



NCWNZ Action Item Response Sheet

Please send your responses to Judith Sutherland copied to National Office

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Subject: **Action Item response: Violence Against Women: A Just and Safe Aotearoa**

Date sent: 29 Jan 2015

<b>Document</b>	Violence Against Women: A Just and Safe Aotearoa
<b>Committee Writer</b>	Public Issues Rosemary Du Plessis and Judith Sutherland
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<b>Website where document can be viewed</b>	NA
<b>Responder, eg Name of Branch, NOM, individual</b>	Christine Cook, Advocacy Chair, Zonta District 16.
<b>Number of people contributing to response</b>	3

**National Plan of Action for All New Zealanders - Theme "A Just and Safe Aotearoa"**

The Human Rights Commission is seeking advice on a component of the National Action Plan for All New Zealanders which focuses on violence and abuse against women and children, especially vulnerable groups. HRC want feedback on particular actions agreed to by the NZ Government and indicators to track progress.

**Background**

The Human Rights Commission is the lead agency for the coordination and development of the National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (NPA) - a requirement of the Human Rights Act 1993. A theme within the NPA is 'A Just and Safe Aotearoa'. It focuses on violence and abuse against women, children and marginalised groups.

The Human Rights Commission is required to develop the NPA in consultation with the state sector, local government, Iwi and civil society. For this reason it seeks feedback from NCWNZ on actions agreed to by the NZ Government directed at reducing violence against women and children and on proposed indicators of progress in this field.

Attached is summary from the Human Rights Commission on **A Just and Safe Aotearoa** that highlights the desired outcome, the actions agreed to by the NZ Government and indicators that could inform policy and evaluate progress on eliminating/reducing violence and abuse against women, children and marginalised groups. It may be useful when discussing the questions above.



### Actions agreed to by the NZ Government on violence against women and children:

1. National Strategy against violence against women and children which has clear actions, goals and timelines and has special regard vulnerable groups. *First*
2. The collection and analysis of accurate (fit for purpose) data together with monitoring and evaluation of programmes and agencies. *Third*
3. Allocate adequate resources to implement the legislative and administrative measures taken in order to prevent violence against women. *Second*
4. Human rights and family violence training and capacity building for civil servants. *Fifth*  
*(NB: The term civil servants has been replaced by Public Servants)*
5. Awareness raising in the media and schools. *Fourth*

### Questions

1. How would you prioritise these agreed actions? (1 – most important, 5 least important)  
Please list any **other actions** that you think should be included and indicate their priority.

*Point 4 – add front-line, primary care medical professionals, Doctors for Sexual Abuse care and Police.*

*Point 5 is too broad in trying to cover two very different areas. Awareness raising in schools should be linked to specific outcomes around appropriate behaviour and gender violence.*

*Add - the effects of family violence in the workplace. There is a need for employers to be made aware of the costs of family violence in relation to workplace morale, HR policies and productivity.*

*Add – Reporting or under-reporting of family violence should be highlighted as a priority.*

*Add – A whole of government approach is needed – information sharing between agencies who work with victims of family violence. How many times do victims of violence have to repeat their story??*

2. How will these actions reduce violence against women and children?

*Hopefully, they will lead to a cultural shift regarding the status of women in NZ.*

*Depending on what is contained in the strategy they will heighten awareness.*

*Zonta believes that education of young women and men is key to reducing the root causes of violence.*

3. Are you involved in work relating to violence and abuse against women and children? If so, please indicate what work you do and, if this is appropriate, the organisations who work with you.

*Zonta runs its own advocacy campaign – Zonta Says No to Violence Against Women – internationally. The aim of this campaign is to heighten awareness and advocate for change in relation to violence affecting the status of women. In New Zealand we participate in*

*events, make submissions and support other organisations involved in this area. (Shakti, NZ Women's Refuge, NCWNZ, UN Women, The White Ribbon Trust)*

*We also fundraise for the Sophie Elliot Foundation for resources for the 'Loves Me Not' programme in schools.*

4. Which groups of women and children do you consider particularly vulnerable to violence?

*Solo mothers, Maori and Pasifika women and children, disabled (mental and physical) women, refugee and migrant women - as indicated by the current statistics.*

5. A monitoring group will be set up to evaluate these actions on violence against women and children. Who should be represented on this monitoring group? (e.g. particular organisations or individuals with community connections or expertise relevant to this monitoring group)

*NCIWR (National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges), Zonta, Heather Henare (who has now left NCIWR but has a wealth of knowledge and experience). Family Violence coordinators from DHB's, Police, MSD, ACC. The White Ribbon Trust, CAB, Community Law, and The Family Court.*

6. How could the proposed indicators be improved? Are there other indicators which should be included?

*The list of indicators provided is wonderfully comprehensive but is the HRC and the Monitoring Group adequately equipped, staffed, and funded to carry out comprehensive monitoring?*

*More attention to employment outcomes. Paid work is a major pathway out of a domestic violence situation as this gives victims stability, finance, and independence from a perpetrator. Women still earn less than men proportionally and it usually falls on them to support the children in a break-up through violence. Many of the vulnerable groups we have identified are socially isolated, unemployed, financially illiterate, and could have language and/or communication barriers. In other words they are often "dependent" on a perpetrator and this makes leaving a violent home even harder.*

