



# The Circular

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*Making a Difference for New Zealand Women*

## Annual Debate 2015: The economic impact of domestic violence

*By Claire Newton, NCWNZ  
Communications Advisor*

Male politicians stood up and spoke out about domestic violence and its impact on the workplace at NCW Wellington branch's Annual Debate. The debate, held in collaboration with the Zonta Club of Wellington and Graduate Women Wellington, followed on from economist Suzanne Snively's recent report on the same topic.

All major political parties, except the Maori Party, were represented at the debate. The panel featured Greens co-leader James Shaw, Alastair Scott from National, Kelvin Davis of Labour, and New Zealand First leader Rt. Hon Winston Peters. Māori Party MP Marama Fox was invited to be on the panel but did not attend.

Having an all-male panel was not the intention of the event; it was a result of who the parties sent as their financial spokesperson or delegate. However, it was good to see male politicians standing up and taking responsibility for the issue. As Kelvin Davis noted "85% of perpetrators of domestic violence are men, so it's important we take responsibility".

Suzanne Snively identified the day of the event, July 21, as "the day where there is cross-party support for our caring society to create the workplace conditions that ensure that all our citizens are cared for and safe from intimate partner abuse while they are at work".

At least one in 10 women in the work place are current victims of domestic violence, according to Snively's report. She stated that "victims (as well as perpetrators) create direct costs to employers because their unpredicted absences and other behaviours reduce their own productivity and often also contribute to reducing the productivity of their workmates".

Green MP James Shaw identified it as a "health and safety issue," stating that "employers have a role to



*National MP Alistair Scott, Labour MP Kelvin Davis, MC Diana Crossan, Suzanne Snively and Green co-leader James Shaw*

play in mitigating domestic violence...it is quite literally their business". Alistair Scott suggested that it is a "sense of entitlement" that fuels domestic violence and stated "it is an attitudinal change that has to take place" if we want to reduce it.

Kelvin Davis, Labour MP and leader of the Men against Sexual Violence (MasSiVe) hikoi, argued that "there is one thing in common with people who commit domestic violence, and that is that they choose to". Winston Peters stressed that "respect for the rights of others should start at the earliest possible age".

A central theme among the politicians was what they can do in their roles as men and employers to support victims in the workplace. This ranged from having safety plans in place to firing perpetrators.

It was great to hear these men all acknowledge the work women have done to make changes in this space. For so long it has been primarily been women advocating for change. It is time for domestic violence to be seen as a societal issue in which men can play a part in prevention and elimination rather than just a "women's issue".

***You can read Suzanne's full speech from the night at <http://www.ncwnz.org.nz/suzanne-snively-the-audacity-of-caring/>***

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## Balancing our (women's) busy lives

As I leave for a short visit to family overseas I have had time to reflect on the value of 'family' and all it means to us. Today's families face multiple pressures as they strive to feed, clothe and educate their children, while increasingly trying to maintain a realistic "work life balance". Women often bear the brunt of these pressures as they try to juggle, sometimes not too successfully, the varying demands of work and home life. While for many women this has improved immeasurably over the past century, the culture of today's society still expects them to be the carers and home builders.

At the Kea World Class New Zealander Supreme Awards last month, former Prime Minister Helen Clark said "that all leaders must look closely at how they can remove the impediments for women to achieve". She said women are "still more likely than men to have the care of small children, the elderly, frail and otherwise indisposed relatives and there is more call on them for family duties. This impacts negatively on most career structures which are not flexible enough to accommodate women who have home responsibilities".

NCWNZ contributed to this debate when we responded to the Human Rights Commission's (HRC) *Tracking Equality at Work* report. The media's interest in gender equality issues was gratifying because it showed there is a growing awareness of the need to support women to participate fully in the workplace. Internationally, world leaders are increasingly speaking out about the economic benefits of retaining women in the workforce up to the highest levels. However, that is what is creating the problem, as unless the right support structures are put in place it is difficult if not impossible for women to achieve an acceptable balance between a successful and satisfying career at

work and their home life. Changes enabling the right of all employees to ask for flexible working arrangements came into force in March this year with the enactment of the Employment Relations Amendments Act 2014. However it is not yet known how effective this has been.

There is an argument that the fact that these support structures are few and far between is a result of unconscious bias and I think that is correct. Government and business leaders think that their policies and career structures don't discriminate against women because they have made an effort to make sure that they don't! After all we have had the Equal Pay Act in force since 1972! The reality is that many women don't return to work because they cannot earn enough to pay for childcare or not enough employers provide flexible career paths which allow them to do so.

The HRC report made recommendations to the Government calling for more support for women, Maori, Pacific, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities on employment, pay, leadership and discrimination. These are exactly the issues we are addressing in our soon to be released *Gender Equality white paper*. When it is available I will be asking you to disseminate it widely and to encourage vigorous debate among your membership. Only by generating a real groundswell of public opinion can we ever hope to make the cultural changes needed to ensure women can all contribute to our economy while at the same time maintain a realistic work life balance.



