

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 12 July 2021 2:52 pm
To: 'Contact Contact' <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Subject: RE: Event invitation

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Many thanks for this invitation for Chief Human Rights Commissioner Paul Hunt, I am replying on his behalf.

Unfortunately Paul is not available to attend this event, but he sends on his warm regards.

Ngā mihi

[REDACTED]

From: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Sent: Monday, July 5, 2021 7:19 PM
To: Paul Hunt
Subject: Event invitation

Dear Paul,

You are cordially invited to attend a public talk about a pending law change that will impact women and girls.

Where: Lion Harbourview Lounge, Michael Fowler Centre
When: 15 July 2021
Time: 6 - 7pm

The proposed law is the Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Bill, which is currently awaiting its second reading in parliament.

If enacted, under Clause 22B, this law will permit any person to change the sex on their birth certificate simply by making a statutory declaration. There will be no requirement for any medical assessment or treatment, or even any change of appearance.

This has serious implications for eligibility and access to:

- single-sex spaces such as changing rooms and women's refuges
- single-sex sports teams
- single-sex schools and other organisations
- sex-specific employment in health and education
- sex-specific competitions and prizes
- sex-specific representation and quotas
- Speak Up for Women are hosting a series of talks across the country to raise awareness of these issues and build pressure on the government to reconsider this ill-conceived Bill.

We hope you can join us to hear the issues and ask any questions you may have.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: Paul Hunt

Sent: Friday, 19 February 2021 3:35 pm

To: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>

Cc: Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo <KaraninaS@hrc.co.nz>

Subject: RE: [REDACTED] (Speak up for Women) meeting with HRC to discuss PRISM report

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your patience as we finalised our response.

Please find attached our letter responding to your initial submission and subsequent email.

Have a good weekend.

Mauri ora,

Paul



ter to [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]_Speak p Fc

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, 1 February 2021 4:19 pm

To: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>

Cc: Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo <KaraninaS@hrc.co.nz>; Paul Hunt <paulh@hrc.co.nz>

Subject: RE: [REDACTED] (Speak up for Women) meeting with HRC to discuss PRISM report

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your email and my apologies for the delay in getting back to you.

We hope to be able to provide a written response to the issues you have raised by 12 February.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

From: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 January 2021 9:12 am
To: Paul Hunt <paulh@hrc.co.nz>
Cc: Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo <KaraninaS@hrc.co.nz>
Subject: Re: [REDACTED] (Speak up for Women) meeting with HRC to discuss PRISM report

Kia ora Paul,

I am just touching base to see if you can give us an approximate timeframe as to when we can expect your response.

As I'm sure you can appreciate, the issues we raise are pertinent to a few pieces of legislation that the government has indicated they will be pursuing and it is important we can organise ourselves in terms of our next steps.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Speak Up For Women

From: Paul Hunt
Sent: Tuesday, 22 December 2020 11:08 am
To: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Cc: Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo <KaraninaS@hrc.co.nz>
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] (Speak up for Women) meeting with HRC to discuss PRISM report

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Many thanks to you and [REDACTED] for coming to the Commission and discussing with us on 1 December.

And I acknowledge receipt of your follow-up email (and all the linked material) dated 8 December expressing concerns about the PRISM report and the issues you have described regarding women's rights.

We are currently studying your material and will respond as soon as possible in the New Year.

One point concerning your notes from the meeting. Regarding the Department of Corrections' policy for the management of transgender prisoners, [REDACTED] did not state that the new policy overruled other guidelines. Rather, she noted that the policy has been created by Corrections to clarify their internal processes for the management of transgender inmates.

I wish you and [REDACTED] a restful holiday break, and we'll be in touch in the New Year.

