



Policy of the Women's Rights Party

PRINCIPLES

The Women's Rights Party honours the women of Aotearoa NZ who won the right to vote in 1893, the first self-governing nation in the World to legislate women's suffrage.

The Women's Rights Party has formed 130 years later out of a concern for the erosion of the rights of women and girls.

We combine this history with the imperative to create a society in which women are autonomous, and all women, men and children can live in harmony with each other to protect the future for our children and their children.

The Women's Rights Party principles are:

To win and protect women's rights, including:

The right to speak freely.

The right to peaceful assembly, association, and movement.

The right to safe single-sex spaces for women and girls.

The right to be free from violence in all its forms.

The right to equitable reward and recognition for women's contributions to society and work, whether paid or unpaid.

The right to have control of our own bodies, including reproductive autonomy.

The right to protect and safeguard our children.

The right for motherhood to be recognised as exclusively female.

The right to fair play in sports.

The right to evidenced-based education and healthcare with informed consent.

The right to use clear and plain language when referring to women in the media, academia, in healthcare, at work and at home.

Introduction

The Women's Rights Party is about protecting the rights of women and children. We advocate for women's sex-based rights, so that these rights are respected and extended, and not eroded.

We are a voice for women whose interests are being ignored - we have lost our right to speak; we have been cancelled in academia and the mainstream media. We cannot rely on the Police to treat us as citizens worthy of protecting our right to assemble and to speak.

We are campaigning to protect the rights of women and children, the largest group of vulnerable people in our society. So much is happening that is eroding the rights of women and girls, and our democracy. We aim to bring greater public awareness to threats that include lifelong harm to children.

We focus on issues that directly impact on women and girls. We recognise that such interests are wide ranging, including women's sex-based rights, women's healthcare, our children's education, and recognition of women's contributions to society.

The Women's Rights Party is shining a light on what it means for women and girls when the self-id law comes into effect, and as the new relationships and sexuality curriculum is introduced in our schools. These are just two examples of an agenda that has been rolling along at great speed, largely under the radar of ordinary New Zealanders.

International

The policies of the Women's Rights Party reaffirm women and girls' sex-based rights, and challenge the discrimination we experience from the replacement of the category of sex with that of 'gender identity'. We support the Women's Declaration International.¹

The Party is committed to ensuring New Zealand legislation reflects our Government's commitment to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)²

The Women's Rights Party stands by women everywhere who are denied access to education; whose freedom of movement is restricted; who have no protection against violence, including sexualised violence; who are forced into marriage as children; and who are denied opportunities to participate in paid work or the political life of their nations.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

We acknowledge Te Tiriti o Waitangi as Aotearoa New Zealand's founding document.

The Women's Rights Party advocates for economic and social equity, health and wellbeing of wāhine Māori and their whānau.

Biological Sex

Women's and girls' sex-based rights as biological females, need to be protected in policy and law, and this should be given precedence over any proposed provisions based on concepts of gender.

The Women's Rights Party calls for language in policy, law, health, and education to recognise that women and girls are human females, that being female is based on biology, and that motherhood is exclusively female.

The sex-based rights for women guaranteed in the *Human Rights Act 1993*³ must be respected in law and policy, such as the right to single-sex spaces.

Biological males should not compete in women's and girl's sports, and biological females should not play in men's and boy's sports, where there are issues of fairness and safety.

The language in policy, law, health, and education needs to recognise that sexual orientation is about the attraction that a person can have either to their own sex, the other sex, or both sexes.

¹ *Women's Declaration International* <https://www.womensdeclaration.com/en/>

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/cedaw.aspx>

³ *Human Rights Act 1993* <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1993/0082/latest/DLM304212.html>

Gender

Gender is an imprecise concept that refers to sex-based stereotypes and social expectations, e.g. what is considered feminine and masculine. Gender identity and expression refer to the identification with, and expression of these stereotypes.

The rights of women and children to reject gender stereotypes without discrimination, labelling, or medical intervention to 'fix' them is paramount.

Statistics NZ must have biological sex, for example sex at birth, as a primary and accurate demographic indicator.

The freedom of speech to question the concept of gender and to assert the sex-based rights of females, is a fundamental human right. It is protected in the *Bill of Rights Act 1990*⁴, and must not be removed by any legislation, policy or government practice.

Key legislative issues

Children under 18 should not be given puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, or gender reassignment surgery in order to change the appearance of their biological sex. We will oppose any legislative changes that do not contain age restrictions.

The Women's Rights Party calls for the repeal of self-identification for determining sex on the birth certificate in the Births, Deaths and Relationships Act 2021.⁵ The new law encourages a belief that a man can change his sex at will and enter women's spaces without being challenged.

If birth certificates include provisions for a "nominated sex", it needs to be clear that this is the individual's preferred sex and not biological sex. Clear and accessible records must be kept of any changes to the birth certificate, and this information must also be recorded on the certificate itself. Sex is a fundamental democratic and explanatory variable, and a powerful predictor of almost every dimension of social life, economic status, and health outcomes.

