

## Green Party Response to Women's Election Agenda 2014

	WEAA Position	Green Party Position
Violence against women	<p>1. Provide the police with adequate resources to enforce protection orders and require police to act on all complaints of protection order breaches; and provide both the police and Family and District Court judges with further and more comprehensive training about domestic violence.</p>	<p>The Green Party will ensure that Police and the Courts are adequately resourced, with respect to both finance and training, to implement the provisions of the Domestic Violence Act 1995.</p>
	<p>2. Write into the <i>Domestic Violence Act 1995</i> a prohibition on discharges without conviction for breaches of protection orders and amend the <i>Sentencing Act 2002</i> to provide that domestic violence is an aggravating factor.</p>	<p>The Green Party does not have a specific policy position on the issues of discharges without conviction for breaches of protection orders or amending the Sentencing Act 2002 to provide that domestic violence is an aggravating factor. The Green Party supports Courts having the ability to sentence appropriately to the facts of each particular case. With that said we are looking closely at this. We believe victims need assurance that orders will work, and we've seen the terrible consequences of the court minimising breaches that they deemed minor.</p>
	<p>3. Implement the recommendations in all of the reports of the Family Violence Death Review Committee.</p>	<p>The recommendations of the Family Violence Death Review Committee are evidence based and consistent with Green Party policy. The Green Party therefore supports their implementation.</p>
	<p>4. Implement an integrated response to domestic violence modelled on that of the Victorian Government which has made a sustained effort to</p>	<p>The Green Party supports an integrated approach to addressing domestic violence including both Government agencies and NGO agencies and service providers.</p>

	ensure that departments, agencies and service providers both within and outside government work together.	
	5. Introduce comprehensive education programmes in both primary and secondary schools to teach boys respect for women and girls, educate boys about alternatives to violence and teach them to value gender equality.	The Green Party will increase educational and training programmes to deal with attitudes and behaviours that result in violence, including non-violent conflict resolution programmes in schools for both boys and girls.
	6. Introduce education programmes in schools to teach girls about intimate partner violence and the warning signs of power and control by male partners.	Yes, and the Greens propose that schools and early childhood services have policies, practices, resources and programmes to create a whole school culture that is inclusive, and supports the identification and elimination of prejudice, racism, bullying, intimidation, and violence.
	7. Provide specific resources to the Ministry of Social Development to support women and children to escape permanently from violent relationships, instead of being forced to remain in or return to violent situations because of financial constraints.	The Green Party will abolish the work-testing requirements for sole parents that make it more difficult for women with children to permanently leave violent relationships and ensure that the Ministry of Social Development is adequately resourced and develops an appropriate culture to support women leaving violent relationships.
	8. Extend the Safer Homes in New Zealand Everyday programme throughout Aotearoa so that domestic violence victims and their children can remain in	The Green Party supports the safe@home and hopes that it can be extended to provide a nationwide service. If Government funding is required to ensure this the Greens in Government would look favourably upon its provision.

	their homes.	
	9. Provide specific education to judges and lawyers about the Court of Appeal’s decision in <i>Surrey v Surrey</i> [2010] NZFLR 1 and ensure that the correct test of “necessity” under section 14(1) of the Domestic Violence Act 1995 is applied in relation to protection order applications.	The Green Party is conscious of the need to maintain the independence of the Judiciary from the Executive, and therefore in Government would be reluctant to interfere in judicial matters. However, the Green Party will commit in Government to monitor Court decision to ensure that the correct test of necessity under section 14 of the Domestic Violence Act 1995 is being applied and if it found to not be being applied to remedial action and if necessary legislate to ensure the necessity test is more clearly set out in the Domestic Violence Act 1995. We are also testing the idea of an accreditation system for everyone involved in the family court.
	10. Family Violence Courts are to cease applying a therapeutic approach to domestic violence and instead focus on the safety of women and children.	The Green Party believes the primary consideration of Government agencies should always be the safety of the victims of domestic violence and we are currently considering what policy and systems might help achieve that result.
	11. Amend the <i>Care of Children Act 2004</i> to specify that domestic violence is a key factor in determining the welfare and best interests of children and reinstate the recently-repealed sections providing that there should be no unsupervised contact with children when there has been domestic violence.	The Green Party supports domestic violence being a primary consideration in determining the welfare and best interests of children and will support legislative amendments to ensure this.
	12. Amend the <i>Care of Children Act 2004</i> to state that the two most important factors for children’s well-	The Green Party agrees that the maintenance of children’s relationships with their primary caregiver and minimising children’s exposure to inter-parental conflict are two of the most