Mauri ora,

Paul

From: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 8 December 2020 11:53 am

To: Paul Hunt <paulh@hrc.co.nz>

Cc: Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo <KaraninaS@hrc.co.nz>

Subject: Re: [REDACTED] (Speak up for Women) meeting with HRC to discuss PRISM report

To Mr Paul Hunt,

In our document responding to PRISM, we express our concerns that the values and beliefs of the wider New Zealand population are being ignored in favour of social engineering the top-down imposition of an ideology originating in academia. It was worrying to hear this confirmed in our meeting when the Human Rights Commission disagreed with us that the concept of gender identity should not override or replace the material reality of biological sex. Women should be able to expect that our rights as set out in the Human Rights Act will be protected no matter how many academic articles are written on the theory of gender identity.

In the meeting, we raised the issue of the Human Rights Commission redefining key terms relevant to human rights. In particular, we expressed the real-life implications and deep offensiveness of redefining 'homosexuality', 'gay', and 'lesbian'. By deliberately swapping 'same-sex attraction' for 'same-gender attraction', the Human Rights Commission is endorsing the idea promoted by gender activists that lesbians, for example, should accept that males can be lesbians if they declare themselves so. We would like to remind the Human Rights Commission that when it was illegal for lesbians to marry, this was on the basis of them being the same sex and not how either of a couple identifies. Likewise, when gay men were criminalised for homosexual sex. The inclusion of sexual orientation in our Human Rights Act as well as homosexual law reform and same sex marriage legislation were intended to ensure homosexuals were protected from future homophobia by the state. It is shocking to see that our Human Rights Commission would undermine these protections by redefining homosexuality.

We take your point about the evolution of principles to international law and that you expect that the Yogyakarta Principles will follow the same path. However, we dispute that the Yogyakarta Principles should be preferenced above New Zealand's Human Rights Act and existing international declarations or binding agreements. PRISM uses Yogyakarta to prop up a lot of assertions and this comes at the expense of the HRA93 which is the primary piece of legislation that the Human Rights Commission should be upholding. If we should treat unratified conference documents with the same weight as the UN Declaration of Human Rights, for example, why have a process at all? If they are to be weighted the same as actual law, why not ratify them immediately?

Despite the Human Rights Commission arguing that balance is being pursued and not acknowledging that the demands of gender ideologues are being prioritised over women's rights, when we discussed the rights of female prison guards, [REDACTED] gave an example



of just that. We were querying whether the rights of female prison guards mattered regarding demands from trans-identified males to be strip searched by female rather than male officers. We were discussing Corrections' guidelines when [REDACTED] stated that new guidelines for transgender prisoners override other guidelines. It seems to us that not only does the Human Rights Commission disregard the safety and dignity of female inmates, but there has also been no consideration of the rights of the women that work for Corrections.

The lack of exploration of the consequences of adopting wholesale an ideology ignores the material reasons women are disadvantaged and discriminated against – especially poor women and women from minority ethnicities – and elevates subjective identities which are the realm of the more privileged and university educated. The Human Rights Commission made it clear in our meeting that they believe it is a human right to falsify legal documents, but only in regards to sex. This has a direct and negative impact on the right of women to have accurate data captured about them in order to inform things like public policy and healthcare planning. The Human Rights Commission seems to understand the importance of this relating to SOGIESC people on page 23 of the PRISM Report, so we ask, 'why not for women?'

“Without the collection of statistics, appropriate budgets cannot be allocated or prioritised to deal with key issues affecting these populations...”

In summary, our meeting confirmed that the Human Rights Commission intends to continue to endorse overriding and replacing sex with 'gender identity' so that women must concede our spaces and rights to any male who at any time declares they are female.

Below we have outlined some of the British statistics and studies regarding transgender people in prison and criminality as per your request. It is deeply disappointing that women are having to provide evidence of this kind. You are asking us to justify why our existing rights should be upheld. The Human Rights Commission should, in our view, be doing due diligence to assess impact and balance before promoting one group over another and should not be advancing an agenda ahead of a change to the law.

Please note that although issues surrounding prison and sports were discussed the most in our meeting, they are not the only or indeed the most important issues facing women regarding gender ideology. Women and girls make up half the world's population and the actions of the Human Rights Commission in disregarding our rights affect every facet of our lives.

The above is our reading of the discussion we had in our meeting on the 1st of December 2020. Please correct or clarify any of the points made if this is not the position of the Human Rights Commission.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Speak Up For Women

Transgender inmate population:

[How many transgender inmates are there?](#) – BBC article

“We submitted Freedom of Information requests to the Ministry of Justice.

It said that 60 of the 125 transgender inmates it counted in England and Wales were serving time for a sexual offence.”

This is nearly half of all transgender inmates and does not include those who have already got a gender recognition certificate. Note the increase of 78.57% in the number of transgender inmates from 2016-2017.

19% of all prisoners are serving time for a sexual offence -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/702297/omsq-q4-2017.pdf

125 transgender inmates in England and Wales between March and April 2017 -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/663390/noms-offender-equalities-annual-report-2016-2017.pdf

70 transgender inmates in England and Wales between March and April 2016 -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/567053/prisoner-transgender-statistics-march-april-2016.pdf

One in 50 prisoners identifies as transgender

[“2% of prisoners in adult male prisons identified themselves as transgender or transsexual” - annual report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons](#)

News article for further context - [One in 50 prisoners identifies as transgender amid concerns inmates are attempting to secure prison perks](#)

Criminality:

“Transwomen are 6 times more likely to commit a crime and 18 times more likely to commit a violent crime compared to female controls.

But transwomen commit crime, including violent crime, at a similar rate as any other males in the general population.”

[Long-Term Follow-Up of Transsexual Persons Undergoing Sex Reassignment Surgery: Cohort Study in Sweden](#)

Type of crime:

“In the absence of official records, a [study](#) was performed in which all the prison inspection reports for all the prisons in England and Wales were searched for information regarding their transgender prisoners. At least 113 trans-identifying male inmates were identified. There were no specific references to trans-identifying females in any report. One hundred trans-identifying males are housed in male prisons. Thirteen have been transferred to women’s prisons. Forty-six trans-identifying males are located in eight male prisons known to almost exclusively house sex offenders. A further 10 trans-identifying males are held in maximum-security category A prisons. **It was therefore concluded that approximately half of the known transgender**

population in prison are either sex offenders and/or highly dangerous prisoners. This study shows that transgender-identifying male inmates, despite identifying and dressing as women, do not exhibit a pattern of criminality in any way similar to that of women. Women exhibit a very low level of sex offending. The male-pattern of criminality observed in this study matches a similar observation by Dhejne *et al.* (2011).” [Fair Play For Women]

See attached image of an OIA which shows that 54% of transgender inmates in New Zealand prisons are convicted of violent or sexual crimes.

3) With respect to the privacy of the individuals involved, please provide information as to the percentage or number of those prisoners according to most serious offence type, as per classification used for the Prison Facts and Statistics, dishonesty, violence, sex offences, drug & anti-social offence, traffic and other.

Please refer to the table below, for information about the most serious offence type for prisoners with a transgender alert, as at the date of your request.

Most Serious Offence	Transgender Alert
Dishonesty	5 15%
Violence	9 27% } 54%
Sexual offences	6 18% }
Drugs	2 6%
Traffic	1 3%
Other	7 21%
Total	33