**Rae Duff, President**

## 2015 Conference: *Picking up the pace—Toward gender equality*

With less than two months to go till our September conference, National Office is picking up the pace! The programme is shaping up well and will soon be finalised. Many of our members will be contributing to making this conference a varied, interactive and interesting event with national and international reports, small group workshops and reports on the work NCWNZ have been focusing on over the past year, as well as discussion around the strategic direction of NCWNZ in the future.

We are pleased to confirm that Minister for Women Hon. Louise Upton will be speaking on Saturday morning. The Minister will set the scene for the conference and will talk about how the current gender landscape fits into the Government's wider work programme. It will be interesting to hear her perspective on how NCWNZ can make a difference in the current and future environment.

We can also confirm that Dr Jo Cribbs, Chief Executive of the Ministry for Women, will be speaking on Sunday where she will give a more in-depth of the Ministry's workplan. July's *Circular* featured an article by Jo on the Ministry's priorities

for 2015/16. This included education, training and leadership opportunities for women as well as preventative initiatives around gender violence. Both the Minister and Jo Cribbs will be answering attendees' questions.

In keeping with the theme of this year's conference we are excited to be hosting a panel discussion to gain different perspectives on gender equality from a variety of individuals and organisation representatives. Among those on our panel is the National Coordinator of InsideOut Tabby Besley. Tabby was recently awarded a Queen's Young Leader Award at Buckingham Palace for her work in promoting acceptance of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and trans young people throughout NZ.

### ***Don't be late, get those registrations in!***

If you are reading this and haven't yet registered, please email us your form. Otherwise you may end up paying a late fee of \$20 applied from the 1<sup>st</sup> August. If you need a registration form or have not yet sent in your completed form please contact [office@ncwnz.org.nz](mailto:office@ncwnz.org.nz) or 04 473 7623.

## 2015 Conference: Remits

The remits to be voted on at conference all seek to improve the experiences of NZ women.

Rosemary Du Plessis and Judith Sutherland, the Co-Conveners of the Public Issues Standing Committee, are proposing:

**Remit 1: That NCWNZ urges Parliament and all political parties to increase women's representation in Parliament through changes to processes of candidate selection and the electoral system.**

The NZ Federation of Business and Professional Women are proposing three remits addressing the issues of violence and drugs:

**Remit 2: That NCWNZ urges Parliament to develop a well-resourced long-term cross-party, cross department strategy to change social norms and eliminate violence against women.**

**Remit 5: That NCWNZ urges Parliament to amend the Domestic Violence Act 1995 to explicitly allow protection orders to include the protection of animals.**

**Remit 6: That NCWNZ supports a total ban on the sale and supply of "legal highs" and psychoactive substances in NZ.**

A remit proposed by Margaret Ledgerton, the

Convener of the Employment Standing Committee, takes up the rights of some of the most vulnerable workers:

**Remit 3: That NCWNZ urges the Govt to enact legislation and implement policies that protect and promote the rights of workers engaged in insecure employment, including the right to collective bargaining. Insecure employment is defined as including: casual, temporary, fixed-term and zero-hour employment that can be characterised by low and/or fluctuating pay, uncertain duration, and with limited or no access to training, career progression and employment rights and benefits such as sick leave and holiday pay.**

Auckland Branch's remit is focused on maternal mental health services:

**Remit 4: That NCWNZ supports: increased access to existing maternal mental health services in NZ and increased and ongoing sustained funding for provision and evaluation of maternal mental health services.**

For more information on the remits, including their rationales and what actions NCWNZ will need to take if they become resolutions see:

[www.ncwnz.org.nz/members/conference-2015/](http://www.ncwnz.org.nz/members/conference-2015/)

# Guide to who to contact in National Office

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

With staffing changes in National Office, we've fielded enquiries about who to contact, so thought it is a good time to clarify this.

We now have Vashi Wood, Operations Manager; Ruth Harper, Administration Officer; Claire Newton, Communications Advisor; and Michelle O'Donnell, Finance Officer in National Office.

We all work part-time, aside from Claire, and in total we add up to the equivalent of about 2.75 full time staff.

You're best to email Ruth on [office@ncwnz.org.nz](mailto:office@ncwnz.org.nz) if you're not sure who to contact. This address is regularly checked, even if Ruth's away. We also like talking to members and stakeholders via 04 473 7623. We have one office phone line, so you'll need to leave a message if someone is already on the phone.

If you know who to contact, email or call them directly. Vashi, Claire and myself have our own email addresses ([firstname.lastname@ncwnz.org.nz](mailto:firstname.lastname@ncwnz.org.nz)). Contact Michelle via [office@ncwnz.org.nz](mailto:office@ncwnz.org.nz).