	<p>being post-separation are maintaining their relationships with their primary caregivers and minimising their exposure to inter-parental conflict; to provide that an assumption of shared parenting is not New Zealand law; and to state that all allegations of domestic violence are to be treated seriously and to be investigated, rather than being dismissed as examples of “parental alienation” by mothers making the allegations.</p>	<p>important factors for ensuring the well-being of children post-separation and will support legislative amendments to ensure this is reflected in the law. The Green Party does not support any legislative presumption in favour of shared parenting. The Green Party will promote the resourcing and culture of CYFS and the Police ensuring all allegations of domestic violence are treated seriously and investigated adequately. We are also testing the idea of an accreditation system for everyone involved in the family court to ensure all practitioners are using the best evidence.</p>
	<p>13. Provide adequate, permanent and sustainable funding for sexual violence and domestic violence services.</p>	<p>The Green Party supports providing secure financial support for agencies that provide safe houses and refuge for women and children in violent relationships and for victim/survivors of sexual violence.</p>
	<p>14. Provide adequate funding for immediate access to counselling by women and child survivors of domestic violence and conduct research into the effectiveness of stopping violence programmes provided to male perpetrators of domestic violence.</p>	<p>The Green Party supports the provision of immediate and free counselling and support and support for victims of domestic violence. The Green Party supports stopping violence programmes provided to male perpetrators of domestic violence which can be demonstrated to be effective. We will ensure they are regularly evaluated and that there are lines of accountability for attendees back to their (previous) partners.</p>
	<p>15. Provide permanent, adequate funding to Women’s Refuges throughout Aotearoa.</p>	<p>The Green Party supports providing permanent and adequate funding for Women’s Refuges.</p>
	<p>16. Provide women-only mental health services for</p>	<p>The Green Party proposes that women with mental health and</p>

	women with mental health and drug and alcohol issues relating to domestic violence.	drug and alcohol issues relating to domestic violence should be enabled to engage only with female health practitioners if that is their choice, and such women should be informed that they have this choice.
	17. Fully implement by 2017 all of the recommendations of the Ministry of Justice's report <i>Te Toiora Mata Tauherenga, Report of the Taskforce on Sexual Violence 2009</i> .	The Green Party supports fully implementing the recommendations of the Ministry of Justice's report <i>Te Toiora Mata Tauherenga, Report of the Taskforce on Sexual Violence 2009</i> . Without more detailed research into progress to date the Green Party cannot commit to an implementation date but commits to ensuring this occurs as soon as is practicable.
	18. Action by 2017 all of the recommendations in <i>From "Real Rape" to Real Justice: Prosecuting Rape in New Zealand</i> and provide the Law Commission with resources to complete its work on alternative trial processes, with a commitment from political parties to implement the recommendations of the final report by 2017.	The Green Party supports fully implementing the recommendations in <i>From "Real Rape" to Real Justice: Prosecuting Rape in New Zealand</i> and providing the Law Commission with resources to complete its work on alternative trial processes. Without more detailed research into progress to date the Green Party cannot commit to an implementation date but commits to ensuring this occurs as soon as is practicable.
	19. Reinstate six free counselling sessions through the Family Court to ensure that as many cases as possible concerning contact with children and which do not involve domestic violence are resolved at an early stage and by way of decisions of the parents, rather than by judges imposing decisions.	The Green Party supports the reinstatement of at least six free counselling sessions through the Family Court to ensure that as many cases as possible concerning care for and contact with children that do not involve domestic violence are resolved at an early stage and by way of decisions of the parents rather than judicially imposed decisions.

	<p>20. Reverse legal aid cuts and ensure that legal aid is available to those on low incomes and require the Ministry of Justice to prepare and implement a plan to ensure that lawyers and legal aid are available to domestic violence victims throughout Aotearoa.</p>	<p>The Green Party strongly opposed the National Government's cuts to legal aid and when in Government will reverse those cuts to ensure that legal aid is available to those on low incomes and require the Ministry of Justice to prepare and implement a plan to ensure that lawyers and legal aid are available to domestic violence victims throughout Aotearoa.</p>
Benefits	<p>21. Introduce a universal basic income by 2020 and, in the interim, increase the level of benefit support provided to single parents to a sustainable level by reversing the 1991 benefit cuts, tying benefits to a figure which covers a basket of basic needs as is the case in Sweden, and indexing payments to wages.</p>	<p>The Green Party supports a full and wide-ranging public debate on the nature of Universal Basic Income (UBI) and Government funding for detailed studies of the impacts of UBI. The Green Party in Government will investigate the implementation of a UBI for every New Zealander. We agree income support needs to be set above poverty levels.</p>
	<p>22. Amend the <i>Social Security Act 1964</i> to provide that its primary objective is to provide a liveable income to those who are not in work, with a "liveable income" being defined as one which enables an individual or family to provide for all the necessities of life and to participate fully in the community.</p>	<p>The Green Party will ensure greater emphasis on sufficiency, simplicity, and universality within the income support system. To that end the Green Party supports repealing the much amended, complex and cumbersome <i>Social Security Act 1964</i>, and replacing it with a new and clearly written Social Security Act which includes the principle that social security is to enable individuals and families to both provide for all the necessities of life and to participate fully in the community.</p>
	<p>23. Amend the <i>Social Security Act 1964</i> to make the welfare and best interests of children a primary consideration in developing and administering laws</p>	<p>The Green Party supports repealing the much amended, complex and cumbersome <i>Social Security Act 1964</i>, and replacing it with a new and clearly written Social Security Act, including the principle that the welfare and best interests of children is to be a primary consideration in administering laws</p>

