



The Circular

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Making a Difference for New Zealand Women

Gender equality is a human rights “fault line” in New Zealand

By Dr Judy McGregor

Regression in areas such as equal pay and violence against women and the lack of progress extending paid parental leave are eroding New Zealand’s human rights reputation, according to new research.

Written by three women with practical, political, legal and academic experience in human rights, the multi-year research study concludes that serious fault lines are developing and that New Zealand’s global leadership is at risk.

“A three year study of the six major human rights treaties that New Zealand has signed shows we’re better at talking about human rights than walking the talk and implementing our promises made internationally,” says Auckland University of Technology’s Professor Judy McGregor. She co-authored *Fault lines: Human rights in New Zealand* with Professor Margaret Wilson of the University of Waikato and human rights lawyer Sylvia Bell.

“The detailed research shows we’re slipping behind in areas such as child poverty, gender equality, systemic disadvantage of Māori, and the rights of disabled people to challenge the State.

“For example, we keep telling the United Nations we were the first to grant women the vote, but we still don’t have equal pay for women or pay equity for carers. Nor do we have adequate paid parental leave, and we continue to suffer completely unacceptable levels of violence against women. We say how good we are, but the reality is we’re in trouble.”

In addition the report says New Zealanders’ strong belief that we are good at human rights has blinded us to the fact that we are falling behind other countries in implementing economic, social and cultural rights on the ground, despite our treaty obligations.

The report suggests that New Zealand’s

well-nourished self-regard as a human rights exemplar has taken on its own life force as a dominant narrative by governments, but that the story disguises plateauing of progress and regression.

Analysis of New Zealand’s reporting to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee shows that the Committee noted regression rather than progress on equal pay in the second (repeal of the Employment Equity Act, 1990); sixth (closure of the Pay and Employment Equity Unit and the seventh reports. In the seventh report, which is the latest, the CEDAW committee was unusually prescriptive recommending to New Zealand: legislative change relating to equal pay for work of equal value;

- ♦ the setting of indicators and time frames for implementation;
- ♦ improved accountabilities for pay equity and equal pay in the public service;
- ♦ the use of affirmative action to eliminate occupational segregation;
- ♦ and effective monitoring of the gender pay gap.

Funded by the New Zealand Law Foundation, *Fault lines* suggests New Zealand needs to take urgent remedial action to retain its point of difference as a human rights leader. It is also critical of the level of understanding of Members of Parliament of human rights treaty obligations.

The report suggests that there is a renaissance of interest by civil society in human rights reporting which is evidenced by coalition-forming, greater maturity in shadow reporting processes, and an increased presence in the Universal Periodic Review process being used by the United Nations to allow all its member states to examine the human rights records of all other State parties including New Zealand.

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All over by Christmas

On 25th April, 2000 New Zealanders will make the pilgrimage to Gallipoli, Turkey for Anzac Day. Among them will be the children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren of men who landed at Anzac Cove 100 years ago.

When World War One broke out in August 1914, it was confidently expected that "it would be all over by Christmas". Sadly that was not the case. Gallipoli was the first time our troops had been involved in a full scale campaign against a modern army and our first taste of the price that comes with participating in a conflict of that nature. In these centenary commemorations it is important for us to remember New Zealand's women and their contribution to "the war to end all wars".

Before the First World War, the traditional roles for women and girls were mostly as servants and housewives, plus factory jobs in textiles and clothing which were considered to be women's work. Only a few countries, including New Zealand, Australia, and several Scandinavian nations, had given women the right to vote at that time, but otherwise, women were only minimally involved in the political process. Nursing became almost the only area where women served overseas close to the actual theatre of war. At home, Annette, Lady Liverpool (whose husband was New Zealand's governor), urged the NZ women to provide useful items for soldiers: shirts, underclothing, socks and darning kits (known as 'housewives'). Women made a huge contribution to New Zealand's war effort through the formation of many small women's organisations and "Patriotic Associations" whose members gathered to knit or stitch items of clothing for soldiers.

A number of NZ Women came to prominence during World War One

including Ettie Rout, a safe-sex advocate, and Dr Agnes Bennett, the first New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women Wellington Branch President who worked in an army hospital in Egypt in 1915 and in 1916 took a military hospital to the Balkans, where conditions were incredibly rough.

War has always impacted men and women in different ways. While women represent a minority of combatants and perpetrators of war, they and their children increasingly suffer the greatest harm. Women are poorly represented in formal peace processes, although they contribute in many informal ways to conflict resolution. Including women and gender perspectives in decision-making can strengthen prospects for sustainable peace.

This was formally recognised by the United Nations in October 2000 with the unanimous adoption of resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. This landmark resolution specifically addresses the situation of women in armed conflict and calls for their participation at all levels of decision-making on conflict resolution and peacebuilding. As a member of the Security Council, NZ is committed to ensure that women are included, especially in senior roles, in all countries' mandates for peace keeping operations.

The equal participation of women including women human rights defenders in all efforts to create international peace and security and the protection and respect for their human rights is imperative to prevent or resolve conflicts and build lasting peace.