The main parts of Ruth's role (20 hours a week)

are managing the inbox, telephone, membership, action item and submission process and *Circular* distribution. Michelle (six hours a week) takes care of financial transactions, preparing financial reports, tax and, audit accounts.

Claire works 40 hours a week on communications and grant applications. Communications include the website, weekly e-newsletter *On Balance*, Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. She coordinates content for and lays out the *Circular* newsletter.

Vashi, recently employed for 20 hours a week, is focussed on conference preparation, management of the finance and administration functions, and our other legal requirements (e.g. funding accountability, charities registration, health and safety).

I work 25 hours a week. My role has changed as office resourcing has altered. Ongoing aspects of my role are fundraising, stakeholder engagement and collaboration, media communication, reporting to and servicing of the Board, and the development of the white paper.

We work as a team—and there is no 'wrong door' through which to approach us. We look forward to hearing from you.

## From the Board:

Board member Helen Gibson visited with the South Canterbury branch in Timaru on Monday 13 July. Helen was warmly welcomed and generously hosted by branch President Robin Peterson and its 24 members. Although like most branches South Canterbury is finding it challenging to attract new members, Helen observed that they are in fine fettle with lively discussion among a "feisty bunch of women" (description in their branch health report). Helen believes that it was a welcome opportunity to connect with one of her liaison branches and to develop a personal relationship with their members. The branch hosted Helen to an enjoyable meal following the meeting during which much animated discussion continued, thank you NCW South Canterbury.

## From the editor:

Last month's President's column about the ICW General Assembly misstated that Dame Jocelyn Fish had previously attended an ICW Assembly. Rather, it was Dame Alison Roxburgh who was a former attendee. We apologise for the mix-up, both Jocelyn and Alison have been informed of this.



## Recent NCWNZ submissions

NCWNZ made the following written submissions in July. To read the submissions, visit [www.ncwnz.org.nz](http://www.ncwnz.org.nz) (Members' Area).

Title:	Submitted to:	Date:
Support for Children in Hardship Bill	Social Services Select Committee	7-Jul
Inquiry into Parliament's legislative response to	Regulations Review Select	21-Jul

## Women's Voices project—update

*By Rosemary du Plessis, Women's Voices research committee/NCWNZ Public Issues Co-Convener*

The Women's Voices project initiated by our Christchurch branch continues to go from strength to strength. The project began as an oral history focus, with interviews of 154 women to record their earthquake experiences. This piece of work, led by professional researchers mostly working pro-bono, and supported by volunteer researchers, has received international acclaim, including the Mary Fran Myers Award in 2014 which recognises the world's best research in gender and disaster management. Over the past year, the project

research team's focus has been on identifying policy implications from the interviews and additional stakeholder interviews. The research committee has also continued to write academic articles and present at conferences to spread the message more widely. The team is now finalising a report for Christchurch City Council (CCC). The report identifies four main themes; housing and insurance; rebuilding and renewal; communities; and vulnerabilities. The purpose of the report is to provide the CCC with relevant information for future policy development in emergency management preparedness and disaster response.

## Women's Voices: Krystal's story

Krystal has lived in Christchurch all her life. "My mum's from Australia, I was from here, my real dad is from here, but my stepdad is from Samoa".

When she was at school, Krystal did a project on natural disasters. "The one I focused on was the Napier earthquake", so when the quakes occurred in Christchurch Krystal did have some knowledge about earthquakes.

In 2010 Krystal was studying at Karanga Mai Young Parents College (KMYPC) in Kaiapoi. "I started when my son was three months old and continued right through till last year [2012]". KMYPC provided transport to and from the school for students like Krystal who didn't have cars. "They used to have a van that would take us out and then we'd spend the day out there and then come back". Krystal's life focused around her school routine. "So life before the earthquakes was just; get up, go to school, get home, do tea, get my son sorted and go to bed".

The first quake in September 2010 didn't worry Krystal, "I seemed to be quite resilient, so it didn't really affect me. It affected everyone around me but I was like 'meh, it was just a little wobble' and just carried on like normal. And everyone was like 'how are you so calm?' and I was like 'it doesn't really affect me'—that one didn't".

Krystal was at her mum's house for post-Christmas celebrations at the time of the second quake in December 2010; "That one affected me quite a bit more because I had to look after my son and my mum and my dad...oh nup. That was not cool". "He [her dad] got all of our stuff, packed it all up [and] 'cause he's from Samoa, he was like 'we gotta go we gotta go...there's a tidal wave coming' and I was like 'Dad! Just relax!', and he was like 'there's

going to be a tidal wave!' and I'm like 'Dad, the beach is all the way over there, if it's going to reach us, it's just going to be like a puddle...then we all laughed it off".

