



National Council of Women of New Zealand  
Te Kaunihera Wahine o Aotearoa

# The Circular

No. 593 June / Hune 2016

*Working toward a gender equal New Zealand*

## Changing today for a better tomorrow

**By Rae Duff, NCWNZ National President**

Over the last month NCWNZ Board members and our CE have travelled the length and breadth of the country to discuss with branches the proposed changes outlined in the recent action item – *Proposed Organisational Change* (June 6 is the closing date for feedback). The focus of these conversations has been to seek feedback on some proposed changes to our membership and operating models. It has been a chance for us to discuss with you where we are today, where we want to be in the future and what we need to do now to get there.

As I reflect on these conversations I am, as always, amazed by your passion and commitment to our cause of working towards a gender equal New Zealand. The heart of NCWNZ is our members who are united by this cause. It is the power of our people which will support us all through the process of making the necessary changes.

There are two critical things. The first is to remind ourselves why change is needed – and to do this we need look no further than recent media coverage. This month the NZ Herald reminded us that New Zealand has the worst rate of family and intimate partner violence in the world, and then days later that there has never been a woman on the New Zealand Rugby Board in its 124 years. Clearly our work is not done.



Gender equality needs a strong, credible and persistent voice now more than ever – and it can and will be us! Unless we wake up soon, this space will be taken from us.

In the survey completed by NCWNZ members in April, many of you felt that we are struggling to have an impact on gender equality and other important issues affecting women. The survey found that diminishing numbers and a lack of funding are key weaknesses, and that we

are not effectively connecting with those who want to support our cause and would like to become more involved in the work of NCWNZ. The full survey results are available in the members' section of the NCWNZ website – [www.ncwnz.org.nz/members](http://www.ncwnz.org.nz/members) – and I encourage you to read them.

The second critical thing is the importance of you the members being involved in driving the changes we need. If we are to achieve our new strategic vision of a gender equal New Zealand we must make changes to our membership and governance structures as soon as we can. The declining membership and financial pressures we face mean we cannot afford to wait until the 2017 conference to make changes. We need to do this at our upcoming conference in September 2016.

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#### Chief Executive

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#### Communications Advisor

Claire Newton

#### Operations Manager

Vashi Wood

#### Office Administrator

Ruth Harper

#### Finance Officer

Michelle O'Donnell

### Office hours

9am – 4pm Monday – Friday

#### Physical Address

Level 4, 26 Brandon Street  
Wellington

#### Postal Address

PO Box 25 498  
Wellington 6146

Phone: 04 473 7623

Email: office@ncwnz.org.nz

Website: www.ncwnz.org.nz

## Changing today for a better tomorrow cont'd

To make sure you have all the information you need the Board will advise you by 15 June of any proposed changes to our Constitution and Rules to be considered at the September conference. I acknowledge that the timeframes are tight but this does not diminish the importance of all members' input to the process. We simply cannot make these changes without your support.

The Board, supported by National Office, is working hard on exactly what the changes will look like and we encourage you again to provide your feedback to the action item which summarised their intent. I would like to thank you for your commitment so far – over the next few months we are going to need your support more than ever. NCWNZ faces some significant challenges if we are to be a New Zealand and a world leader in gender equality once again.



### The flax bush –

*Unuhia te rito o te harakeke,  
Kei hea ke te kōmako e kō,  
Whakatairangitia,  
Rere ki uta,  
Rere ki tai,  
Ui mai koe ki ahau e aha  
te mea nui o te ao,  
Māku e kī atu,  
He tāngata, he tāngata, he  
tāngata,  
Tihei mauri ora*

*If you should tear out the heart  
of the flax bush,  
Where will the bellbird be,  
Will it fly inland,  
Fly out to sea,  
Or fly around aimlessly,  
But if you should ask me what  
is the greatest thing on Earth,  
I will tell you,  
It is people, it is people, it is  
people*



Image source:  
[www.teara.govt.nz/en/photogr/aph/7963/flax-bush](http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/photogr/aph/7963/flax-bush)



**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN  
NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE 2016**

