



NEW ZEALAND WOMEN'S WATCH



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

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

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NEWSLETTER – MAY 2014

Celebrating 120 years of Suffrage

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.

Welcome to our May newsletter which includes reports of CSW 58 in New York in March by two first time attendees – Awhimai Reynolds from Maori Women's Welfare League (MWWL) and Christine King from PWW(NZ).

You will also find Diary Dates for upcoming events, Board activities and contact details and announcements.

In our April newsletter we reported we had just returned from CSW 58 in New York. We were a group of 20 New Zealand NGO representatives - 14 of us under the PWW(NZ) banner - Beverley Turner and Christine King from PWW(NZ) and accompanying representatives from MWWL, Women's Refuge and The Project.

The focus of CSW 58 was Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls.

There are eight MDGs:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

The MDGs were set in 2000 to be achieved by 2015. At CSW governments reported on their progress to achieving these. Discussions in the UN Women's programme and the NGO sessions all referred to these goals and how they impacted women's progress. After the governments had presented their statements they moved in to developing a statement to reflect the sharing and learning and what needs to still be done - the "Agreed Conclusions"

These Agreed Conclusions can be found on the website www.unwomen.org

The conclusions make recommendations under five broad headings:

- A. Realising women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights
- B. Strengthening the enabling environment for gender equality and the empowerment of women
- C. Maximising investments in gender equality and the empowerment of women
- D. Strengthen the evidence-base for gender equality and the empowerment of women
- E. Ensuring women's participation and leadership at all levels and strengthening accountability.

The Agreed Conclusions end by urging all to undertake comprehensive reviews of progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in preparation for the 59th CSW and the Beijing + 20

What is CSW?

From Christine King – a first timer at CSW

As a “newbie” to CSW I needed to answer this question for myself so here are my observations and thoughts on what CSW is and how it works.

CSW stands for the Commission on the Status of Women. This is a United Nations Commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) dedicated to gender equality and the advancement of women. CSW is the biggest UN event bringing together government and civil society from around the world.

CSW meetings are held every year and this year was the 58th meeting. Each year has a priority theme and this year it was “Challenges and achievements in implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls”. Last year the theme was around elimination of violence against women and girls and next year’s theme will be a review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +20) – 20 years after its adoption at the 4th World Conference on Women, Beijing.

CSW is a huge event and somewhat overwhelming. I have been to large conferences before but this is on another level with thousands of women from around the world gathering at the UN headquarters in New York for two weeks.

Before you even go there is preregistration and approval from the UN to attend – all done online and routine (thanks to Beverley for looking after this for us). Once in New York we rocked up to the UN with the appropriate paperwork and after security screening went to get our ID badges – these had to be worn at all times and provided the access to the UN grounds and UN sessions.



CSW occurs on three main levels:

One is the governmental/ministerial level which was difficult to attend because of limited space but we could observe – usually from an adjoining auditorium, so were able to see and hear our minister deliver the NZ statement. Our NZ Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MWA) delegation (led by Minister Jo Goodhew) was friendly and inclusive. They arranged daily (almost) briefings/communications for us on an informal basis. We were able to share with them the issues we saw coming through from the NGO sessions while they briefed us on what was happening in the governmental meetings

The second tier is a programme organised by UN Women – “Side events”. These panels and speakers included high level presenters and were very interesting. Unfortunately some were in rather small spaces and unless you were there early you might not get in – “plan B” was essential. The security guards were friendly but firm!

The third tier was the programme organised by the NGO CSW Forum Committee. The day before CSW officially began the NGO CSW held a one day Consultation Forum. At this event we heard from Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary

Director General and Executive Director of UN Women on the MDGs, Post 2015 and the gender equality Agenda. This was followed by three panel discussions, performances by a young poet laureate for New York City, the keynote address and much lively discussion.



The Keynote address was by Sharon Bhagwan Rolls of FemLinkPacific, Fiji. Sharon was honoured with the Woman of Distinction Award for her work in promoting and developing the use of media tools to empower women in Fiji and particularly the more isolated women, especially those in rural areas.

She is an inspirational woman from our region who we must honour and support. The NGO forum then moved into 10 days of “Parallel Events” of the NGO CSW. Each day started with a briefing in which senior UN people updated us on the progress at the



Sharon Bhagwan Rolls NGO CSW Woman of Distinction Awardee giving her keynote speech at the Consultation day.

governmental level and NGO colleagues added/shared items of interest. The programme was full and diverse – again careful planning was required to try and fit in as many sessions as possible. These sessions were held in venues outside the main UN complex – mostly across the road in the UN Church Centre although some were at the Armenian Convention centre and at the Salvation Army Hall, both of which were several blocks away. However, I learned that New York blocks are quite small! As well as the main NGO programme there were regional caucuses, co-sponsored events and conversation circles.