	and policies relating to benefits.	and policies relating to welfare benefits.
	<p>24. Carry out an independent and comprehensive review of the way in which the Ministry of Social Development, through Work and Income New Zealand, administers benefits and provide detailed recommendations for changes to ensure that all benefit recipients receive the full entitlements provided by law and are treated with dignity and respect at all times and that staff failing to provide full benefit entitlements to recipients are sanctioned.</p>	<p>The Green Party is concerned that the culture of the Ministry of Social Development's Work and Income service appears to be one of saving the Government money, rather than ensuring full and correct entitlement. The Green Party therefore supports a comprehensive review of the administrative practices and culture of Work and Income with view to ensuring beneficiaries receive full and correct entitlement and are treated with dignity and respect. The Green Party believes that to ensure such a culture change with in Work and Income, staff who deliberately or negligently fail to meet these expectations should be subject to disciplinary action. The systems also need to change to support staff to deliver on this.</p>
	<p>25. The investigation and prosecution of alleged benefit fraud is to be placed in the hands of an independent Commissioner and the Ministry of Social Development is to be required to reimburse people on benefits when their benefits have been unlawfully stopped or reduced.</p>	<p>The Green Party does not have a specific policy regarding the particular agency which should be responsible for investigation and prosecution of alleged benefit fraud. In Government the Green Party will ensure that Work and Income reimburses any beneficiary whose benefit is unlawfully or improperly stopped or reduced.</p>
	<p>26. Amend the law to provide that mothers are not to be imprisoned following convictions for benefit fraud.</p>	<p>The Green Party does not have a specific policy regarding imprisonment of mothers for benefit fraud. However, the Green Party recognises that much benefit fraud is motivated either by financial necessity or by duress, and considers that imprisonment should be used as a penalty only in the most extreme cases such as multiple identity fraud.</p>
	<p>27. Review benefit abatement rates and alter them so</p>	<p>The Green Party is committed to address the problem of benefit</p>

	that high marginal tax rates no longer apply for people on benefits moving into paid employment.	abatement for those moving into employment, and removing the poverty trap created by high marginal tax rates that exist for people on low incomes receiving an abated benefit.
	28. Abolish the Ministry of Social Development's Benefit Review Committees and establish a fully independent process for reviewing the ministry's decisions.	The Green Party supports the abolition of Benefits Review Committees and their replacement with a review process with is independent of the Ministry of Social Development to consider applications for review when benefit applicants or beneficiaries are dissatisfied with a decision of the Ministry's Work and Income service.
	29. Insert into the <i>Social Security Act 1964</i> a legal presumption that mothers receiving benefits and who are convicted of benefit fraud will not be required to repay the sum if this would take longer than 12 months, thereby recognising that very large debts prevent the women from moving into the workforce and in fact penalise children as much – or more – than mothers.	The Green Party is concerned that repayment of large benefit overpayments, whether they result from fraud or unintentional error on the part of the beneficiary, causes financial hardship for children of the beneficiaries concerned. However, the Green Party has not yet developed a policy response to this issue.
	30. Encourage women on benefits to study and provide financial support for them to gain qualifications, rather than cutting benefits for mothers who engage in study.	The Green Party will reinstate the Training Incentive Allowance for tertiary courses, including post-graduate courses, as an encouragement for sole parents to undertake study that can move them into permanent and secure employment at a living wage.
The workforce	31. Extend paid parental leave from 14 to 26 weeks and increase payment levels to 100 per cent of the average male wage.	The Green Party proposes to extend the period of paid parental leave to a total of 13 months, in line with the Families Commission recommendations of September 2007, and increase the level of payments to 100% of the average male wage.

	<p>32. Implement pay equity and commit to abolishing the gender pay gap by 2020, with the Living Wage to be implemented immediately for all workers and a Pay and Employment Equity Commission to be established.</p>	<p>The Green Party proposes to legislate to progress pay and employment equity. This will work towards a mechanism for employers to undertake pay audits, for employers to report on pay and employment equity in all sectors and make it a breach of good faith for an employer to refuse to modify or eliminate pay rates or practices that continue an inequity.</p> <p>The Green Party will also establish a Pay and Employment Equity Commission. This commission will collect, collate and analyse data on pay and employment equity, educate and inform employers and employees on pay equity and report annual progress on reducing the gender and ethnicity pay gap.</p> <p>We will fund Ministries to deliver equal pay.</p> <p>We are pleased that the employment court has ruled our Equal pay Act applies to work of equal value as it was always intended. If after appeals this ruling is overturned we will amend the Equal Pay Act to make it consistent with current employment legislation and clarify that it includes the 'principle of equal remuneration for men and women workers for work of equal value' as set out in ILO convention 100 on Equal Remuneration.</p>
	<p>33. Require all organisations applying for and obtaining government contracts to have in place policies to promote diversity in their workplaces and to ensure that their organisations have 50 per cent female leaders by 2020</p>	<p>The Green Party will implement policies to promote workplace diversity and improve gender balance in workplace leadership roles.</p>
	<p>34. Ensure that flexible working hours are actually available in reality to parents in the workforce and that parents who make use of flexible working hours</p>	<p>The Green Party initiated the flexible working hours legislation and in Government will ensure it is being fairly administered by employers and that employees are not discriminated against for</p>

