



In support of

# HeForShe

UN Women Solidarity Movement  
for Gender Equality

**Richard Wagstaff**

**NZ Council of Trade Unions President**

I am proud to be here as a He for She champion.

I was lucky enough to grow up with two wonderful sisters and through them I learnt that things are not right for girls and women as they stand – they are not and have not been getting a fair go.

Now I have two wonderful daughters and I want things to be better for them.

The union movement has a history of and is deeply committed to standing up for social justice and what could be more fundamental to social justice than gender equality?

We have been especially active lately on issues very much concerned with gender equality including:

Raising awareness of domestic violence and promoting the place of work as a major factor in better supporting victims of domestic violence. We have picked up on the good work done by Australian unions on this and sought employment protections in Collective Agreements for this purpose.

We have also been busy negotiating with the crown proper pay and conditions for the home support industry workforce who are overwhelmingly women, and who have not been properly paid for their time travelling between clients. This work was kicked off in part by the Human Rights Commission whose 'caring counts' report raised the issues of unfairness. Now this workforce of 28 thousand people will become regularised, trained and better paid.

And of course we have been negotiating with the crown after the success of the Equal Pay Case where unions supported Christine Bartlett who worked for Terrenova. This was enforcing legislation that is over 40 years old and the courts found what we all know – women are discriminated against and not paid properly.

So I'm proud to be here and I pledge to promote and support gender equality within the NZ union movement.

Thanks