEREAS, the association board has eliminated payment of IFUW dues from 2004–05 and 2005–06 budgets, and WHEREAS, AAUW of California adopted a resolution at its annual meeting in April 2005 directing that a resolution addressing the importance of IFUW and the payment of dues be brought to this convention, now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the delegates of the 2005 association convention strongly urge the association to work affirmatively to maintain our relationship with IFUW including negotiating a new agreement with IFUW regarding affiliate contributions.

**3. Retirement Security Resolution**

Be it *Resolved*, that AAUW support the legislation to eliminate both the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset to address improved retirement security and promote economic self-sufficiency for women.

**2007, 2009, and 2011: There were no resolutions reported to, nor adopted by, convention delegates.**

**2017**

**Equal Rights Amendment**

AAUW reaffirms as a high priority ratification of the ERA; and

WHEREAS, the need for women’s rights, equity, and advancement remain serious equality and economic issues; and WHEREAS, the ERA was first introduced in Congress nearly 100 years ago and even today, in the 21st century, the U.S. Constitution still does not explicitly guarantee all rights are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex; and WHEREAS, over the last 30 years, not only has there been a lack of progress on the ERA, there have been erosions of women’s rights, making the need for the ERA stronger now than ever before; be it

*Resolved*, that AAUW aggressively supports ratification of the ERA; and

*Resolved*, that AAUW may commit appropriate personnel and funds needed to accelerate and achieve ratification of the ERA.

**Human Trafficking**

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a global problem damaging lives, families, and communities;

WHEREAS, every year an increasing number of people fall victim to human trafficking, mainly for sexual exploitation and illegal labor; and

WHEREAS, trafficking is the third-largest source of international illegal income after drugs and arms; and

WHEREAS, trafficking affects women and children in a large majority of cases; and

WHEREAS, AAUW's core principle—the empowerment of women—includes personal safety; be it

*Resolved*, that AAUW shall adopt human trafficking as a focus area by urging branches and affiliated entities to raise community awareness and take action against human trafficking; enlisting lawmakers to adopt legislation to end human trafficking and to rescue and protect victims; increasing AAUW public policy action on local, state, and federal levels; and providing program models for branches and states to use for community and legislative action.

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