### The big quake— February 2011

"I was at school—yes... that was an interesting one". Krystal was in the cafeteria near a couple of benches. "I'd just come back from feeding my son lunch... I made myself a coffee and started to roll a smoke to go out for a smoke and all of a sudden, it hit. And I was in this kitchen bit and "The door was over to the kindy. So I managed to jump over another mother Jess, jumped over the gate and jumped over there and ran to the door. Stopped and walked in—I don't know how I managed to stop myself, but I stopped myself running and walked in...And the teachers were trying to hold all of the kids...And I don't know how I managed to walk through, but I walked through, went and seen my son and made sure he was okay. I stayed calm for everybody. And then I went and looked after other people's kids while they went out and had a smoke". Although Krystal "really needed a smoke", she thought, "I don't really want to leave my son here by himself without me".

"So I stayed in with all the kids, and helped sort the kids out. Then the parents decided that they'd come through to check on the kids. Then they went out for their smokes". Krystal was still looking after the children in the kindergarten when a big aftershock hit. "And when they came back in, there was that aftershock and after the aftershock..."



some of the parents started crying and I was the only one...I was just sitting there going, 'I can't let this get to me, I can't let this get to me...'" Krystal "pretty much supported the whole school", but she wondered "when is it my turn to break down?"

Krystal supported the other distressed mothers and children. She gave them hugs and told them "it's going to be all right". It was frustrating for her because she was thinking, "I want to get hold of my family, but here I am trying to get hold of yours". Krystal also looked after their children while they went out to have smokes. "It was funny, I was looking after three kids and two mums had gone out for a smoke and another aftershock struck. And I was looking after all three kids and my kid... they [the children] all come up to me to give them a hug and the mums come in and they're like 'Is my baby alright?! Is my baby alright? Is my baby alright?!' and I was like 'Your babies are alright, but can you please watch them while I go have a smoke now? It's been an hour and I still haven't had a smoke and I'm stressing out here looking after everyone else's kids'".

The next thing was the issue of getting home. They weren't sure if they were going to be able to get home over the Waimakariri River. They didn't know if the Waimak Bridge was open or shut. "We'd heard rumours that the old Waimak bridge was shut (which it was, because a pile came away and it wasn't connected or something anymore)... but what about the new one? We had no idea if it was open or shut or flooded with water..." Krystal sat on top of the hill at the kindergarten, with her son and listened to the FM radio on her phone to try and find out some information. "I can't remember if we found out if the Waimak Bridge was open, or if we just risked it, but we ended up trying to get home".

listened to the FM radio on her phone to try and find out some information. "I can't remember if we found out if the Waimak Bridge was open, or if we just risked it, but we ended up trying to get home".

On the way home, they had to go to Hagley Park "cause this girl was pregnant and she wanted to see the baby's dad and everything". The father was working in the central city. In the van there was Krystal, her son, her friend and her babies. "They decided that they would drop me off after that", despite the fact that Krystal "wanted to get dropped off first".

Outside the hospital they were stuck in traffic for ages. "We were in an aftershock when we were in the van...we were sitting at the hospital lights and all of a sudden I felt the van going like this [motions]...and all you could see was all the other

cars in front and beside you, coming towards you and then away and then towards you...and I was like 'I'm going to get crushed!'". The car beside the van "kept getting closer and closer and the van kept getting closer and closer...that was terrible. Krystal isn't "very good in enclosed spaces" and she really wanted to get out, but "my son [was] stuck in the car seat. I just wanted to get out of the van and stand on the side of the road where I could see everything (the van's windows were tinted—which made it seem smaller on the inside)".

Krystal didn't get back to Hornby until six o'clock that night, even though they had left Karanga Mai in the early afternoon around one pm. "And I was like; I can't do this anymore...I was like—"That one was terrible!"

"The next day I had to look throughout my house...A few things broke, a few things got damaged, washing machine was damaged, but that was pretty much it—so I was quite fortunate really". There was a lot of structural damage—to her house. It appeared that some of the piles had moved—"the house was pretty much screwed... there were cracks all through the walls. If I still lived there, I could show you, because they didn't fix it up".

Krystal videoed some of the damage to her house on her old camera. There was a gap by Krystal's windowsill that was so big that she could put her hand through it, and there were long cracks in various directions along the wall from there to her light bulb. The ceiling dipped down above the head of her son's bed. "In my son's room the ceiling had dropped that much [indicates] above his head, so I didn't want him sleeping in there". Out of the whole house, Krystal's "room was probably worst—except for my son's bedroom with the ceiling that had dropped". Krystal decided—"I had to move house". There were earthquake repairs to be done on the house and there was no guarantee that Krystal would be able to move back in after the repairs. Krystal reasoned that it would be easier to find a new house.