 **GENDER  
EQUALITY**  
Driving Cultural Change

**15-17 SEPTEMBER 2016 | TE PAPA, WELLINGTON**



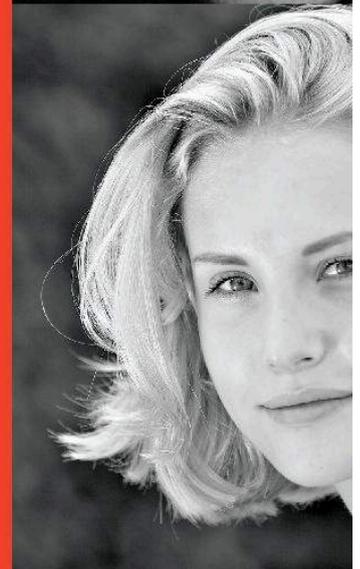
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INVITE  
YOU...**

... and your colleagues to join us to discuss, debate and drive action for gender equality, to enable New Zealanders to have the freedom and opportunity to determine their own future.

Bringing together leading national and international keynote speakers, guests and industry leaders, our National Conference promises not only a great line up of speakers and discussion panels, but also challenging conversations and interactive workshops on cultural change.

2016 presents an unprecedented opportunity to come together with the collective aim of driving and motivating cultural change.

Please share this with your fellow members, colleagues, friends and family and encourage them to all attend.



For more information contact  
Faye Johnson  
GROW Ltd

P: 06 878 3456  
E: faye@grow.co.nz

[www.ncwnzconference2016.grow.co.nz](http://www.ncwnzconference2016.grow.co.nz)

# GENDER EQUALITY Driving Cultural Change

15-17 SEPTEMBER 2016 | TE PAPA, WELLINGTON

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**MATTHEW TUKAKI**  
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**Dr PAULINE KINGI**  
CNZM,  
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**Dr JO CRABB**  
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**Dr JACKIE BLUE**  
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- Shaping the media conversation around driving a change
- Enterprise and economic opportunity
- International contributions towards gender equality.

[www.ncwnzconference2016.grow.co.nz](http://www.ncwnzconference2016.grow.co.nz)

## CONFERENCE DETAILS

### BOOKING

The Conference is being held on Thursday 15 and Friday 16 September, with the AGM, for members on Saturday 17 September 2016. Each of the three days will begin at 8.30am and finish no later than 5.30pm.

The AGM is restricted to NCWNZ members only.

For details, accommodation options and bookings, go online to [www.ncwnzconference2016.grow.co.nz](http://www.ncwnzconference2016.grow.co.nz)

You may pay by credit card or invoice.

Take advantage of the Early Bird Member discounts and **BOOK ONLINE NOW**.

To become a member of NCWNZ, visit [www.ncwnz.org.nz](http://www.ncwnz.org.nz)

### PRICE

The Early Bird special is available up until the 30th June 2016.

#### Members' Pricing

Early Bird tickets for the full 3 days - Thursday, Friday & Saturday	\$370.00 +GST
Standard tickets for the full 3 days - Thursday, Friday & Saturday	\$395.00 +GST
Single day attendance - either Thursday or Friday	\$265.00 +GST
Early Bird tickets for the AGM - Saturday only	\$100.00 +GST
Standard tickets for the AGM - Saturday only	\$130.00 +GST

#### Non-Members' Pricing

Single Day attendance - either Thursday or Friday	\$320.00 +GST
Early Bird Tickets for the 2 days - Thursday & Friday	\$420.00 +GST
Standard Tickets for the 2 days - Thursday & Friday	\$470.00 +GST

For details and booking online go to [www.ncwnzconference2016.grow.co.nz](http://www.ncwnzconference2016.grow.co.nz)

[www.ncwnzconference2016.grow.co.nz](http://www.ncwnzconference2016.grow.co.nz)

# Update on NCWNZ Organisational Review Project

**By Lynn McKenzie, NCWNZ Chief Executive**

As Rae mentioned in her article the NCWNZ Board and CEO have been busy talking with branches about the recent action item – *Proposed Organisational Change*.

## Member Input to Review Project

The Action Item proposals are informed by feedback received in the April membership survey. Results from this survey are available on the members' section of the NCWNZ website. In addition to the current Action Item, there will be ongoing opportunities for members to provide feedback including through a dedicated working party and wider reference group.

## The deadline for Action Item Response is 6 June

We acknowledge the timeframes are tight. We are working to the timelines set out in our Constitution and rules which require notification of any rule or Constitutional change to be given four months before our AGM in September 2016 and then notified to all financial members by three months (15 June). If we are to achieve our new strategic vision of a gender equal New Zealand we need to make changes to our membership and governance structures as soon as we can. The internal and external pressures we face mean we cannot afford to wait until next year's conference.

