

## **MEETING REQUEST TO DISCUSS THE NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR ALL NEW ZELANDERS THEME “ A Just and Safe Aotearoa”**

### **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). The preparation of the National Plan of Action is mandated by the Human Rights Act 1993.

The Act requires the Human Rights Commission to develop the NPA on behalf of New Zealand it is New Zealand's plan, not the Commission's plan. Therefore, a cross-agency and collaborative approach with the state sector, local government, Iwi, and civil society is essential.

The Plan will set out the concrete actions to be taken by the Government to improve human rights realisation and to action the commitments made to the United Nations as part of the Universal Periodic Review<sup>1</sup>. These commitments were included in the response to the United Nations and were Cabinet mandated.

The Plan is to be completed by 30 June 2015.

I am leading the work in the theme area Just and Safe Aotearoa which will focus on violence and abuse against women, children and marginalized groups. There are a total of five theme areas in the NPA<sup>2</sup>.

### **What the Government agreed to in violence and abuse against women and children**

A number of recommendations were made in this area by the Human Rights Committee. We have summarised the recommendations agreed by the Government below into the following action areas:

---

<sup>1</sup> Every four years, countries that belong to the United Nations are asked to declare what they are doing to improve human rights. This process is called the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In 2013, it was New Zealand's second opportunity to participate in the UPR process and have its human rights record assessed. The United Nations Human Rights Council made over 100 recommendations for New Zealand to act on. The New Zealand Government accepted 121 recommendations and rejected 34 in May 2014 and committed to work with the Human Rights Commission, non-government organisations and civil society to develop a National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to respond to and address these recommendations.

<sup>2</sup> Freedom Democracy and the Rule of Law – looking at how human rights issues are managed within the policy and law making process; Together We Grow – looking at New Zealand's growing diversity and its impacts on our society and race relations; Enabling a Fair Go for All – considering issues raised in respect of inequalities and discrimination in New Zealand; A Just and Safe Aotearoa New Zealand – tackling violence and abuse in New Zealand; An additional programme of work is proposed in relation to Business and Human Rights, looking at the actions business can take to contribute to improved human rights realisation in New Zealand

1. National strategy against violence against women and children which has clear actions, goals and timelines and has special regard for vulnerable groups
2. The collection and analysis of accurate (fit for purpose) data together with monitoring and evaluation of programmes and agencies
3. Evidence based and adequate resourcing of the sector to implement Domestic Violence legislation
4. Human rights and family violence training and capacity building for civil servants
5. Awareness raising in the media and schools

We will be consulting with the appropriate Government departments and civil society on their views on these actions and what needs to happen for success which ultimately will lead to a reduction in violence and abuse against women, children and marginalised groups.

Through this process we will develop indicators that can be used to inform Government policy and strategy in achieving these actions and which will also serve to monitor progress.

The proposed indicators listed in the schematic are a starting point only. Some may drop off, some may be modified and new ones will be suggested.

We want the indicators to be a practical, realistic and challenging.

We want the Government to be 100% successful in achieving these agreed actions in this and other theme areas because we know that in doing so the lives of New Zealanders will be immeasurably improved through the realisation of their human rights and freedoms.

**What will happen next:**

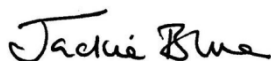
Included with this email are:

1. Questions and comments for your consideration ahead of our meeting
2. Possible indicators to consider (not exhaustive)
3. Simple schematic of outcome, actions and indicators

Ahead of the meeting if you require any further information or clarification do not hesitate to contact Miriana [mirianak@hrc.co.nz](mailto:mirianak@hrc.co.nz) 09 375 8616 or myself [jackieb@hrc.co.nz](mailto:jackieb@hrc.co.nz) mob 021 224 1347.

We look forward to working with you.

Nga Mihi



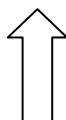
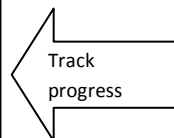
**Dr Jackie Blue**

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSIONER | KAIHAUTU ORITENGA MAHI  
NZ Human Rights Commission | Te Kāhui Tika Tangata  
PA Miriana Knox: +64 9 375 8616 | T: +64 9 309 0874 | F: +64 9 377 3593  
PO Box 6751, Wellesley Street, Level 3 Zurich House, 21 Lower Queen Street, Auckland CBD 1141, New Zealand  
PO Box 12411, Thorndon, Level 1 Vector House, 44 The Terrace, Wellington 6144, New Zealand

**NPA theme: Just and Safe Aotearoa**  
Proposal to be tested with Civil Society and Government agencies

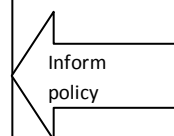
**OUTCOME**

Eliminate/Reduce all forms of violence and abuse against women, children and marginalised groups.