"Water was really bad...power; I don't think went out, or if it did it was back by the time I got home... but yeah my water was really bad. I had to boil it for ages afterwards...it was on once I had finished...cause I went and got a couple bottles of water. It was on once I'd run out, which was the main thing", Krystal laughs.

"I didn't have a car—which sucked after the earthquakes". Krystal and her son often didn't get home from school until 6pm each night.

## Krystal's story continued: Post-quake life

The first time Krystal went into the city she was nervous "because I didn't want another aftershock to happen...I went in and had a look, which prepared me for the next time. Since those first few times...I've started going back—but it's never going to be like it was, it's never going to be the same".

On April the 1st 2012 Krystal broke up with her boyfriend and she and her son went to live with her mum. Housing New Zealand wanted her to move to Blenheim, but she felt that it would be too difficult to be away from her family, "because I've got my sister, my son, my parents and I'm not taking them up to Blenheim". Because Housing New Zealand wasn't able to find Krystal a house in Christchurch, she decided to find one herself via Trade Me.

Krystal has lived in her current Riccarton home since she moved out of her mother's house. Krystal enjoys living here as "this house is very secure". She graduated from Karanga Mai later on in 2012

and she received a Rachel House Trust trophy.

It has been difficult for Krystal to work and raise her child alone; she doesn't have a car but still manages to walk her son from school while carrying all of their groceries on her own. "At the moment I am just trying to find a weekday job". It is hard to find a job which works in well with school hours and there is a lot of competition for such jobs. She has considered studying theology at University but has decided for the moment that this is too expensive "but I'll go back if I can find a better paying job in the future".

She hopes to "get married, have more kids and finish school". Later on she wants to train to be a social worker.

**Read more from the NCW Christchurch branch's Women's Voices Project at <http://quakestudies.canterbury.ac.nz/store/collection/228>**

## Environment: Empowering women and climate change

**Edited extract from UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, submitted by Elizabeth Lee, Environment Standing Committee Convener**

Women have an enormous capacity for transformational leadership. Many women and girls already play key—but unsung—roles in the protection and management of natural resources and are at the forefront of actions aimed at reducing human contributions to global warming. However, their experience, and their potential to increase resilience against shocks from climate change, remains largely untapped. This is particularly important in planning the role of women and in integrating a gender perspective in disaster risk reduction, climate action and the post-2015 development agenda.

Demand for food is growing while land and water resources are becoming ever more scarce and degraded. Climate change will make these challenges yet more difficult. Now, more than ever, when UN Member States are expected to adopt a new climate agreement at the Conference of the Parties in Paris (COP21) in December 2015, we need decisive global action that recognises and optimises the role of women and girls in a world where the climate is changing and where lives and livelihoods are at stake.

In March 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, participants called for a strong human rights-based approach to climate action that takes into account

not only women's vulnerability to climate change but also their crucial capability as leaders in disaster preparedness and management. We know that climate-related hazards magnify gender inequalities and widen the existing socio-economic and political gaps between women and men. These are compounded by the intersecting issues of poverty and a lack of control over land and productive resources. Droughts, extreme weather events, sea level rise, ocean acidification and flooding hit women and girls harder than men and boys.

Yet gender stereotypes negatively define and limit women's and girls' responses to natural disasters. Estimates by Oxfam suggest that around three times as many women as men perished in the Asian tsunamis. Typhoon Haiyan, which displaced four million people in the central island regions of the Philippines, resulted in a death toll of 6,300. Sixty-four per cent of those who died were women.

These (climate) issues cannot be solved until women's contributions, as well as men's, are fully considered and until women can voice concerns about gender-based violence, and advocate for proper infrastructure, resources and safe spaces during and after disasters.

**This was first published in the UNA-UK publication: "Climate 2020: Facing the Future". You can read the full document at <http://ow.ly/Q6CWC>**

## Anniversary of the dropping of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombs

**By Joan Macdonald, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Aotearoa (WILPF)**

August this year marks the 70th year since the end of World War II with the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th of August 1945.

The first explosion of a nuclear device took place at Alamogordo, New Mexico on July 16, 1945, followed three weeks later by the bombings in Japan which killed 100,000 people immediately in the two cities and another 100,000 people by the end of 1945. A large number of these would have been women and children and more recent research has shown that women and children are more at risk from radiation.

There has always been controversy about whether these bombing were necessary to end the war especially in light of the devastation they caused. It was also unfortunately the beginning of the nuclear arms race which has continued ever since. The United States almost immediately began atmospheric testing of nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands, then a United Nations Trust Territory. Sixty-seven weapons were tested with an explosive power equivalent to detonating 1.6 Hiroshima-size bombs for 12 years.

In the decades that followed. A number of other countries developed nuclear arsenals including the USSR (now Russia), the UK, France, China, Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea. On numerous occasions the nuclear-armed countries have come close to using nuclear weapons by accident, miscalculation or design.

