



NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S WATCH

Registered as Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) Inc

*ORGANISATION IN SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS
WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL SINCE 2010*



Postal address:
PO Box 99-464
Newmarket
Auckland
New Zealand 1149
Phone: +64 9 528 3727
e: info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz
Website: www.pacificwomenswatch.org.nz
Charities Commission Number: CC 40721

Office:
70 Khyber Pass Road
Grafton,
Auckland
New Zealand
Phone/Fax: +64 9 307 0701

New Zealand Women's Watch Newsletter January 2014

Celebrating 120 years of Suffrage

New Year greetings to all our members and supporters and welcome to the first Newsletter for 2014 from New Zealand Women's Watch

Pacific Women's Watch (NZ) Mission Statement:

To ensure that women of all countries of the Pacific sub-region coordinate in solidarity of purpose to promote the advancement of women.

In this issue:

- Message from the President
- Report on November conference
- CEDAW leaflet
- CSW information
- Dr Judy McGregor at Auckland Women's Centre AGM
- UPR Submissions
- Musings from the Editor
- For your diary

For your Diary:

13 February 2014 MWA International Caucus Wellington

10 – 21 March 2014 CSW in New York with CSW Forum on Sunday 9th March

April – June 2014 Nationwide data collection for Beijing 20+ review

May 2014 Quadrennial report due under UN consultative status

From the President

New Year Greetings from the Board of New Zealand Women's Watch as we begin our programme for 2014.

Last year the Watch was able to push forward some notable progress towards gender equality. Especially notable were our three contributions in celebration of the 120th Anniversary of Suffrage - the gift to New Zealand women of the International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAW) Asia-Pacific facilitated workshop on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, known as CEDAW; the publication of our information pamphlet on the Convention; and our 2013 Annual Conference with the theme *Looking Ahead – Increasing Women's Participation and Status in Public and Private Life*. The CEDAW pamphlet which was widely critiqued before publication will we believe be an essential tool for the prevention of discrimination and suffering by women and girls because of their gender.

Our Annual Conference on 16 November focused on the challenge of eliminating barriers holding women back from realizing their full potential as leaders in society. It was acknowledged strongly that changing the mind-set recognising men as natural leaders is necessary to overcome "unconscious bias".

In 2014 we will build on our successes through once again leading a strong delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York in March. This will be followed by the collection of data for the NZWW NGO Country Report for the twenty-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action. We will be inviting all of our members to help with the collection mid April to early June through workshops and responses to the NZWW Questionnaire *How are we Doing?*

We will continue in our coordinating role for the CEDAW Coalition of NGOs following the NZWW initiative to establish this Auckland based "ginger group" a year ago. Key issues have been to work towards a developing a new national Action Plan for New Zealand Women and Girls, establishing of a Parliamentary Select Committee on Human Rights and further effort to overcome sexual and domestic violence which impacts on and

compromises the safety and health of New Zealand women and girls.

For the first time we contributed a submission to the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights for the second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the New Zealand Government's performance on human rights. We were gratified to see a number of our concerns recognized in the Summary prepared for the Eighteenth session of the Working Group for the Review. The UPR submission made a substantial contribution to our ongoing support of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) through our special consultative status. Our first Quadrennial Report under the status is due very soon.

We wish to thank all our members for their support in 2013. There are 20 organisations under our umbrella as well as individuals. Our voice carries the weight of the concerns and challenges brought by many ethnicities, the majority of whom are younger women. Our responsibility to advance gender equality, peace and justice on your behalf is paramount. Let us again stand in solidarity in 2014.