No child under 18 should have a "nominated sex" on their birth certificate, and the only permitted changes to a child's recorded sex on the birth certificate should be if the original sex on the birth certificate was incorrect, for example, in the rare instance of a child born with a difference of sexual development (DSD or commonly known as "intersex").

The Women's Rights Party will advocate for a review of the Prostitution Reform Act⁶ to strengthen protections for women, and advocate for increased powers of prosecution.

The Women's Rights Party would also advocate for funding to help women who want to leave prostitution and require financial and structural support to find alternative employment.

The Women's Rights Party opposes commercial surrogacy arrangements due to the potential for exploitation of women and we agree this should remain illegal in New Zealand. We oppose any proposed changes to legislation which would remove the birth mother as the first legal parent in the case of surrogacy.

⁴ [New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 No 109 \(as at 30 August 2022\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)

⁵ [Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 2021 No 57 \(as at 05 April 2023\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)

⁶ [Prostitution Reform Act 2003 No 28 \(as at 28 October 2021\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)

Protecting women's and children's spaces and safety

Women and girls have the right to single-sex gatherings for any purpose. This includes the right to women-only social media groups.

Single-sex spaces preserve women's and girls' safety and dignity. These include, but are not limited to toilets, changing rooms, prisons, refuges, rape crisis centres, saunas, swimming facilities, hospital wards and other facilities.

In particular, school policies should guarantee that all children in schools have the right to privacy from the opposite sex in single-sex spaces, such as toilets and changing rooms.

The Women's Rights Party opposes the housing of biological males in women's prisons. The human rights of all women prisoners must be fully respected.

We are committed to increasing resources to help women leave situations where they are experiencing or at risk of domestic violence. We support public funding of refuges providing women-only services.

The Women's Rights Party promotes changes in the Justice system to protect women and children. For example, protection orders should be enforced and applications for protection orders should be accessible and affordable.

The Women's Rights Party opposes pornography, which includes filmed prostitution, rough sex, strangulation, other forms of violence, and sexual abuse, and sends a message that such violence and abuse of women is acceptable.

Caring for mothers and children

The Women's Rights Party is calling for more support for new families, including wrap-around services for vulnerable mothers and their babies. We recognise the links between poverty and child protection, and support action on strategies to alleviate poverty. The number of children being removed from their families must be reduced.

Midwifery and maternity services must retain words such as "mother", "woman" and "breastfeeding".

Maternity services should be adequately resourced and funded to ensure quality, affordable provision for all. In particular, we call on Te Whatu Ora to properly recognise and fund continuity of midwifery care, and to provide publicly funded primary maternity services in both rural and urban centres.

We support a review and extension of paid maternity leave from six to 12 months, and entitlement of women's partners to paid leave at the time of the birth.

The Women's Rights Party calls for the Ministry of Education's *Relationships and Sexuality Education Guidelines*⁷ to be replaced with guidelines that recognise the primacy of biological sex.

Schools should not use resources that conflate the words, "sex" and "gender" or confuse sexual orientation and gender.

Children who are gender non-conforming or who could grow up to be attracted to the same sex, should be supported in this. It needs to be clear that changing sex is not biologically possible.

⁷ [Relationships and sexuality education – Parents.education.govt.nz – Practical information about education for parents and carers](https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-carers/relationships-and-sexuality-education/)

Women's incomes and well-being

Minimum wages and benefits need to be increased so that all people have living incomes. In particular, women need increased incomes to promote full participation in society and to support our dignity as we age.

More than 50 years ago, union leader and former MP Sonya Davies championed the "Working Women's Charter".⁸ Much has yet to be achieved, including pay equity.

The Women's Rights Party advocates for income support while raising our children or caring for our elders, recognising that mothering and caring is work and contributes to society.

The Party also calls for access to quality, affordable (or free) childcare, with qualified and fairly paid staff available to all who need it. To that end, the Women's Right's Party supports a complete review of the current for-profit ECE sector to ensure it meets the needs of women and their children.

Women's health services, including cervical smears and breast screening, must be free and easily available to all women.

Quality housing is a priority and should be affordable and available for all. Women can be living in poor housing because of a change in circumstance, low incomes and/or little or no savings as a result of a number of issues specific to them. The low levels of home ownership amongst older women is also a reflection of these issues.

Women, due to low income over their lifetime, career breaks to raise children, and disadvantage following relationship breakdowns, are more negatively affected financially as we age. The Women's Right's Party advocates for accessible and free financial advice and support to be available to all women, as we need it.

APPENDIX 1

DEFINITIONS

A person's "sex" refers to a person's biological sex (either male or female).

"Sex" is a prohibited ground of discrimination in the Human Rights Act 1993, including in pregnancy and childbirth.

"Women" and "girls" refer to human females, and the words "men" and "boys" refer to human males.

"Human female" denotes the sex with a reproductive system typically organised to bear offspring or produce eggs, distinguished biologically by the production of gametes (ova) that can be fertilised by male gametes, and includes females whose reproductive system may be disordered in some way and those females who choose not to reproduce.

"Mother" means female parent and "father" means male parent.

"Sexual orientation" is a person's sexual attraction to the same sex, opposite sex, or both.

⁸ [Working Women's Charter – Women's labour organisations – Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand](#)