At the height of the nuclear arms race in 1986 there were more than 70,000 nuclear weapons in the world. Some 1,800 of these remain on

hair-trigger alert. With the end of the Cold War the number of nuclear weapons began to fall and today there are approximately 16,000 nuclear weapons in the world.

One group of people, the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki still think a lot about the dangers of having all these weapons. They have seen the death and destruction caused by the relatively small nuclear weapons used on Japan.

All nine nuclear-armed countries are engaged in modernising their nuclear arsenals in spite of the efforts of the non-nuclear states to persuade them to get rid of their weapons. Together they are spending \$100billion annually. It is a waste of precious resource that should be reallocated to meeting human needs for food, water, shelter, healthcare, education, a clean environment and repaired infrastructure.

There is ongoing widespread opposition to nuclear weapons from the public and the majority of governments around the world, who now support abolition of nuclear weapons. An international convention to abolish nuclear weapons, such as we have for chemical and biological weapons, anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions is long overdue.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, along with many other women's groups has lobbied vigorously at the United Nations for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 so that women have more decision-making power and a stronger voice in calling for universal disarmament.

For more information about action to abolish nuclear weapons, visit the iCAN Aotearoa NZ site at <http://www.ican.org.nz> or email [icanz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:icanz@xtra.co.nz)

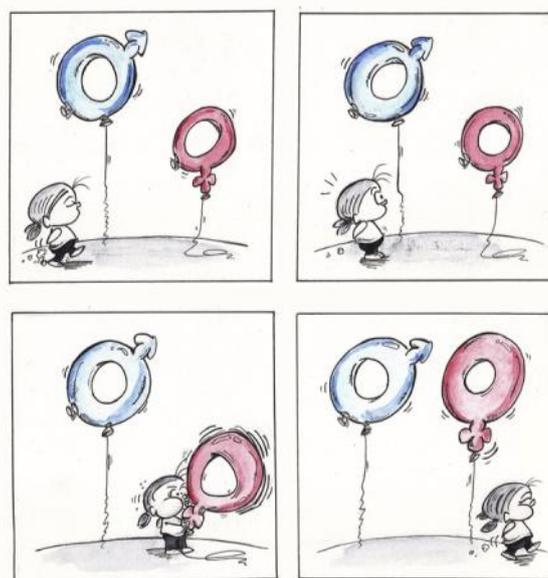
### Nelson branch update:

**By Mary Gavin, Board member**

Nelson Branch members were delighted to hear at the July meeting that all medical practices in the Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough area had implemented zero-fees doctors' visits for children 13 and under.

### Pictured right: UN Women comic

UN Women together with the European Commission the Belgian Development Cooperation, and UNRIC held a comic and cartoon competition on gender equality. Pictured is the winning comic by Emilio Morales Ruiz from Spain. His comic symbolises how "even the smallest acts are important steps for solving this global problem".



## Hawke's Bay branch annual dinner

*By Maxine Boag, Hawkes Bay branch*

Red Cross has always been one of my favourite charities, because wherever people are facing crises—be it warfare in the Middle East, natural disasters like cyclone Pam that ravaged Vanuatu, or earthquakes such as that which shattered Christchurch—you see the Red Cross, or the Red Crescent flying above those offering practical help to innocent victims. Priding itself on being free of government influence and without political, religious or cultural bias, the Red Cross has over 97 million volunteers worldwide helping those most desperately in need.

Dr Jenny McMahon, President of the NZ Red Cross, was guest speaker at the Hawkes Bay branch's National Council of Women's annual dinner in Havelock North, attended by 150 women at the end of May. Jenny began her relationship with the New Zealand Red Cross in 1983 as a surgical nurse on the Thai-Kapuchea border. Now, 30 years later with numerous Red Cross deployments and post graduate qualifications under her belt, Jenny is "returning the organisation to the needs of our local communities, augmented by emergency preparedness, quota refugee settlement and our duty as an international partner in the Movement".

Interestingly, Jenny told us that the New Zealand Red Cross Society was started in Hawkes Bay by Nurse Beth Charpentier in the wake of the 1931 Napier earthquake, though it had been recognised internationally since World War 1.

The voluntary organisation grew nationwide during the Depression. By the late 1930s the Junior Red Cross Service had school gardens, did fundraising, provided books and toys to orphanages and



*Michelle Pyke, Annette Brosnan, Dr Jenny McMahon, Jenny Mauger, Maxine Boag, Sook Hua Lee, Brenda Cacho-Bevin at the HB NCW dinner.*

hospitals, and supported the Health Camp movement. During the war, the Red Cross sent parcels to POWs and supported settlers and returning servicemen after the war.

