



Peace Movement Aotearoa

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16 December 2010

Season's greetings, child rights review, highlights, new initiatives, Peace Scholarships, holiday arrangements, and thank you

Kia ora,

This message is to wish you a very happy Solstice, Christmas and New Year. It includes information about our forthcoming backgrounder on the review of NZ's compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a brief outline of some of the highlights of 2010 and new initiatives planned for 2011, a reminder about the White Poppy Peace Scholarships, our thanks for your support during this year, and details of Peace Movement Aotearoa's office and other arrangements during December and January. This information is available online at <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/pmadec10.pdf>

*** Review of NZ's compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

In January 2011, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child will be considering the government's compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and its two Optional Protocols - on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC), and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Action for Children & Youth Aotearoa and Save the Children have submitted comprehensive NGO reports covering a range of UNCRC rights, and Peace Movement Aotearoa has provided information to the Committee on the increasing militarisation of children and their education, in relation to the UNCRC and OPAC.

We are currently finalising a backgrounder with information about the UNCRC, the Optional Protocols, the Committee, the process of consideration of state party reports, the government's report, and the parallel NGO reports. This information will be available on our web site and circulated through our national e-lists by early January - if you are not on one of our lists and are interested in receiving a copy of the backgrounder, please email pma@xtra.co.nz with 'Send UNCRC backgrounder' in the subject line of your message.

*** Some of the highlights of 2010**

As always, the main highlight of this year has been meetings and discussion with our members and supporters in different parts of the country and overseas, visitors to the office, as well as email discussion, phone calls, and sometimes letters from those who we didn't have an opportunity to meet in person. We also enjoyed productive collaboration with a range of organisations on many areas of our work.

Particular highlights of our international work were our involvement in the UN Human Rights Committee's consideration of the government's Periodic Report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular working with the Aotearoa Indigenous Rights Trust

around the NGO briefings to the Committee and seeing some of our recommendations included in the Committee's Concluding Observations, and the Press Council ruling in our favour on the NZ Herald's coverage of the Committee; as well as the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples.

Among the highlights of our national work were: our enjoyment in taking part and advertising many peace related meetings, seminars, and conferences in different parts of the country, including the 2010 National Peace Workshops which were hosted by the Quaker Settlement; supporting Waihopai Ploughshares, especially during the nine days of the trial and the 'not guilty' verdict; doing the administration work for the White Poppy Peace Scholarships which were awarded for the first time this year, and receiving the first Peace Scholarship dissertation; further developing our topic focused e-lists which have provided much valuable feedback and discussion; receiving an official apology from the Ministry of Defence about their misrepresentation of our submission on the Defence Review; our complaint to the Office of the Ombudsmen about the Ministry of Justice's refusal to release information we requested about decisions on the foreshore and seabed legislation, which not only resulted in our receiving the information, but also in the public release of the responses to the Consultation Document; working with students at the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies; and far too many other things to list here. If you would like to read about them, more information is available on the 'Action alerts, updates and articles' page on our site at <http://www.converge.org.nz/pma/alertd.htm> and our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/PeaceMovementAotearoa>

*** New initiatives in 2011**

Among the new initiatives we have planned for 2011 are: finalising the establishment of ICAN (International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons) Aotearoa New Zealand following the national nuclear abolition coordination meeting in Auckland last month; launching the new web page with resources for the lobbying around the first reading of the Depleted Uranium (Prohibition) Bill in collaboration with DUET; providing information for the preliminary consideration of the government's Periodic Report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and revamping our web site, if we can find funding for that.

And of course, in the coming year, we will continue to work on all of the ongoing topics and issues we are currently working on; particular focuses will include the recently announced SIS Amendment Bill and the constitutional issues review - there are already pages with information about both on our site. The date, place and focus of the 2011 National Peace Workshops will be finalised early next year.

*** White Poppy Peace Scholarships**

A reminder that the deadline for applications for White Poppy Peace Scholarships for research during the 2011 academic year is Friday, 11 February 2011- more information, including the guidelines for applicants, is at <http://www.peacescholar.org.nz> or from email peacescholarship@ymail.com - please type 'White Poppy Peace Scholarships enquiry' in the subject line of your message.

*** Thank you for your support**

Our thanks to everyone who has supported Peace Movement Aotearoa during 2010 - whether through your gifts of time, energy or donations; and for sharing with us the issues of concern to you and your thoughts on them.

If you should feel inspired in this season of giving to make a donation in appreciation of our work

over the past year, that would be gratefully received - especially as we did not have time to send out an annual appeal mailing during 2010, which has been another exceptionally busy year for us.

Your generosity will be rewarded with a tax credit receipt and the knowledge that you will be helping our work to continue in 2011. Simply print out the form below, fill it in and post it with your cheque made payable to 'Peace Movement Aotearoa' to Peace Movement Aotearoa, PO Box 9314, Wellington 6141. Alternatively, if you would like to make a donation via internet banking or direct credit, the account details are: 02 0536 0323908 97 (BNZ, North End Branch, Peace Movement Aotearoa: Achiever Savings). If you would like a receipt, please email or post us the details of your transfer, as well as your name and address.

*** Peace Movement Aotearoa holiday arrangements**

Telephone messages and mail: our office will be open for several hours each week throughout the holiday period to collect telephone messages and mail.

Email messages: aside from the forthcoming the UNCRC backgrounder, this is the final e-list message from us for this year. We will resume sending list messages in the week of 17 January. From now until then, email messages sent to us will be downloaded but not processed unless they relate to the UNCRC alert or the White Poppy Peace Scholarships - if you wish to contact us about either of these over the next month, please use the email address and subject line as listed in the relevant section above, to enable effective filtering of those messages.

We wish you, your friends, and your family a peaceful, restful break, and safe journeys if you are travelling,
From everyone at Peace Movement Aotearoa.

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Name:

Address:

I enclose a donation of \$ _____ to help Peace Movement Aotearoa's work in 2011.

Please do / do not [circle one] send me a tax credit receipt.

Please tick here [] if you would like to be sent information about the Peace Movement Aotearoa's pledge scheme, an easy way for you to make regular automatic payments to support our work.

Please make your cheque payable to 'Peace Movement Aotearoa' and post to Peace Movement Aotearoa, PO Box 9314, Wellington 6141. Thank you