Jane Prichard
President

The Board:

President: Jane Prichard
Secretary: Gopika Dasi
Treasurer: Cleone Campbell
Members: Jaclyn Bonnici, Sara Chin, Fala Haulangi, Christine King, Vaotane Samoa Saleupolo, Fumi Schaaf, Mere Ratuva, Nicky Spicer, Beverley Turner

Contact us: info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz

Website: www.pacificwomenswatch.org.nz

Press Release from the PWW (NZ) Conference in November

As well as recognizing the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November the New Zealand Women's Watch (NZWW) Eighth Annual Conference this year in Auckland celebrated the 120th anniversary of Suffrage. The Conference theme *Looking Ahead – Increasing Women's Participation and Status in Public and Private Life* focused attention on the barriers still holding women back from realizing their full potential as leaders in society.

A panel of expert speakers agreed that women's advancement to higher positions and status was greatly hindered by "unconscious bias". Men are still seen as natural leaders. Women's career aspirations are not so valued. Women from leading non-governmental organisations and a diversity of cultures attending the Conference, many of whom were younger women, were challenged to suggest new strategies to move forward the attainment of full gender equality. They agreed that changes could only come through a new model. The current model, where women are evaluated differently from men, has not delivered the true equality implied through the right to vote.

Many barriers for Maori and Pacific Island women and girls in accessing higher career opportunities are still to be overcome. Gaining higher qualifications in their education was seen as the key.

The most recent examination of New Zealand's performance in implementing the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, known as CEDAW, called attention to the lack of full gender equality for women and girls.

As a special contribution to the 120th anniversary of Suffrage, the keynote speaker, Denise Lievore, Policy Director in the Ministry of Women's Affairs launched the NZWW educational leaflet on understanding CEDAW. NZWW President, Jane Prichard, urged all those at the Conference to use the leaflet to make CEDAW, the 'Bill of Rights' for women and girls in New Zealand, well known. Ms Prichard said "Only when all New Zealanders know how to use CEDAW as an instrument for attaining full human rights will gender equality be realized".

NZWW Information Pamphlet on CEDAW

Our recently published CEDAW pamphlet was launched by Dr Denise Lievore, Policy Director, Ministry of Women's Affairs, at the NZWW Annual Conference on 16 November. We anticipate the pamphlet will become an essential tool for the prevention of discrimination and suffering by women and girls because of their gender. We urge you to use the pamphlet in your work to progress gender equality.

The younger women on the NZWW Board enthusiastically took up the task of writing and preparing the CEDAW pamphlet to action the concern raised by the CEDAW Committee in its concluding observations following its examination in July 2012 of the New Zealand Government's Report. The Committee stated that implementation had been impeded by lack of knowledge at all levels of the Convention and its Optional Protocol.

The pamphlet which was widely critiqued before publication is designed to educate people of all ages, including secondary school students, and to inform a broad cross-section of society from Members of Parliament, the Judiciary and Police, and civil society. The plain language used aims to appeal to people from the diversity of cultures now part of New Zealand's population. Translation into other languages spoken in New Zealand will follow in due course.

To request copies of the pamphlet, which is distributed free of charge, please email info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz or phone 09 418 0700



Denise Lievore (MWA) launches the CEDAW leaflet at November Conference.



Patron: Kataraina O'Brien addressing the conference



Conference November 2013

Musings from the Editor

It is six months since I agreed to join PWW (NZ) Board. At the time I didn't know much about this organisation so it has, and continues to be, a steep learning curve. In July I had been back in NZ for just 6 months after 5 years working in Qatar so reconnecting with people and issues in NZ is an important part of settling back home. It is proving an interesting journey.

An aside – we went to Qatar for my work and as my husband accompanied me I was his sponsor and as such had to give permission for him to work – this role reversal created much amusement/confusion for local people!

