



Bush Fire

Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

April 2016

March Events – International Women’s Day and United Nations CSW60

International Women’s Day (IWD) was marked with a breakfast hosted by the Minister for Women, Hon Louise Upston in association with UN Women National Committee Aotearoa NZ and Zonta Club of Wellington in the Banquet Hall at Parliament.

The key note speaker was Dame Silvia Cartwright who reflected on her path, both personal and professional to her most recent appointments working in Cambodia and Sri Lanka. Her comments were both thought provoking and inspirational.

At the table I shared with schoolgirls from Heretaunga College, members of Soroptimist International, and the Head of a school at a local tertiary institution, the conversation ranged from the challenges in drawing younger women into membership of “associations” like ours, to the girls’ aspirations for their future.

While the focus of our PWANZ mission is “serving God locally and globally with love”, we echo that of the co-hosts at the IWD Breakfast – to empower women and the promotion of gender equality. UN Women Aotearoa New Zealand is one of sixteen national committees around the world and Zonta International is a global organisation too. While we, PWANZ as a national organisation, fund projects that increase women’s participation in their community, educate against domestic violence and further education opportunities for women both in New Zealand and around the world. More information regarding the current projects is available on our Facebook page.

As the ten members of our delegation to United Nations Commission on the Status of Women CSW60 witnessed during their recent journey to New York, no country in the world has yet achieved gender equality. The delegates have much to share and welcome invitations to speak about their experiences.

Contact UN Convener Carol Grant nandcg@clear.net.nz

Sandra Waldrom, Administrator



Have you seen our new facebook page? Have a look and like us.

<https://www.facebook.com/presbyterianwomenaotearoanewzealand/>



News from the Presbyterian Women Aotearoa NZ Delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women CSW60

The delegation of ten women from around the South Island participated fully in all aspects of the Commission at the United Nations along with many thousands of women from around the world. The delegation members have wide ranging interests and backgrounds and all members network into the wider community. This ensures that their experiences at CSW60 and their insights from a global perspective will be shared with other women and girls in the church and community – St Johns, Secondary School, Girls Brigade, hospital and occupational therapy, Samoan and PIC communities, the Synod of Otago and Southland, the NZ Police and the University of Otago as well as



their parish communities. The delegates (from left) are Ariana Ridley, Carol Grant, Elvina Stephens, Lyn Heine, Suzanne Bishop, Alofa Lale, Erin Pendreigh, Catherine Wilkinson, Emily Bishop, and Mavis Duncanson

The voices of women of faith are valued at the United Nations and we, as PWANZ, work closely with other reformed church groups from other countries to ensure our voices are heard. This strength is reflected in the morning worship held each day in the United Nations Church Centre Chapel when each denomination takes a turn to lead the service.

Ecumenical Women at the United Nations holds an Orientation Day each year prior to the first day of the Commission to update members on current issues. The UN Under-Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-NGCUKA attends Orientation Day as well as leading the discussions at the UN.

The [60th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women](#) concluded with UN Member States committing to the gender-responsive implementation of [Agenda 2030](#). A set of [agreed conclusions](#) called for enhancing the basis for rapid progress, including stronger laws, policies and institutions, better data and scaled-up financing. The Commission recognised women's vital role as agents of development. It acknowledged that progress on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) at the heart of Agenda 2030 will not be possible without gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka welcomed the agreement and the commitment of UN Member States to make the 2030 Agenda, adopted last September, a reality in countries around the world. She said: "Countries gave gender inequality an expiry date: 2030. Now it is time to get to work. These agreed conclusions entrench and start the implementation of a gender-responsive agenda 2030 with which we have the best possibility to leave no one behind."

Growing global commitment was already in evidence with a record number of more than 80 government ministers from around the world attending the Commission. Around 4,100 non-governmental representatives from more than 540 organisations participated as well, the highest number ever for one of the Commission's regular annual meetings. New Zealand's Government representatives were Jo Cribb and Helen Potiki from the Ministry for Women, and Jacquie Blue and Cynthia Brodie from the Human Rights Commission.

More information about CSW60, the decisions and side events can be found at www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016 (right click and select open hyperlink)

Additional information about CSW60, the PCUSA/PCANZ Parallel Event and the Global Goals will be highlighted in future issues of Bush Fire.

The Rev Carol L Grant

United Nations Convener, Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

MISSIONS - Convener Sally Russell (sallyrussell@xtra.co.nz)

Contributions for Mission gifts and stamps have been made to the PCANZ Rice Bowl Mission in Myanmar to support a young woman in her last year of nursing training and to the North Otago Tongan Engagement project working with the local Tongan community supporting a CWS partner provide rain water tanks in Tonga.

More on our mission news in the May edition of BushFire

Stamps - if your group is wondering what to do with STAMPS, we have been contacted by Steve Wheeler who is very keen to purchase these items.

Email him directly on: wheeler.140@xtra.co.nz

Support PWANZ with your membership fee, as a member of a group or as an individual. We welcome your comments, email: pwanz2016@gmail.com

Date for your Diary: The National Business Meeting (AGM) to be held at St John's in the City Centre, Wellington on 24 September 2016