Lest We Forget



Rae Duff, President

Review of remit process

From the Board

At its April meeting, the board considered the consultation feedback it has received about the remit process. This input started with a Soapbox item at the 2013 National Executive, followed by an Action item in 2014 and then a debate on the issue at the 2014 Conference. There have been some follow-up stories in *the Circular* and the Board has also received input directly.

It is clear that members have mixed feelings as to whether the current process results in robust NCW policy or needs change. As a result the Board will develop a template for use in the 2016 remit process.

This template will reinforce the objectives of the remit process, and encourage people to have a gender equality focus and to use evidence and statistics in the argument. It will urge proposers to outline current, or related initiatives to their topic (or the lack of them), and ensure that the basic information and web links to find more relevant material is contained in the remit rationale. This will help surface the most important arguments earlier in the process.

The draft template will be tested with members, and then regularly reviewed and updated. We're also going to use a table to track actions resulting from remits, as a better way to assess effectiveness.

From the Editor

Tēnā Koutou Circular readers

Thank you all for your ongoing contributions to the Circular, we greatly appreciate the range of articles submitted each month.

After receiving positive feedback on the various gender equality articles in the Circular over the

past few months, we are prioritising articles that have this focus. This means that articles published must have a clear link to gender equality/women.

If you are thinking about submitting an article to *the Circular*, please contact Claire at

National Office first (at claire.newton@ncwnz.org.nz). She will help you with the details and let you know what space is available. And if you have any difficulties, let us know – we are here to help. Thank you.

Helen Gibson, Circular Editor

Whangarei National Council of Women hui

Thanks to the Whangarei National Council of Women branch for hosting a fantastic hui this month. Our President Rae Duff attended alongside the Ministry for Women and other NGOs including Pacifica, Maori Women's Welfare League, and the YWCA. Discussions included NZ's

changing landscape for women and girls, emerging issues and challenges, and opportunities to work collaboratively with others in this space.

We would like to thank all who attended the event.



Recent NCWNZ submissions

NCWNZ made the following written submissions in March. To read the full submissions, visit www.ncwnz.org.nz (Members' Area).

Title:	Submitted to:	Date:
Inquiry into 2014 General Election	Justice and Electoral Select Committee	31-Mar
Violence Against Women – A Just and Safe Aotearoa	Human Rights Commission	31-Mar
Discrimination – Enabling a Fair Go for All	Human Rights Commission	31-Mar

Proposed remits for NCWNZ Conference 2015

The remits submitted were considered by the Board at a meeting on 11 April in relation to the following criteria:

- ◆ Is this remit already covered or partly covered by existing NCWNZ policy?
- ◆ Does NCWNZ policy need to be updated, and does the proposed remit achieve this?
- ◆ Is this an appropriate issue for a remit or could it be better pursued by another action?
- ◆ Is this a gender equality issue?

Six remits were selected for a review by members. Amendments should not alter the substance of the remit but rather clarify or simplify the wording. The closing date for suggested amendments is Friday 15 May 2015. Final remits will be emailed to members by 14 June.

The following suggested remits will not proceed to the 2015 Conference:

- ◆ Increased funding for grandparents raising grandchildren
- ◆ Improving nutrition and reducing obesity and related non-communicable diseases
- ◆ Proposed amendment to the medicines act (banning direct marketing to consumers)
- ◆ End of life choice
- ◆ Underage or forced marriages

Board members have been in touch with their proposers to discuss alternative actions.

Remits and the rationales have been emailed to members and are also available on the members' section of the NCWNZ website (www.ncwnz.org.nz/members). If you require a copy, please contact office@ncwnz.org.nz

Remit	Proposer
1. Equality for women in Parliament	Rosemary Du Plessis & Judith Sutherland, Public Issues Co-Conveners
2. Long term strategy for elimination of violence against women	BPWNZ
3. Insecure work/zero hour contracts (Note: There are two remits on this topic)	Margaret Ledgerton, Employment Convener BPWNZ
4. Maternal mental health services	NCW Auckland
5. Animal abuse and family violence	BPWNZ
6. Total ban on sale and supply of legal highs	BPWNZ

Get ready for Conference 2015!

From the Board

Conference this year will be on the weekend of 26 – 27 September. It will open at 9am on the Saturday and close on the Sunday at 3pm. An exciting programme is currently being planned.

The registration fee for the Conference is \$230 inc. GST and registrations close on Saturday August 1. Rooms have been block booked at Brentwood Hotel, when booking be sure to ask for the "NCWNZ Conference room rate".

It is recommended that you arrange accommodation and flights as soon as possible as the conference is on the same weekend as the World of Wearable Arts (WOW).

As this is the first Conference held under the new Constitution, attendance is not restricted to Presidents only – a full voting delegation may attend. Proxy voting for branch delegates will also be implemented.

Conference is a great opportunity to participate in a range of discussions and decisions that shape the work of our organisation. It is also a chance to connect with like-minded people. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

More information will be posted on the NCWNZ website soon. If you have any questions about Conference, contact office@ncwnz.org.nz or call us on 04 473 7623.

Introducing the NZ First spokesperson for Women's Affairs, Tracey Martin

We are featuring columns from NZ parties' women's affairs spokespersons. This month it is by NZ First MP Tracey Martin.

