



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera  
Wahine O Aotearoa

**National Office**

Level 4 Central House  
26 Brandon Street  
PO Box 25-498  
Wellington 6146  
(04) 473 76 23  
office@ncwnz.org.nz  
www.ncwnz.org.nz

10 February 2017

Hon. Michael Woodhouse  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

Dear Hon. Michael Woodhouse,

Domestic and family violence is at epidemic levels in New Zealand costing the economy an estimated \$8 billion a year. This is not ok. We are writing to urge you to support MP Jan Logie's Domestic Violence Victims' Protection Bill (Supporting victims of domestic violence) at its first reading on Wednesday so that it can go to Select Committee.

Among other provisions, the Bill proposes that people affected by family violence should be able to take up to 10 days' leave. This will help them move house, attend court hearings and meet with lawyers.

**Put simply: this Bill will save lives.** It will make it easier for people to leave violent relationships and stay in employment. It will also keep victims safe at work from their abusers.

We acknowledge the government has taken action on domestic violence but more needs to be done. This legislation acknowledges that violence at home also impacts the workplace. There is research to suggest that businesses benefit financially and in other ways when they support their staff. Supporting victims of violence is the right thing for employers to do.

If you and your colleagues support this Bill, it can be heard at select committee. There, we can debate its effectiveness and the best way to support victims of family violence in the workplace.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rae Duff'.

Rae Duff ONZM  
President, National Council of Women of New Zealand

Supported by:



Human Rights Commission  
*Te Kāhui Tika Tangata*

Dr Jackie Blue  
Equal Employment Opportunities  
Commissioner



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National Collective of Independent  
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