



Notice of Motion - Support for Auckland Council to become a City for CEDAW

In accordance with Standing Orders, the following Notice of Motion on the agenda for the Albert-Eden Local Board meeting being held on 22 August 2018.

Recommendation/s

That Albert Eden Local Board

- a) supports Auckland becoming a “City for CEDAW” (CEDAW = Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women).
- b) forwards these resolutions to the Community Development and Safety Committee for their consideration alongside any forthcoming recommendations or reports on Auckland becoming a City for CEDAW.

Background

What is CEDAW?

CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

(said “See-Daw”)

CEDAW is a United Nations (UN) instrument, a convention to which New Zealand is a signatory, which binds our country to take steps to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women. It is described as an “international bill of rights for women.” It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1979 and ratified by New Zealand in January 1985. The New Zealand government has to report regularly to the UN on how they are progressing towards this, and the UN can recommend attention is paid to specific areas where New Zealand is falling short and could do better.

Cities for CEDAW

This is an international programme including over 40 cities who have committed to enacting CEDAW at the local level. This can include specific change they make locally, and also advocacy on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women, to their national government, international organisations, and other agencies for example to their stock exchange regarding the representation of women on private sector boards. It started in the United States of America (USA) as a way of local government committing to CEDAW as their country has not yet at a national level. Cities outside of the USA are now looking to become part of the programme as a way of ensuring that the commitments to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women also occur at a local level, where change is sometimes most meaningful to daily life.

Auckland and CEDAW

Auckland committing to become a City for CEDAW visibly affirms that an inclusive framework has been adopted, and ensures a gender lens for reviewing plans,



policies and all actions. It makes the global local, adding local implementation of an important international convention that has been ratified nationally by New Zealand.

In July 2018 the Community Development and Safety Committee received an initial report on CEDAW which noted:

Council’s support for gender equity issues is expressed as part of its strong commitment to valuing Auckland’s diversity and fostering inclusion, belonging and participation for all Aucklanders. Since 2015, when PWW presented to the Governing Body, Council has implemented and refreshed several key strategies which address these issues, including:

- The *Auckland Plan’s* ‘belonging and participation’ outcome “*Te whai pānga me te whai wāhi atu* /all Aucklanders will be part of and contribute to society, access opportunities, and have the chance to develop to their full potential”.
- Council’s *Thriving Communities Action Plan* supports communities to be connected, resilient and inclusive.
- *Empowered Communities approach* - we define an empowered community as one where individuals, whānau and communities have the power and ability to influence decisions, take action and make change happen in their lives and communities. Council’s role is to support and enable empowered communities.
- Council’s *Inclusive Auckland (diversity and inclusion) framework* is our strategic approach to responding to the needs of Auckland’s diverse communities and leveraging the talents and insights of Auckland’s diverse peoples. The framework is strongly focused on inclusion and sets out change actions to address issues of access, equity and participation, for our staff and for Aucklanders.

However, there is little express mention of women or gender in Auckland’s current documents. Joining the Cities for CEDAW programme would ensure Auckland is publicly committing to make positive change not just on inclusion generally but also specifically for women. It would make Auckland Council accountable for taking steps forward, and not backwards, for gender equity in our communities.

Summary

We often consider Aotearoa New Zealand a world leader on women’s issues, trumpeting our 125 years of women’s voting, our female prime ministers and mayors, but in fact for many women discrimination is still real. It impacts on daily life through unequal pay and economic power, planning and infrastructure that still largely reflects the needs of able-bodied men rather than the full range of humanity, and violence against women and girls.

Auckland can and should play a part in making the world a more equal place. Supporting the Cities for CEDAW programme is an important tool to help with this important mahi.

Signatories:

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