



## 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**



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## New Zealand Women's Watch Newsletter September 2013

### *Celebrating 120 years of Suffrage*

#### **From the President**

This has so far been a momentous year for New Zealand Women's Watch. For easier understanding of the multi-cultural nature of our membership and our national focus we agreed at our Annual General Meeting late in June to change our name for national use to New Zealand Women's Watch (NZWW).

In April we were able to offer a Training Workshop to build the skills of New Zealand women on data gathering, monitoring and reporting under the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, known as CEDAW. Although we were unable to gain a funding grant to support the costs of the training we felt the Workshop was so important that New Zealand Women's Watch self-funded the event as a gift to the women of New Zealand in celebration of the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Suffrage.

In February we took forward the establishment of the CEDAW Coalition of NGOs. Since then the Coalition Action Group has developed a Mission Statement and focus for its work. New Zealand Women's Watch is the Coordinating body for the Coalition.

In June we made a submission to the Office of the UN Human Rights Commissioner for the New Zealand Government's Second Universal Periodic Review due for consideration early in 2014.

Although the submission covered a wide range of concerns for New Zealand society our report had a particular focus on outstanding challenges for women and girls. It highlighted a number of unresolved issues from the 2012 NGO reporting to the CEDAW Committee, setting the scene also for our reporting for the twenty-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action and the fifteen-year assessment of New Zealand's implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. As both are due in 2015 the next year will be very busy as NZWW prepares reports for these reviews.

I invite you to join us at the forthcoming New Zealand Women's Watch Annual Half-Day Conference on Saturday 16 November which has the theme *Looking Ahead – Increasing Women's Participation and Status in Public and Private Life*. See the details below.

This Newsletter brings you further information on all our activities. We welcome as Editor Christine King, a new Board member elected at the AGM.

**Jane Prichard  
President**

*Working for Gender Justice*

## **For Your Diary:**

### **NZWW Half-Day Conference, 2013**

Saturday 16 November, 9am – 1 pm.

### ***Looking Ahead – Increasing Women's Participation and Status in Public and Private Life.***

Join us at the Western Springs Garden Community Hall, 956 Great North Road, Western Springs, Auckland. This is a very pleasant venue with good parking, flat access and wheelchair facilities.

Experienced, well-qualified and successful keynote and panel speakers will share their research, insights and 'know-how' with focus workshops to follow. Full details will be circulated soon

Proceedings of all Annual Conferences since 2009 are published and are accessible via [www.pacificwomenswatch.org.nz](http://www.pacificwomenswatch.org.nz) – see under 'Reports'.

## **News and Activities**

### **New Patron for New Zealand Women's Watch**

At the Annual General Meeting we welcomed Mrs Kataraina O'Brien, Maori Women's Welfare League President, as our Patron. We look forward to her joining our forthcoming meetings and participating in our work.

### **Name Change for Activities within New Zealand:**

It was decided at the Annual General Meeting in June that in New Zealand the organisation will be known as New Zealand Women's Watch. When Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) was established in 2000 as a link to Asia Pacific Women's Watch it was anticipated that it would be part of a network of Women's Watches in other countries around the Pacific. The name was therefore described a geographic rather than an ethnic concept. The Pacific-based network was not able to be developed and so we were unable to be part of a sub-regional group.

The name New Zealand Women's Watch will more accurately describe our multi-cultural membership and be more easily understood. We will also be aligning our name with other national watches in the region e.g. Thai Women's

Watch; Japan Women's Watch. Our official name Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) will remain unchanged for registration and for international use.

### **United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Coalition of NGOs**

Work to develop a Mission Statement for the Coalition is now complete. We have also identified core issues we wish to progress. Establishment of a Parliamentary Select Committee on Human Rights is high on the agenda as is development of an Action Plan for New Zealand Women. Promotion of strategies for participation in all areas of decision-making and leadership by women requires our strong support.

CEDAW Coalition of NGOs Mission Statement is available and included with this newsletter.

### **Promoting CEDAW**

New Zealand Women's Watch is preparing an information leaflet on CEDAW for wide use to educate New Zealanders about the importance of the Convention as a means to achieving full human rights for all women and girls.

The leaflet will be distributed widely in the community. If you would like a copy or could assist with distribution please contact us: [info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz](mailto:info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz)

### **Training Workshop**

In April as part of our focus on CEDAW we offered a training workshop to build skills in data gathering, monitoring and reporting.

Two presenters from IWRAW Asia-Pacific (International Women's Rights Action Watch) travelled to Auckland from Kuala Lumpur to facilitate the training.

This workshop was an important initiative for capacity building for future NGO reporting on CEDAW.

### **NZWW Submission for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**

In June NZWW completed a submission to the Office of the UN Human Rights Commissioner in Geneva ahead of the second review of progress by the New Zealand Government on human rights since New Zealand's initial review in 2010. The review by the UPR Working Group which consists of the 47 members of the Human Rights Council assisted by a group of three states,

known as “troikas”, who serve as rapporteurs, is scheduled to take place early in 2014. The selection of the troikas for each state is done through a drawing of lots following elections for the council membership in the General Assembly. 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**

### **Morning Tea to Celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the visit to Auckland of Eleanor Roosevelt:**

Members of NZWW were among the small gathering of guests who joined the Ambassador of the United States of America and staff from the Consulate for the celebration at the Auckland Town Hall on Wednesday 28 August. Jane Prichard, NZWW President, and Nicola Spicer, Board Member, attended.