The Board is committed to preserving NCWNZ's heart - and the heart of the organisation is our people and our members, who are all united by a shared purpose. Reviewing our systems and process will enable us to unify and work together to achieve a gender equal New Zealand. Effective membership and operating systems are therefore key

enablers to maintaining NCWNZ's heart and achieving our strategy.

## How can you get involved and have your say?

- Provide feedback on the proposed changes outlined in the Action Item via our online survey or in hard copy. A copy of the Action Item and a link to the online survey are available on the members' section of the NCWNZ website.
- Attend your local branch meeting in May where you can discuss the proposed changes with the Board and CEO.
- If you are unable to attend a branch meeting in May, then we encourage you to join a conference call with Board members before the end of May. Details for logging on to this call are available on the members' section of the website.
- Express interest in joining our organisational review working party and/or wider reference group. You can do this when responding to the Action Item questions.

## Next Steps

The Board will meet in early June to review responses to the Action Item. On 15 June financial members will be advised of any proposed changes to our Constitution and rules that will be considered and voted on at the September 2016 conference. We will be using the period between 15 June and Conference to listen to your feedback and inform you on progress. We thank you for your involvement so far and for your ongoing support and commitment to NCWNZ and our vision of building a gender equal New Zealand.

## Recent NCWNZ submissions

No submissions were made over the past month. To read previous submissions, visit [www.ncwnz.org.nz](http://www.ncwnz.org.nz) (Members' section).

## What does gender equality mean for our national member organisations?

To gain an understanding of our current national organisation members' (NOMs) gender equality concerns and aims, and to follow on from the piece on new members, we asked several organisation to contribute their thoughts.

### The Salvation Army – member since 1897



**By Janine Donaldson,  
Territorial President of  
Women's Ministries**

*What does gender equality mean for you?*

'It tastes better when it's fair' so reads the slogan attached to the BP Wild Bean Cafes. Surely if we

agree to that sentiment associated with what we consume and how it gets to us, then surely the subject of gender equality should evoke similar and stronger feelings.

The Salvation Army is well positioned to address gender issues. A woman and man before their time, Catherine and William Booth established a foundation upon which Salvationists have the right and privilege to stand to this day. The author Pamela Walker reminds us "this religion (TSA) offered a way to articulate a critique of a

[masculinity and femininity and to forward an alternative organisation of gender relations. The alternative models sought by salvationists produced new hybrids of religious, class and gender cultures".

*Looking forward, what are you seeing in the gender space?*

The church as a whole has not been a great advocate of Women's rights. I believe that career choices both in the church and throughout society should be made by the individual. When these choices are limited unequally by rule or custom or any other measure of human difference, we all pay a severe price of lost talent, worth and opportunities. In Galatians 3:28 we read "there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male or female for you are all one in Christ Jesus". I would love to see the church take the ultimate lead in equality for all.

### New Zealand Nurses Organisation – joined as NZRNA in 1946

**By Georgia Choveaux and Erin Kennedy, NZNO  
representatives on the Council of Trade Union's Women's  
Council**

*What does gender equality mean for you?*

Gender Equality to us is about equal opportunities and equal outcomes. As union women it's about demanding, campaigning and organising for these rights to be in our workplaces too. This means equal pay for work of equal value, for equal participation and promotions, for access to all occupations and industries at all levels and the elimination of discrimination on the basis of gender. For us it is not just the promise of a fundamental human right but the practical realisation of our fundamental human rights. As union women, we insist these human rights be recognised as work rights too.

*Looking forward, what are you seeing in the gender space?*

We see success! We see the realisation of many of the dreams of early activists and change makers. We see Equal Pay being a

reality not just pretence or empty promise. We see more barriers to equal participation in employment falling, like greater paid parental leave. History tells us too, that union women, collectives of women, and organised women will be at the forefront of

these changes and successes. Finally, we see new generations of campaigners and change makers growing and thriving as the challenges and successes are passed on from one generation to the next.



*Georgia (left) with a friend after they had given a submission to Parliament on 26 weeks paid parental leave earlier in the year*



Janine Donaldson (left) with NCWNZ President Rae Duff

## Empowerment of Women

**By Lynn McKenzie, NCWNZ Chief Executive**

President Rae Duff and CEO Lynn McKenzie met up with Salvation Army Commissioner Janine Donaldson in early May.

