

WILPF AGM 2023 – Human Rights Network Report

27 May 2023

The Auckland Human Rights Network has become a virtual network with a mailing list of about 166 professional and NGO human rights activists and supporters and provides a mechanism for sharing and distributing a wide variety of human rights-related information, local, national and international, that might not otherwise be accessible.

The dedicated AK HRN email address generally works well and it should be easier for others to assist with forwarding, but unfortunately it is still down to Beverley, Nola and Megan. Beverley and Nola now wish to retire.

The Human Rights Network welcomes and forwards news and information, local national and international, that is neither provided by our mainstream media, nor easily accessible through other reference sources. Unfortunately notices of Zoom meetings often do not reach HRN till two or three days before the meeting, yet the often-impressive line-up of speakers is deserving of a much wider audience.

Below is an indication of the range of material shared through HRN.

Local/Auckland region: Amnesty International, Asylum Seekers Trust, Auckland Women's Centre, Baha'i Community, Converge/iCAN, Cuba Friends Auckland, NZ Human Rights Commission, NZ Peace Foundation, Oxfam, Pacific Women's Watch-NZ, Pax Christi, Palestine Solidarity Network Aotearoa, Peace Movement Aotearoa, Quality Public Education, SOUL (Ihumatao campaign), Tamaki Treaty Workers, WILPF-Tamaki Makaurau and World Beyond War. These are all agencies circulating HR-related topics for discussion/action, as well as disarmament, International Justice and human rights issues, e.g., West Sahara. HRN receives and forwards NZ Human Rights Foundation blogs as well as their news; also, invitations to law lectures on human rights-related topics which are offered at University of Auckland.

National: Indigenous rights issues and Gun Control issues have featured in recent years, while Action Station offers their much-needed "Monthly Dose of Hope". Information from UNANZ, NZ Statistics, NZFVCC/events and training, NZ Ministry for Women's NGO International Forums, plus invitations to events/reports from NGOs/ events/activists e.g., CPAG – Child Poverty Action Group, Shakti, Ak Women's Centre, UN Women NZ, Pacific Women's Watch-NZ and news from NZ Council for International Development /CID are all circulated from time to time. Also occasional, 'one-off' publications with a strong human rights focus are all well-received. Some campaigning material from Oxfam and Greenpeace, containing petitions, etc., is also forwarded.

International: Reports from the United Nations/UN in New York and Geneva and their NGO agencies, e.g., UNCSW, UNCHR, and invitations/ news from UNCSW in New York. News/ commentaries on climate change and humanitarian crises are regularly forwarded, always 'Bcc'. Likewise, all items from 'civil society', e.g., Avaaz, Brookings Institute, IPS daily/weekly reports and WUNRN. Global news from UN Women, UNCSW, UNHRC, UN CEDAW, WUNRN and other UN agencies is forwarded by Beverley.

Beverley Turner and Nola Smith, May 2023