



**National Council of  
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**Submission to the Ministry for Women on the draft  
Eighth Periodic Report by the Government of New Zealand,  
March 2012 – March 2016 [to the] United Nations Convention on  
the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand, Te Kaunihera Wahine o Aotearoa (NCWNZ) is an umbrella group representing 288 organisations affiliated at either the national level or to one of our 20 branches. In addition to our organisational membership, about 260 women are individual members of branches. NCWNZ's function is to represent and promote the interests of New Zealand women through research, discussion and action. This submission has been prepared by members of the NCWNZ CEDAW Working Group.

While the report identifies some of the progress for women in New Zealand, overall we are disappointed with the report. Virtually no statements are substantiated with references and where they are the style is not consistent. The language overall is generic government speak about being committed to doing things but not specifying actions. There is a selective use of statistics and often lack context. The statements tend to be generalised and not specific.

**0. Introduction (p4)**

- 0.1. The 1st bullet point requires some context – it is positive that there is an increase, but the statement should say how many chief executives this equates to.
- 0.2. The 4th bullet refers to a draft National Action Plan to implement resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, yet this was published in October 2015 which is within the timeframe for reporting.

**Utilising women's skills and growing the economy (p6-7)**

- 0.3. Neither paid parental leave nor flexible work are new for New Zealanders. The comments need to reflect what has been achieved in the reporting period. They also need to address how the government has engaged with the vulnerable and at risk. As well as information on the success rates there should be information about the number of people.

### **Encouraging and developing women leaders (p7)**

- 0.4. The report should state explicitly what the government has done to support the New Zealand Stock Exchange. Phrases such as 'actively support' are meaningless.

## **1. PART I**

### **Article 3: The Development and Advancement of Women (p12-17)**

- 1.1. Para 15 refers to Ongoing Resource Scheme which was introduced in the 1990s. While this is a very good scheme it does not go far enough, with the cut-off point related to level of ability and high needs not qualifying. The definitions applied to High and Very High need to be addressed. It is unclear how the 46% relates to the special needs community in Christchurch.

### **The New Zealand Carers' Strategy Action Plan for 2014 to 2018**

- 1.2. There is no mention of the government's action on pay for carers. There should at least be a reference to the Employment Article.

### **Advancement of the rights of ethnic women**

- 1.3. There needs to be context given for the women's leadership programme outlined in para 25. For example, numbers on how many women have attended the programme in the reporting period.

### **Article 5: Sex Role Stereotyping and Prejudice (p18-21)**

- 1.4. Saying in para 32 that the central issue is unconscious bias it taking too narrow a stance on the issue.
- 1.5. Para 33 needs to be substantiated with statistics on how many organisations have made use of the resource, and how many people have participated in training to address unconscious bias.
- 1.6. While para 34 provides attrition rates for women in the Defence Force there is no context to know how this compares with the rate for men.

### **Article 6: Prostitution (p21)**

- 1.7. Para 42 identifies that "people involved in the sex industry are better off" under the 2003 legislation, but provides no information on what is meant by "better off".

## **2. PART II**

### **Participation and equality in political and public life, representation and nationality**

- 2.1. Para 42 refers to a ranking for women's political empowerment but fails to identify the system for this ranking or give a reference to it. There is nothing to substantiate the comment that "women have a strong voice in foreign policy and women's issues", nor the comment that "advancement of women's rights internationally is a priority of the New Zealand Government".

### **Article 7: Participation in Political and Public Life (p22-28)**

- 2.2. In para 46 the figures for the percentage of women in parliament need to have dates against them as every time a list member changes the percentage changes.
- 2.3. Para 47 should perhaps identify the party differences in women's representation in parliament.
- 2.4. Rather than provide figures for Auckland in para 51-52, overall figures should be given, or a table provided with figures from across the country so that regional differences will also be identified.
- 2.5. Context in para 54 should identify the ministries where the chief executives are women.
- 2.6. Initially the people commenting on this report were unaware of the Government Women's Network, but we have since heard it has been launched, some two years after its establishment.
- 2.7. It is no longer true that three of the most senior justice positions are held by women. There needs to be dates against the statement in para 56, identifying how long these positions were held by women.
- 2.8. In para 57 the percentages have become very precise – to two decimal points. The figures need to be standard throughout the report. Either all are at two decimal points or all are at whole numbers.
- 2.9. There is no reference in para 61 to where the aspirational goal is promulgated. There has been little to no movement in the figures in ten years. How many women are appointed (i.e. is it a ratio of one directorship/woman or do a few women hold many directorships)?

### **Article 8: International Representation (p28-30)**

- 2.10. Para 68 needs more context by providing the numbers of women compared to men leading and participating in international fora. Likewise para 72 needs statistics and context to support the statement. Of interest would be the figures on the NGO representation on the government delegation to the Commission on the Status of Women.
- 2.11. In para 74 there is a need to identify that Justice Lowell Goddard is female.
- 2.12. Para 80 needs have context that identifies the number and percentage of aid programmes that target women.

## **3. Part III**

### **Article 10: Education (p31-41)**

- 3.1. Para 88 should identify that early childhood institutions are only funded to have 80% qualified teachers.
- 3.2. Context is required for para 92 to be meaningful, ie numbers are required.
- 3.3. Likewise, para 93 requires figures and also an assessment on whether Te Marautanga o Aotearoa has achieved its goal.
- 3.4. Tables 2 and 3 in paras 98-99 identify only 4 ethnic groups whereas table 1 in para 96 has 5 groupings. The tables should be consistent.