New Zealand First works for all New Zealanders – we believe that the rights, concerns and needs of New Zealanders should come first. And 51% of New Zealanders are women.

With an increase in the number of New Zealand First Members of Parliament at the last election, together with our recent success in the Northland by-election, we are in a position to do more work on behalf of New Zealand's women.

I acknowledge that our current caucus is light on women and I am continuing to work hard encouraging women to take their first political move by stepping forward for selection. I have been part of the New Zealand First team that established the Prospective Candidates College – just one way we can try and address this issue of under representation.

We need to start by seriously addressing the overall lack of gender equality because, I believe, we are doing ourselves a disservice as a society by not doing so.

If we were to look at the solution as the need to empower women, then we need to identify the barriers to that empowerment – on a social, economic and physical level. And whilst we have some seemingly simple ways we can empower women, age-old barriers still remain.

Unconscious bias and overt discrimination.

While we have come a long way since Kate Sheppard's win on our behalf and the historic first days of Elizabeth McCombs and Iriaka Rātana in Parliament, we still have long roads to travel.

Some of the barriers to the empowerment of women are structural and some are economic but many of them are social and unconsciously stored away. We can counter this with new structures and changes to how we do things - a change in behaviour which legislation can help drive. New Zealand First continues to work on meaningful ways to do this.

Women suffer from discrimination in the workplace and we are supporting those who are campaigning at all levels to remove it. We believe that part of the issue with the lack of gender equality and pay equity within employment can be addressed by tackling in-home inequality.



In Norway, they saw a shift in employment inequality when they made it compulsory for fathers to take a share of paid parental leave. This small change supported both parents being at home with their young children in those important first weeks and months. I will be working hard to identify how this Norwegian model might work for New Zealanders.

Another significant barrier to the empowerment of women is violence. Violence against women is one of New Zealand's worst statistics. One woman suffering at the hand of her intimate partner is one too many. I'm interested in how central government can support building the fence at the top of the cliff rather than the ambulance at the bottom.

New Zealand First believes that we can begin to address early causes of violence by better supporting those programmes that work within educational and community contexts around the creation of healthy relationships. If all genders understand and respect each other through creating and maintaining healthy relationships with each other, we'll be a lot further down that long road.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you through your advocacy and lobbying work so that together we can change the New Zealand landscape for women.

More women in Parliament?

By Rosemary Du Plessis and Judith Sutherland,
Public Issues Standing Committee Conveners

Little change since MMP in 1996

Millennium Development Goal three, 'promote gender equality and empower women', identifies the proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments as an indicator of progress towards gender equality. A recent submission from the NCWNZ Public Issues Standing Committee highlights the need to look at what can be done to increase women's representation in the New Zealand Parliament.

While New Zealand was recently ranked 29 out of 138 countries with respect to women's representation in national parliaments, the percentage of women MPs following the 2014 General Election was only 31.4% - not the 40 – 60% that might be expected when women are over 50% of the population. The proportion of women MPs after the 2014 election was actually slightly less than the percentage of women in 2011 (32.2%) (Curtin, 2014).

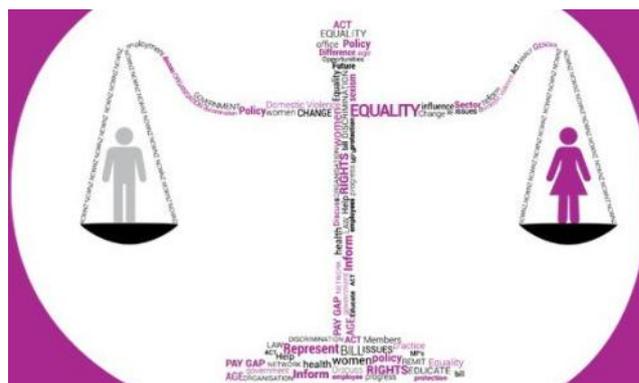
When Mixed Member Proportional representation (MMP) was introduced in 1996, the proportion of women increased from 21% to 29%. Since then, women have been approximately 30% of MPs. The high point was in 2008 when they were 33.6%, but this increase was not sustained (Arseneau, 2014:4).

New strategies are needed if women are to be better represented in Parliament. This is important if we are to be equally involved in political decision-making - one of women's fundamental rights.

Selection of candidates – Strategic Intervention

Women were 29.6% of the 554 electoral and list candidates who stood in the 2014 General Election. They were 31.4% of those elected. This suggests that, if more women were electoral candidates and/or better placed on party lists, the proportions of women MPs would increase.

The country with the highest representation of women in parliament is Sweden where women are 45% of parliamentarians. Rates of women's representation are highest in Scandinavia generally where most states have voluntary party quotas and forms of proportional representation. Some EU countries have dramatically improved women's representation through the use of legislated quotas and 'zippered-list' systems on their party lists that alternate male and female candidates.



(This ensures that women are not just on the lists, but distributed evenly with men in positions that could lead to their election). In other countries, electoral gender quotas have not had much impact. Research indicates that electoral gender quotas are most successful if there clear targets, specific time frames, attention to ranking as well as representation on party lists, and the support of party leaders (Curtin, 2013, 2014; Freidenvall & Dahlerup 2013).

