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NCWNZ launches website and public forum to mark White Ribbon Day

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) will be launching their new website on the 26th of November, 2009 at Parliament. The launch will be hosted by Hon Pansy Wong, Minister of Women's Affairs, and marks *White Ribbon Day* and the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence* with the simultaneous launch of an online discussion forum to support all those speaking out against domestic violence.

NCWNZ has collaborated with *Women's Refuge* on the first online discussion topic on **Domestic Violence in New Zealand** that will run during the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence* ending on the 10th of December (Human Rights Day).

In the future the forum will continue to be used to engage both men and women in discussions on a variety of topics and the information will be analysed based on the generational differences. It provides an opportunity for all New Zealanders to have their say on current issues that affect women, the family and the community.

"We're hoping that we'll get comments and feedback from people from all walks of life right across the country," said Elizabeth Bang, NCWNZ National President. "This will give us a greater understanding of how we can move forward on these important issues in a way that reflects the views of a wide range of New Zealanders."

The website contains a wealth of new information and features including;

- information about the history of NCWNZ and the current work of the Council,
- information about the membership, and the multitude of ways that individuals and organisations to contribute to the organisation,
- updates on a variety of issues that the Council is working on,
- the latest actions, campaigns, submissions and events,
- electronic resources,
- a secure *Member's Only Area*, and
- the *Generations Public Forum*.

"The new website showcases the long history of the Council and the work we do. It provides an important platform for us to communicate key messages and consult with our membership and the wider public," said Elizabeth Bang.

The website will be available from 3pm on the 26th of November. Show you're against violence towards women by joining the forum and answering the following questions:

It is estimated that one in three New Zealand women will experience violence in her lifetime.

1. Have you, or anyone you know been affected by domestic violence?
2. What are the contributing factors in a relationship that can cause one partner to become violent?

Reported domestic violence incidents rose by 13% in the last year in New Zealand.

3. What do you think is driving this increase?
4. How do you think that we can dramatically reduce domestic violence in this country?

View the website at <http://www.ncwnz.org.nz>

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"Women Influencing Policy"