- 3.5. It would be better if para 102 listed examples of support networks for all universities rather than giving examples for six of them.
- 3.6. Paras 116-118 provide very specific examples, but without supporting statistics.
- 3.7. Para 119 would be improved by putting the figure of women recipients of student allowance into the context of total student numbers.
- 3.8. Para 121 requires comparisons with the rates for males to provide context. The figures would be easier to read in a table.

#### **Article 11: Employment (p41-48)**

- 3.9. The figures in para 126 would be much easier to read if represented in a table, and should include all years that the report covers.
- 3.10. The comparators in para 140 should include those for Maori and other ethnic groups rather than just the overall pay gap for men and women.
- 3.11. In para 142 there should be information on the numbers of organisations that are actively using the tools available from MBIE.
- 3.12. Para 144 will need to be updated as the reporting from the Joint Working Group will occur in the period covered by this report.
- 3.13. The information in para 146 needs to be supported by numbers. There also needs to be commentary on impact on children and women when sole parents return to the work force.
- 3.14. Some context is required for para 147, eg what percentage of young people are of Pacific origin?

#### **Article 12: Health (p48-54)**

- 3.15. Throughout this article the statistics provided are dated. This report is covering the period 2012 to 2016, and the statistics should reflect this period.
- 3.16. Para 159 presumes that the Health (Protection) Amendment Bill will pass. It was introduced in July 2014, had its second reading in May 2015 and is languishing on the Order Paper.
- 3.17. Para 163 indicates that the rates of contraceptive and condom use have remained static, but does not state what the rate is.
- 3.18. The way para 175 is written it gives the impression that there are more than three women's prisons. This needs to be clarified.

#### **Article 13: Economic and Social Benefits (p54-61)**

- 3.19. There should be an example of a service provided given in para 180.
- 3.20. Para 187 needs to identify the measures of effectiveness of the services for teen parents. While the numbers are given for those engaged in the service, there should be figures identifying those who have successfully got into employment as a result of the services provided.

- 3.21. Again in paras 190 and 192 there are no figures identifying the uptake of the services.
- 3.22. As the audience for this document is not New Zealanders, abbreviations such as IS and SPS as used in para 193 and YP and YPP in para 194 should be spelled out the first time they are used.
- 3.23. In para 196 'principally' is the wrong word.
- 3.24. The level of encouragement provided through media coverage (i.e. the media bias) needs to be reflected in paras 203-206.

#### **Article 14: Rural Women (p62-65)**

- 3.25. There is too much information provided in para 209, or it could be more succinctly stated.

## **4. PART IV**

### **Equality before the law ... (p66)**

- 4.1. The information provided in para 218 needs to be substantiated.

### **Article 15: Law (p66-77)**

- 4.2. Para 223 should be supported with information on the effectiveness of the information sharing.
- 4.3. The timeframe identified in para 225 for the appointment of the Chief Victims Advisor has passed, so this information needs to be updated.
- 4.4. Numbers have appeared in paras 229-234 that should be superscripts.
- 4.5. During the constructive dialogue in 2012 the Minister was encouraged to identify the issue as violence against women, or violence against children rather than use terms like domestic violence or family violence. Para 235 uses the phrase 'family violence'. This term also occurs in the subheading on p70 and elsewhere in this Article.
- 4.6. It is not clear in para 236 whether all the figures come from the study identified in footnote 54.
- 4.7. There is no mention of ethnic women in para 239. Figure would provide context to the statement which needs to be substantiated.
- 4.8. While a figure is given in para 241 for the funding of contracted family violence programmes, there is no information provided on who receives the money or the effectiveness measures for the programmes.
- 4.9. Para 244 will need to be updated as the date given for the reporting to Cabinet has passed.
- 4.10. Para 245 should be deleted.
- 4.11. Para 249 should identify who receives the funding.
- 4.12. In paras 250-254 it should be clarified what is addressing violence against women and what is addressing other violence.

- 4.13. It is not clear whether the “Are you that someone” campaign is a government programme.
- 4.14. There should be information in paras 268-270 on the outcomes and effectiveness of the Whanau Ora programme.
- 4.15. In para 276 there should be figures showing the funding levels for the years of coverage of the report.
- 4.16. Concern was raised about the phrase “culturally competent” in para 277.

## 5. Appendix A: Responses to the CEDAW Committee’s Concluding Comments on New Zealand’s Seventh Periodic Report

- 5.1. It was felt that the information would be better within each Article rather than as an Appendix.
- 5.2. The response to State Party (paragraph 11) needs to identify which election year as there have been two within this reporting period.
- 5.3. The information provided for State Party (paragraph 13A) gives no indication of the timeliness of the information provided on the websites referred to. Most of the websites do not indicate when the information was updated.
- 5.4. The response to State Party (paragraph 13B) says the “principles of CEDAW are embedded in New Zealand’s legislative frameworks and in government structures and process” but the principles are not embedded in the legislative framework.
- 5.5. The reference to “paragraph 13B” in the answer to State Party (paragraph 15B) is not very clear.
- 5.6. The response to State Party (paragraph 17A) identifies what happens for the Social Policy Committee but makes no mention that papers to all the other Cabinet Committees to not include a gender impact statement. Nor is there mention of how the gender impact statements are implemented.
- 5.7. The recommendation in State Party (paragraph 1B) is about increasing the resources for the Ministry for Women. The response makes no mention of this.
- 5.8. The information in the response to State Party (paragraph 26A) will need to be updated as the court case has been resolved.
- 5.9. The response to State Party (paragraph 30A) only addresses access to the information for those who are digitally enabled.

NCWNZ is pleased to have had an opportunity to comment on this draft and apologises for the delay in responding.



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