As I reflect on what PWW (NZ) and similar organisations are about I think back to my university and early working days in the late 1960s/early 1970s. In those days women were paid less than men for the same work and women usually didn't work once they had children. When I was about to commence my intern year after graduation it was suggested, by my female boss, that as I was now married it was probably not a good idea to be working!! However "Women's Lib" was gathering steam and within a very short time this attitude had changed; married women were welcomed into positions and women were (officially) paid the same rate as men – we thought we had succeeded. Just last week we were reminded of those early struggles when the movie "Made in Dagenham" was screened on TV

But of course just because the law changes to allow equal pay and opportunity society does not necessarily fully embrace the spirit of equality. So unfortunately we still find inequality and gender injustice even here in NZ which has been a world leader in human and women's rights. For women of my generation who often feel we have fought the fight and won, we need to remain aware and mindful of the different forms of disempowerment, and as empowered women stand up for the rights of all in all aspects of life.

The issues faced by women as they work towards full and meaningful participation in society vary from country to country but for many women and girls the very basic rights of health and education are denied. Internationally there is much to do.

As New Zealanders we need to work for justice for all in our own country and our backyard of the Pacific as well supporting women around the world. To this end I am looking forward to participating in the CSW Forum in March at the United Nations in New York, an opportunity to learn, meet people and hopefully gain a deeper understanding of issues and possible actions.

**Christine King
Editor**

Commission on the Status of Women

United Nations commitments to the advancement of women began with the signing of the UN Charter in San Francisco in 1945. Only four of the 160 signatories were women but they succeeded in inscribing women's rights in the founding document of the United Nations, which reaffirms in its preamble "*faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of Nations large and small*".

On 21 June 1946, the Sub-Commission formally became the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), a full-fledged Commission dedicated to ensuring women's equality and to promoting women's rights.

CSW is now the principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women.

CSW is held in February/March each year at UN headquarters in New York where representatives all UN Member States evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment world-wide. 'CSW Agreed Conclusions' published at the end of the meetings provide a set of concrete recommendations for action by Governments, inter-governmental bodies and other institutions, civil society actors and other relevant stakeholders, to be implemented at the international, national, regional and local levels.

CSW also makes recommendations to ECOSOC on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights eg: the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women; the 'girl child' and HIV and AIDS.

Access by NGO representatives to all events within UN buildings is very restricted due to space limits but a very extensive and exciting programme of 90 minute 'parallel events' is offered in several buildings with good meeting spaces – see following links: [NGO CSW Forum Parallel Events](#) programme runs daily, 10-21 March 2014, from 8.30am, starting every 2 hr.

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women, NY (NGO CSW/NY) also organizes [NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day](#), and [Reception*](#), [Conversation Circles](#) during the annual [UN Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) meeting in New York. On Sunday 9 March, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm [NGO CSW Forum Consultation Day](#) *will challenge and stimulate all.

*All events are free except these two.

PWW(NZ)'s Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC (2010) allows it to register up to 20 members (individual or from member NGOs) to attend the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York. With the 2014 theme: "Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls", there is considerable interest in attending but financial considerations (fares and accommodation) are daunting. Registrations for CSW 58 close mid-January.

In 2013, with CSW 57 theme: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, our New Zealand multi-ethnic panellists discussed '*Unique indigenous, non-indigenous and Pasifika approaches to violence against women and girls in Aotearoa /New Zealand*' which was also very well received and quoted in later NGO presentations from other countries.

With the 20 year Review of Beijing Platform for Action due at UN in 2015, CSW 59 will be a most appropriate time to offer our next event - PWW(NZ)'s work focus in 2014 will be compiling the New Zealand NGO Beijing + 20 Report, following our Beijing +5, +10 and +15 NZ NGO Reports to UN.

Beverley Turner Board Member

Beverley directs proceedings at conference



Presentation by Professor Judy McGregor, AUT Head of School of Social Services and Public Policy, Associate Dean Post Graduate, Patron and Keynote Speaker at Auckland Women's Centre AGM

The AGM was held on 6 December 2013, a week after Dr Judy McGregor returned from attending the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Pre-session in Geneva. She was invited to speak to assembled members of the human Rights Council in Geneva on behalf of the submission from the CEDAW Coalition of NGOs for the Second Periodic Review of the New Zealand Government's implementation of human rights.

For the current review, to be taken in 2014, 40 New Zealand organizations made submissions. Only six were invited by the United Nations Office of the Human Rights Commission to speak for 10 minutes at the Pre-session, including the Auckland-based CEDAW Coalition of NGOs.

A Pre-session brings together Permanent Missions, National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to discuss the human rights situation of States two months prior to their review at the UPR Working Group.

The UPR is an interactive peer review process where State representatives pose questions to the State being reviewed.

The Pre-session thus provides a great opportunity for NGOs not only to be heard but also to gain the ear of State representatives through informal lobbying.

Judy focused on the key recommendation in the submission: the current lack of an Action Plan for New Zealand Women. This was very well received.

Judy then shared with the AGM some considerations from her observations on current attitudes towards women's rights. In a renaissance aimed at the revitalization of action on women's rights born of frustration, the 'temperature' for gender equality is rising. We need to question whether our current 'political' response to Gender Inequality might be wrong. Can we gain greater progress by doing it in a new way? Have CSOs become supplicants and applicants?

Relying on Parliamentary processes is not enough.

Using the power of Women's Stories and repetition of them has proven very effective. A recent example was the case of Christine Bartlett, the low-paid care worker.

Several strategies for action that Dr McGregor suggested included advising all political parties that we will audit and benchmark their policies, ranking them A,B,C etc; preparing and monitoring our own National Action Plan for Women, with targets and timelines; keeping a very sharp eye on local government policies and actions with respect to housing, ignoring women, older women, marginalized women; and especially any breaches of the Living Wage statement and its implementation, which will be inexcusable.

Dr McGregor's vigour and willingness to represent the CEDAW Coalition was warmly applauded.

Beverley Turner and Jane Prichard

Universal Periodic Review – Pacific Women’s Watch (NZ) Recommendations Recognised in the Summary prepared for the 18th session of the Working Group:

For the first time Pacific Women’s Watch (New Zealand) contributed a submission to the Office of the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights for the second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the New Zealand Government’s performance on human rights. We were gratified to see a number of our concerns recognized in the Summary prepared for the 18th session of the Working Group for the Review. The UPR submission made a substantial contribution to our ongoing support of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) through our special consultative status. Our first Quadrennial Report under the status is due very soon.

Recommendations to the UPR by NZWW were made in nine areas of concern as follows:

- National Action Plan for Women and establishment of new Parliamentary Select Committee on Human Rights
- Workplace discrimination
- Decent and affordable housing
- Sexual violence
- Forced and underage marriage
- Dowry and trafficking
- Domestic/family violence training and legal aid
- Improvement of sexual and reproductive health
- Improvement of access to health services for LGBTIQ

The following specific concerns were recognized in the Summary:

Para 33. According to CEDAW Coalition of New Zealand NGOs (CCNZNGOs)/JS6, women’s rights and gender equality had stalled and in some cases regressed.

Para 48. CCNZNGOs/JS6 urged New Zealand to develop, with civil society involvement, an Action Plan with authentic targets and strong accountabilities. The Plan must target violence against women, pay inequality, the status of Maori and Pacific women, and the importance of welfare and employment related reform on the lives of women and their families. The status of disabled women must also be addressed.

Para 49 Additionally, Pacific Women’s Watch-New Zealand (PWW-NZ)/JS21 raised concerns about the health and welfare of elderly women

PWW-NZ/JS21 stated that Maori continued to be over-represented as victims and perpetrators of family violence

PWW-NZ/JS21 indicated the need to prioritize accommodation for women escaping from violence

Para 47. PWW-NZ/JS21 reported that dowry abuse, forced and under age marriages were receiving growing recognition as serious problems and made recommendations.

Para 48. PWW-NZ/JS21 recommended that New Zealand adopt a clear definition of trafficking as defined under UN Conventions.

We look forward to the New Zealand Government acknowledging our concerns as a result of the review.

Jane Prichard
PWW (NZ) UPR Submission