



What are political parties saying? Gender Justice Collective finds out



Leaders L-R: National's Judith Collins; Labour's Jacinda Ardern; Greens' Marama Davidson

Auckland Women's Centre is proud to be part of the new, awareness-raising [Gender Justice Collective](#), along with researchers, practitioners and other organisations. This is our paraphrase of [an article](#) by The Workshop's Jess Berentson-Shaw.

The Gender Justice Collective was formed this year to encourage a political focus on improving conditions for wāhine, women and those who walk between the binary worlds. Initial findings from a Collective survey of wāhine, women and non-binary people show respondents' priorities for politicians include:

- paid parental leave for all parents, not just one
- pay equity
- protection for women in workplaces...
- ... and in the Family Court
- easily accessible information on domestic violence
- and greater protection of our awa (rivers).



Gender
Justice
Collective

The Collective also asked current parties in parliament about their achievements and plans to advance gender equity in future. Labour, National and the Green parties responded.

There's small but pleasing news about preventing family and sexual violence: all parties made further commitment to the integrated across-government approach. Still, no party mentions policies specifically designed to overcome harmful masculine stereotypes (e.g. parental leave for all parents, incentives for men into female dominated industries, or earlier interventions in schools). Yet breaking free of behaviours associated with masculine stereotypes, for example violence and coercive & controlling behaviour, will improve the health and wellbeing of all people.



Jess says Julie Anne Genter (as Minister for Women) and Jan Logie (as Under Secretary for Justice) have *“consistently pushed hard for comprehensive and effective policy changes to improve the lives of women and people in the rainbow community.”* The Greens also mentioned implementing recommendations from the current [Mana Wāhine Inquiry](#) looking into prejudices towards wāhine Māori resulting from breaches to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Commentator Jess Berentson-Shaw

Labour's responses also *“showed a good understanding of the broad range of concerns and issues affecting different women's lives and opportunity to thrive”*, for example mentioning unpaid labour. National tended to focus on individual level responses: leadership opportunities for women and some policies on women's health, for example cancer treatment, which they suggested would be of benefit to rural women particularly.

Look out for the Collective's “WeChoose2020” matrix, ranking and measuring how well political party policies are supporting gender equity in Election 2020 – due about now!



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