NCWNZ's submission on the 2014 General Election did not made specific recommendations about voluntary or legislated quotas or the 'zippered list' quota system. However, this submission has prompted our interest in NCWNZ debate about gender quota systems and other ways of increasing women's equal participation in parliamentary decision-making. Women have the capacity to contribute equally with men as parliamentarians. How is this capacity to be to be realised at the next general election?

References:

- Arseneau, T. (2014). *The Impact of MMP on Representation in New Zealand's Parliament – a view from outside Parliament*. Convenor, New Zealand Branch ASPG.
- Curtin, J. (2013). *Parliament's gender balance: is a gender quota system the best way to get more women into Parliament? The NZ Listener, Politics, 11 July 2013.*
- Curtin, J. (2014). *What happened to women in the 2014 election? Women's Studies Association Newsletter, 35(2): 8-9.*
- Freidenvall, L. & Dahlerup, D. (2013). *Electoral Gender Quota Systems and their Implementation in Europe Update 2013. Directorate-General for Internal Policies, Policy Department Citizens' Rights and Constitutional Affairs, Brussels, European Parliament.*

Budget watching

Dr Deborah Russell, Economics Standing Committee convener

The government will deliver its budget on 21 May. It will contain some new measures, and some "business as usual" measures. Our familiarity with the budget process is important as its outcomes can have a significant impact on women and the progression of gender equality in New Zealand.

New measures

In the Budget Policy Statement released on 16 December 2015, Minister of Finance Bill English signalled that government would "focus on users and customers, with services designed around their needs rather than agency boundaries". The first step in this would be to "look hard at the billions of dollars already spent on vulnerable families and children to determine whether this can be better spent."

Government would also continue work "to deliver better outcomes from social housing for people in need" and it expected that "community housing providers will continue to grow in importance in the social housing sector."

In other words, look for new policy initiatives and new or redirected funding around support for families and children, and around social housing.

Business as usual

Much of government's income and expenditure for the coming year is already committed, and it will almost certainly follow the pattern of previous years.

Government revenue (excluding income earned by SOEs) is about \$73billion each year, or about 30% of GDP. The largest source of government revenue is personal income tax, followed by GST and then company tax.

	\$billion	%
Income tax	\$29.8	41%
GST	\$17.8	25%
Company tax	\$10.4	14%
Other indirect taxes	\$6.0	8%
Other direct taxes	\$3.6	5%
Total taxes	\$67.6	93%
Interest and dividends	\$2.5	3.5%
Other revenue	\$2.4	3.5%

"Other indirect taxes" includes customs, excise and gaming duties, and "other direct taxes" includes resident interest and dividend withholding taxes.

Government spends most of its income on welfare, health and education. The single biggest item of government expenditure is New Zealand superannuation.

	\$billion	%
NZ Superannuation	\$11.6	16%
Jobseeker and emergency	\$1.6	2%
Supported living	\$1.5	2%
Sole parent support	\$1.1	1.5%
Other benefits	\$3.1	4%
Other welfare	\$5.1	7%
Total welfare	\$24.0	33%
Health	\$15.1	21%
Education	\$12.8	17.5%
Core government services	\$4.8	7%
Finance costs	\$3.9	5%
Law and order	\$3.5	5%
Transport/communications	\$2.2	3%
Other	\$6.8	9%

Details of all the income and expenditure figures in this article can be found on the NZ Treasury website: <http://www.treasury.govt.nz/budget>



New Zealand Flag Consideration Project

By Judy Whitcombe, PWC

New Zealand's current flag, our third, was adopted in 1902. It is New Zealand's national symbol, representing the government and people of New Zealand.

A Panel of 12 New Zealanders (5 women, 7 men) from a wide variety of backgrounds, experience, age and ethnicities has been established to assess designs for a new flag. The Panel is chaired by Professor John Burrows, with Kate de Goldi as vice chair. Panel representatives are travelling the country to engage with the public, listen to their views and encourage people to submit designs for consideration. A website (www.flag.govt.nz) is being developed.

The process to consider changing the New Zealand Flag is outlined at <http://www.dpmc.govt.nz/dpmc/publications/nzflag-process>. The Responsible Minister is the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Bill English, with the lead department being the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The expected cost of this project, including the two referenda, is nearly \$26 m. The Ministry of Justice released a Regulatory Impact Statement that identifies financial and non-financial implications of a change in the flag, which can be found at

<http://www.justice.govt.nz/publications/global-publications/r/regulatory-impact-statement-considering-changing-the-new-zealand-flag>

The NZ Flag Referendum Bill was introduced into Parliament on 12 March and referred to the Justice and Electoral Committee with submissions on the Bill closing on 23 April. The Committee is to report back on 29 July. This Bill sets out the referendum process to be followed. A postal vote to select the preferred alternative design is planned for 20 November to 11 December using a preferential voting system. A second referendum to choose between the current flag and the preferred design is currently scheduled for March 2016.

NCWNZ and representatives from other Wellington organisations were invited to meet with Prof. Burrows and Panel Member Stephen Jones on 7 April. NCWNZ decided not to send in a submission on the Bill but to promote the process being followed to its members throughout the country. Information booklets will be distributed when available.

