

newsletter

**FEMINIST
LEGAL
CLINIC**

Firstly, we'd like to welcome our 30 new members who have joined us this quarter!

Women's Human Rights Campaign

In March the international Women's Human Rights Campaign (WHRC) conducted a webinar at the NGO CSW65 virtual forum. This is the civil society side of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which runs parallel to the official session taking place at the UN Headquarters in New York. FLC's Principal Solicitor, Anna Kerr was excited to be able to join speakers from the UK, Germany, DR Congo, Bahamas, Canada, Argentina, USA, India, Spain and Brazil. Her presentation and the full video of the event is available below:

["Article 2 of the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights - Motherhood as an exclusively female status"](#) CSW NGO Forum on behalf of the Women's Human Rights Campaign, 21 March 2021. ([slides](#), [full video](#), [podcast](#))



WHRC Aus/NZ are seeking women who are signatories of the [Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights](#) as speakers for future local webinars. Please contact office@feministlegal.org if you are interested. If you have not yet signed the Declaration, you can do so [here](#).

WHRC Aus/NZ has conducted two local webinars this year, and will continue with these in April. We apologise for missing the March webinar. Webinars are the last Saturday of each month at 7pm AEST/9pm NZST, but we skipped March in view of the CSW event.

On 27 February 2021, Catherine Karena, Ann Leduc and Margot Oliver spoke about the use of cult psychology by the trans movement.

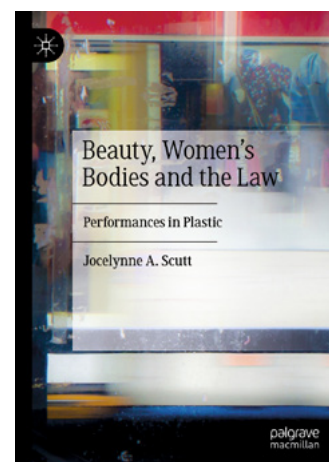
On 30 January 2021 speakers Anna McCormack, Jenny Whyte, Louise and Stella Perrett spoke at our [Women Human Rights Campaign \(Aus/NZ\) Webinar](#) about how women are being sacked, censored and silenced when they speak out on this issue. Also [soundcloud](#).



Other Presentations

Anna had the honour of speaking at the launch of the latest book by Dr Jocelynn Scutt, one of Australia's leading human rights lawyers who is currently living in the UK. The launch of ["Beauty, Women's Bodies and the Law: Performances in Plastic"](#) was hosted by University of Buckingham Law School on 4 March 2021.

The book provides excruciating detail of the harm done to women by the body changing industries otherwise known as fashion and cosmetic surgery.



Submissions

[Submission to thematic report on Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#) to UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, 23 February 2021.

[Submission to NSW Law Reform Commission Review of Open justice: Court and tribunal information: access, disclosure and publication](#), 19 February 2021.

[Submission to NSW Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control](#), 28 January 2021.

[Letter to the Victorian Attorney-General in relation to the Change or Suppression \(Conversion\) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020](#), 7 January 2021

Casework

The appeal in the matter of Clinch v Rep has been heard by the ACT Civil & Administrative Tribunal on 2 March 2021 and we are currently awaiting the decision. We would like to thank barrister Dr Andrew Greinke for his generous work on this case.

We have become involved in defending McIver's Ladies Baths following the recent attacks on them for providing a space exclusive to females. [Protests about McIver's Ladies Baths are attacking human rights of vulnerable women](#), 22 Feb 2021

We also have several private AVO applications in progress in the Local Courts which are taking our attention. It is a continuing challenge to get the police and the courts to take account of long-term patterns of abuse and coercive controlling behaviour where there is no recent physical violence. We also continue to see women inappropriately named as defendants by police in DV matters.

Women's Court Support Service

While the Women's Court Support Service (WCSS) is not currently able to provide its usual face to face service in the Sydney Registry of the Family Court due to Covid restrictions, we have been working together with the National Child Protection Alliance (NCPA) on addressing women's concerns more generally. After surveying members late last year we wrote to the Chief Justice raising our concerns. Thank you to members who completed the survey. As a result of this we were granted a meeting with the Chief Justice and other key court personnel on 3 March 2021. We raised with him the following key concerns:

- inappropriate use of the concept of "parental alienation" to remove children from mothers who have alleged DV or child sexual abuse by fathers.
- over-reliance on the opinion of single expert witnesses and/or the Independent Children's Lawyer.
- interim orders made on untested evidence
- failure to heed children's reports of abuse
- inadequate support for unrepresented parties
- coercion of women into consent orders
- absence of a complaints system
- inadequate transparency due to s121

If members can provide case studies in relation to any of these issues, please contact Anna at office@feministlegal.org or on 0402 467476 to discuss.

Women Write Wiki



Happy 4th birthday to Sydney's Women Write Wiki group! 🎉 Kickstarted with a grant from the [@writingNSW/@Create_NSW](#) they have been meeting at The Women's Library in Newtown twice each month for four years creating hundreds of new [@Wikipedia](#) pages. Biggest congratulations!



We were pleased to be able to have our first in-person meeting at The Women's Library on 24 March. It was also an opportunity to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Group. To our surprise, Caddie Brain, Vice President of Wikimedia Australia dropped in on the day, bringing with her a beautiful bouquet.

Group members Ann and Margaret facilitated the USYD Write Women IWD editathon earlier in the month and we expect at least one new member as a result.

The group decided to alternate future meetings between on-line and in-person to enable women located interstate and in New Zealand to continue sharing. New members are welcome. Please email us on [womenwritewiki \[at\] thewomenslibrary.org.au](mailto:womenwritewiki[at]thewomenslibrary.org.au)

The Women's Library Women's Film Group and Feminist Book Club

So far this year we have enjoyed participating in the [Women's Film Club](#) and the [Feminist Classics Book Club](#) hosted by The Women's Library.

We have read and discussed the following this quarter Dworkin, Andrea, 'Right Wing Women' (1983), Astell, Mary, 'A serious proposal to the Ladies' (1694), Perkins Gilman, Charlotte, 'Herland' (1915).

Thanks to Claire and Annaliese from TWL for choosing this terrific selection of films and books.

Please Join as an FLC Member!

If you support the work we are doing and have not already joined, the link to do so is [here](#). If you're unsure about your membership status, please check by emailing membership@feministlegal.org



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