

# Mission statement for the CEDAW Coalition of NGOs

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## Mission

To ensure the New Zealand government progresses towards gender equality through the systematic and continuous implementation of all of the provisions of the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

## Aims and objectives

1. To raise the visibility and profile of the Convention in New Zealand
2. To ensure the CEDAW Committee's recommendations, which arise from periodic reviews, are actioned by the New Zealand government.
3. To increase the capacity of non-governmental organisations to participate in NGO alternative reporting to the CEDAW committee during periodic reviews, and to ensure the diversity of women in New Zealand are represented in reporting.
4. To make CEDAW a useful tool for women in New Zealand to help them progress towards gender equality in their communities.

## We believe:

- CEDAW and other human rights frameworks are an important resource for progressing towards gender equality in New Zealand.
- Increased awareness of CEDAW in New Zealand is critical to ensuring its effectiveness.
- The New Zealand Government should be accountable for its implementation of the Convention and how it is working to address the Committee's concerns and recommendations as identified in periodic reviews.
- Progressing towards equality for women also requires attention to other aspects of women's identity and lived experience, including indigeneity, ethnicities, cultures, socio-economic status, abilities, sexuality, gender identity, physical and social environment.
- That Maori women, as our Treaty partner, have the right to express and progress equity and equality from their own perspective based on a Treaty of Waitangi analytical framework.

## How we work:

The coalition consists of organisations and individuals representing community not-for-profit sector, academic institutions, and national human rights organisations. We are an informal and independent coalition that share a commitment to the aims, objectives and shared beliefs outlined above. Communications in the name of the coalition can be assumed to represent all members.

## Background

As signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the New Zealand government has a special responsibility to progress towards gender equality through the systematic and continuous implementation of all of the provisions of the Convention<sup>1</sup>. In the 2012 periodic review of New Zealand, the CEDAW Committee noted with concern a number of challenges that continue to impede the full implementation of the Convention by the New Zealand Government. These include the limited distribution of and progress on recommendations from the previous periodic review, the lack of systematic Parliamentary oversight to ensure accountability on women's rights and gender equality, and the lack of visibility of the Convention throughout the country.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>