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**UN Commission opportunity to express women's concerns**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand congratulates the Minister of Women's Affairs, Hon Pansy Wong, for her statement to the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York last week.

NCWNZ shares the concern expressed in the statement in regards to violence against women, unequal pay and employment opportunities, and the lack of women in leadership positions in New Zealand.

This year's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) marked the fifteen year anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, established to advance the goals of equality, development and peace for all women everywhere in the interest of all humanity.

"New Zealand has shown a strong commitment to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and can be proud of the progress made over the last fifteen years. Looking forward, we must all work together to combat the remaining gender inequalities that exist in New Zealand," says Elizabeth Bang, NCWNZ National President.

The record turnout of 9,000 participants to the fifty-fourth Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a clear sign of the importance of women's empowerment the world over.

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