Every New Zealander of voting age should exercise their democratic right in the referenda on the flag that will be New Zealand's national symbol.

Gender equality is a human rights "fault line" in New Zealand, cont'd

It suggests 13 recommendations to help New Zealand retain human rights leadership including a comprehensive rewrite of human rights legislation, a new parliamentary select committee to deal with human rights and the urgent repeal of non-human rights compliant legislation to reinstate the rights of all New Zealanders to complain about discrimination.

The recommendations also suggest a new more proactive role for the Māori Affairs Select Committee in monitoring New Zealand's response to the United Nations about closing the inequality gaps. More New Zealanders should be nominated for significant UN human rights treaty bodies and journalists need better training in the reporting of treaty body reports which remain largely invisible to the public. "We have some highly impressive women in New Zealand that should be considered for nomination to the CEDAW committee, disabled women to the committee examining disability rights, and Māori women should, in particular, be nominated to all six of the UN committees that examine human rights. Human rights are as important as the Security Council."

Professor McGregor said the report had been very well received and attracted media attention both in New Zealand and overseas through the BBC World Service. It prompted a comment about women's low paid work from the Prime Minister John Key that was answered by Green party co leader Metiria Turei. Labour's Justice spokeswoman, Jacinda Ardern, indicated that Labour supported the idea of the Justice and Electoral Select Committee being rebranded as the Justice, Electoral and Human Rights Select Committee.

The research is the first empirical study involving interviews, trips to the United Nations as participants and observers, desk and archival research, and analysis of case law that takes an overview of the status of human rights which are so critical for gender equality and women's empowerment. "I don't think the report which is over 200 pages can be dismissed as just our opinion. I am hoping that once it has been read and considered it will be a catalyst for change."

The report is online at <http://www.aut.ac.nz/study-at-aut/study-areas/social-sciences/school-activity>.

An open letter to John Key

By Sue McCabe, NCWNZ Chief Executive

This month a waitress revealed that Prime Minister John Key had repeatedly touched and tugged on her pony tail while she was serving him at a cafe. The Prime Minister apologised to the waitress saying that his hair-pulling was simply "a bit of banter".

At the National Council of Women of New Zealand, we believe this kind of behaviour is unacceptable and have written an open letter to John Key on why it is never okay to touch someone without their consent.

Dear John.

We are disappointed to learn of your unwanted touching of a cafe worker. We appreciate your apology to her and we understand that your actions were well-intentioned and not meant to offend or do the worker any harm.

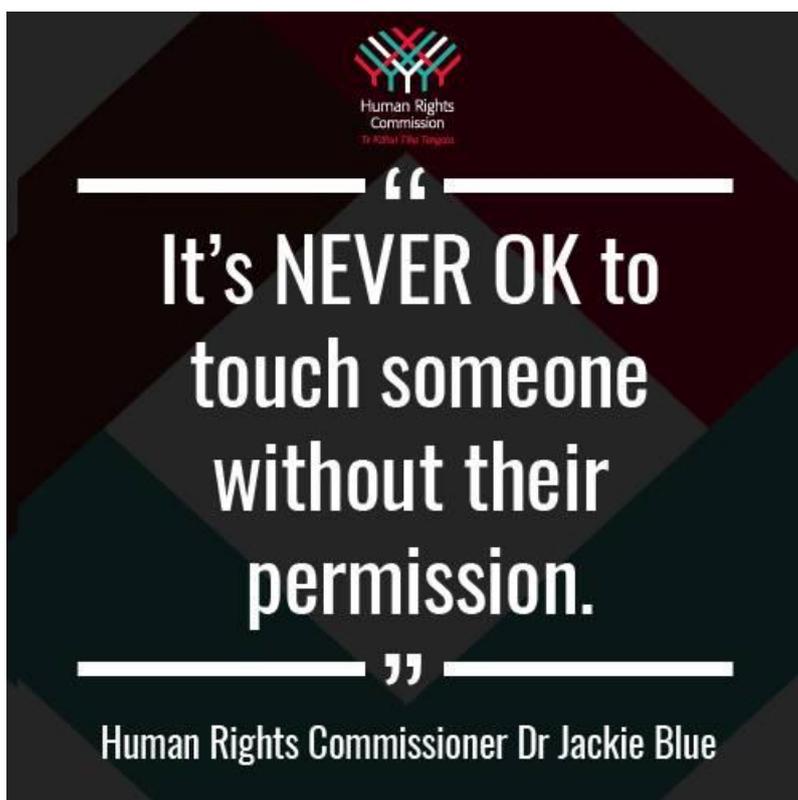
You no doubt know that it's never okay to touch someone without their permission. You probably think that you've never touched someone in such a way before. However, this incident shows that you have crossed the line. You will now be aware of the impact – the worker described how vulnerable and embarrassed she felt.

We don't see this as an isolated case and the real story is not about you. Rather, the fact that our Prime Minister has joined the list of people outed for sexism highlights how much sexism is a part of our culture. And it starts at the top.

Up and down this country, day after day, people are touched without giving their consent. At one end of the scale, it is an unwelcome pull on a pony-tail. At the other end, it's our shocking levels of violence against women.