In August 1943 Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the United States of America, went on a tour to visit American troops serving in the Pacific region. Representing the Red Cross she saw at first-hand how American service men were being cared for in military hospitals, taking a message from many home to their families. Eleanor also wanted to thank personally the large number of people in local communities who provided support for the troops.

Between 27 August and 3 September Eleanor Roosevelt was in New Zealand where she visited American troops, surveyed the work of the Red Cross and saw how New Zealand women contributed to the war effort. During her short stay the First Lady visited hospitals, military bases and Red Cross institutions. In Auckland a great deal of hospitality was provided for Americans from the Armed Services. She visited the

Auckland Town Hall twice – for a civic reception in her honour, and for a Red Cross dance featuring the American jazz star Artie Shaw and his band. Four of her sons served in the Second World War.

NZWW was invited to the celebration as an NGO in recognition of its support for women in countries of the Pacific through small development projects and work to support the United Nations Programme using its special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

### **Meeting with Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MWA)**

Recently several members of the board met with officials from the MWA. This was an informal meeting where information about activities and areas of concern were shared.

MWA regularly review legislation for its impact on women and are active in three main areas:

- **Economic Independence**
- **Leadership**
- **Safety**

More information can be found on the MWA website: [www.mwa.govt.nz](http://www.mwa.govt.nz)

### **Message from the Treasurer:**

While all of us involved with NZWW do so as volunteers funds are needed to support the various activities. NZWW has a modest subscription fee structure.

This is a gentle reminder to those who may have forgotten – subscriptions are now due. Please fill in the enclosed form and return to the Treasurer. This form can also be used for new members.

New members are always very welcome.

A big THANK YOU to those who have already paid subs.

### **The 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.

**Contact us:** [info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz](mailto:info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz)

**Website:** [www.pacificwomenswatch.org.nz](http://www.pacificwomenswatch.org.nz)

## Upcoming Events

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

**NZWW 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Half-Day Conference**

**Where:** Western Springs Garden Hall, 956 Great North Road, Western Springs.

**When:** 16<sup>th</sup> November 9am – 1pm (registration from 8.30am) **Theme:** *Looking Ahead – Increasing Women's Participation and Status in Public and Private Life.*

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

**1. Action for Children & Youth Aotearoa (ACYA) Annual General Meeting.**

**WHEN:** Thursday 26th September, 6.30pm - Late.

**WHERE:** St Barnabas Church  
Cnr Mt Eden & Bellevue Rds  
Mt Eden, Auckland

**RSVP:** To Naomi Green, ACYA Secretary  
[naomi.c.green@gmail.com](mailto:naomi.c.green@gmail.com)

**Nibbles provided.**

**Special introductions from our Chair and guest-speaker from 7pm.**

**2. YouthLaw Tino Rangatiratanga Taitamariki ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**WHEN:** Thursday 26th September at 6.00pm

**WHERE:** YouthLine Cafe Ground Floor, 145 St George Street, Papatoetoe, Auckland

**RSVP** please contact Sidra on (09) 250 2660 or email [admin@youthlaw.co.nz](mailto:admin@youthlaw.co.nz).

**Speaker:** Simon Judd, an experienced barrister with specialist expertise in Education law

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

**The Cartwright Legacy at 25 Years**  
**An event to mark the anniversary of the**  
**Cartwright Report of August 1988**

Friday 27 September 2013 10.00 am – 4.30 pm  
**Fickling Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings, Auckland**

The programme will feature **Dame Silvia Cartwright** and other speakers, including:  
**Prof Charlotte Paul** – Screening programmes  
**A/Prof Martin Tolich** – Ethics committees post 2012

**Dr Lester Levy** – Impact on hospitals  
**Phillida Bunkle** – Ethical issues post Cartwright  
**Marie Bismark** - Learning from patients' voices  
**Jo Fitzpatrick** - The consumer experience

Cost: \$80 (including paper bag lunch and morning/afternoon tea)

Sponsored by the Auckland Women's Health Council and the Cancer Society Auckland.

### The Cartwright Report

In June 1987 Phillida Bunkle and Sandra Coney published an article in *Metro* magazine alleging unethical research at Auckland University's Post-Graduate School of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at National Women's Hospital. In response, the Government established a judicial inquiry headed by [then] District Court Judge Silvia Cartwright.

Judge Cartwright's findings and recommendations were published on 5 August 1988 in what has become known as the Cartwright Report. In addition to finding that the allegations of unethical research were largely correct, Judge Cartwright's recommendations led to the establishment of the [Office of Health and Disability Commissioner](#) and a Code of Health Consumers' Rights. Also, teaching practice was changed at National Women's Hospital and [Auckland Medical School](#) to conform to international practice, independent health ethics committees were set up throughout New Zealand, and the National Cervical Screening Programme was established.

For further information and to register contact: Lynda Williams  
[awhc@womenshealthcouncil.org.nz](mailto:awhc@womenshealthcouncil.org.nz)

For further information about the Cartwright Report see:  
<http://www.cartwrightinquiry.com/>

## **Mission Statement for the CEDAW Coalition of NGOS**

### **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 all Forms 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/>