In 1978 the NZ Red Cross Foundation was started, with a business focus. Red Cross shops and First Aid courses were instigated to cover the administration of New Zealand Red Cross. So when special appeals are held (such as those for Cyclone Pam, the Christchurch and Nepal earthquakes) every dollar donated is guaranteed to be spent exactly there, with no administration costs deducted. Current flooding on the West Coasts of both the South and North Islands will no doubt see such a similar local Red Cross response.

Jenny left us with a question: "how can the Red Cross maintain skilled and trained personnel for a disaster we hope will never happen, but for which Red Cross is expected to respond?"

If you've got any answers, or wish to find out more or donate to this worthy charity, you can find them on <https://www.redcross.org.nz>

### A focus on gender inequality

In 2012, the story of Malala Yousafzai, a young Pakistani woman who was shot in the head for wanting an education (and whose courage resulted in her receiving the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize) and international outrage at the brutal rape and murder of a young woman on a bus in Delhi saw the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) calling for a united effort against gender discrimination and violence through tackling its underlying cause—gender inequality.

"Inequality takes many forms and is rooted in the imbalance of power dynamics between individuals,

which can lead to discrimination and violence," said Bekele Geleta, Secretary General of the IFRC.

"Addressing women's unequal access to education, economic resources and decision-making power is essential to boosting their resources and capacity to protect themselves, their families, livelihoods and communities".

Women are particularly vulnerable during times of war and conflict and the New Zealand Red Cross runs training seminars on Women and War for school groups across the country. If you are interested in hosting one of these seminars please contact your local service centre—<https://www.redcross.org.nz/about-us/service-centres/>

## Historical snippet: Defined by dress and 'bifurcation'

By Mary Gavin, Board member

The health and sexuality guidelines released by the Ministry of Education in June this year included the suggestion for secondary schools to consider gender neutral uniform choices. Some schools reacted with cautious agreement in principle and others indicated that girls were already given the option to wear trousers but no boys sought to wear dresses. The debate prompted recall of that interesting word 'bifurcation' employed by the Rational Dress Association and illustrated in the 1894 wedding photo of Christchurch bride Kate Walker when she and her whole wedding party wore knickerbockers.

The social controls around clothing, especially relating to women, still persist in many cultures and communities. This awareness of being restricted by gender defined dress was a driving force for many early feminists and several of the founding members of NCWNZ were also members of the

Rational Dress Association.

The disapproval of trousers, even for sports' participation, was often based on the supposed threat to a women's modesty but the rationale for waist compression by corsets and tight lacing was harder to justify. In 1904 the White Ribbon said 'women's real handicap in the great struggle of life is her skirts or the unfortunate way she has chosen to support them' (quoted in Coney, S. P.114). It is clear from the archival photos that whalebone and steel helped support the early NCWNZ Conferences. In subsequent years as the hemlines of NCW women fluctuated and millinery requirements dwindled, Edwardian liberty bodices and Amelia Bloomer's underwear may have been worn but corseting seems to have persisted well into the 1960's.

The Physical Drill in Public and Native Schools Act was passed in 1901 and the consequent 1920 syllabus recognized the need for appropriate clothing for girls' physical training. The result was

the adoption of the English 'gym tunic'—three box pleats, caught into a yoke with a straps over the shoulder. In the mysterious osmosis that drives fashion, before long this became the style for everyday school uniforms for girls—a fashion which persisted for nearly 50 years and may indeed be a core school memory for many readers of this *Circular*.

Based on the authoritative information below, perhaps a resurrection of the 'tunic' rather than 'bifurcation' could be the answer to the gender neutral uniform debate:

School uniforms tend to suppress the individual, neuter sexuality, and enforce group identity...the gym tunic is...based on a masculine tunic reminiscent of Roman gladiators, combined with masculine shirt, tie and lace-up shoes. [adapted from [www.collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1113627](http://www.collections.tepapa.govt.nz/object/1113627)]

**Additional Sources: Coney, S (1993) *Standing in the Sun*; Fry, R (1985) *It's different for daughters*.**

## Treaty: Is Māori concern about the failure to honour the Treaty something new?

Māori have tried every possible avenue since 1840 to have injustice acknowledged and addressed. For example:

- Directly petitioning Queen Victoria, successive monarchs, Governors General and parliaments. For example, in 1932 a Māori MP presented a petition with more than 30,000 signatures asking that the Treaty be made statutory. Pākehā MPs walked out of the House to prevent it from being tabled, and no action was taken.
- Working through the courts, even taking Treaty rights cases through the appeal processes to the Privy Council in Britain (before it was replaced by the New Zealand Supreme Court).
- Introducing a Bill of Rights in 1894 that was ignored by parliament.
- Initiating peaceful protest and non-violent
- passive resistance, for example at Parihaka in Taranaki, decades before Gandhi in India.
- Fighting back when land was being taken by force.
- Taking complaints about injustice to the United Nations, supporting the development of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and making presentations to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Forming Māori political parties to influence governments through parliament. The Young Māori Party included MPs Maui Pōmare, Sir Peter Buck and Sir Apirana Ngata. The Mana Motuhake Party was formed by MP Matiu Rata, while the Foreshore and Seabed Hikoi of 2004 gave birth to the Maori Party, which won four seats in the 2005 general election. The Mana Movement was

***Continued on next page...***

## Treaty, cont'd from previous page

formed in 2011 and had one MP in Te Tai Tokerau until 2014.

