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I have been a member of the New Zealand Federation for Business and Professional Women Inc. for 5 years. I am the newly elected National President as of 23rd April 2017.

I have a strong focus on advocacy because I was the National Vice President Issues for three years and held the position prior to that as the Task-Force Chair for Issues. This has given me a strong advocacy focus.

Presently a member of the BPW International Standing Committee to the United Nations and have held this position for two years. I attend the Commission on the Status for Women (CSW) in New York and in this role, I was a member on the panel for Forced Marriages and Child Brides in 2016. The platform on this topic was shared with our BPW African sisters.

This year with the theme at CSW 61 – “Women’s Economic Empowerment in the changing world of work”, I spoke at the German Mission on ‘Equal Pay’, at the Australian Consulate on ‘Flexible Working Hours and the impact on Families’. At the UN I spoke on ‘The Economic Empowerment of Women with Disabilities’ and this was a shared platform with women from Egypt and New Zealand. I also had the opportunity to speak at a morning briefing session at the United Nations to the NGO’s. The topic was the “The Agreed Conclusion” the document that would be adopted at this session of CSW61. (March 2017) from the New Zealand perspective with the outcome we want for the Women & Girls globally.

This is my third term as an elected City Councillor for Upper Hutt City. I hold the Chair for The Audit, Risk and Finance Committee. I sit on the following council committees, Economic Stimulus Committee, Contracts Committee, Legislation Committee, and the Policy Committee and I am currently a member of the Chief Executive’s Performance Review Panel.

I have always been an advocate for women and girls and decided in 2010 that I want to effect real change for Women and Girls and to do this then I had to stop “looking through the window” and “go through the door for change”.

So here I am through the door for change working to make a difference by: -

“Developing women’s professional and leadership potential at all levels”

I am determined that our efforts will lead to

“Equal Participation of Women and Men in Power and Decision-Making Roles”.

Martin Luther King said, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”