The Salvation Army is one of our longest serving members joining us in 1897. We have common interests and concerns with deep interest in social justice including pay equity and violence against women.

"It was great to catch up with Janine and to identify opportunities in the gender equality space where we can work together," said Rae Duff. "Janine's vision, energy and absolute commitment to working collaboratively were really wonderful to see".

## Women and girls trapped in slavery in NZ

**By Ethne Wyndham-Smith, Catholic Women's League representative to the NCW Wellington branch,**

The article "Nepalese children sold as slaves to wealthy Britons" appeared in *The Dominion Post* dated 5th April 2016. These are child survivors of the 2015 Nepal earthquake sold to work as domestic slaves – an abhorrent crime.

Maybe this is a window of opportunity for us to grow in awareness of the hidden ways that people, especially women and young girls, are trapped in slavery in New Zealand – the Global Slave Index indicates that there are 600 slaves here in this country. Slavery happens in cleaning, sex work, hospitality, factories, domestic work, construction, farming, retail, the beauty industry and marriage. So this country is a source of and destination country for trafficking.

Why this evil phenomena? Powerlessness – lack of education, poverty, demand and of course the greed for money is behind it all. Slavery is the third largest illegal industry in the world and estimated to generate profits of between \$US9 billion to over \$US30 billion – half of this in industrialised countries. There are estimated to be 35.8 million slaves worldwide regardless of the 1948 UN Declaration of Human Rights, Article four which states "none shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and

the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms".

Gendered into invisibility, women are more susceptible to violence and discrimination. Lack of life chances can result in extreme poverty which can result in a woman taking huge risks to secure a better life elsewhere. Eighty per cent of transnational victims are women and children. Seventy per cent of female victims are trafficked into the commercial sex industry.

What can we do – be aware, look beneath the surface and be alert to a range of indicators that may mean somebody is experiencing slavery and/or exploitation: little or no pay for work or services; passport taken; self harm; forced marriage; and absence from school saying that they are going overseas.

If you are concerned about someone's safety, get in touch with the Labour Contact Centre or use online CrimeStoppers to report a case anonymously.

And to stay involved, connect with other organisations such as STOP THE TRAFFIK, ECPAT, ANZRATH, Shakti, Walk Free and other organisations to help combat human right abuses and slavery.

# Gender segregation within subjects of study

*By Pip Jamieson and Suzanne Manning, Education Standing Committee*

Gender segregation within school and tertiary subjects limits future options for women to pursue particular (higher paying) careers, contributing to the gender pay gap. Despite a recommendation from the 2012 CEDAW Committee that the NZ government should address this area of gender discrepancy, we see little change in the female or male domination of specific subject areas.

Let's take Engineering as an example. The prerequisite is to take science and maths subjects at school, and indeed, girls and boys take these subjects in relatively even numbers. However, the individual science subjects show gender segregation. In the senior school in 2015, girls made up 66% of biology enrolments, 54% of chemistry enrolments, and 35% of physics enrolments. In Technology subjects, girls made up 39% of graphics enrolments, another subject useful in engineering. When it comes to technology, girls tended instead to take textiles/clothing (88% female), biotechnology (78% female) and food technology/cooking (62% female).

Moving into tertiary education, engineering and related technology statistics for provider-based education in 2014 show almost 1500 women graduates and over 8000 men or 18% women. This makes the 25% of women hired as new engineering graduates (in the 12 months before an IPENZ survey in 2015) seem positively expansive, as does the 32% women in the engineering workforce. This might be moving in the right direction, but we should remember that 18%, 25% and 32% in no way equates to the proportion of women in the general population! It also highlights that without active intervention, small gains could be easily lost.

The government has several initiatives for encouraging students to take up engineering and related careers, in partnership with industry groups. These include "Got a trade – Got It Made" and "Engineering E2E", and the websites for these deliberately include women role models. However, the initiatives

themselves do not include gender equity goals or targets, and do not contain concrete strategies to specifically encourage women into these careers. The underlying assumptions seem to be that by encouraging more students to choose engineering/trades, then the gender balance will automatically ensue. This is not borne out by the statistics, nor by our anecdotal knowledge.

The professional association for engineering, IPENZ, does have a list of recommendations to progress gender equality, although we don't have information about how much this is being implemented. It could be argued, however, that unless the government support IPENZ through actions within the education system, then there will be no sustained change in the numbers entering the profession. IPENZ can make changes to try to ensure that women engineers are supported, encouraged and promoted, but it is the government who needs to ensure the system gives encouragement to girls (and boys) and their families to think beyond gender stereotypes when they are choosing subjects.