- Direct action including occupations, land arches (hīkoi) and protests. Peaceful protests began as early as May 1840 when Hone Heke signalled his anger at the breaking of Treaty promises by felling the flagpole flying the Union Jack at Kororāreka. Other actions include occupations of Bastion Point and Raglan, the land march of 1975, and various hīkoi from the 1980s onwards.
- Handing down the stories of injustice to successive generations to resolve.
- Initiating political and spiritual movements like Kotahitanga, Kingitanga, Ringatū and Rātana.
- Starting Maori-centred social welfare and health projects and organisations.
- Initiating language immersion schools (kōhanga reo and kura kaupapa) and tertiary education institutions (wānanga).
- Researching and presenting claims to the

Waitangi Tribunal, despite inadequate funding. The long history of attempts to be heard are detailed in many of the Waitangi Tribunal claims. The Ōrakei Report sets out the efforts Ngāti Whātua made through the courts, through parliament, through Royal Commissions and through direct action. The Muriwhenua Report lists the efforts made through court actions, the 93 petitions to parliament, and many major hui since the 1860s.

- Gaining a public holiday for Waitangi Day, broadcasting rights, and official language status for te reo Māori.
- Exercising environmental guardianship (kaitiakitanga) over ancestral land and resources in the face of local government antipathy and hostility.

**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](http://www.nwo.org.nz)*

**Next Circular:** Why is there so much trouble about the Treaty?

## International: A message from the newly elected ICW President

Greetings from Jungsook Kim, Seoul, Korea, the President of ICW.

I hope this finds you and your council well.

We were gathered together in Izmir, Turkey, for the 34th General Assembly from the 30th of May to the 5th of June, 2015 and could make lots of fruitful results for the advancement of women and ICW through active discussions. I was so happy to have seen all the participants and friends from each member countries although some of ICW sisters could not attend the 2015 GA.

As the newly elected President of ICW, I would like to express my deep gratitude again for the support and love that you have shown me during the Izmir General Assembly and also my sincere thanks to the immediate past president, Madame Cosima Schenk, who has devoted herself to creating another wonderful page in the history of the ICW development. I really appreciate her for her great efforts to stabilize the financial status of the ICW during her terms.

It has been 127 years since ICW was founded in the midst of anti-slavery and women's suffrage movement in the US and Europe. The visions that inspired women at that time were to liberate women from oppression and discrimination, asking for equal voting rights for women. Since then, ICW has impacted the lives of billions of women in the

world. ICW was always there whenever women's issues had to be discussed and reflected to achieve gender equality. ICW was always at the center of global women's movement, improving the lives of women all over the world.

We should continue to build on that tradition, while trying to make remarkable progress on the triennial theme of "Transforming Society through Women's Empowerment", which was recently adopted at the Izmir GA.

As the gender that bears, gives birth to and nurtures life, women can transform the society through women's caring and loving leadership. I will do my best to realize our vision of transforming society through women's empowerment together with our board members. I also need your full supports to make a great leap forward in the history of ICW.

Dear sisters and friends, I'm so pleased to remind you of the decision unanimously carried out at the general session of the Izmir GA. The annual affiliation fee was deducted from 1,200€ into 800€. I hope it will be helpful to the member councils to pay their dues to ICW. Call for fees for 2015 will be followed soon by the treasurers, Ms. Martine Marandel and Ms. Anne-Elisabeth Iba-Zizen.

All your efforts will contribute to make the greater ICW which all of us can be proud of.

## Calendar

### August

01 - 07 World Breastfeeding Week  
12 Youth Day  
29—30 NCWNZ Board meeting

### September

10 International Gynaecology Awareness Day  
19 Suffrage Day  
21 International Day of Peace  
25 NCWNZ Board meeting  
26 - 27 NCWNZ Conference 2015  
26 World Contraception Day

### October

01 - 31 Breast Cancer Awareness Month

### October cont'd

02 International Day of Non-Violence  
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

### February

01 World Hijab Day  
06 Waitangi Day/International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation  
08 International Safer Internet Day  
12 Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Day  
14 V-Day - End violence against women and girls

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### The deadline for material for the September *Circular* is Wednesday 12 August 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](mailto:claire.newton@ncwnz.org.nz) Phone: 04 473 7623

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