

Late 2020 to end December 2021

Labour Government Re-elected, 17 October 2020.

The NZ Labour Party won an absolute majority in the general election, 17 October 2020, which is extremely rare under MMP conditions. It has the support of the Green Party, and is taking advantage of its majority to push through genderist legislation.

Sex Self ID (BDMRR Bill) passed into Law on 9 December 2021.

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2017/0296/latest/versions.aspx>

Feminists and other New Zealanders fought very hard over the last year (and earlier years) against changes to the Births Deaths Marriages and Relationships Registration Act, which would allow Self- Identification as a basis for changing the sex on the birth certificate. Nevertheless on 9 December 2021, the BDMRR Amendment Bill was passed unanimously by the NZ parliament. It includes Supplementary Order Paper 59 (SOP 59) which legalises Sex Self ID for the sex on the birth certificate and even allows it to happen multiple times.

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/supplementary-order-papers/document/SOP_115554/births-deaths-marriages-and-relationships-registration

The only concession is Clause 80, which says that the birth certificate does not necessarily establish a person's sex, leaving the question open as to what does. The changes are due to be implemented in 18 months time.

The passing of this Act was a blow to the gender critical feminist movement in New Zealand, which has grown considerably since these changes were proposed by submitters to a select committee considering the bill in 2018.

Letters to Jan Tinetti, Minister of Internal Affairs and for Women's Affairs.

During the previous government (2017-2020) the Labour Party had been dependent on the New Zealand First Party for support. In 2019, Tracy Martin (of NZ First), Minister of Internal Affairs, put the addition of Sex Self ID clauses into the BDMRR legislation on hold because the proposal had not followed democratic process and was incompatible with other legislation.

When it was re-elected in late 2020, The Labour Government signalled its intention to introduce Self ID for sex on the birth certificate.

Hundreds if not thousands of letters were sent to the Minister of Internal Affairs, and Minister for Women, Jan Tinetti, opposing this, who basically ignored them.

There was even a song written about it, Dear Jan, performed here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_PyH5vj6DY

Submissions to Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) 59 on BDMRR Bill

In August Jan Tinetti introduced SOP 59, which provided for Sex Self- ID on the birth certificate. On 25 August the Governance and Administration Committee called for written submissions until 15 September, which is less than three weeks, whilst New Zealand went into lockdown for Covid 19.

There were nearly 7,000 submissions and around 70% were opposed Sex Self ID. Submitters included NZ feminists, ordinary New Zealanders, and overseas feminist experts.

Because of Covid restrictions, all the oral submissions were done by zoom, during September and October 2021. They can be viewed on the Governance and Administration Committee Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/493738500800344/239196911373835/>

The written submissions are available on the parliament website.

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/all?custom=INQ_115653

Conversion Practices Legislation Prohibition Bill

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2021/0056/latest/LMS487197.html>

Another select committee process began around the same time, and is ongoing, considering the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill. (CPPL Bill). This is being considered by the Justice Committee.

There were only three weeks to send written submissions, from 18 August until 8 September, during a Covid lockdown. They can be seen here:

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_113397/tab/submissionsandadvice

There were 106,700 submissions to this Bill, of which a considerable number were opposed. Because of the large number of submissions, the deadline to hear oral submissions had to be extended and will continue in 2022.

Oral submissions can be seen here:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/1871068362906301/4178067605654834>

This Bill proposes to outlaw “conversion practices” which refers to any practice which attempts to “convert” someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity. The main concern of those opposed to the bill is about the “gender identity” provisions. The way the law is worded, people doing wholistic therapies according to the codes of ethics of their

professions, and parents trying to protect their children, could easily be caught up in the net of this legislation and prosecuted if they don't follow an affirmation only model. An underlying assumption behind compulsory affirmation of gender identity in the CPPL Bill is that gender identity in young people is fixed and inherent. This contradicts the premise of the BDMRR legislation that gender is fluid and changeable.

Another concern is that health professionals providing puberty blockers, cross sex hormones and surgery to children, many of whom would otherwise grow up to be gay, are explicitly exempted from prosecution under this bill.

Select Committee Members Hostile to Submitters

Select Committee members were extremely hostile to submitters during the oral submissions; especially those considering the BDMRR Bill.

Some notable hostile and biased MP's were Elizabeth Kerekere, Deborah Russell and Louisa Wall.

Elizabeth Kerekere implied that Beth Johnson from Speak Up for Women NZ was transphobic. She also implied online that SUFW was a hate group, despite a recent High Court ruling that SUFW was not a hate group. Elizabeth Kerekere is a leading figure promoting trans ideology in Aotearoa, although her own PHD thesis admits that there is no evidence of trans people in traditional Māori society. Deborah Russell clashed dramatically with submitter Rex Landy. Overseas experts who gave evidence were treated extremely rudely.

