



New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women Inc

Whakaminenga Wahine o Aotearoa kua whiwhi Tohu

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Liquor Project Coordinator
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SUBMISSION TO THE LAW COMMISSION: ALCOHOL IN OUR LIVES

The **New Zealand Federation of Graduate** (formerly University) **Women (NZFGW)** has approximately 1500 members in its branches nationwide. Formed in 1921, it is affiliated to the Geneva-based **International Federation of University Women (IFUW)**. Since its founding in 1921 (as NZFUW), NZFGW has established a strong record of active involvement in social, economic and educational issues at the national level and internationally through the IFUW which holds Official Observer status at UNESCO.

We support and applaud the overall direction of the Law Commission's proposals and believe that it has implications for the ongoing education for young people which is a major concern for our organisation.

New Zealand's heavy drinking culture is being driven by aggressive marketing of alcohol, including the constant deluge of clever advertising and strategic sponsorship. To reduce harmful drinking it is important to stop this 'alcohol marketing machine'. This aspect is described in the "5+ Solution" to the national alcohol crisis which NZFGW heartily endorse.

In relation to our organisation's aims to 'improve the status of girls and women' we have 2 concerns that are backed up with research:

- Woman are becoming increasingly affected by excessive alcohol consumption.
- Alcohol affects women's bodies in various ways which ranges from an impact on the immune system to affecting unborn babies.

We believe that women have the right to know about the impact of alcohol on their bodies. Advertising that provides half truths is misleading and irresponsible. This potentially harmful information should be replaced with science-based information so that women can make intelligent decisions.

Linda Robertson
Public Affairs Convenor
The New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW)