



PACIFIC WOMEN'S WATCH (NZ) INC



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

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Pacific Women's Watch (NZ) Newsletter Spring 2016

Greetings to all our friends and supporters

I do hope you all celebrated and enjoyed the activities around Suffrage Day. It was great to see the Suffrage memorial in Auckland given more recognition with the renaming of Lower Khartoum Place to Te Ha o Hine Place. I was also pleased that we remembered not just Kate Sheppard but also Meri Mangakahia who was the first woman to speak in Parliament. Meri campaigned for voting, speaking and land rights for all women and certainly should be honoured for the leadership she provided.

Two Board members have resigned – Salota Telemautua and Sara Daneshvar. Salota found that her workload meant she was unable to continue and Sara has gone to join the team working with refugees in Greece. We thank both these amazing women for their commitments to our work and wish them well in their new roles.

Our current focus is the CEDAW review. The Government has submitted their report to the CEDAW committee and our alternative report is well underway. You can see the government report on the Ministry for Women's website.

We supported Human Rights Commissioner Jackie Blue with the open letter to the NZ Rugby Union in response to the Chiefs issue. This is ongoing work with the Rugby Union and also the wider community to ensure that women and girls and all people are treated with respect and kindness at all times.

In November we mark the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence with a discussion evening with Superintendent Tusha Penny, Head of the Police

Prevention of Violence unit. This will be held on 29th November at the St Columba Centre in Ponsonby (see Information in this newsletter).

Next year in March is the 61st meeting of UN CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) in New York. PWW(NZ) has always had a significant presence at this meeting and we are planning to do so again. Attendance is open to all and PWW(NZ) as an organisation with Special Consultative Status can register up to 20 members. Registration entitles you to attend events within the UN Hqrs as well as 'parallel events' outside. PWW(NZ) does not fund attendees but you must be a current member of PWW(NZ). CSW registration is free but you must cover your own travel and accommodation costs. See the information from Beverley Turner, our International Secretary.

Louisa Wall MP has been in touch regarding a project to provide sanitary products for women and girls living in hardship. This is a very practical way we can help to make things a little less difficult for women and girls in our communities. I urge you to support this initiative. Several other women's groups are supporting this action. Information and links are in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you at the evening with Tusha Penny in November.

Best wishes
Christine



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

“From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All!” This year marks the 25th year of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign, initiated in 1991 and coordinated by the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership. Given such insecurity and lack of safety in relation to education, and informed by the results of a global survey, the 2016 theme of the 16 Days Campaign is “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All”.

This theme recognizes that structural discrimination and inequality is perpetuated in a cycle of violence that does not end even when girls and young women are in the act of gaining an education.

Gender-based violence with respect to the right to education is a consistent threat in public spaces, schools, and homes and is a detriment to the universal human right to education and it is our obligation to focus on the precarious situation of education for girls and boys, young women and men this year through the 16 Days Campaign.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) from Beverley Turner, International Secretary



Do you feel strongly about gender equality and the empowerment of women, nationally, regionally, globally?

Are you active within your

community to improve the lives of women and girls; keen to hear first-hand of global and local initiatives by NGO women, governments, UN agencies operating around the world...?

The 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) will take place at United Nations Headquarters, New York from 13 to 24 March 2017. It will include plenaries, high-level panels, interactive dialogues, country reports within the UN Complex. In parallel there will be a myriad of events offered by civil society in several nearby venues.

Priority theme: Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work.

Review theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls.

It is anticipated that there will be a strong focus on countries' commitment and planning to embrace the

From Louisa Wall MP and Commonwealth Women’s Parliamentarians

“The NZ Group of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians have endorsed a recent initiative, led by Louisa Wall MP, Countdown Supermarkets and the Salvation Army, to provide Women’s Hygiene Bundles, containing a monthly supply of tampons and pads, to women living in hardship.

A lack of sanitary products has been identified as an obstacle to young women’s education in NZ. Some girls stay at home when they have their periods because they cannot afford sanitary products. Others resort to makeshift and unhygienic measures.

Female sanitary products are not a luxury item and we need to ensure our young women and girls are not marginalized from schools, universities or the workplace simply because they are menstruating.”

Donations of \$15 can be made via <http://www.foodbank.org.nz/products/womens-hygiene-bundle>

MDGs' 'successors' - the Sustainable Development Goals.

Emerging issue/Focus area: The empowerment of indigenous women.

Representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non- governmental organisations (NGOs) from all regions of the world are invited to attend.

As one of the handful of NGOs in NZ which hold Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC, Pacific Women's Watch (NZ) can facilitate the pre-registration of a maximum of 20 PWW(NZ) members - all costs/expenses are a personal responsibility.

If you are interested in being a member of PWW(NZ) delegation in March 2017, please signal this interest asap by email: info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz

PWW(NZ) will call for formal applications, and details on receipt of all UN pre-registration requirements.

Official pre-registration with UN is expected to be open/accessible between mid-November and mid-January.

Please note that there is usually a pre-CSW NGO Consultation Day - held on the preceding Sunday: Sunday, 13 March, 2017 and there is a cover charge for this.

Notices

CEDAW Leaflets:

The NZWW leaflet explaining CEDAW has been reprinted and is available for you to distribute to your networks.

This is suitable for distribution and use in schools. It is currently available in English with Samoan version in print.

Translation into Maori and other languages is in hand.

Please contact us with your request for copies:

info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz

Membership Fees

Our thanks to those who have paid their subs for the 2016/17 year.

If you are uncertain as to whether or not you have paid, or you have not received a receipt, please contact our treasurer,
Leu Pupulu



info@pacificwomenswatch.org.nz

Membership fees for 2016/2017 (1st April – 31st March)

Subscription (organization)	\$50.00
Subscription (individual)	\$35.00
Subscription (student)	\$20.00

Save the date:

Public Meeting
Tuesday November 29th

Superintendent Tusha Penny, National Manager Prevention, Police National Headquarters will speak on issues relating to her work in the prevention of violence.

See details with this newsletter
Watch for the Flyer

PWW(NZ) Board

Christine King (President)
Fala Haulangi (VP)
Gopika Dasi (Secretary)
Beverley Turner (International Sec)
Leu Pupulu (Treasurer)
Denise Ewe
Fumi Schaaf
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Anna Ponnampalam
Jane Prichard (Founder & Advisor)

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