**ACTIONS agreed by the Government through the UPR process**

1. National strategy against violence against women and children which has clear actions, goals and timelines and has special regard for vulnerable groups (UPR rec # 107,111,127)
2. The collection and analysis of accurate (fit for purpose) data together with monitoring and evaluation of programmes and agencies (UPR rec # 109,120)
3. Evidence based and adequate resourcing of the sector to implement DV legislation (UPR rec # 114)
4. Human rights and family violence training and capacity building for civil servants(UPR rec # 110)
5. Awareness raising in the media and schools (UPR rec # 118,119,142)



**RECOMMENDATION rejected - needs review**

1. Enlarge the scope of the White paper for Vulnerable Children and its Children's Action Plan by taking into account the relationship between child abuse and contributing factors such as domestic violence and poverty UPR rec # 113

**INDICATORS to inform policy development and track progress - not exhaustive**

1. **Women and children are safer**
  - a. Reduce re-victimisation
    - i. Fewer repeat victims and repeat offenders going through FVIARS
  - b. Increase effectiveness of non violence programmes
    - i. reduction in the number of repeat offenders attending non-violence programmes
    - ii. increase numbers of men voluntarily attending non violence programmes
  - c. Reduce FV homicides
  - d. Increase early identification and reduce the proportion of severe cases
    - i. Fewer cases in the top ODARA bracket ( 7-13)
    - ii. Number of cases that go through FVIARS are less severe
  - e. Increase the proportion of cases that are reported
    - i. increase in referrals from the health sector and other sources
    - ii. increase in ACC sensitive claims submitted and approved
  - f. Other – number of parameters that can be measured such as - more women feel safer walking alone at night in the area they live
2. **Perpetrators are held accountable**
  - o Increased self awareness and recognition that their behaviour is abusive
  - o Increased awareness of where to get help to change their abusive behaviour.
  - o Increased awareness of the impact of domestic violence on their victims.
3. **The justice system is more responsive to women and children**
  - a. Increase in the number of applicants granted temporary protection orders and in the proportion of breaches of protection orders that are prosecuted.
  - b. Increase in the number of people prosecuted and convicted for sexual assault
  - c. Specialist human rights and IPV training of public servants and judiciary
  - d. More female judges and law enforcement officials
4. **Greater protection and support for marginalised women and children**
  - a. More health and disability care workers attain minimum qualifications ( elderly and disabled)
  - b. Proportion of DHBs who require minimum levels of qualifications as part of their aged care residential contracts. ( elderly)
  - c. Increase number of self-referrals to Age Concern Elder Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services (currently an indicator worked up by the FV Taskforce)
  - d. The number of HNZ homes and refuges that are accessible
5. **Primary prevention and earlier detection**
  - a. Proportion of students in secondary schools who undergo age appropriate healthy relationship training
  - b. Proportion of females 16 years and over who are screened for family violence as part of the DHB Violence Intervention Programme (VIP) programme.
6. **Changing attitudes and behaviours**
  - a. %of people who think it is never justifiable for a man to abuse his partner by gender
  - b. %of people who think a woman can refuse to have sex with her partner under any circumstance, by gender
7. **Other**

## **INDICATORS to inform policy development and track progress**

### **1. Women and children are safer**

- a. Reduce re-victimisation
  - i. Fewer repeat victims and repeat offenders going through FVIARS
- b. Increase effectiveness of non violence programmes
  - i. reduction in the number of repeat offenders attending non-violence programmes
  - ii. increase numbers of men voluntarily attending non violence programmes
- c. Reduce FV homicides
- d. Increase early identification and reduce the proportion of severe cases
  - i. Fewer cases in the top ODARA bracket ( 7-13)
  - ii. Number of cases that go through FVIARS are less severe
- e. Increase the proportion of cases that are reported
  - i. increase in referrals from the health sector and other sources
  - ii. increase in ACC sensitive claims submitted and approved
- f. Other – number of parameters that can be measured such as - more women feel safer walking alone at night in the area they live

### **2. Perpetrators are held accountable**

- o Increased self awareness and recognition that their behaviour is abusive
- o Increased awareness of where to get help to change their abusive behaviour.
- o Increased awareness of the impact of domestic violence on their victims.

### **3. The justice system is more responsive to women and children**

- a. Increase in the number of applicants granted temporary protection orders and in the proportion of breaches of protection orders that are prosecuted.
- b. Increase in the number of people prosecuted and convicted for sexual assault
- c. Specialist human rights and IPV training of public servants and judiciary
- d. More female judges and law enforcement officials

### **4. Greater protection and support for marginalised women and children**

- a. More health and disability care workers attain minimum qualifications ( elderly and disabled)
- b. Proportion of DHBs who require minimum levels of qualifications as part of their aged care residential contracts. ( elderly)
- c. Increase number of self-referrals to Age Concern Elder Abuse and Neglect Prevention Services (currently an indicator worked up by the FV Taskforce)
- d. The number of HNZ homes and refuges that are accessible

**5. Primary prevention and earlier detection**

- a. Proportion of students in secondary schools who undergo age appropriate healthy relationship training
- b. Proportion of females 16 years and over who are screened for family violence as part of the DHB Violence Intervention Programme (VIP) programme.

**6. Changing attitudes and behaviours**

- a. %of people who think it is never justifiable for a man to abuse his partner by gender
- b. %of people who think a woman can refuse to have sex with her partner under any circumstance, by gender

**7. Other**

# Civil Society

## Questions and comments for your consideration ahead of our meeting

### General

1. How would you prioritise these agreed actions? Are there other actions that you feel have been omitted and should be included?
2. What needs to be done for these actions to be successful?
3. What work are you already doing or will be doing in these action areas and, if applicable, who are your partners?
4. Who should we also be talking with?
5. Are there any population groups in your area that are particularly vulnerable?
6. Ultimately a monitoring group will need to be formed to scrutinise progress in this outcome area. It is anticipated that this group would not be up and running before June 30 2015.
  - Do you have a view on the make-up of the monitoring group?
  - Are you prepared to provide any resource (financial/personnel/other) to establish this monitoring group?