We need to change our culture so we don't see touching someone as being our right, unless we know that it's welcome. We need you to lead from the top.

It's really hard for women to speak up when men's sexist actions are 'well-intentioned'. The National Council of Women of New Zealand commends this



worker for her bravery in speaking up, as we expect that given our culture she will now face as much criticism as understanding and support.

We are happy to meet with you to discuss how sexism is playing out in our society. This type of well-intentioned sexism might seem harmless. But sexism has serious impacts. It's behind the statistics your Government releases showing inequality in our pay, violence, and the lack of women in leadership.

Our organisation works to improve these statistics. We're currently consulting on a draft white paper that outlines what our country needs to do to achieve gender equality. It looks at the role our attitudes and actions around gender play in our current state. A copy is with your Minister for Women for feedback.

Now your eyes have been opened to how easily sexism can occur, we call on you, as Prime Minister, to do more to reduce sexism and its effects in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely,

Sue McCabe,
Chief Executive,
National Council of Women of New Zealand

Let us know what you think of our letter and John Key's actions by contacting us at office@ncwnz.org.nz.

Ensuring mental wellness in the community

By Trish Hanlen, NCW Tauranga Branch President

Rates of depression and anxiety disorder diagnosis are higher in woman than in men, at 17.9% and 7.7% of women compared with 10.4% and 4.4% of men. At the April branch meeting, Tauranga branch decided to break the silence around mental illnesses by having mental health advocate Janet Peters come and talk.

Janet is a registered psychologist with an interest in mental illness and mental wellness. She started her degree at the age of 25 at Waikato University in Hamilton. She became interested in the subject as both her parents had mental health issues plus she was interested in people. She then moved to Auckland to do research into chronic pain. Afterwards she spent 5 years working at a forensic clinic then a further 5 years with Waitemata Health Board. For the past 15 years she has been working independently and has been part of the National Depression Initiative, fronted by John Kirwan. The initiative also covers anxiety issues. Janet selects people for advertising and online videos for the advertising campaign.

More recently, with increasing acknowledgement of problems farmers face, she has again been working with John Kirwan and a film crew supporting farmers to tell their stories. There is now a dedicated area on the website specifically for farmers. Janet's message was to ensure people were encouraged to seek support through GPs, counselling and community agencies and that has been the purpose of recent publicity and media campaigns, including her work with television ads. Janet is very concerned about the levels of depression and anxiety in NZ. Supportive networks were seen as very important to ensure mental wellness in work that can lead to isolation, although she was also impressed with the support systems available to communities, such as the rural community.

She has also worked with The Adverse Childhood report – children who witness abuse, drugs, alcohol in the first 3 years of life have adverse physical and mental health problems in the future. Janet stressed just how important the experiences and learning about relationships in early childhood years were to develop lifelong mental wellness.



Janet Peters spoke about her work in the mental health sector at the NCW Tauranga branch's April meeting

"Jemma's Journey" is a book Janet has written for 5-10 year olds who have a mentally unwell parent – Janet said the book aims to produce a positive message for the child as there is very little literature on this subject available to them.

Janet is also a NZ member of the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership covering 8 countries. Members have an 18 month leadership exchange. They report back to the Ministry of Health and mental health sector on their return to New Zealand and may continue contact with the clinic they have worked in overseas. There is an international network now of over 2000 people. It means that members can ask people from other countries for solutions to local problems in services.

In addition, Janet stood in the recent council elections – a worthwhile but unsuccessful campaign! Janet felt it was important that the Age Friendly strategy for Tauranga city must cover all ages, not those over 65 years of age. It must include people with mental un-wellness.

Links:

- ◆ *The National Depression Initiative - <http://www.depression.org.nz/>*
- ◆ *The International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership - <http://www.iimhl.com/>*
- ◆ *Adverse Childhood Experiences - <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/>*
- ◆ *www.janetpeters.co.nz*

Sources: *Mental Health Foundation: Quick facts and stats 2014—<http://ow.ly/LPbmC>*

Reflecting on branch membership

By Frances Townsend, Papakura Franklin Branch Acting President

This year we decided to forego the usual speaker and spend our Founders Day meeting reflecting on NCWNZ and how we could make our Branch more effective, exciting and interesting ; how we could grow our membership and thus promote NCWNZ values and purposes.

What were the problems we faced?

- ◆ An aging, professionally oriented membership. How could we reach out to others?
- ◆ How could we encourage younger women to join the Branch? In what format?
- ◆ How could we best operate in a large geographical area which encompassed both rural and urban areas and which met in two localities in alternate months?

What were the solutions suggested?

- ◆ Our youngest members stressed that younger women would respond to shorter, less administrative style meetings with much necessary 'stuff' circulated via email and not discussed.
- ◆ Using the List of NOMs and National Members and our regional Service Clubs as target groups, we should encourage membership by inviting members of no-participant NOMs to attend discussions on issues or Action Items with a view to seeking membership long term.