Videos of oral submissions made by feminists can be viewed on Youtube channels of Mana Wāhine Kōrero, Women's Liberation Aotearoa and Catherine Karena.
(See Youtube links at end.)

Other proposed legislation : Hate Speech, Surrogacy/Adoption

Informal submissions were sought for these proposed law changes but no bills have yet been drafted for presentation to parliament.

Hate Speech:

There is a proposal to amend the Human Rights Act to include gender as a category of unlawful discrimination, and to add gender to other existing categories such as race and sex, where people can be prosecuted for harmful speech against these categories. Some of the breaches will be shifted from the HRA to the Crimes Act, and penalties will be increased. There was a lot of concern expressed in the general population, reported in the media; when these proposals were made around mid 2021.

Adoption-Surrogacy

There have been a stream of manipulative articles in the press about gay couples or infertile women who supposedly need the Adoption Act changed so that they have rights to be considered the first legal parents, rather than the birthing mother, when they use a surrogate.

Government Initiative to Reduce Family and Sexual Violence

On 7 December 2021, Marama Davidson, Green Party Minister for the prevention of family violence and sexual violence launched Te Aorerekura: a National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence.

Gender Critical Feminist Groups

There has been an explosion of gender critical feminist groups, springing into action to oppose the government legislation.

Current groups include:

Speak Up for Women NZ

Women's Liberation Aotearoa (which supports the Women's Declaration International)

Mana Wāhine Kōrero

Lesbian Action for Visibility Aotearoa (LAVA)

Save Women's Sports Australasia

Feminist Older Women Lobbyists (FOWL)

Lesbian Rights Aotearoa

Women's Dignity

Fully Informed New Zealand

Educators, counsellors and parents are also forming into groups to combat the effects of the the Ministry of Education's Relationships and Sexuality Guidelines in schools.

Street Actions

International Women's Day, 8 March 2021

Members of LAVA, Mana Wāhine Kōrero, Women's Liberation Aotearoa and others protested out side the Ministry for Women in Wellington, protesting against proposed Sex Self ID legislation.

They were confronted by some counter protestors, one of whom told a feminist woman that she was old and that she hoped she would die soon.

Women's Suffrage Day, 19 September 2021.

There were coordinated events in Dunedin and Wellington, celebrating that New Zealand women were first to gain the vote in 1893, and made further advances in the 1970's. They warned about threat to women's sex based rights rights now, and protested efforts to silence women.

About 40 women took part in a march and rally Wellington, including members of WLA, MWK, LAVA, FOWL, and Save Women's Sports. They were met by about the same number of counter protesters, who got organised as soon as the publicity for the event went out.

About half a dozen brave women in Dunedin celebrated Suffrage Day at the Octogan and faced up a much larger number of opponents on the opposite side of the street. The Dunedin event was reported in the local paper, a breakthrough against usual media blackout.

Efforts to organise events in Auckland and Christchurch were stopped by lockdowns.

International Chalk About It Day, 30 October 2021

Some women, mostly in Wellington, took part in international Chalking event, in support of women's sex-based rights.

Graffiti

On 3 November, after the Select Committee recommended adopting SOP 59 and introducing Sex Self ID for the birth certificate, some graffiti appeared on a Dunedin Labour MP Ingrid Leary's office saying "We throw NZ females under the bus". The MP first blamed Speak up for Women, then blamed Women's Liberation Aotearoa, neither of whom had anything to do with it.

This event was reported in mainstream media, breaking through a nearly universal media blackout about the fact that there was any controversy about these government measures, or even that they were happening at all.

Speak Up for Women Public Meetings

From March 2021 onwards, Speak up for Women organised a number of public events around New Zealand to raise awareness of the implications of the BDMRR Bill.

A public meeting in Nelson was well attended and attracted noisy protests.

Applications to hold events in public libraries in Christchurch and in Palmerston North were turned down by Councils. An alternative venue was found in Christchurch. The decision of the Palmerston North Council was challenged in the High Court and SUFW won the case. On 25th June the judge ruled that SUFW was "clearly not a hate group" so had a democratic right to hold events in public spaces.

Events in the Palmerston North library and the Auckland Town Hall then went ahead without problems.

On 16 July 2021, Speak Up for Women held a public meeting at the Michael Fowler Centre in Wellington, whilst a large noisy protest from trans rights activists took place outside.

Media Council finds “Anti-Trans” is Opinion not Fact

In September 2021, the Media Council found that a Newshub report about the Wellington event, which stated that SUFW was “anti-trans”, was an opinion stated as fact, in breach of their Principles.

