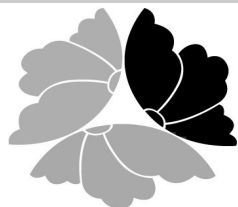


Winter 2015



Auckland
**Women's
Centre**

Auckland Women's Centre

GOSIP

Contact us:

Ph 376 3227 x 0

info@womensz.org.nz

www.awc.org.nz

Hours: M-F, 9am-4pm

Library Hours

M-F, 9am - 4pm

First Sat of the month

Sat 11am - 1.30pm

Services:

Free Info, Referral & Advice

Community Education

SKIP Single Mums Positive

Parenting Project

Community Events

Counselling

Queer & Lesbian support

Low Cost Massage

Self Defence Classes

Opportunities to talk and

support feminism

Diversity Forums

Young Women's Youth

Development Projects

Join us to celebrate our 40th birthday

We are delighted to invite you to celebrate our 40th Anniversary with us.

The Centre was set up by the Auckland Women's Liberation group in 1975 in Ponsonby, where Pacific migrants, Māori, students and others on a low income could find affordable housing (!) Against the odds, and thanks to countless women, we have survived and grown, outliving governments, ideologies and several financial challenges! (*e.g. see clipping below from the Harbour News, February 1988.*)

Today, in addition to providing a wide range of activities at our Centre in Grey Lynn, we partner with other community agencies to offer our SKIP Positive Parenting Project, Diversity Forums and Young Women's Youth Development Projects in low income suburbs throughout Auckland.

Join us at our Anniversary Gala Dinner to celebrate forty years of fabulous feminism; with fantastic food; fabulous entertainment, fantastic story-telling and the fabulous **Cissy Rock** as MC.

There will be live music from **Ellie Lim**, feminist slam poetry from **Sabrina Muck** and great stories from:

- **Helen Moewaka Barnes** (Ngāti Wai/Ngāti Hine/Ngāti Manu), the Director of Whāriki, Massey University's Māori Research Group, who was involved with the Centre in the 1980s.
- **Teri Fong** – a current member of our Governance Collective, speaking from a young woman's perspective.
- **Pleasance Hansen** – a long term AWC supporter and donor.
- **Dr Judy McGregor**, our Patron and chief birthday cake cutter.
- **Jacqui Fill**, who coordinated rescuing the Centre it when it faced closure.
- **Leonie Morris**, Centre Manager, with a brief herstory of AWC.

Grey Lynn Community Centre

Saturday 25th July

Doors open 6.00, for a 6.30pm start

Ticket prices range between \$35-\$65. Thirty-five dollars only covers the catering costs, so if you can pay more we would love you to do so.

For more information and to book, please email us at info@womensz.org.nz.

Or call us on 376 3227 x 0 between 9am and 4pm to speak to someone who can help you immediately. We look forward to seeing you on the night.

Collective plea for survival

A HOUSE that is a haven for women is under threat. For nine years the Women's Centre in Ponsonby has supported and advised women who have been raped, are single parents, are afraid and dissatisfied with health care, need to know their legal rights and question their sexuality.

It is the home of Rape Crisis, the Council for the Single Mother and Her Child, the Women's Health Collective, the Maori and Pacific

By IAN MORSWILL



STRUGGLING FOR COLLECTIVE SURVIVAL...
Chrissy Duggan (left), Dany Etches and Josie England

NZ falls behind in gender equity

By Sabrina Muck

The report *Fault Lines – Human Rights in NZ* highlights the fact that, for a nation which prides itself on its human rights record, we are falling behind in areas such as child poverty, gender equality, systemic disadvantage of Māori, and the rights of disabled people to challenge the State.

Fault Lines, co-authored by Dr Judy McGregor, patron of the Auckland Women's Centre (Auckland University of Technology), Professor Margaret Wilson (University of Waikato) and human rights lawyer Sylvia Bell is an in-depth review of the six major human right treaties that NZ has signed since the 1970s.

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

This article focuses on the report's findings concerning the International Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) – often described as “a bill of rights for women”. The report details the herstory of ratification of CEDAW in NZ by 1985, with remaining reservations lifted by 2007. CEDAW has sixteen substantive articles which impose obligations on New Zealand to eliminate discrimination against women.

Article 1 defines discrimination against women as “*any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or the purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women...of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.*”

NZ's reporting on CEDAW

New Zealand has reported to the United Nations seven times since 1988 on its implementation of CEDAW. The CEDAW Committee's Concluding Observations and Recommendations have raised several major concerns about women's inequality in New Zealand including:

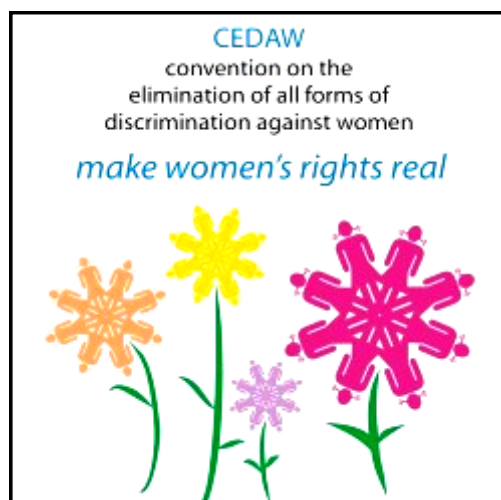
- The absence of over-arching gender equality legislation in New Zealand.
- The equal pay and pay equity gap.
- Inadequate paid parental leave (1993-2003).
- Women's low representation in various areas such as politics, judiciary, public service and the corporate sector.
- The disparities and structural inequalities for Māori women.
- Our high rates of violence against women.

The researchers paid specific attention to the issue of equal pay and pay equity in treaty body reporting, and the influence of CEDAW on legislative change around paid parental leave.

Equal pay and pay equity

The report covers the detail of submissions and comments related to equal pay arising with each report to the CEDAW Committee.

- Successive New Zealand government reports to the CEDAW Committee have acknowledged equal pay and pay equity to varying degrees as significant, systemic and continuing barriers to gender equality.
- The more explicit urgings and recommendations by the CEDAW Committee in its reports to New Zealand included those relating to equal pay and pay equity, specifically, legislative change relating to equal pay for work of equal value; indicators, timeframes and improved accountabilities in the public service; and the use of affirmative action to eliminate occupational segregation and effective monitoring of the gender pay gap.



- The latest CEDAW Committee report in 2010 is distinguished by the specificity of its recommendations to NZ and the move from rhetorical encouragement to active identification of actions that need to be taken.
- **CEDAW sparked our paid parental leave legislation**
- Through analysis of domestic legislation and CEDAW reporting over the years (Chapter 5.2, pp 75-76), the report demonstrates how paid parental leave is an example of where ratification of CEDAW, and the persistent international feedback from CEDAW experts and encouragement of change by a treaty body, have contributed (at least in part) in helping to produce positive legislative change for women and their families. However the report also notes that given New Zealand's low rate of payments by OECD countries' standards, it is likely that paid parental leave will continue to be a feature of CEDAW treaty body reporting.

The full report can be found [here](#).

At the Women's Centre

Kids "Magic Garden" at AWC

SKIP Single Mums are creating a child friendly garden space in front of the Centre. All genders are welcome; we would love your help with designing, creating, sourcing, digging, planting, eating, and enjoying it. We have always wanted to create an edible garden at the Centre but the soil is toxic having been used as a dump for old cars in a past life! Thanks very much to Auckland Council for funding the raised garden beds which makes this project possible. For more details please contact Philippa: e: skipcommunitygarden@gmail.com or Rochelle m: 027-460-5632 or p: 376-3227 x 2.



Open and Honest - Talking to your children about sex and sexuality

This is a two hour workshop for parents and caregivers that is run by the Family Planning Association. It is designed to help parents develop the skills and learn information to support them as the first sexuality educator for their children and teenagers. For more information, go to the Family Planning website: www.familyplanning.org.nz. This workshop is open to all genders. The workshop will be held on Wednesday 23 Sept, 7.00pm-9.00pm. Gold coin koha. To enrol please contact the Auckland Women's Centre.

Take Back the Night - Auckland Feminist Action

Building on the success of last year's powerful march, Auckland Feminist Action (AFA) is organising another demonstration this year on Friday 28 August. Take Back the Night is a celebration of what is possible – safe homes, workplaces AND streets! All women are welcome to be part of AFA, an inclusive, friendly and flourishing group. Regular meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month, from 7pm - 9pm. Please email Anita and Meg on: aucklandfeministaction@gmail.com for more info.

ACC counselling now available

Psychologist, Sarah Lowe is joining our counselling service. Sarah had a background in social work before training as a psychologist, previously working at Child Youth and Family, Barnardos and Safe. She now has her own practice, *The Psychology Practice* and works as a registered provider for ACC sensitive claims to work with sexual abuse survivors. Sarah is available at the Centre for appointments on Wednesdays. To book an appointment, please call her directly on: 021 0371 402.



"Goals for Girls" - AWC Movie Fundraiser

This documentary explores what it takes for girls from a slum in Buenos Aires to reach their life goals when much of society sees them only as future maids. Sunday 16 August, 7pm, for a 7.30pm start, Capitol Cinema, 610 Dominion Rd, Balmoral, tickets \$20 or \$25 with a wine or an ice-cream.

More violence against women offenses, less convictions

The [New Zealand Family Violence Clearing House](#) recently released their 2015 Family Violence Data Summaries. New Zealand Police data shows police are dealing with more family violence, but where an offence is reported, fewer cases are being resolved:

- Police conducted 101,981 family violence investigations in 2014. In only 37 percent of investigations was an offence recorded. This is down from 47 percent in 2008.
- There were 7,163 recorded male assaults female offences in 2014 and 82 percent were resolved (e.g. where one or more offenders were apprehended). This is down from 93 percent being resolved in 2008.
- There were 6,103 recorded offences for breaching a protection order in 2014 (an average of 17 per day!). 83 percent were resolved. This is down from 90 percent being resolved in 2008.
- And, of the almost 2,000 sexual violence offences against adults in 2014, 41 percent were resolved. This is down from 65 percent being resolved in 2008.

The data also shows that on average, the police are issuing 36 Police Safety Orders per day. This equates to over 13,000 Police Safety Orders issued in 2014.

NZFVC Research Fellow Pauline Gulliver says *"The Police and the government are encouraging people to report family violence. Once an offence is reported, it is vital that the response is adequate and effective."*

"We are aware the Police have embarked on a significant programme of change in how they respond to family violence. The data suggests that adequate resourcing including investing in staff training, support and culture change will be required for this to be effective."

Read the Family Violence Data Summaries [here](#).

Black feminist practice in Aotearoa and the UK

Wednesday August 5 10.30am – 12.30pm
Kelston Community Centre
Activity Rm 2, 135 Awaroa Rd, Sunnyvale

Usufonoimanū Pesetā Betty Siō

The Pacific Island Safety and Prevention Project

Marai Larasi, MBE, MA *Imkaan, UK*

- What does Black feminism mean to us?
- How do Black feminisms shape our agencies?
- How do we build connections?

Marama Davidson, facilitator

All genders welcome – bring questions and ideas
Followed by lunch and networking
RSVP to info@womensz.org.nz for catering



Organised by the Pacific Island Safety and Prevention Project and the Auckland Women's Centre