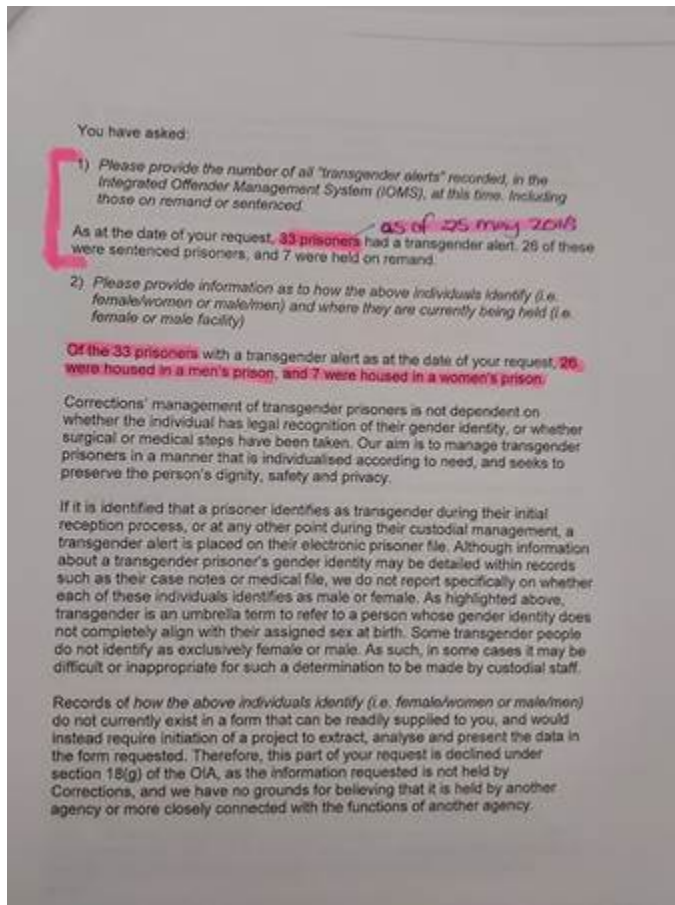
4) Please disclose the number of appeals against prison placement that have been made under section M.03.05 in the Prison Operations Manual, that is, how many transgender people have requested to be moved to a different facility under the Department of Corrections' purview for reasons of sex/gender, since the policy took effect in February 2014.

5) With respect to the privacy of the individuals involved, please also provide the outcomes of those appeals, i.e. the number of successful movements or refusals. I understand that the IOMS records "placement review declined" alerts and "placement review filed" alerts.

6) Please provide information as to where the successful applicants were transferred to, i.e. number of transfers from female to male facility and number of transfers from male to female facility.

7) Please provide information as to where the unsuccessful or ineligible applicants remained, i.e. male or female facility.

20 applications have been made for a review of initial determination of placement, under Corrections' M.03.05 Transgender and intersex prisoner policy. Of these, 18 applications were approved, one was withdrawn and one was pending a decision, as at the date of your request. All applications relate to prisoners who have sought to transfer from a men's prison to a women's prison.



American study – transgender demographics in prison:

“From a male prison population of approximately 130,000 men, a total of 298 trans-identifying males were identified. Sixty-eight of these were sex offenders (20.5%). This was higher than the average rate of sex offenders in prison among all male inmates (14.6%). Similarly, the proportion of trans-identifying males in maximum-security prisons (custody level 4) was higher than the average rate for all male prisoners (32.1 vs 22.8%).”

[WHERE THE MARGINS MEET: A DEMOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT OF TRANSGENDER INMATES IN MEN'S PRISONS*](#)

Risk of 'bad actors':

The risk of prisoners abusing the gender change process was highlighted in two written submissions to the Trans Equality Inquiry held by the Women's and Equality Committee in 2015.

[Written evidence submitted by British Association of Gender Identity Specialists to the Transgender Equality Inquiry](#)

EXCERPT: *“the ever-increasing tide of referrals of patients in prison serving long or indeterminate sentences for serious sexual offences. These vastly outnumber the number of prisoners incarcerated for more ordinary, non-sexual, offences. It has been rather naively suggested that nobody would seek to pretend transsexual status in prison if this were not*

actually the case. There are, to those of us who actually interview the prisoners, in fact very many reasons why people might pretend this. These vary from the opportunity to have trips out of prison through to a desire for a transfer to the female estate (to the same prison as a co-defendant) through to the idea that a parole board will perceive somebody who is female as being less dangerous through to a [false] belief that hormone treatment will actually render one less dangerous through to wanting a special or protected status within the prison system and even (in one very well evidenced case that a highly concerned Prison Governor brought particularly to my attention) a plethora of prison intelligence information suggesting that the driving force was a desire to make subsequent sexual offending very much easier, females being generally perceived as low risk in this regard. I am sure that the Governor concerned would be happy to talk about this."