- ◆ Advertise lunch time discussion groups on aspects of Gender Equality in local cafés.
- ◆ Make sure that we knew what we wanted from young women – if it was their ideas, values and priorities then how best could we get that? From a Virtual Branch, a local Tweeter Gender Equality Group? OR connect with our young relatives and ask them to gain ideas about certain topics from their coffee or book groups and forward them. (My niece was enthusiastic as she says all the talk about the children of the others bores her stiff.)
- ◆ Advertise our mission statement using a striking, well – designed poster which could be put on Community noticeboards and campuses.
- ◆ We need to ensure that the views of all women of all ages and ethnicities are heard and respected.
- ◆ Above all we need to interact and discuss using skype, Facebook, tweeting.

We acknowledged the busy lives of those who worked in paid employment, who belonged to organised societies and often served on those executives. Their time was precious and needed to be respected by short, well-structured meetings with emphasis on interest, interaction and purpose. On that note we enjoyed a fine supper with much conversation and laughter.

Dorothy Jelicich, Labour MP and women's rights advocate

By Liz Richards, Nelson Branch President

Dorothy Jelicich has passed away at the age of 87.

Dorothy was born in Australia on 19th January 1928 and educated at Epsom Girls Grammar and Elam School of Fine Arts.

Dorothy was the Labour MP for Hamilton West from 1972-75. She was the first woman to lead an official parliamentary delegation overseas and the first woman from NZ to become a United Nations delegate. She was part of the Parliamentary Select Committee on women's rights, involved in Equal Pay, the Matrimonial Property Bill and Trade Union movement and was sympathetic to the Women's National Abortion Action Campaign.

In 1980 she was elected to the Mangere ward of Manukau City Council and served until her retirement in 1995.

She was made a Companion of the Queen's Service Order in the 1986 New Year Honours for her public services.



Dorothy Jelicich (left) and Mary Batchelor play pool in the Members' lounge in 1975. Women were not particularly welcome in this space.

Source: www.nzhistory.net.nz/media/photo/playing-pool

What was the status of the Treaty in early years?

Apart from Hobson's proclamations of sovereignty, the terms of the Treaty were initially kept, mainly because of the overwhelming economic, social and political power of the Māori majority.

New settlers required the assistance of tribes, particularly for food. For example, the tribes around Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland) supplied the town with nearly all its requirements of fruit, pumpkin, maize, potatoes, kumara, pigs and fish.

Māori trade and economic interests grew in the 1840s and by the 1850s the greater part of the tax revenue came from Māori.

The Colonial Office continued to insist that the terms of the Treaty should be observed, as is testified to in letters written to Governors Hobson, FitzRoy and Grey.

Concern grew about the exclusive pre-emption clause of the English version, which required that Māori who wished to sell their land could sell only to the Crown. But the Crown was buying land and selling it at much higher prices. The Crown was also refusing to buy some land off willing Māori vendors and would set fixed prices which went against Article II of both Te Tiriti and the Crown's English version – "subject to the arranging of payment which will be agreed to by them" (Te Tiriti o Waitangi), and even "at such prices as may be agreed upon" in the English version.

Māori understanding of the Treaty was that they were required to give first offer to the Crown, but they could sell to other willing purchasers if the Crown refused to buy. Settlers were putting pressure on the Governor because they had to pay greatly inflated prices to the Crown. In 1844, Governor FitzRoy waived the Crown's right to be offered first right of refusal to purchase land on the condition that a commission of 10 shillings per acre was paid to the government. Each sale had to be checked by Protectors, and certain sacred sites were not to be sold. Fitzroy later changed the fee to one penny per acre. Whereas 600 acres had changed hands with the 10 shilling per acre fee, 100,000 acres went with the one

penny fee. The Colonial Officers were unhappy with these waivers, because profits made through the buying and selling of land had almost stopped. They also feared a decrease in the power of the Crown if Māori tribes competed with the Crown over land sales. Grey was therefore directed to restore the Crown's first right of refusal to purchase (the English version) when he took office in 1845, by passing the Native Land Purchase Ordinance of 1846, which further undermined rangatiratanga.

From 1845 to 1854 Grey claimed to have purchased 32 million acres of land for £50,000, mainly in the South Island. Some of it was sold at inflated prices. This and other land dealings put the colony on a sound financial footing, but failure to uphold the conditions under which some land was sold (e.g. the protection of reserved lands and resources) created misery for dispossessed tribes.

There was increasing pressure from settlers for land through the 1840s and 50s. By then many tribes were refusing to sell, and the Māori King Movement (the Kingitanga) had been set up with its base in the Waikato. The three principles of this movement were that within its boundaries no further land would be sold, no alcohol would be sold, and the teaching of children was to be in the Māori language. However, the settlers' desire to acquire land by any means possible led to the government declaring the Kingitanga in rebellion against the Crown, and using that as an excuse to seize Waikato land by force.

At the same time, agricultural prices, particularly for wheat, dropped and markets collapsed. Pastoral farming showed more advantages, but required much greater acreage, intensifying the demand for land.

Source: *The Treaty of Waitangi: Questions and Answers published by Network Waitangi, 2015 edition. Reproduced by Creative Commons License: Can be accessed at www.nwo.org.nz*

Next Circular: How did the Crown gain control of Aotearoa?



#Unsexy laws around the globe

By Vanisa Dhiru, International Secretary

Last month my older brother (born in Palmerston North, now living in the UK) married a woman from Timaru. They met in the UK and had a European-style wedding, committing their lives to each other in front of family and friends, under the witness of a NZ marriage celebrant in Queenstown.

