

Appendix One: How I think a resolution goes from someone's brain, to the UN

Step One: Have an idea

So you have or end up having something that really riles you that you want to make a change, e.g coming into the lounge and seeing your five year old niece watching music video on free to air that is really on the raunchy side. No way would it be allowed at that hour if a TV programme.

Step Two: Write a resolution

You write a resolution. To help make this as effective as possible it's important to a) research to be able to support your resolution both in writing and verbally b) get help from other members how know how to do these things c) look in the yellow book and see if there is one there already that needs updating

Step Three: Present the resolution to your BPW Club

Table the resolution at your local club to gain their support. To ensure support, step two is critical to get right so make sure to work with an experienced BPW'er. They are all supportive so sure to be helpful.

Step Four: Submitted to the resolution committee

There is a nationwide committee that vets resolutions before going to the AGM.

Step Six: Get a seconder

Make sure to have a seconder to your resolution. The seconder needs to do their homework on the issue.

Step Five: AGM

It's AGM time or National Conference. The resolutions are all included in a booklet for discussion and voting by BPW NZ in the form of delegates from all the clubs at the AGM.

The number of delegates a club has is dependent on the number of members a club has – the more members the more delegates.

You stand up and present your resolution and then the person seconding it.

The floor is opened to those that want to make a comment. Those for the resolution go to the left of the room, those that do not support the resolution go to the right.

The first supporter speaks, followed by the first dissenter. It must be turn about. Eg if there are five for the resolution and only one against, then you only hear from the one for and one against.

The Proposer has a right of reply for two minutes.

Then it goes to the vote. A club will vote to support and second, before going to the wider vote. The resolution is either passed or lost.

If passed they go into the yellow book.

Step Six: National Council of Women (NCW)

BPW sits under the umbrella of the NCW.

All passed resolutions are submitted to NCW annually for consideration in the same manner as the Annual BPW conference.

BPW makes the most submissions to NCW. Other groups like Catholic Women's league also sit under the NCW umbrella.

Little lost here, what then happens to resolutions?

Step Seven: NZ Law change - Select Committee

The Vice President of Issues is responsible for monitoring Parliamentary alerts on upcoming Select Committee hearings.

If there is a resolution in the Yellow Book relating to a certain Select Committee hearing, the Vice President Issues, with help from you and/or other club members, will put together the submission in the required format to the Select Committee.

They will then make an oral submission to the Select Committee for 5 minutes, with 5 minutes of questions.

Then it's time for the press releases to be let free (all pre-written before spoken and waiting), before then doing the ground work to gain support to see the submission come into law.

The parliamentary process kicks in before the resolution (or variation on theme) becomes law.

Step Eight: BPW International

If appropriate the submission will be submitted to BPW International.

Every three years BPW nations come together and vote on resolutions like at NZ BPW AGM.

The next one is in Egypt in 2017.

If passed, they can end up at the UN *somehow*?

BPW has Consultative Status with the UN. Vice President International is a representative *somewhere* at the UN and we also have a representative at UNICEF.

If the UN pass the resolution then all countries who are signatories of CEDAW (oooohhhhhhh Sea Door) - Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, are now required to implement the spirit of the resolution.

On 22 Nov 2014 the UN passed a resolution that came via BPW on children brides and forced marriages. It's now policy under CEDAW.

Side Events, where do these happen? UN or BPW International triennium conference? BPW speaks on panels, BPW was represented on ten panels compared to Zonta's one.

Then there is CSW, Commission on the Status of Women

Not quite sure how this fits into the jigsaw, but it's a UN Women initiative and occurs over two weeks in New York each year.