[Written evidence submitted by British Psychological Society to the Transgender Equality Inquiry](#)

EXCERPT: *"psychologists working with forensic patients are aware of a number of cases where men convicted of sex crimes have falsely claimed to be transgender females for a number of reasons. a) As a means of demonstrating reduced risk and so gaining parole; b) As a means of explaining their sex offending aside from sexual gratification (e.g. wanting to 'examine' young females); c) Or as a means of separating their sex offending self (male) from their future self (female). d) In rare cases, it has been thought that the person is seeking better access to females and young children through presenting in an apparently female way. Such strategies in no way affect risk and indeed may increase it. Some people falsely believe that taking oestrogen and blocking androgen in males will reduce risk of offending, however this is not necessarily the case. Consequently the Society recommends that the Government give appropriate assistance to transgender people within the criminal justice system; while being extremely cautious of setting law and policy such that some of the most dangerous people in society have greater latitude to offend"*

The impact of an increase in trans-identifying males on the women's prison population

The women's prison population is small (just [5%](#) of the total prison population) and their offender profile is very different to that of male prisoners. Most women prisoners have been convicted of non-violent offences ([84%](#)). They are also a vulnerable group, with 46% known to be victims of domestic violence and 54% having histories of childhood trauma including sexual abuse. This vulnerable group of women may be forced to share their living space with male-bodied prisoners with a history of violence and/or sexual crimes. The impact on these women must be assessed. It is important that the rights of transgender people are balanced carefully against the rights of this vulnerable population of women.

Information supplied to the home office by [GIRES](#) (Gender Identity Research and Education Society) suggests that [1%](#) of the UK population identifies as transgender. Based on the current male prisoner population in England and Wales (approximately 80,000), we would therefore expect there to be in the region of 800 trans-identifying males in prison. The lower figure of 125 transgender prisoners published by the MoJ may reflect the inadequate reporting of trans-identifying inmates by prisons or a reluctance among some inmates to disclose that they identify as transgender. In either case, implementation of the proposed reforms to the GRA that will make it easier to become legally female could lead to many hundreds becoming

eligible for transfer to women's prisons. The women's prison population is currently around 4000 prisoners across 12 prisons in England and Wales. If 800 transgender inmates need to be transferred to the female estate this will significantly increase the occupancy of women's prisons and will require the allocation of many more women's prison places. This could be the equivalent of needing an extra two female prisons to accommodate the increase in numbers. It is not only sex-offending males who may self-declare themselves as women under the proposed reforms to the GRA. Any male prisoner, whatever their crime, be it domestic violence against women, murder and torture of women, or any other offence, could self-declare themselves as female and demand to be moved to a female prison. The total number of male-born prisoners becoming eligible for transfer into women's prisons could be very high. **[Fair Play For Women]**

What we want to avoid:

[Ex-prisoner challenges MoJ policy after alleged sexual assault by trans woman](#) – although there was a complaint of sexual assault by a transwomen on a female inmate in Christchurch's women's prison last year. We have been unable to find an outcome of the investigation.

From: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 26 November 2020 5:46 pm

To: Paul Hunt <paulh@hrc.co.nz>

Subject: Re: [REDACTED] (Speak up for Women) meeting with HRC to discuss PRISM report

Kia ora [REDACTED]

I look forward to meeting everyone.

Another of the organisers for Speak Up For Women is now able to attend as well. Her name is [REDACTED]

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Paul Hunt

Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 10:45 am

To: [REDACTED]; Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; Contact Contact

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: [REDACTED] (Speak up for Women) meeting with HRC to discuss PRISM report

When: Tuesday, 1 December 2020 1:00 pm-2:00 pm (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.

