

Support for Pacific Women

NZNO supports the principles of community empowerment, public services, economic, social, climate and gender equity, and the support of Pacific neighbours, that underpin the 2010 Statement on gender, economic and climate justice (Pacific Women Activists) presented at the 2010 South Pacific Nurses Forum (SPNF).

NZNO is committed to these principles in its own work and supports Pacific women in their attempt to achieve these goals in their own countries.

The NZNO Board of Directors has enacted the 2010 SPNF resolution and endorsed the 2010 position, May 2011.

Statement on Gender, Economic and Climate Justice by Pacific Women Activists

The Pacific region is confronted by the onslaughts of market forces through processes of trade, financial services liberalization, and the implication of environmental changes on food security, water scarcity, sea level rise and intrusion. These are causing major upheavals and chaos in our social relationships, communities and societies at large. In this context, we need policies and programs that empower communities, families and individuals, rather than exposing us to market assault and the changes in climate that affect land, livelihoods, handicrafts, indigenous medicines, staple food, symbolic wealth and our caring social relationships that include women's informal networks of mutual support.

While we are in solidarity with the struggle of people's movement and non-governmental organisations, a political response based on a feminist interlinkages perspective on gender, economic and climate justice, is yet another way by which we can contribute to the development of an alternative paradigm of sustainable development in the Pacific.

Such a feminist approach utilises concepts of social reproduction and women's rights over our bodies and sexualities as core principles in our political analyses and actions. By this we mean that care of individuals should not be bargained away by governments when they negotiate trade and environmental agreements like PACER PLUS, WTO, UNFCCC, CBD, etc. In guaranteeing social reproduction, such as health, education, water, livelihoods etc the state must also protect and promote the right of women to control our bodies and our sexualities in all places – our homes, schools, communities etc.

We will therefore adopt various strategies aimed at promoting a feminist inter-linkages analyses and activities aimed at: our organizations; constituents and allies; and regional platforms facilitated through intergovernmental or social dialogues.

We also strongly commit to continue networking with each other as we continually strengthen and recreate a vibrant regional Pacific feminist women's movement that engages in a politically interlinked way – locally, nationally, regionally and internationally.

(Pacific Women Activists, 2010)

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Mission statement

NZNO is committed to the representation of members and the promotion of nursing and midwifery. NZNO embraces Te Tiriti o Waitangi and works to improve the health status of all peoples of Aotearoa/ New Zealand through participation in health and social policy development.

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