From what I can see, they have a respectful relationship where they are equals. In New Zealand, and the UK, marriage laws do not seem to have any gender bias. However for years this has not been the case around the world for our other brothers and sisters.

Back in 1995, at the UN 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, governments from around the world agreed on one of the most progressive plans to advance women's rights and achieve gender equality – the Beijing Platform for Action. States committed to "revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex." 20 years later, this goal is far from being met.

Sixteen countries have been identified in a global campaign by Equality Now as having current laws that discriminate against gender in marital status. Some examples highlighted in the campaign include:

- ♦ Democratic Republic of Congo – *the Law 87-010 on the Family Code:*

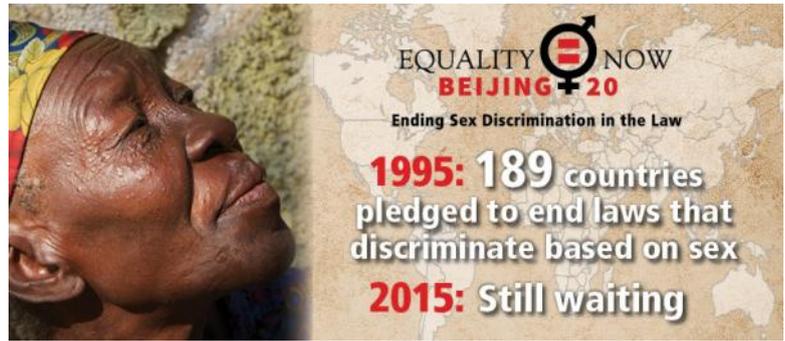
Article 444. The husband is the head of household. He must protect his wife; she must obey her husband.

Article 448. The wife must obtain the permission of her husband on all legal acts which require her to provide a service that must be given in person.

Article 450. Subject to the exceptions below and those contained in the matrimonial regime, the wife cannot appear in court on civil matters, acquire, sell or undertake commitments without the authorization of her husband. If the husband refuses to authorize his wife, authorization may be given by a judge. The husband can give general authorization, but he still retains the right to revoke it.

Article 454. The wife is obliged to live with her husband and follow him wherever he sees fit to reside; the husband is obliged to accommodate her.

- ♦ In Guinea – *the Civil Code of the Republic of Guinea:*



Article 328: A wife can have a separate profession from that of her husband unless he objects. If the husband's opposition is not justified by the interests of the family, the woman may be authorized by way of law to override it, in which case commitments made by her since the objection are valid. The commitments made by a wife in the exercise of this profession are, with regards to the husband, void if the third parties with whom she is contracted have personal knowledge of the objection at the time they deal with the wife.

- ♦ In Mali – *the Law No. 2011 – 087 of December 30, 2011 Relating to the Code of Persons and Family:*

Article 307. Marriage may be contracted:

- Either under monogamy, in which case a husband cannot contract a second marriage before the dissolution of the first. However, a man who has opted for a monogamous marriage shall have the right to revise his option with the express consent of his wife.

- Or under polygamy, in which case it is necessary that the wife consents and a man shall not be married simultaneously to more than four wives.

When I read these laws in the latest *Equality Now* report, I remember how lucky we are in New Zealand, but see that we can be offering some support to our brothers and sisters in other countries by helping them make change happen. Help out by supporting Equality Now and hold governments accountable to fulfilling their commitment to the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action and gender equality by revoking all laws that discriminate on the basis of sex.

The Equality Now campaign covers laws that discriminate in the areas of Marital Status, Personal Status, Economic Status and Violence. Go to www.equalitynow.org/beijing20/explore_laws_to_join_the_campaign.

Reference: www.equalitynow.org/sites/default/files/B+20_Report_EN.pdf

Calendar

May

- 05 International Midwives Day
- 10 Mother's Day
- 12 International Nurses Day
- 15 International Day of Families
- 17 International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia
- 30 – 5 International Council of Women (ICW) General Assembly, Izmir, Turkey

June

- 05 World Environment Day
- 12 - 14 NCWNZ Board meeting

July

- 12 Malala Yousafzai Day
- 17 World Day for International Justice
- 30 International Day of Friendship

August

- 01 - 07 World Breastfeeding Week
- 12 Youth Day

September

- 19 Suffrage Day
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 25 - 27 NCWNZ Conference 2015
- 26 World Contraception Day

October

- 01 - 31 Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- 02 International Day of Non-Violence

October cont'd

- 15 International Day of Rural Women
- 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

November

- 13 World Kindness Day
- 16 International Day for Tolerance
- 20 Universal Children's Day
- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 28 - 30 NCWNZ Board meeting

December

- 03 International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 05 International Volunteer Day
- 10 Human Rights Day

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The deadline for material for the June Circular is Wednesday 13 May 2015.

If you would like to contribute to the Circular, please contact the Editor via NCWNZ National Office to discuss what you can do.

Email: claire.newton@ncwnz.org.nz Phone: 04 473 7623

Disclaimer: The views expressed in this Circular are not necessarily those of the National Council of Women of New Zealand.

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