We would hate this to translate into girls being forced to take subjects that they are not interested in. Yet there are many subjects that girls might be interested in if they have the opportunity and the encouragement, and we would like to see more of this in our schools and careers/educational planning advice.

## Source:

- Ministry of Education, Compulsory schooling data, [www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/student-numbers/subject-enrolment](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/schooling/student-numbers/subject-enrolment)
- Ministry of Education, Tertiary education data, [http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/tertiary-education/retention\\_and\\_achievement](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/tertiary-education/retention_and_achievement)
- IPENZ Engineering New Zealand, Women in the Engineering Workplace 2015
- IPENZ Engineering New Zealand, Women in the Engineering Workplace 2015

## Superintendent Tusha Penny visits Auckland branch

**By Arna Metcalfe, NCW Auckland Branch Vice-President**

The Auckland Branch was very spoilt to have Superintendent Tusha Penny as our guest speaker in April. Tusha is the NZ Police National Manager of Child Protection and Sexual Violence. She has been in the police for 25 years, and was a journalist prior to that. She grew up in Gisborne.

Tusha said that the Police Department has changed enormously from when she started, and a lot of that has been led by Louise Nicholas' work. They are working together to combat domestic violence. Much of the work Tusha does relates to preventing child abuse and reduction of sex offending. She shared experiences around family harm that have challenged her, and asserts that if you peel back most issues and crimes that they deal with they come back to family harm.

Tusha told us of the transformation needed in New Zealand and in the police. Frontline police spend 41% of police time every day on family harm and it has increased over



*Superintendent Tusha Penny talking to Branch members Patricia Woodley, Beth Jenner and Barbara Hale*

the last 20 years, with probably 80% of incidents not reported at all. The Police Department now has a working party in place, including people like Heather Henare to change the culture in the Police through their transformation programme. To make a difference Police officers and society need to, "stop pointing the finger at everyone else, other agencies, pull up a mirror and let's look at that." One step is the training of all the frontline supervisors regarding family harm, and another step is a brand new operational model in Counties Manukau to make a difference at their first intervention and not going back to same family twenty or thirty times without making change. Family violence is not a police-only issue. It needs to be talked about it and not pushed away. Tusha's talk was insightful and inspirational and we are grateful that she was so generous with her time, answering questions from the 50 or so people present and staying for a cup of tea.



*Superintendent Tusha Penny (right) with WCTU representative Annette Patterson*



## Board members complete Te Tiriti O Waitangi Workshop

**By Helen Gibson,  
NCWNZ Board member**

A statement that underpins NCWNZ's strategy states: We recognise and work towards a Tiriti o Waitangi based society of Aotearoa.

With this commitment in mind and following our last Board meeting, the board attended a one-day Treaty Workshop facilitated by Katherine Peet of Network Waitangi Otautahi (a Pākehā Treaty education group from Christchurch, seen third from left). We had a day packed full of updated information from pre-Treaty to the present day.

Some members, who highlighted aspects of the workshop, commented: "I appreciated the opportunity to refresh and reflect on the whole historical perspective and be reminded of the social context in which actions were taken across the years." Another member stated, "I thoroughly enjoyed and was challenged by the presentation professionally delivered. I have



been through several training sessions within Local Government and Government Statutory Boards for Conservation and Health, on the Treaty, and found this the most comprehensive of all undertaken previously".

One attendee reflected: "I came away with a much clearer understanding of the content and context of Te Tiriti. It made me realise that as someone who is not Tangata Whenua but feels powerfully connected to this land I have two choices: I can be here as a representative of a usurping colonial power or an invited people. Te Tiriti is the invitation and only when it is honoured will I be here honourably".

The NCWNZ Board's intention was to take this commitment to the Treaty seriously, putting the words into action; and just as importantly to role model to the membership one way that we can work towards a Tiriti o Waitangi based society of Aotearoa.

## Southland branch member recognised for commitment to equality

Southland journalist Pat Veltkamp Smith may have scored something of a record with her 54-year association with the National Council of Women.

The branch's current Minute Secretary found herself the centre of attention at the annual meeting when she was presented with a Life Member's badge and flowers by the incoming and outgoing presidents Lyn Devery and Anne McCracken.