Where: [REDACTED] The Human Rights Commission, Level 8, Vector Building, 44-52 The Terrace, Wellington

Tēnā koutou,

Confirming Tuesday 1 December at 1:00pm for a meeting at The Human Rights Commission for [REDACTED] (Spokesperson, Speak Up For Women) to discuss the PRISM Report.

We strive to host inclusive, accessible meetings that enable all individuals to engage fully. If you would like to request an accommodation or have questions about accessibility at The Human Rights Commission, please let me know.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 10:40 am
To: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Subject: RE: A women's rights response to PRISM

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Apologies, I also meant to add that these people from the Human Rights Commission will be attending:

Paul Hunt, Chief Commissioner
Karanina Sumeo, Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner
[REDACTED], Commissioner Services Manager
[REDACTED], Principal Advisor
[REDACTED], Human Rights Advisor

This may change a little, and if it does, I'll let you know.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2020 8:57 am
To: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Subject: RE: A women's rights response to PRISM

Thanks [REDACTED] I'll pop through a calendar invite shortly, ngā mihi, [REDACTED]

From: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 19 November 2020 4:18 pm
To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>
Subject: Re: A women's rights response to PRISM

Yes please thanks [REDACTED] that time works.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 19 November 2020 2:00 pm
To: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Subject: RE: A women's rights response to PRISM

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thanks so much for your flexibility with the timing.

If it works for you, I can confirm 1 to 2pm, on Tuesday the 1st of December. Please let me know if this time is okay, and I'll pop through a calendar invite with our address etc.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

From: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 3:15 pm
To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz
Subject: Re: A women's rights response to PRISM

Thanks [REDACTED]

I'll be coming in by myself, but thank you very much for the offer.

I can move my meetings around so I can do any time next week except for Thursday afternoon if that works?

Otherwise any time the following week works too.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 17 November 2020 1:12 pm
To: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Cc: Paul Hunt <paulh@hrc.co.nz>
Subject: RE: A women's rights response to PRISM

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for giving me your availability, Paul is really looking forward to meeting with you.

Would you like any colleagues to attend along with you? You are very welcome to bring others along, if you could just let me know their names that would be fantastic.

Just a heads up, I'm having a little trouble finding a suitable space in Paul's calendar within those timeframes. If I'm not able to juggle some commitments around, would it be possible to please have your preferences/availabilities for the following week too, just in case?

Ngā mihi,

██████████

From: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Sent: Saturday, 14 November 2020 6:04 pm
To: Paul Hunt <paulh@hrc.co.nz>
Cc: ██████████@hrc.co.nz
Subject: Re: A women's rights response to PRISM

Kia ora Paul and ██████████

Thank you for getting back to me and for the offer to meet to discuss this.
I live in Wellington so am happy to come meet with you in person.

██████████ are you able to give me an idea of some times that would suit on Monday 23rd or Tuesday 24th or the morning of Thursday 26th? I am pretty flexible, but just need to ensure I can take time out of work.

We really appreciate you taking the time to consider our concerns and to meet with me.

Ngā mihi,

██████████

From: Paul Hunt <paulh@hrc.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 13 November 2020 9:33 pm
To: ██████████@hrc.co.nz; Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Subject: RE: A women's rights response to PRISM

Kia ora ██████████

Just to underscore my apologies. It has been a frantic few weeks. Sorry for the delay.

I look forward to discussing with you.

As ██████████ says, please let us know your wishes for face-to-face or zoom and so on.

Once we have nailed down a day, time and mode, we can discuss how best use the time together.

For now, have a good weekend.

Mauri ora,
Paul

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 13 November 2020 5:05 pm
To: 'Contact Contact' <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Cc: Paul Hunt <paulh@hrc.co.nz>
Subject: RE: A women's rights response to PRISM

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Paul asked me to pass on his sincere apologies for the delay in responding, he is very keen to meet with you.

