

WILPF AGM 2024 – Human Rights Network Report 7 March 2024

The Auckland Human Rights Network (AK HRN) is a virtual network with a mailing list of about 160 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 hrnetworkauckland@gmail.com set up by Megan in 2022 works very well and so it is now easier for others to assist with forwarding, which over the past year has been carried out by Nola, Megan and Beverley. However Beverley wishes to retire and Nola to ease back, so additional volunteers would be much appreciated, particularly for when we are busy or away from home.

The Human Rights Network welcomes and forwards items of news and information, local, national and international, that are neither provided by our mainstream media, nor easily accessible through other reference sources. We gladly forward notices of relevant actions, zoom meetings and podcasts, but urge people to send these directly to the HRN email address hrnetworkauckland@gmail.com. Unfortunately notices of these often reach AK HRN too close to, or even after the event date. Yet the actions or often-impressive line-ups of speakers are deserving of a much wider audience and level of participation.

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

Local: Auckland region: Amnesty International, 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, 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. 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 the University of Auckland.

National: Indigenous rights issues and Gun Control issues have featured in recent years. Information from UNANZ, NZ Statistics, NZFVCC/events and training, NZ Ministry for Women's NGO caucus meetings, 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 and some campaigning material from Oxfam and Greenpeace, containing petitions, etc., are 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 and News/ commentaries on climate change and humanitarian crises are regularly forwarded, always 'Bcc'. Likewise, items from 'civil society', e.g., Avaaz, Change.org, Brookings Institute, IPS daily/weekly reports and WUNRN. Global news from UN Women, UNCSW, UNHRC, UN CEDAW, WUNRN and other UN agencies have been forwarded by Beverley.

The upsurge of material emanating from the invasion of Ukraine, the Palestine/Israel situation and, domestically, the impact of the new coalition government's reversal of Labour policies and legislation, has altered the character of our mail-outs, many more of which are now updates on the next round of

demonstrations, etc. The shift in emphasis in what we send relates to trying to achieve a balance: ensuring people are informed about what they're unlikely to read elsewhere but not overwhelming them. Perhaps we should add a short 'Further links' list at the end of some communications? Feedback would be much appreciated.

Beverley Turner, Nola Smith, Megan Hutching March 2024