Pat attended her first NCW meeting in May 1962 as a young journalist covering the meeting. Impressed by the intelligent and meaningful talk, she then joined the branch.

Over the following half century-plus, she has remained committed, telling the *Southland Times* newspaper that she regarded the introduction of maternity leave one of the most successful initiatives backed by NCW.

"It is lovely to receive this," she said of the purple and gold badge presented, "but NCW



*Outgoing and incoming presidents Lyn Devery, left, and Anne McCracken present Pat Veltkamp Smith with her badge of honour at the Southland branch AGM on May 10. Photo by John Hawkins, Southland Times*

is not about shining stars but about members understanding and sharing that sense of commitment to equality, of race and of gender."

## GR33: CEDAW's General Recommendation on 'Access to Justice'

*By Vanisa Dhiru, International Secretary*

The importance of women's access to justice in diverse legal systems and all areas of law for all women is a longstanding issue across the globe. Growing inequalities in society and a lack of justice for vulnerable groups were major issues in a more recent addition to the General Recommendation ('GR') in CEDAW in July last year.

The 'access to justice' GR, brings the total number of GRs in CEDAW to 33. It has been in development since the decision at the 48th CEDAW Session in February 2011.

This new General Recommendation is an authoritative statement on the meaning of the provisions in the CEDAW Convention, with respect to the rights of women and the obligations of the State, and on what kind of information should be included in State Party reports, i.e. the report by the government to CEDAW.

The adoption of GR33 is welcomed by civil society, who called on the state's failure to address social, economical and cultural factors preventing women from seeking justice.

CEDAW Committee observed that there are still obstacles and restrictions that impede women from realising their right to access justice at all levels of justice systems, which goes against women's realisation of all rights protected under CEDAW.

Irrespective of economic or social status, political background, geographical location, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, the GR encompasses all justice settings (formal, informal or semi-formal), sources of law (common law, civil law, religious law, customary law or mixed legal systems) and the full range of legal domains (criminal, civil, family, administrative and constitutional).

GR 33 can be used as a tool to further demand gender equality. It spells out the issues on women's access to justice and gives recommendations for improvement to state parties. It also identifies groups of women who face intersectional and compounded discrimination; other factors which makes it harder for women to access justice; and

emphasises difficulties faced by women human rights defenders.

There are six interrelated and essential components necessary to ensure access to justice:

1. Justiciability – Unhindered access by women to justice, as well as their ability and empowerment to claim their rights under CEDAW as legal entitlement;
2. Availability – establishment of courts and other quasi-judicial (for example: customary courts) or other bodies across the nation in both urban, rural and remote areas, as well as maintenance and funding;
3. Accessibility – Ensuring all justice systems, both formal and quasi-judicial systems are secure, affordable and physically accessible to women, and are adapted and appropriated to the needs of women including those who face intersectional or compounded forms of discrimination;
4. Good quality of justice systems – All components of the system adhere to international standards of competence, efficiency, and provide, in a timely fashion, appropriate and effective remedies that are enforced and that lead to sustainable gender-sensitive dispute resolution for all women. Requires justice systems that are contextualised, dynamic, participatory, open to innovative practical measures, gender-sensitive, and take account of the increasing demands for justice by women;
5. Provisions of remedies – Ability of women to receive from justice systems viable protection and meaningful redress for any harm that they may suffer;
6. Accountability of justice systems – Monitoring of the functioning of justice systems to guarantee that they are in accordance with the principles above. Also refers to the monitoring of actions of justice system professionals and of their legal responsibility in cases in which they violate the law.

The CEDAW Committee also highlighted discriminatory laws, procedures and

practices which limit women's access to justice – the form of lack of review/ amendment/repeal of discriminatory laws based on traditional gender stereotypes and other direct and indirect discrimination such as discriminatory law interpretations, whether in the national, religious or customary laws. This relates to the need for ongoing capacity building to combat negative stereotyping and gender bias in the justice system, including educational and awareness-raising activities on the negative impact of gender stereotyping. States should guarantee that the justice systems are economically

accessible to women through provision of free or low-cost legal aid, advice and representation in judicial and quasi-judicial processes.