Would it be acceptable to meet at some point in the week beginning 23 November? Do you have a preference for meeting face to face in our Wellington office, or by Zoom?

Please let me know which days or times are best for you and we can get a meeting time scheduled in.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 30 October 2020 12:07 pm
To: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Subject: RE: A women's rights response to PRISM

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your substantial submission. We are reading it carefully and giving full consideration, and will get back to you as soon as we can.

Ngā mihi,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 October 2020 4:30 pm
To: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>
Subject: RE: A women's rights response to PRISM

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

On behalf of the Chief Commissioner Paul Hunt, I acknowledge receipt of your email. We will respond as soon as possible.

Ngā mihi,

From: Contact Contact <contact@speakupforwomen.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 22 October 2020 10:33 am

To: Paul Hunt <paulh@hrc.co.nz>

Subject: A women's rights response to PRISM

Kia ora Mr Paul Hunt,

I write to you on the behalf of the women's rights organisation Speak Up For Women.

The organisation has serious concerns about the PRISM Report recently released by the Human Rights Commission. We ask that you withdraw and rework the report. I have attached a document outlining the main issues.

In our opinion, the report misrepresents existing human rights law, both in New Zealand and internationally, and the report is a failing of the Human Rights Commission to live up to the following of its statutory obligations and stated goals:

- *Encourage the maintenance and development of harmonious relations between individuals and among the diverse groups in New Zealand society.*
- *Challenging breaches of human rights by voicing opposition and demanding change.*
- *Standing with and supporting those whose human rights have been violated.*
- *Brokering evidence-informed human rights solutions.*
- *Holding government and business to account for respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights for all people in Aotearoa New Zealand.*
- *Urging Government and all those in positions of power and influence to demonstrate human rights leadership in practice in a global context.*

Women's rights are being routinely dismissed in New Zealand and we would expect that we could turn to the Human Rights Commission, however the PRISM report indicates that the HRC is an active participant in the preferencing of one group over another.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss our concerns in person with you. These issues can only be worked through with productive discussion that allows for the voices of all stakeholders.

We do intend to make our response public so our supporters can engage in the discussion, however we wanted to give you an opportunity to read it first and respond. We are seeking solutions and sincerely hope that the Human Rights Commission will support the protection of women's rights and spaces.

Thank you for reading our response to the PRISM Report. I hope to hear from you soon.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Spokeswoman, Speak Up For Women NZ



HRC Response to
PRISM_SUFW Letter!

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 7:16:05 PM
To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>
Subject: Re: Request for meeting with EEO Commissioner

Dear [REDACTED]

That works for me

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 8:06:53 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Request for meeting with EEO Commissioner

Morning [REDACTED]
Can you do 9.30-10.30am rather?
Thanks

[REDACTED]


From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2020 1:53 am
To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Request for meeting with EEO Commissioner

Dear [REDACTED]

Is 26th May at 10am still available? If so that would be best for me

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz]
Sent: 14 May 2020 19:38
To: [REDACTED]
Subject:  RE: Request for meeting with EEO Commissioner

Kia ora [REDACTED]


Thank you for your reply.

Unfortunately, that time slot is no longer available.

I'm assuming none of the other times work, so here are some other options:
26/05 any time from 10am-12pm or any time from 1.30-4pm
29/05 @ 11am-12pm

Hoping one of these work for you.

Ngā mihi nui
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2020 5:32 am
To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject:  RE: Request for meeting with EEO Commissioner

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

Please may we set the meeting for 21/05 at 10-11am

Best wishes
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz]
Sent: 12 May 2020 20:37
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Request for meeting with EEO Commissioner

Kia ora [REDACTED]

I am EEO Commissioner, Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo's PA and would like to follow up on your request to meet with her. Thank you for the introduction, [REDACTED]

Saunoamaali'i is available to meet with you via skype on any of the following days:

20/05 @ 2-3pm or 2.30-3.30pm
21/05 @ 10-11am or 11am-12pm

Please let me know whether any of these date suits you and I'll send a calendar invite.