Other Events

Laurel Hubbard Competes at Olympic Games

In August 2021, New Zealander Laurel Hubbard, a 43 year old biological male, competed in the Tokyo Olympics in the women’s +87kg weightlifting event. He didn’t win anything.

In April 2021, Sport NZ issued guidelines focussing on transgender inclusion in sport, without paying due attention to women’s safety and fairness.

In June 2021, there was a large rally outside Parliament, and Ro Edge, from Save Women’s Sport Australasia, presented a 5,300 signature petition to parliament, which asked the government to ask Sport NZ to extend the consultation period for the guidelines and to consult with women.

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/petitions/document/PET_111568/petition-of-save-womens-sport-australasia-request-sport

Rainbow Midwives Petition Against Milli Hill

Around October 2021 a group calling themselves the Rainbow Midwives Alliance started a petition to the New Zealand Council of Midwives, calling on them to cancel Milli Hill, from being a keynote speaker at their upcoming conference. Milli Hill is a highly respected author and childbirth educator. Then a counter petition was started condemning the “Rainbow Midwives” for their hatred towards Milli Hill and calling for Action Station to remove the original petition. The counter petition quickly got more signatures than the first one. Both petitions are still up. The Midwives Conference was cancelled due to Covid concerns.

Calendar

In November 2021, a calendar was produced celebrating LAVA, Women’s Liberation Aotearoa and Mana Wāhine Kōrero activism.

Christchurch Swimming Pool

Some feminists have been challenging a decision by the Christchurch Council to allow males into a women’s swimming group and a women’s changing room at a Christchurch swimming pool.

Media

Mainstream Media

Mainstream media ignores issues or promotes trans ideology

Many New Zealanders have little idea about the extent of the genderist legislative and policy changes happening in New Zealand, which have received very little media attention. The hate speech proposals however did get a lot lot of public opposition and publicity.

The media has been posting a stream of personal stories which are effectively promoting surrogacy, adoption and trans rights. The media does take an interest when something dramatic happens such as the Dunedin graffiti, the TRA protests against feminists in Dunedin, and TRA protests at the Michael Fowler Centre. They begrudgingly reported the High Court Case which stated that SUFW was not a hate group and was entitled to public spaces.

Feminist Media

Facebook:

WDI Australia and New Zealand

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

Broadsheet

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

Speak Up for Women NZ

<https://www.facebook.com/SpeakUp4WomenNZ>

Suffragettes NZ

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

NZ Feminist Meme Explosion

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

Save Women's Sport Australasia

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

NZ Feminist Meme Explosion

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=nz%20feminist%20meme%20explosion>

Aus@ Kiwi Radfems

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1593450017593722>

Coalition for Biological Reality

<https://www.facebook.com/Coalition-for-Biological-Reality-Public-Page-107062111256295>

Websites:

Speak Up for Women NZ

<https://speakupforwomen.nz/>

Women's Liberation Aotearoa

website <https://womensliberationaotearoa.org.nz/>

Lesbian Action for Visibility Aotearoa (LAVA)

<https://www.lava.nz/>

Save Women's Sport Australasia

<https://www.savewomenssport.com/>

Fully Informed

<https://fullyinformed.nz/>

Public Good

<https://www.publicgood.org.nz/>

Renee Gerlich

<https://reneejg.net/>

Twitter:

Women's Liberation Aotearoa

Twitter <https://twitter.com/wlaotearoa>

<https://twitter.com/SpeakUp4WomenNZ>

Speak Up for Women

<https://twitter.com/SpeakUp4WomenNZ>

Youtube:

WDI Feminist Question Time, Australia and New Zealand, monthly webinars.

https://www.youtube.com/c/WomensDeclarationInternationalWDI/playlists?view=50&sort=dd&shelf_id=4

28 August 2021, FQT on legislative attacks on New Zealand women's rights:

On Women's Declaration International :

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWdSdWv0R1DtPCh60b2vQcbFB7-loUHEv>

On Women's Liberation Aotearoa:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6oyAfyRXeQco8u4ydB-4yA/playlists>

Women's Liberation Aotearoa:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6oyAfyRXeQco8u4ydB-4yA>

WLA Playlists including WDI and submissions:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC6oyAfyRXeQco8u4ydB-4yA/playlists>

Poet Janet Charman reads Womb

(WLA) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmHHGzQpgwg>

(WDI) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDgzkmlwas&t=3s>

Catherine Karena

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTNtySWYkVGcygPfmQLm6A>

NZ Gender Identity Bills:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrjGUwhslhOdZlilINmpWvmb_f1XwOU7i

Mana Wāhine Kōrero

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTBLB0CizsFTu-oLb_Onq0g