	do not suffer discrimination and lack of promotion.	requesting or making use of flexible working hours provisions. WE also have a members bill to create workplace protections for victims of domestic violence that will provide for flexible working arrangements including hours for victims.
	35. Conduct a comprehensive survey of New Zealand workplaces to provide statistics about the numbers of male and female leaders in workplaces and develop and implement a detailed strategy to significantly increase the number of female leaders in the workplace by 2020 and to remove barriers to women's advancement in the workplace.	The Greens in Government will develop a strategy to remove the barriers to women's advancement in the workplace and significantly increase the number of women in workplace leadership roles.
	36. Provide funding to extend the availability of safe and high-quality childcare.	The Greens will provide funding to extend the availability of safe and high-quality childcare, including the re-establishment of the target of 100% qualified staff and improvement in child / teacher ratios, with a priority for under 2's.
	37. Research and implement detailed steps to encourage child-friendly workplaces.	The Green Party will encourage a child-friendly culture in workplaces, businesses and public places wherever possible, including facilities to allow mothers to breastfeed.
	38. Make full employment Aotearoa's key goal and take steps to ensure that workers have permanent, full time work by halting the on-going casualisation of the workforce.	The Green Party has a policy objective of full employment – i.e. a situation where there is sufficient paid work for all those who require it. The Greens reject the idea that economic stability requires either a significant level of unemployment or a low-level of protection for those in employment. The Greens will implement employment relations policies that encourage collective bargaining, thereby reducing casualisation of the workforce.

	39. Provide funding for women to complete apprenticeships and introduce incentives to encourage women into male-dominated industries.	The Green Party proposes to raise the current caps on age and numbers of apprentices. The Greens will also encourage and support women to take programmes in which they are currently under represented and undertake research into the barriers to women's participation in programmes such as science, maths and engineering.
	40. Abolish the 90 day trial period and youth wages.	The Green Party proposes to abolish the 90 day “fire at will” trial period and to abolish the discriminatory “starting out” youth rates of the minimum wage.
	41. Offer education and mentoring to women seeking to establish their own businesses.	The Green Party proposes to assist motivated people with entrepreneurial talent on income support to set up their own small business by increasing access to the Enterprise Allowance at adequate levels and in all geographic localities and supporting and expanding the availability of employment resource centres, small business support groups and similar organisations which work to train, mentor and support people going into self-employment, small business, co-operative and community-owned enterprise
Parenting	42. Introduce a Universal Child Benefit, comprising a non-income tested, non-transferable payment made to the primary caregiver.	The Green Party proposes to introduce a Universal Child Benefit which is not income tested and is paid to the primary caregiver. It also proposes that this benefit can be capitalised to assist first home buyers with raising a deposit should they choose.
	43. Extend the Working For Families package to all families, regardless of whether or not the parents are in paid work.	The Green Party will extend the Working For Families package to remove all discriminatory policies and provide the same level of support to children regardless of whether their parents are in the workforce or on a benefit

	44. Provide support to parents in the first year of a child's life, including making additional funding available to Plunket to ensure that all children can be visited regularly in the first year of their lives.	The Green Party will provide additional support for parents in the first year of each child's life. The greens will review and increase resourcing of programmes such as Plunket to ensure that every child is seen regularly in their first months of life.
	45. Provide funding to for counselling and single mothers' support groups.	The Green Party will ensure counselling services for single mothers and single mothers' support groups are adequately funded.
	46. Ensure that parenting is recognised as an important and demanding job and recognise the contribution that single parents make to Aotearoa, including by an education campaign to inform the public about the difficulties faced by single parents and the way in which public stigma undermines their role and makes their lives more difficult.	The Green Party wants to see parenting and community and voluntary work measured and valued in our national accounts and also in the way we support women and families in our communities, including the destigmatisation of sole parenthood. In Government the Greens will work to achieve this.
	47. Do not separate mothers and babies when jail terms are being considered for women convicted of offences.	The Green Party introduced legislation to make it easier for imprisoned mothers of young babies to keep their babies with them in prison. The Greens believe that the separation of babies from mothers who are imprisoned or facing a likely sentence of imprisonment should only occur when such separation is necessary for the welfare and well-being of the baby concerned.
	48. Extend education programmes for mothers in schools.	The Green Party in Government will support mothers' programmes in schools and other educational institutions.

Child support	49. Reverse the changes to child support laws which were due to be implemented on 1 April 2014 and have now been delayed until 1 April 2015.	The Green Party led the opposition in Parliament to the Child Support Amendment Act 2013 and in Government proposes to repeal its iniquitous provisions. The Greens will review and reform the Child Support Act to ensure that the well-being of children becomes the core principle underpinning child support legislation.
Housing	50. Make the provision of adequate, healthy housing for all New Zealanders a government priority, including by introducing a legal requirement for all rental houses to have warrants of fitness and providing funding for inspections to ensure that this law is complied with.	The Green Party has proposed a Warrant of Fitness scheme for rental housing. Rentals will be required to meet insulation, weather-tightness, and basic service standards. A rental will be required to offer “fully serviceable” accommodation, including heating, hot and cold tap water, toilet, a shower or a bath tub, electricity and a stove
	51. Draw up and then implement a detailed plan setting out how to provide enough houses and make them financially affordable so that all New Zealand families have a realistic prospect of purchasing their own homes.	<p>The Green Party proposes Progressive Home Ownership, under which the Crown builds houses and families enter into an agreement with the Crown for their Progressive Ownership home. Initially, the Crown owns all the equity in the home. The family makes a basic weekly ‘rent’ payment to cover the Crown’s cost of capital and can then purchase equity in the home on top of that until they own the home outright.</p> <p>The Greens also propose that a Universal Child Benefit be introduced, and that it can be capitalised to assist first home buyers raise a deposit.</p> <p>The Greens also propose to introduce a capital gains tax on all assets other than the family home. This will assist in dampening down the rate at which house prices increase.</p>

Wahine Māori	52. Provide funding for hui of wahine Maori throughout Aotearoa to discuss and decide priorities and implement an information programme about Te Tiriti o Waitangi.	The Green party will Resource a series of nationwide hui of wahine Maori to discuss and determine their priorities and needs for the future.
	53. Conduct research into the disadvantage of wahine Maori and draw up a detailed plan to address it.	The Green Party in Government will initiate research into the disadvantage of wahine Maori and implement programmes and policies to reduce the social and economic disparities between Maori and non-Maori women
	54. Require all government agencies and those receiving funding from the Government to give priority to measures to improve the position of wahine Maori.	The Greens in Government will ensure that all health, education and other government policies and priorities recognise and aim to improve the well-being of wahine Maori
	55. Research and implement measures to address the discrimination suffered by wahine Maori through their reduced benefit from national superannuation due to their shorter life expectancy.	The Green Party does not have specific policy to address the issue of the reduced entitlement of wahine Māori to New Zealand Superannuation due to their shorter life expectancy.
Immigrant & refugee women	56. Provide adequate funding to Shakti and other organisations which provide support to immigrant and refugee women.	The Green Party will provide ongoing support for organisations such as Shakti that provide support for new migrant women.

	<p>57. Increase funding for English language and other courses aimed at assisting immigrant and refugee women to settle in Aotearoa and abolish barriers to their participation in the workforce., as well as ensuring that benefit support is readily available to immigrant and refugee women.</p>	<p>The Green party proposes to offer adult ESOL courses that are within the financial reach of adult refugees and accessible outside Auckland and the other main centres. The Greens will also fund the Volunteer ESOL Home Tutor scheme sufficiently to attract and train a sufficient number of volunteers for those in need of tutoring, and provide adequate state assistance for all forms of Te Reo and ESOL tuition for immigrants.</p>
	<p>58. Enact legislation to protect women and children from forced and underage marriage and strengthen legal protection for women coming to New Zealand via male sponsorship and who are then abused either in the workplace or in marriages and relationships.</p>	<p>The Green Party is strongly committed to protecting women and children from forced and underage marriages and to ensuring that immigrant women are legally protected from abuse in their workplaces and their homes. The Greens would support legislative changes to achieve this, where necessary.</p>
	<p>59. Implement a public education programme to provide information about the difficulties faced by immigrant and refugee women both before and after they arrive in Aotearoa and to overcome prejudice from New Zealanders towards migrants.</p>	<p>The Greens believe Government should do as much as it can to combat intolerance based on ethnicity and religion and encourage acceptance of diversity. The Greens will fully support the Human Rights Commission and Race Relations Office in their implementation of the Human Rights Act, countering prejudice and discrimination, and addressing racism. The Green Party will also support the work of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and will ensure it is adequately funded to promote tolerance and enhance Pacific diversity in Aotearoa/New Zealand and establish a stand-alone Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, as called for by ethnic associations.</p>
	<p>60. Amend the <i>Immigration Act 2009</i> by inserting a</p>	<p>The Green Party proposes in Government to implement a</p>

	<p>section stating that the welfare and best interests of the children are to be treated as the paramount considerations in immigration cases involving children and introduce a legal requirement that mothers and children are not to be separated by immigration or refugee decisions – for example, that a mother who does not hold New Zealand citizenship is not to be returned to her country of origin when she has children who are legally entitled to remain in Aotearoa.</p>	<p>Children’s Action Plan. Under that plan, all legislation, including the <i>Immigration Act 2009</i>, will be reviewed to ensure that the welfare and best interests of children is a paramount consideration. The Green Party does not support the separation of mothers and children in any circumstances other than when it is in the best interests of the well-being of the child.</p>
	<p>61. Increase Aotearoa’s refugee quota from 750 to 1500 a year, ensure that the quota is filled every year and give priority to providing asylum to women and children.</p>	<p>The Green Party supports a significant increase in Aotearoa / New Zealand’s annual refugee quota , and believe that at this time 1500 is entirely reasonable. We will ensure our intake is also matched by the provision of resources to provide adequate services for them. The Greens do not have a specific policy regarding age or gender priorities for refugees.</p>
	<p>62. Reverse the 2006 law change which provided that children born in Aotearoa do not become citizens at birth.</p>	<p>The Green Party opposed the 2006 amendment to the Citizenship Act which removed the long-held right of babies born here to have automatic New Zealand citizenship, and in Government will support repealing it.</p>
	<p>63. Withdraw the Government’s one general and two specific reservations to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and implement all obligations under the convention.</p>	<p>The Green Party is committed to the full implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and to the implementation in New Zealand of all obligations under it.</p>
Parliament	<p>64. Follow the examples of more than 100 other nations</p>	<p>The Green Party’s candidate selection process is designed to ensure gender balance in Green Party Parliamentary</p>

	and introduce specific measures to increase the number of female MPs from the current 34 per cent to 50 per cent by 2020 and ensure that the level of female representation in the House remains permanently at 50 per cent.	representation. The Greens would encourage other parties to adopt similar processes.
	65. Review the Ministry of Women's Affairs' funding to ensure it is adequate and implement measures to enhance its visibility and status and to ensure that all government agencies consult it during policy development and are required to implement its recommendations.	The Green Party is committed to reviewing the adequacy of funding of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and ensuring all legislative and policy development is analysed to examine its effect on women. We would reinstate the Minister of Women's Affairs as a position within cabinet to improve the chances of the policy work having influence across Ministries.
Health & reproduction	66. Create a Bill of Reproductive Rights.	The Green Party does not have specific policy regarding a Bill of Reproductive Rights. However, the Green Party does propose to prohibit all sterilisations/chemical castrations of individuals under the age of 18 years, unless it this being performed as a life saving measure or medical emergency. The Greens will also ensure that sterilisations occur only at an age where the ability to give informed consent can be determined, and prohibit sterilisation/chemical castration of adult women and men with impairments in the absence of the informed consent of the individual concerned, except in those circumstances where there is a serious threat to the individual's health (including mental health) or life.
	67. Decriminalise abortion.	<i>*** We are currently updating part of our policy on this issue. We'll provide you with an updated response once our policy update has been made public.</i>

	68. Provide free contraception.	The Green Party proposes to ensure that potential and existing parents have full and free access to countrywide Family Planning services.
	69. Provide radiotherapy for breast cancer within 12 weeks of surgery.	The Green Party proposes to ensure the waiting time between surgery for breast cancer and radiotherapy is within the internationally recognised limit of 12 weeks.
	70. Implement the recommendations of the <i>Report of the Ministerial Inquiry into the Under-Reporting of Cervical Smear Abnormalities in the Gisborne Region</i> .	The Green Party fully supports the implementation of the recommendations of the <i>Report of the Ministerial Inquiry into the Under-Reporting of Cervical Smear Abnormalities in the Gisborne Region</i> .
	71. Improve access to family planning and sexual health services and prepare an Infertility Prevention Plan.	The Green Party proposes to ensure that potential and existing parents have full and free access to countrywide Family Planning services and to develop a National Infertility Prevention Strategy that focuses on ways we can protect fertility and reduce infertility.
	72. Improve access to mental health services for women and girls and conduct research into the high levels of anti-depressants prescribed to women to ascertain whether these are being prescribed as a “quick fix” by busy doctors and what alternatives would be preferable.	The Green Party proposes to increase investment in core mental health services directed at girls and young women; improve access to healthy, affordable and secure accommodation, employment and other social/recreational activity for women with or recovering from mental illness, and to promote further research into "women and depression" including the high rate of prescriptions for anti-depressants.
Sport	73. Create a New Zealand Co-ordinating Group on Women and Sport and set up a Women in	The Green Party, while encouraging gender balance across all sectors, does not currently have specific policies gender balance

	Leadership Development Programme to address the low numbers of women in senior sporting administrative roles and ensure that 50 per cent of sports funding at all levels of sport from local areas to High Performance Sport New Zealand goes to sportswomen.	in sporting administrative roles or regarding sports funding.
	74. Provide funding matching that paid to the Rugby World Cup 2011 and America's Cup teams to women's sport to ensure that female sports players have the same opportunities and support to develop skills and sports-based careers as do their male counterparts	The Green Party does not currently have specific policies regarding sports funding.
Leadership	75. Set a target of 50 per cent female judges at all levels of the court system by 2020 and draw up and implement a plan to achieve this.	The Green Party is committed to addressing this issue of gender balance in the judiciary and note that when we signed up to the Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women we committed to taking all practical measure to do this. We don't have specific policy on how to do this.
	76. Set a target of 50 per cent female board members by 2020 and draw up and implement a plan to achieve this.	The Green Party would welcome improved gender balance on corporate boards, and again committed to do this when we signed CEDAW. We don't have specific policy on how to do this.
	77. Introduce a legal requirement that 50 per cent of chief executives in government agencies be women	The Green Party is committed to improving gender balance in state sector roles, but does not consider a legislative approach is

	by 2020.	a practical way to achieve this.
Disability	78. The Government is to sign and ratify the protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.	The Green Party supports New Zealand ratifying and implementing the Optional protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
	79. Enact legislation modelled on the United Kingdom's Disability Discrimination Act to protect disabled women.	The Green Party supports making it unlawful to discriminate against people living with impairments in connection with employment, the provision of goods, facilities and services (including education) or the disposal or management of premises; along the lines of the U.K. Disability Discrimination Act
	80. Include schools in the New Zealand Disability Strategy and provide them with proper resources to educate disabled children.	The Green Party supports the 2006 IHC Code for Schools and will ensure that schools come under the New Zealand Disability Strategy implementation and reporting process. The Greens will ensure education (pre-school to tertiary) is accessible to all and well resourced, and flexible, alternative approaches are available to meet the needs of all children and adults. The Greens will also introduce needs based funding for children with impairments and to double the percentage receiving individual funding
	81. Introduce employment initiatives to encourage employers to employ disabled women.	The Green Party will explore mechanisms to pro-actively support people with disabilities that affect their ability to work into paid work, such as extending the employer top up scheme and expanding the range of employment support services to workers with disabilities. The Greens will provide financial assistance to employers of people with disabilities for adaptations and to employees with disabilities for equipment and personal support
	82. Implement an affirmative action/access plan to	The Green Party supports affirmative action to enable people

	provide more opportunities for disabled women to participate fully in society.	with impairments to counteract the effects of past and present barriers to inclusion and take up active roles in their communities, in paid and voluntary work and in business.
	83. Establish a Disability Issues Commission and ensure that all domestic violence and sexual violence services are fully accessible to disabled women and that staff are trained to work with the issues presented by disabled women.	The Green Party supports the establishment a Disability Issues Commission to provide the leadership needed to ensure that disability services become more responsive, flexible and empowering. The Commission would work with key sector leaders and families to develop a national strategy, oversee and monitor its implementation, and provide advice to the Minister.
	84. Implement initiatives to provide security for disabled women.	The Green Party will implement measures to protect disabled people from abuse and exploitation. The Greens will establish and advocacy service which will have the power to monitor services where people are at risk, and to educate about rights and speak out against abuse.
	85. Ensure that all new houses, buildings and means of transport fully comply with disability access requirements.	The Green Party will ensure implementation of measures that increase the access of people with impairments to communities: such as sign language interpreters; barrier free buildings; plain language documents. The Greens will work to improve access for people living with impairments to all forms of passenger transport including ensuring passenger rail services purchased with government funding allow access for people with impairments and ensuring all of the urban bus fleet and intercity coaches are accessible to people with impairments
	86. Provide funding and other support for advocacy services for disabled women to ensure they have sufficient resources to participate fully in the community.	The Green Party will provide a free, easily accessible, well-resourced advocacy service for people living with impairments whose lives are encompassed by services. This service will also have the power to monitor services where people are at risk, and to educate about rights and speak out against abuse.

Lesbian women	87. Amend the law to provide that lesbian women have the same rights to adopt children and to have the day-to-day care of children as do heterosexual people.	The Green Party proposes a comprehensive review of Aotearoa / New Zealand's adoption law, including ensuring that it does not discriminate on the bases of marital status and/or sexual orientation.
Credit & financial literacy	88. Use Kiwibank to provide funding and support for microfinance schemes such as the Angel Fund to offer affordable loans to women throughout Aotearoa, thereby keeping them out of the hands of loan sharks and enabling them to access financial support when they seek to return to the workforce.	The Green Party will provide the starting capital for a community owned banking network that keeps money circulating locally and helps overcome problems with access to capital.
	89. Provide comprehensive financial education programmes to women throughout Aotearoa to ensure that they can manage their financial affairs, and in particular to inform them of the dangers of signing up as guarantors to husbands' or partners' loans.	The Green Party supports financial education programmes for women to ensure they can manage their financial affairs and are not financially exploited. The Greens also support a comprehensive Civics Education programme in schools which will, among other things, ensure school-leavers are financially literate.
	90. Establish a government-run scheme enabling women to buy cheap and reliable cars financed by way of microfinance.	The Green Party has no specific policy regarding provisions to enable women to buy cheap and reliable cars. However, this could be one service provided by the community owned banking network the Greens propose to establish.

	<p>91. Amend the <i>Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003</i> to provide that interest of no more than 20 per cent may be charged on loans in Aotearoa and draft regulations strictly limiting the fees which can be charged on all types of loans.</p>	<p>The Green Party does not have specific policy regarding maximum interest rates or finance rates but we have been supporting calls for interest rate caps to stop exploitative lending.</p>
Media & internet	<p>92. Toughen laws aimed at preventing online pornography, sexual grooming of children, bullying and harassment.</p>	<p>The Green Party supports strong criminal sanctions to deter people from publishing or engaging with child pornography and material depicting sexual violence and to deter sexual grooming of children and bullying and harassment.</p>
	<p>93. Establish courses to educate women about the internet and to encourage more women to pursue careers in the IT industry.</p>	<p>The Green Party supports affirmative action programmes to address gender balance issues, including in the ICT industry.</p>
	<p>94. Require film and television producers receiving funding from government agencies to employ 50 per cent women in their productions and ensure that 50 per cent of characters, including main characters, are female. The taxpayer funding provided to subsidise major films made in Aotearoa in recent years has almost exclusively benefited men, with the movies employing male producers and directors and the characters being almost exclusively male.</p>	<p>The Green Party supports encouraging gender balance in the film and television industry but has no proposals to require quotas for government funded productions. Again we do have a commitment to international human rights commitments and could see this or similar measures as a way of delivering on our commitment to eliminate sex role stereotyping.</p>

	<p>95. Prepare and implement a plan to reduce violence on television.</p>	<p>The Green Party proposes to reduce violence on television by requiring the Broadcasting Standards Authority to monitor the amount of violence on all television channels through surveys and report the findings to Parliament each year. The Greens will require the Broadcasting Standards Authority to monitor and enforce the TV codes of broadcasting practice on the portrayal of violence, in particular the requirement that channels avoid screening programmes containing gratuitous violence (that is not justified by the context). The Greens will also require TVNZ, as a publicly funded channel, to take a lead in reducing the amount of violence on television by developing guidelines on violence for producers and programmers and committing itself to not screening programmes that contain gratuitous violence.</p>
	<p>96. Decline funding for films, books, movies and other forms of entertainment which portray and encourage misogynistic attitudes.</p>	<p>The Greens will ensure that no Government funding is provided for films, books, movies and other forms of entertainment which portray and encourage misogynistic attitudes.</p>
Animals	<p>97. Abolish sow stalls, battery cages and all intensive farming in New Zealand by 2020 to end the torture suffered by female animals and implement a Declaration of Sentience in the <i>New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990</i> and the <i>Animal Welfare Act 1999</i> to recognise in law that animals are sentient beings and not objects.</p>	<p>The Green Party proposes to reduce confinement of sows in farrowing crates to a maximum of 72 hours and to phase out battery hen cages by 2019. Also within that timeframe the Greens propose to phase out cruel techniques including debeaking of hens and mulesing of sheep (surgical removal of skin from the upper posterior surfaces of the hind legs and underside of the tail), in association with the development of alternative, humane practices. The Greens will immediately ban docking of dogs' tails for anything other than therapeutic treatment of injury or disease and will prohibit new, and phase out existing, factory farming of animals. The Greens propose to establish an independent Commissioner of Animal Welfare who will report to Parliament. The Commissioner, who will be</p>

		appointed by the Governor General, will appoint members of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, and the National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee. The Greens will ensure that the new Commissioner of Animal Welfare has the power to develop, implement and monitor codes of animal welfare which prevent animals in Aotearoa/New Zealand from suffering due to the direct or indirect actions of humans. The commissioner will also have the power to investigate and rule on complaints regarding animal welfare.
International	98. Implement the recommendations arising from all periodic reviews of Aotearoa's implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.	The Greens support the implement of recommendations arising from all periodic reviews of Aotearoa / New Zealand's implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.
Taxation	99. Increase the top tax rate to 39 per cent and do not provide any more tax cuts for the wealthy.	The Green Party opposed National's tax cuts for the wealthy but does not currently have specific policy regarding the level of the top income tax rate. The Greens support the introduction of a tax free threshold at the bottom of the income scale, as it is less wealthy people who need to receive the most relief proportionate to their incomes from any tax cuts.
	100. Introduce a capital gains tax on property and abolish tax exemptions for family trusts to ensure that the wealthy pay their share of taxes and to provide funding for the Women's Election Agenda Aotearoa 2014 and programmes for the economically disadvantaged.	The Green Party supports the introduction of a comprehensive capital gains tax on inflation- adjusted capital gains at the time of realisation. Any capital gains tax must apply to assets in New Zealand that are purchased and sold by corporations or people living overseas as well as assets sold or purchased by residents. The Greens will exempt the family home from any capital gains tax. The Greens will also investigate other means of discouraging tax avoidance and ensuring the wealthy pay their fair share of tax.