Unfortunately the Side Events and Parallel Events run on quite separate timing schedules which made it difficult to manage a day especially if a chosen session was full before you got there or when trying to move between the further afield venues and the main venue for back to back sessions.

There were also some social events and of course networking is happening at all levels. Fortunately the UN building has attractive and comfortable lounge areas and several cafeteria areas we were able to access.

CSW Forum held a reception for all where the Woman of Distinction Awardee Sharon Bhagwan Rolls was honoured.

Two weeks seems a long time for a conference but that time is needed

for all countries to present their statements and then for the discussion and negotiations to take place. The Side and Parallel events run to the Thursday of the second week. However, I did note that by the Monday of the second week numbers had decreased significantly and the sessions were less well attended.

Unfortunately this year New York has been experiencing a very cold winter, and while the city managed to escape snow falls while we were there the temperatures struggled to get above zero degrees celsius most days. It was bitterly cold and for an Auckland who has spent the last few years in the Middle East it was not easy. I really feel for the women from tropical places such as the Pacific Islands, Caribbean, SE Asia and much of Africa.

The energy generated at this event was amazing, exciting and motivating. To have so many women (and some men) united in a single purpose of improving the status of women all together in one place at one time is very powerful. I made interesting international contacts but also got to know many of our NZ group better as we shared this amazing and challenging experience.

It wasn't all hard work although there was a lot to take in. We enjoyed the hospitality of the New Zealand Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York at a reception one evening and also for a breakfast meeting with the NZ Minister of Women's Affairs and her team. The NZ Mission also hosted the ZONTA International reception - the ZONTA



The group with the Hon Helen Clark

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2013 Conference Reports are now available. You will find the report on our website: www.pacificwomenswatch.org.nz

Hard copies for all those who attended will be available at upcoming meetings and the AGM or on request. Please contact us info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz

This year's conference is planned for the **8th November 2014**, and will again be held at Western Springs Gardens.

The Theme is:
Post 2015 Agenda: Sign Posts for Women's Goals, in solidarity with ECOSOC*

**ECOSOC – United Nations Economic and Social Council. PWW(NZ) has Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC*

International president is a New Zealander, Lynn McKenzie

We were also privileged to be invited to meet with the Hon. Helen Clark in her office at UNDP. Helen was involved in some of the sessions and other CSW activities as well as her regular commitments but gave an hour to sit with the NZ delegation for a wide-ranging discussion.

A special mention and thanks to Beverley for her support and guidance before and during CSW – her knowledge and experience certainly made it easier for the first timers. I also acknowledge the friendship and

support of Ahwimai Reynolds of MWWL, Heather Henare, Caroline Herewini and Hazel Hape from NZ Women's Refuge, Rae Duff from NCW, Carol Grant from APW, the team from The Project and the staff from Ministry of Women's Affairs – in particular Helen Potiki and Denise Lievore.

Christine King
NZWW Board Member



Something I learned at CSW

Do you know what GFMD, DESA, DPI, BpFA, CCUN and HLD stand for? These are some of the 24 acronyms commonly used around the UN. At the UN acronyms are used everywhere and everyone else seems to know exactly what they mean. Fortunately the NGO CSW committee provided a very useful handbook which along with maps, a frequently asked questions section, useful addresses and restaurant addresses contained a

CSW Reporting

We are planning a meeting to report back on CSW in June

Date: Wednesday 18th June
Time: 6.30pm
Venue: St Columba Centre, Ponsonby, Auckland

Do join us and hear from some of those who participated in CSW58.

Also a report from the "2014 Prevent People Trafficking Conference" in Wellington in

page of UN terms to help us decipher the language! The handbook was and still is a very precious document.

NZWW Board Activities

Beijing +20 Review

We are currently collecting data for the Beijing +20 review. By 2015 all Governments will have to report to the UN about progress with the Beijing Platform for Action. NGOs are encouraged to prepare and submit alternative reports so you can participate by completing the questionnaire. We are conducting workshops during May but you can complete the questionnaire online by going to the website www.pacificwomenswatch.org.nz

If you have any queries or would like a workshop for your group please contact us at info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz
Or phone (09)4180700

West Fest

Three board members attended the "West Fest" in West Auckland. At this event 80 women completed the "How are we doing?" questionnaire – a big thanks to the organisers – Living Wage Campaign – and in particular The Project who made space available to us.



We also participated in question time with both local and national politicians.

