



30 January 2019

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Julie Anne Genter  
Finance and Expenditure Committee  
Wellington  
E-mail: [fe@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:fe@parliament.govt.nz)

**Re: Budget Policy Statement 2019**

Dear Prime Minister,

The New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women has read the Budget Policy Statement 2019 for which public submissions are now being called. While we strongly applaud the Government's intention and commitment to embed wellbeing into the development and evaluation of fiscal policy we are concerned on how the budget has been developed for the country. It appears that no public consultations mechanisms have been undertaken.

The Statement has no gender lens, no reference to the Sustainable Development Goals if we are to 'leave no one behind', and no opportunity for consultations. The statement further makes no mention on the need to strengthen financing for gender equality and improved transparent and participatory consultations, ensuring the Budget Policy Statement is informed and engaged in decision-making processes across civil society's activities.

Wellbeing was a significant discussion point during your trip to Europe, where you met with several world leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

By valuing wellbeing, people need to be placed at the centre of policy-making, which in turn, can improve economic growth. As wellbeing takes hold, the need for Government leadership on women's rights is a must. This includes improvement needed to incorporate better civil society voices working on gender issues, including in the highest policy forums. Supporting women's civil society voices also includes the New Zealand Government showing leadership and their commitments to champion these issues within the Sustainable Development Goals and existing United Nations human rights frameworks.

A focus on wellbeing, should ideally direct attention to women and girls, New Zealand's National Plan of Action and alignment with all the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations.



There is much to establish the most effective approach to working together, and BPW NZ is ready to contribute in any way that it can. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss with you how this may be done to further these goals in New Zealand's interests.

Kind regards,

On behalf of  
New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Hellen Swales'.

Hellen Swales  
President  
027 528 6799  
[President@bpwnz.org.nz](mailto:President@bpwnz.org.nz)