Ngā mihi nui

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 12 May 2020 10:22 pm
To: [REDACTED] Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo
<KaraninaS@hrc.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Introduction

Thank you for the introduction, [REDACTED]

Dear Dr Karanina Sumeo

It is a privilege to be introduced to you. My area of expertise is international human rights law, including women's rights and rights of sexual orientation and gender identity minorities, and I would be delighted to speak by phone, skype or email about whether or how I might be able to use that expertise to assist with your work in this area.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 May 2020 22:35
To: [REDACTED] KaraninaS@hrc.co.nz
Subj: Introduction

Dear [REDACTED]

I'm emailing to introduce you to Dr Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo, the Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner at New Zealand's Human Rights Commission. Karanina is interested in protecting and advancing women's rights, alongside improving life for transgender people. I know this is a focus of the work you do and we're grateful to the time you have

generously spent with the feminists of New Zealand. Thank you for offering to speak with Karanina about this evolving issue.

I'm proud to be part of such a strong international network of compassionate, intelligent and resilient women. Kia Kaha!

Karanina, [REDACTED]. I'll leave it with you two to get in touch directly.

All the best,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2020 3:48 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Meeting Request from EEO Commissioner

Hi [REDACTED]

That's great. I'll send through a meeting invite with address details shortly.

Ngā mihi nui

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 21 January 2020 3:20 pm
To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Meeting Request from EEO Commissioner

Hi [REDACTED]

Speak Up For Women would like to confirm that meeting time for 11am Wednesday, 5 February.

[REDACTED] will be attending and is looking forward to meeting Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo and [REDACTED]. Unfortunately I couldn't change my work appointments that day so will give my apologies.

Many thanks

[REDACTED]

On 20/01/2020, at 9:45 AM, [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz> wrote:

That would be great, thanks.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 20 January 2020 9:30 am
To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz
Subject: Re: Meeting Request from EEO Commissioner

I'll check with my work calendar and get back to you tomorrow.


On 20/01/2020, at 9:27 AM, [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz> wrote:

Unfortunately [REDACTED] doesn't work on Fridays and only till 2pm on Wednesdays.

Could you please identify some other dates in Feb and times that would work for both of you?

Thanks

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent:  nday, 20 January 2020 8:52 am
To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>
Subject: Re: Meeting Request from EEO Commissioner

Hi [REDACTED]

I work on Wednesday mornings - is there any time that is available in the afternoon?

Regards

[REDACTED]

On 20/01/2020, at 8:50 AM, [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz> wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED]


I hope you are well and had a lovely weekend.

No problem re bringing [REDACTED] with you. How does Wednesday, 5 February work for you both to come to our office from 11-11.30am?

If this works for you, I'll send a calendar invite with our address.

Ngā mihi nui

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent:  ay, 17 January 2020 5:05 pm
To: [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz>
Subject: Re: Meeting Request from EEO Commissioner

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for the invitation to meet with the EEO Commissioner.

I would also like to bring along another member of the SUFW [REDACTED], to the meeting. We are both based in Auckland so meeting in the city would be fine.

Unfortunately I cannot make that time on 19/02 as I work Wednesday mornings but can meet in the afternoon eg 2pm onwards. We are also free all day Friday.

Regards

[REDACTED]

SUFW

On 16/01/2020, at 11:35 AM, [REDACTED]@hrc.co.nz> wrote:

Kia ora [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has provided your contact details as I would like to request a meeting for you to meet with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner, Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo her and her Senior Advisor, [REDACTED]

The purpose of the meeting is for the HRC to get to know the Speak Up for Women group and understand what they see as key human rights issues for women - in Aotearoa, in the Pacific and globally.

Would you be available to meet on 19/02 any time from 9.30am to 12pm? Where are you based?

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Ngā mihi nui

[REDACTED]