**Sources:**

CEDAW General Recommendations – <http://bit.ly/CEDAW-GR>

IWRAW newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 7, July 2015 online at <http://admin.iwraw-ap.org/>

## Comment from Eva Hartshorn-Sanders, Justice and Law Reform Convenor

The Law Commission completed a comprehensive review of women's access to justice in the late 1990's. There have been significant changes to the justice sector since then, including major changes to the legal aid access and eligibility. We need to know what the impact of these reforms has been and whether women are disadvantaged or discriminated against because of these reforms. Concerns have been raised that justify further research, evidence and change (<http://bit.ly/legal-aid-funding>, [http://bit.ly/unlawful-legal-aid-](http://bit.ly/unlawful-legal-aid-reforms)

[reforms](https://nzfvc.org.nz/news/call-inquiry-equality-access-justice), <https://nzfvc.org.nz/news/call-inquiry-equality-access-justice>).

Given the new CEDAW General Recommendation, and our upcoming CEDAW report, we will be looking to recommend a repeat of these Law Commission reports in order to understand where we have progressed 20 years on from the initial reports.

**Sources:** <http://bit.ly/lawsocietyjustice>

<http://www.lawcom.govt.nz/our-projects/women-and-access-justice>

## Notices for members –

### 1. Reminder – Branch Returns and Reporting – Due 20 June

**By Vashi Wood, NCWNZ Operations Manager**

We would appreciate the timely completion and return of the forms emailed to all branches at the beginning of May. In particular, we need the '2016 Annual Charities Services Branch Report' form, which records some branch activity, to be completed in time for our audit at the end of June. Under the External Reporting Board's new reporting requirements this completed form will inform the service report that will accompany NCWNZ's financial statements. The due date for completed returns is 20 June 2016.

### 2. Community hui updates

Many branches will currently be in the process of planning their hui and sorting out the last details. Thank you to all who have so far let us know what their plans are for the hui. If your branch is yet to do so, please email [office@ncwnz.org.nz](mailto:office@ncwnz.org.nz) with the date and location of the hui.

We also sent out resources for those holding hui's recently. If you have not received these, please let National Office know and we will resend them to you. We will also be sending you a reporting template for the hui at sometime over the next few weeks. If your branch is holding a hui, please send the completed form into the office as soon as you can after your hui.

As always, we invite you to submit articles about your branch activities, including the hui, for publication in the *Circular*. Articles or questions can be sent to our Communications Advisor at [circular@ncwnz.org.nz](mailto:circular@ncwnz.org.nz)

## Calendar

### June

- 05 World Environment Day
- 06 Responses to Proposed Organisational Change Action Item due at NO
- 10 Special Board Meeting
- 15 Nominations for Distinguished Service Awards due at NO

### June cont'd

- 15 Information about proposed changes to the constitution due out
- 18 – 19 NCWNZ Board meeting

### July

- 12 Malala Yousafzai Day
- 17 World Day for International Justice

### August

- 01 – 07 World Breastfeeding
- 04 Main conference papers due out
- 06 – 07 NCWNZ Board meeting

### August cont'd

- 15 Branches to notify if they wish to use proxy votes

### September

- 12 Youth Day
- 14 NCWNZ Board meeting
- 15 – 17 NCWNZ Conference
- 17 NCWNZ AGM
- 19 Suffrage Day
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 26 World Contraception Day

### October

- 01 – 31 Breast Cancer Awareness Month

## Standing Committee Convener contact list

<b>Consumer Affairs</b>	(Vacant)	(Vacant)
<b>Economics</b>	Deborah Russell	dfr141@hotmail.com
<b>Education</b>	Suzanne Manning	suzanne.manning@paradise.net.nz
<b>Employment</b>	Margaret Ledgerton	m.ledgerton@xtra.co.nz
<b>Environment</b>	Elizabeth Lee	geoff.lee@xtra.co.nz
<b>Family Affairs</b>	Belinda Greenwood	belindagreenwood@hotmail.com
<b>Health</b>	Ailsa Stewart	ailsa.stewart@xtra.co.nz
<b>Justice and Law Reform</b>	Eva Hartshorn-Sanders	ehartshorn-sanders@ppta.org.nz
<b>Parliamentary Watch</b>	Beryl Anderson	beryl_anderson@xtra.co.nz
<b>Public Issues</b>	Rosemary Du Plessis/ Judith Sutherland	rosemarydup@gmail.com/ bruju65@gmail.com
<b>Social Issues</b>	(Vacant)	(Vacant)



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### The deadline for material for the July *Circular* is Wednesday 15 June 2016.

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

Email: [circular@ncwnz.org.nz](mailto:circular@ncwnz.org.nz)

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

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