FOR YOUR DIARY

May

Nationwide data collection for Beijing +20 NGO Review. Participate in a workshop or complete the online questionnaire "How are we doing?" www.pacificwomenswatch.org.nz

Wednesday 11th June

NCW Dame Dorothy Winstone Dinner
7pm at Quality Inn (Barrycourt), Gladstone Rd Parnell (\$45)
Speaker: Dr Jackie Blue EEO Commissioner

Wednesday 18th June

CSW Reporting
6.30pm at St Columba Centre, Ponsonby, Auckland

Wednesday 2nd July

PWW (NZ) AGM
St Columba Centre, Ponsonby, Auckland.
Speaker Dr Gill Greer from VSA

Wednesday 6th August

Fundraising event to support women's development in Solomon Islands.
Dolphin Theatre Evening
"That Woman" the Helena Rubenstein story.

Saturday 8th November 2014

PWW (NZ) Annual Conference
Western Springs Gardens Community Hall.

Reflections on CSW by Awhimai Reynolds of Maori Women's Welfare League

Nei ra te mihi nui ki a koutou katoa,
nga wahine o te roopu Pacific
Women's Watch (New Zealand).

I'd like to commence by thanking the President, Jane Prichard, for her support and including me in the Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) delegation to the 58th session of CSW. I sincerely acknowledge and thank Beverley Turner for her guidance, generosity of spirit, kindness and warm hospitality. I enjoyed our discussions and time together and observed Beverley's willingness to share information as well as her commitment and dedication to the kaupapa of advancing the status of all women. Nga mihi mahana ki a raua tahi.

The 58th CSW was my first and what an experience. It was exciting enough to be in New York but to come together with other women and girls from around the world, to unite, for the purpose of improving the status for all women and girls was truly amazing. I could feel the potentiality and the buzz throughout my time there. Mana wahine at its most powerful. And I soaked it all in.

I was overwhelmed by the support I got from the New Zealand NGO delegation that went over as well as the New Zealand government officials.



Awhimai Reynolds, Helen Potiki and
Christine King

They were so pleased to have a representative from the Maori Women's Welfare League and it showed. Although there were other Maori women in the delegation, who were also League members, they were there representing their respective organisations. Fortunately for me, many of the women within our New Zealand delegation had been to previous CSWs and knew what was involved and tried to prepare the 'newbies'. Regardless of the meetings in New Zealand prior to CSW, and information sent out by Beverley and the Ministry of Women's Affairs, nothing really prepares you for CSW like being there and experiencing it first-hand.

Two questions I had in mind the whole time I was there were: a) what is CSW and b) should Maori women be represented at that level?

As the League is in the process of applying for ECOSOC status I needed to be clear about the benefits for the League and whether we could make a meaningful contribution.

My understanding of the annual meeting is member states come together to discuss, negotiate and agree a set of final conclusions on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls worldwide. Each year there is a different theme. The theme of the 58th session was '*Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls*'. In addition to the negotiations are a number of side events by Permanent Missions and UN entities and parallel events by NGOs.

I attended a number of side and parallel events and enjoyed them all. I kept the League membership informed of what was happening by posting regularly on our Facebook page as well as my own timeline. I know many of our members (and non-members) enjoyed following me via



Awhimai Reynolds with Hon. Helen
Clark

Facebook and were proud and pleased that I was attending on their behalf. They totally believe in, and support, the League's participation at the international level.

Highlights for me were meeting former Prime Minister and current Administrator, UN Development Programme, Helen Clark. Thanks to Heather Henare for organising the meeting with Helen Clark. I also met two fabulous Maori women living in New York, Ata Papa and Sarah Smith. While the opportunities to network internationally were tremendous, the best thing for me was building closer relationships with members of our sister organisations and the Ministry of Women's Affairs. It's not until you go away together that you really get to know one another.

So should the League participate in CSW annually? Absolutely! My advice to the League is - send at least two members each year, one of which should be young (20-30 years). I believe the League has a responsibility to nurture and grow our members and broaden their experience particularly our young Maori women.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge Beverley Turner and Christine King from Pacific Women's Watch (NZ), Heather Henare, Caroline Herewini and Hazel Hape (National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges), Rae Duff (National Council of Women), Carol Grant (Presbyterian Women), Lynn McKenzie (Zonta), Angela McLeod (BPW), Nive Chandran (YWCA), Denise Lievore and Helen Potiki (Ministry of Women's Affairs),

Jackie Blue (Human Rights Commission) and the staff at the New Zealand Mission to the United Nations.

Pai marire



Awhimai Reynolds
Kaiwhakahaere
Te Ropu Wahine Maori Toko i te Ora /
Maori Women's Welfare League

The NZWW Board:

President: Jane Prichard

Secretary: Gopika Dasi

Treasurer: Cleone Campbell

Members: Jaclyn Bonnici, Sara Chin, Fala Haulangi, Christine King,
Vaotane Samoa Saleupolu, Fumi Schaaf, Mere Ratuva, Nicky
Spicer, Beverley Turner

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